



COLBY  
FREE PRESS

# Disaster awareness topic of Colby meeting

**By PATTY DECKER**  
*Free Press Editor*

Disasters happen, but being prepared for the worst can save lives and go a long way in helping to speed the recovery process. This said, the Thomas County Chapter of the American Red Cross invites everyone to attend Thursday night's disaster awareness meeting.

Donna Finley, executive director of the local Red Cross chapter, said the meeting will begin at 7 p.m. in the Colby Community Building's Little Theater.

In addition to holding the awareness meet-

ing, Thomas County is fortunate in that two locals — Jim and Molly Oliver — recently took instructional classes on how to train and educate others on basic disaster response.

Prior to their completing the course, the closest training available was at Salina. "We wanted to strengthen western Kansas by being able to teach volunteers here," Molly said. She said there are people in Thomas County who might consider volunteering now that it (training) is closer to home.

Regardless of whether someone wants to learn more about becoming a Red Cross vol-

unteer or not, the benefits of being prepared in a tornado can make the difference between life and death, according to Finley. As a community, Finley said we can be solidified and prepared for the worst.

Officials in Hoisington said they credited the minimal loss of life to being aware and that's what Finley and others hope to accomplish here. Following the tornado at Hoisington, Molly, who is a Red Cross Disaster Human Resource person, saw first-hand just how devastating this natural phenomena can really be.

"In two minutes, the (Hoisington) tornado

ripped through an area five miles long and one and one-half miles wide downing power lines and leveling or severely damaging buildings and homes," she said.

There are no words, no pictures to communicate what I saw and felt," Molly said. "There were 618 homes affected, 93 of those with major damage, 384 with minor damage and 141 totally destroyed."

According to Molly, seeing the aftermath of a tornado was one of the freakiest things she had ever seen. "I saw a beautiful brick home with major damage, but on the second level it looked

like a doll house with everything in place."

One woman that Molly spoke with at the Red Cross headquarters office, said during the storm she was being chased by her own washing machine as she made her way to the basement.

Molly admitted that prior to seeing the devastation in Hoisington, she was one of those people who would be inclined to stand outside and watch the weather unfold.

"Now, I will never flirt with tornado warnings again," she said. For information on the meeting, call 462-7161.

# Degrees galore

## Colby College bestows 421 at commencement

**By JAY KELLEY**  
*Colby Free Press*

A near capacity crowd at the Colby Community Building witnessed the 36th graduating class at Colby Community College on Saturday.

Four-hundred fifteen students received 421 degrees, including the second class from the dental hygiene program.

Dr. William Lewis, representing the University of Nebraska-Kearney, encouraged the graduates to be well-rounded and told them attitude was at least as important as ability, in his address.

Max Embree, Colby, was awarded an honorary associates degree. Embree has been active in community improvement, is a longtime supporter of the college and served on the Colby City Council in the 1970s.

The Mosier Award, for outstanding student, went to Jeremy Evert, son of Dave and Cheryl Evert, Brewster. Evert was cited for his involvement in the concert choir, Sunflower Singers and a "very competitive" quiz bowl team member.

Evert majored in mechanical engineering and plans to attend Kansas State University.

Tom Moorhous earned the Tange-man Award, for outstanding instructor. Moorhous is active in the Dr. Max Pickerill Lecture Series as well as serving as quiz bowl coach.

Here are the names of the graduates:

Associates in Arts degree from Colby — Candace Adolph, Cas-

sandra Allen, Zack Andrews, Sarah Barton, Crystal Bragazzi, Connie Brockhausen, Charlene Burns, Cristin Dumler, Jessica Hernandez, Amanda Hillis, Larry House, Kimberly Keller, Joni Meyer, Shaaban Mohammed, Robert Mortimore, Kelly Morton, Melissa Murray, Joel Nickols, Brady Nighswonger, Adrian Pressnall, Stacy Rotter, Krista Rowe, Amber Stephens, Natasha Tarman, Patrick Taylor, Stephanie Unruh, Adriane Vaughn, Andrew Wernke, Tiffany Wolf.

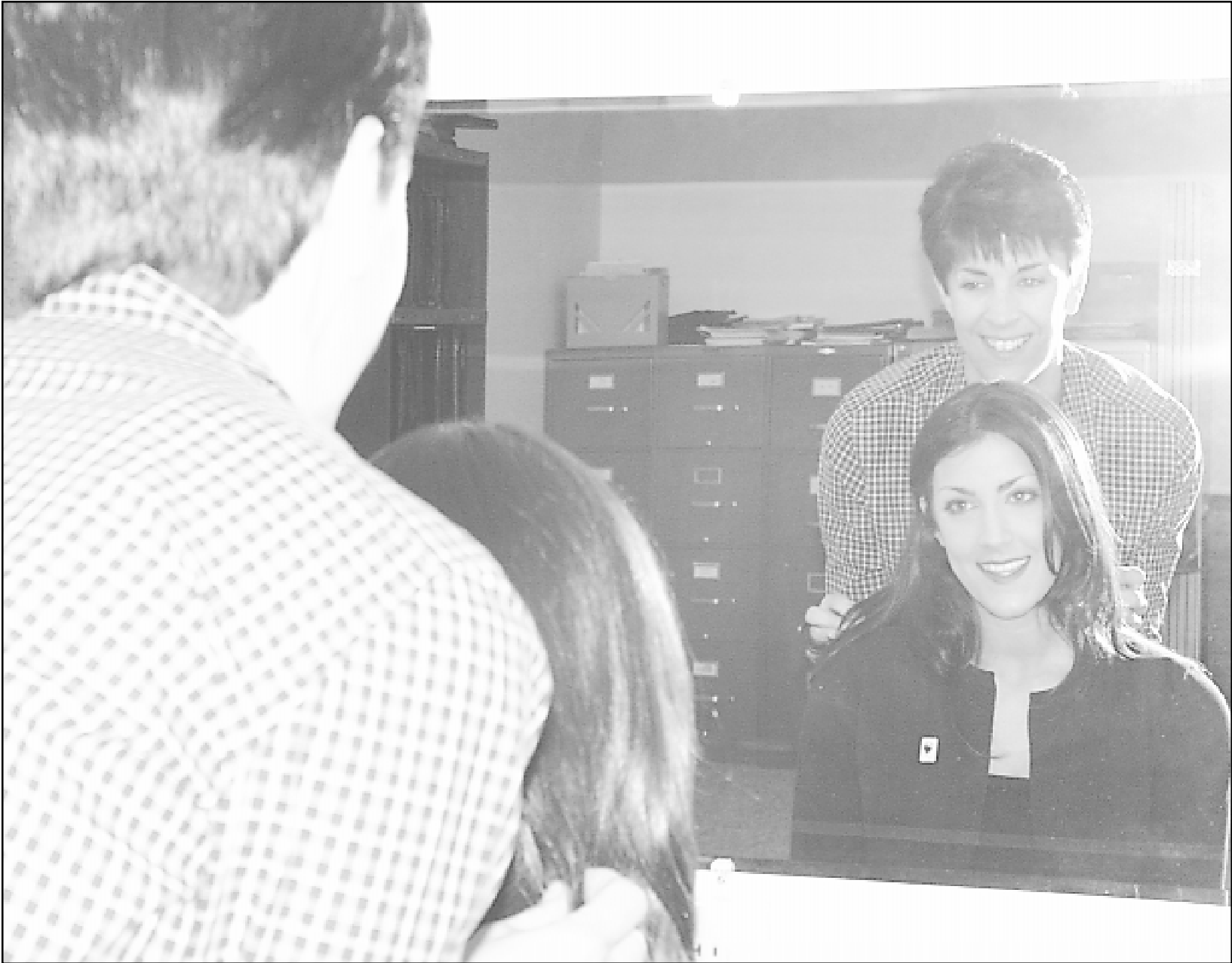
From Brewster — Sarah Evert, Cayla Rush, Stacy Swanson.

From Gem — Carrie Riedel.

From Selden — Janelle Lobato.

From Kansas — Jessica Ballard, Grace Hill, Tosha Landau, Lacy Sramek, Karla Mosteller, Bridget Fleming, Diane Hiltabidle, Angie Bird, Erica Wilkison, Tara Gassmann, Orlena Otero, Henry Oursler, Liliana Bondell, Coby Brock, Ben Duell, Rebekah Goodley, Paula Kear, Charlotte Linsner, Beau McCoy, Blake Osborn, Angie Foster, Ivan Albers, Brett Horny, Mark Penka, Mindi Jackson, Becca Bargmann, Kimberly Welshhohn, Rebecca Carter, Megan Kinser, Douglas Jackson, Tanya Hatfield, Wade Van Eaton, Brandon Gay, Kristy Keilig, Tara Washburn, Eric Beckman, Robin Berndt, Cody Carter, Tracey Pfannenstiel, Angela Copeland, Judy Jordan, Barbara Russell, Jennifer Sterrett, Patricia Warren, Heather Hill, Megan Burns, Gabe Jenkins, Amanda Jones, Adelheit Straub, Brenda Brady, Rebecca Steward, Ryan Cox.

From Arizona — Michael Kowalksi



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Carrie Bartlett, Colby, helped her daughter, Kara Bartlett, prepare for Colby Community College's graduation ceremonies. Kara received her

degree in practical nursing and plans to continue her studies with a goal of becoming a registered nurse.

From California — Da'Shawn Davis. From Colorado — James Bradley, Joseph Bradley, Ashleigh Bourgeois, Benjamin Blevins, Amy Jacobs, Jenaro Fairley, Laney Wolfrum, Cara Liuzzi, Stephanie Juhnke.

From Louisiana — Nathan Thorne.

From Nebraska — Rachelle Boston, Rebecca Hawley, Aaron Olson, Bethany Hoglund, Margeret Barger, Monica Barger, Roberta Hoyt, Stephanie Kotschwar, Dawn Appelgarth, James Allen, Samantha From.

From New York — Brandon Lehman. From Wisconsin — Donald Chapman.

From Wyoming — Eric Shade.

From Canada — Justin Miller

From Japan — Ami Iwasake, Kaori Hirasawa, Yashuharu Ikemura, Chizuru Nagura.

Associate in Science degree from Colby — Anna Boettcher, Metka Brown, Lea Coulter, Kevin English, Justin Lane, Josh Lee, Sara Mead, Brandon Meyer, Russell Rodenbeck, Jordan Rudel, Dean Tidyman, Dustin Vrbas, Steven Zenker.

From Brewster: Chad Beiser, Paxton Crumbaker, Jeremy Evert, Daneille Foster.

From Gem — Pete Ziegelmeier II.

From Levant — Lindsey Arnberger.

From Rexford — Michele Preston.

From Selden — Kristin Groneweg.

From Kansas — Amy Thompson,

Rebecca Rich, Lucas Seiler, Ryan Birchell, Staci Coberly, Cindy Scheuerman, Aliesha Brown, Adam Koster, Lindsey Bailey, Rebecca Feldt, Cooper Berning, Daniel Bjurstrom, Justin Timm, Codi Rhea, Tana Baker, Todd Holstein, Lori Dick, Jack Dennis, Julie Hake, Bradley Schwarz, Casey Smith, Casey Alstrom, Kyle Black, Danette Seller, Lance Cline, Michele Preston, Kristin Groneweg, Beau Larson, Lowell Neitzel, Heather Sowers, Tara Cikanek, Ryan Cook, Amy Simon, Kyle Shafer, Eric Betschart, Kristin Hafliager, Bridget Cox, Cassidy Smith, Gerald Collins, Candice Latham, Nicole Moser.

From Colorado — Shiloh Teman,

Nick Hoover, Brandon Stegman.

From Louisiana — Willie Madison. From Nebraska — Amelia Reed, Sheri Printz.

From South Dakota — Blake Doyle. From Texas — Doug Gonzalez. From Zimbabwe — Jacqueline Mawoneke, Farai Munyari.

From Kenya — Rajiv Maina.

From Japan — Taeko Oda, Tatsunari Miyaoka.

From Lithuania — Algirdas Kubilius.

Associates in General Studies from Colby — Michael Depe, Adrienne Sharpe.

From Kansas — Erica Deniston.

From Nebraska — Bert Maxfield.

# Fed provides fifth half-point rate cut to spur sluggish economy

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve, which has already cut interest rates more aggressively this year than at any other time under Chairman Alan Greenspan, may not be through yet.

But analysts are hopeful that the Fed's next move may send a signal that economic dangers are lessening a bit.

"My expectation is that the next move will be the last rate-cutting move," said Tim O'Neill, chief economist at the Bank of Montreal and Har-

ris Bank. O'Neill and many other economists believe Fed policy-makers will cut rates again at their next meeting on June 26-27. However, analysts have mixed opinions as to whether the cut will be by another half-point, or a more modest quarter-point.

Wall Street, where the rate cut had been widely anticipated, took Tuesday's half-point reduction in stride.

The Dow Jones industrial average finished the day down 4.36 points at

10,872.97. The muted reaction was in sharp contrast to the 399-point rally triggered by the Fed's last rate move on April 18, which caught investors by surprise.

In the Fed's latest statement on interest rates Tuesday, policy-makers said they continue to believe that "the risks are weighted mainly toward conditions that may generate economic weakness in the foreseeable future."

"The Fed is ready to cut rates again by 50 basis points on June 27 if the

business climate and labor markets do not show substantial improvement by then," predicted David Orr, First Union's chief economist.

For now, one of economists' biggest worries continues to be the status of the labor market in the coming months. If the nation's unemployment rate were to climb rapidly and companies were to continue to shed jobs, that could force consumers to cut back sharply on spending and tip the economy into recession. In April, the unemployment

rate shot up to 4.5 percent and businesses slashed jobs by the biggest amount since the last recession a decade ago. In March, the jobless rate ticked up a notch to 4.3 percent and payrolls fell sharply.

"For the Fed, jobs are job one," said Richard Yamarone, an economist with Argus Research Corp. "Negative payroll growth is associated with all previous U.S. recessions, and the Fed wants to ensure that the recent downward trend in payrolls is reversed."

That being said, most economists believe the Fed will cut interest rates enough to keep the economy from sliding into recession.

But with the economic malaise continuing into the spring, many analysts don't foresee a significant rebound occurring until the final quarter of this year.

The economy grew at a 2 percent rate in the first three months of this year, but many analysts believe growth was slower in the current second quarter.

## Briefly

### Weather: Thunderstorms

A shade cooler with thunderstorms. That's the Colby region's forecast from the National Weather Service. Tonight, mostly cloudy, a 40 percent chance for thunderstorms, low around 50 and southwest winds 5-15 mph turning to the northwest. Thursday, cloudy, a 40 percent chance for thunderstorms, high 75 and north winds 10-20 mph turning to the northeast. Thursday night, partly cloudy, slight chance for thunderstorms, low 50. Friday, thunderstorms, high in the 70s. Colby's high Tuesday was 92 and the overnight low this morning was 57. Precipitation for the month remains at 2.32 inches. The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth is averaging 77 degrees. The records for May 16: 93

in 1944 and 28 in 1945. *(The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)*

### Commodity handout set

The United States Department of Agriculture commodity distribution will be Monday, May 21, from 5-6 p.m. at the RSVP Office in the Senior Progress Center in Colby. Expected commodities are dehydrated potatoes, oat cereal, sweet potatoes, cranberry juice, egg mix, pumpkin and raisins. Eligible persons may receive them according to income guidelines. Gross monthly income guidelines in effect as of July 1, 2000, are: household size, one — \$905; two

— \$1,219; three — \$1,533; four — \$1,848; five — \$2,162; six — \$2,476; seven — \$2,790; eight — \$3,104. For each additional family member add \$315.

### College board to meet

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees will hold a special meeting at 5 p.m. Thursday in the board room of the Administration Building. They will discuss negotiations and any other item any member wishes to discuss.

### Choir concert Thursday

The Colby High School Choir Concert will be Thursday, May 17, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the school auditorium.

### Luncheon to salute veterans

The annual veteran's Run for the Wall, a motorcycle rally from California to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. will be at the Oakley airport at 12:15 p.m. on Sunday for a luncheon, according to Dick Weston, one of the local organizers. All veterans are invited. The motorcycle cavalcade will pass through Colby at about 11:30 a.m.

### No trash collection May 28

The City of Colby Sanitation Department will not be operating Monday, May 28, due to the Memorial Day holiday. Monday's yard waste will be picked up on Tuesday, according to the public works department.

