



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Large crowd attends Golden Plains graduation

By DARREL PATTILLO

*Colby Free Press*

REXFORD — Hundreds of people converged on Golden Plains High School in Rexford on Sunday to watch the 17-member Class of 2002 receive their diplomas.

The guest speaker was Kimberly Juenemann, former Golden Plains High School principal. Recognition was also given to the highest in scholastic ranking, which included Michelle Juenemann and Alisha Broeckelman as valedictorians.

The honor of salutatorian went to Elizabeth Purcell.

The other graduating members were Lindsey Carman, Andrew Dible, Matt Gould, Andrew Johnson, Jason Rall, Tyler Richardson, Erin Rogers, Austin Spresser, Danielle Spresser, Amber Staats, Ashley Stevenson, Adam Thompson, Marko Vignjevic and Rebecca Wark.

In her talk, Juenemann said, "Four years ago doesn't sound like that much time, but a lot has happened in those four years to all of us.

"We've all gone on our separate journeys and that's what has mattered. During the past four years the staff at Golden Plains has taught these students how to think and coached them to play hard and play fair. They have challenged their minds in the classrooms and challenged their bodies on the playing fields. They have done what they could to prepare them for the future.

"Of course, they hope that your future journeys will lead you to success and happiness. I have my own hopes for your journey.

"Seniors, I hope that you will learn to realize that nothing lasts forever. I hope that you will be bold and that you will take chances. Fewer things are sadder than the words, 'I should have...' or 'if only...'

"That is why you must do your best to reach out and grab, yelling *Now!* Just like adventurers plant flags and declare *Here!*

Prior to commencement, students were recognized with awards and scholarships at a special gathering.



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Leroy Spresser talks with former Golden Plains principal Kim Juenemann prior to the commencement ceremonies Sunday in Rexford, as some graduates anxiously await the start of the ceremonies.

One of the two valedictorians, Broeckelman, said she plans to attend Kansas State University, majoring in Elementary Education. She has accepted the KSU Leadership Scholarship, KSU Top of the Class Award, Kansas Elks Scholarship, Phi Delta Kappa International Scholarship, Sheridan County Junior Miss Award, Kansas Junior Miss First Runner-up and Poise Award, 2002 Kansas State Scholar by the Board of Regents and the Hazel Kirchner Scholarship.

Broeckelman was also awarded the Thomas County Tuition Grant, Barton

County Presidential Scholarship, Bethany College Founders Scholarship, Bethany College Academic Scholarship and the Fort Hays State University Silver Renewable Award. She also received the Governor's Scholars Award, which meant that she ranked in the top 1 percent of her class and was the Topeka Capital Journal 2002 Academic All-State Nomination.

Also achieving valedictorian status, Juenemann said she is planning to major in pre-pharmacy at Hutchinson Community College and has accepted the Hutchinson College Presidential

Scholarship and a housing scholarship. She is a 2002 Kansas Scholar as designated by the Board of Regents and was also a Governor's Scholars Award winner. She was awarded the Thomas County Tuition Grant, Presidential Scholar Award, Hays City Silver Award, Award of Excellence in Chemistry and a housing reduction award from Fort Hays State University. She received the Emporia State University Challenge Award, Barton College Award of Excellence, McPherson College Academic Achievement and Kansas Resident Award.

## Outstanding college teacher named during ceremony

By PATTY DECKER

*Free Press Editor*

Sandy Harper was recognized at the Colby Community College commencement ceremony on Sunday at the Community Building as the outstanding teacher for 2002. The honor, known as the Dr. Jim Tangeman Award, has been in place for the past 15 years, said Dr. Mikel Ary, president of the college.

In recognizing Harper, he said that she has not only excelled in the classroom, as verified by her students and peers, but also in sponsoring or participating in many other campus activities.

"Sandy has twice been honored by election to the presidency of the Faculty Alliance by her peers both in 1995 and in the current year," Ary said. "This honor serves as a testament to her common sense and character."

Among her other accomplishments, Ary said, she has sponsored the honorary business fraternity Phi Beta Lambda and has served a number of years on the Colby College

Endowment Board as a voting member and also as one of their officers. "As a re-entry student," he said, "her professional successes initially came at a moment in her life when she had family commitments and other distractions which made it more difficult to succeed."

Ary said that Harper believes strongly in the college mission and purpose in that she has encouraged many to come to the college and to stay at the college.

"She also has a granddaughter, Lindy Kvasnicka, graduating today and Sandy will make the presentation for her degree.

"As a personal friend to me and to the rest of the faculty, I strongly concur in this recognition of her career contributions, Ary said.

Other recipients in the past for this award have included Dr. Max Pickerill, Joyce Hansen, Cyril Leiker, Victor Oelke, Larry Koon, Dr. Phillip Shuman, Roger Hale, Juliann Groom, Nick Wells, Kirk Hunter, Pat Erickson, Steve Lampe, Joan Jilka and Tom Moorhaus.

## County discusses aging 911 system

By MAXINE NELSON

*Colby Free Press*

Colby Police Chief Randy Jones, Sheriff Tom Jones, Undersheriff Mike Baughn and Mike Albers, the city's technology director, met with the Thomas County Commissioners at their Monday meeting to discuss equipment for the 911 system.

Albers said the present North Star system, which was purchased in 1988, is obsolete, and Southwestern Bell is no longer supporting it. He said there is a company that has remanufactured parts, but only has a two-year warranty on the parts.

Albers said S&T Telephone will install a new key switch unit for approximately \$8,500-\$9,000. He said this is just for one part of the system. There may be other, unanticipated problems, he cautioned. Chief Jones suggested it be paid for with 911 funds.

Commission Chair Ron Evans said the county needs the 911 system and Commissioner Glen Kersenbrock agreed. "We want it. We're going to have to do it," Kersenbrock said.

The group also discussed a request for some new radios for Fire District No. 4, Rexford. Kersenbrock said Bill Dible of Rexford said they wanted to

purchase a radio for their fire truck, and eight pagers for their volunteer fire fighters.

Dible also wanted to know what permits are necessary to put some radio equipment on the 175-foot tower by the law enforcement center.

Albers said the city has a maintenance agreement with K-N Communications Service for radio equipment maintenance. The commissioners said Dible needs to talk to the city about the tower, and they will invite him to the next commissioners meeting.

In other business:

- County Treasurer Donita Applebury said the state of Kansas is going to allow people to renew their vehicle license on-line starting July 1. There will be a training in Hoxie on July 2, with one session in the morning and one in the afternoon.

She asked if they would prefer she close the office half a day, and all employees go together to the training, or have some of the employees go in the morning and some in the afternoon. Evans said she should keep the office open, and let some go in the morning and some in the afternoon.

- The commissioners opened bids for \$700,000 in no-fund warrants to

As the salutatorian, Purcell said she plans to attend Oklahoma Baptist University, majoring in nursing and has accepted a leadership and missionary scholarship, along with a renewable academic leadership award. She was also awarded the Colby Community College Tuition grant, and was a Kansas Board of Regents Curriculum completer.

Other scholarships, awards, recognitions and future plans included:

- Lindsey Carman plans to attend Colby Community College and major in elementary education, receiving a Thomas County Tuition Grant.

- Andy Dible said he plans to work after high school and attend Northwest Kansas Technical College, majoring in mechanics in a year or two. Dible was also awarded a Thomas County Tuition Grant.

- Mathew Gould said he plans to major in computer drafting at Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland and was awarded the Thomas County Tuition Grant.

- Andy Johnson plans to attend McPherson College and major in auto restoration. He received the Thomas County Tuition Grant.

- Jason Rall plans to attend Kansas State University and major in computer science with a minor in electrical engineering.

He was awarded the Hays City Silver Award and Thomas County Tuition Grant.

- Tyler Richardson plans to attend Pratt Community College and major in business and pre-law. He was awarded the Thomas County Tuition Grant and the Wendy's Heisman Scholarship Athletic Citizenship Award.

- Erin Rogers plans to attend Fort Hays State University and major in agribusiness. She received the Fort Hays State University Award of Excellence, the Herbert L. Fought Scholarship and a housing reduction award, along with Thomas County Tuition Grant.

- Danielle Spresser plans to attend Fort Hays State University majoring in computer information systems. She was nominated for the Burger King

Scholarship Award and received a Thomas County Tuition Grant.

- Austin Spresser plans to attend Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland, majoring in diesel mechanics. He was awarded a football scholarship to Dodge City Community College and received the Thomas County Tuition Grant.

- Amber Staats received the S&T Scholarship, UPS/George D. Smith Scholarship and Thomas County Tuition Grant. She plans to major in fine arts and theater with a minor in secondary education at Colby Community College.

- Ashley Stevenson plans to attend Fort Hays State University or Colby Community College and wants to be a secondary education teacher in history. She received the Hays City Silver Award, History Award of Excellence, housing award and Thomas County Tuition Grant. She was also nominated for the Wendy's Heisman Scholarship Athletic Citizenship Award.

- Adam Thompson was awarded a football scholarship to Dodge City Community College and received the Thomas County Tuition Grant. He plans to work for a few years and then attend Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland majoring in automotive and welding.

- Rebecca Wark plans to attend Fort Hays State University and major in psychology. She received the Hays City Silver Award, Ralph and Lucille Hunter Scholarship, Fort Hays Psychology Department Award of Excellence, and a housing reduction. She was also awarded a Thomas County Tuition Grant, Outreach Scholarship from Colby Community College and KU Crimson and Blue Geographical Scholarship.

- Mark Vignjevic is planning to attend Colby Community College.

Purcell, Juenemann, Broeckelman and Staats, were also recognized for placing fifth out of 10 teams in a league scholarship contest.

They also received recognition as Kansas Board of Regents Curriculum completers, along with Staats and Stevenson.

## Briefly

### Moisture...maybe

The weather forecast seems to be bouncing all over the place, and changes from one day to the next are pretty much the norm. So, here is what the next couple of days look like today for the Colby region. Tonight, partly cloudy to cloudy, lows in the lower 50s and south winds 10-20 mph. Wednesday, mostly cloudy, highs in the lower 60s and west winds 10-20 mph, becoming northeast late in the morning. Wednesday night, cloudy, a 50 percent chance for showers or thunderstorms, lows in the upper 40s. Thursday, mostly cloudy, highs in the lower 60s. Colby's high Monday was 75 and the overnight low this morning was 38, climbing to 57 by 8 a.m. The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth is averaging 61 degrees. Precipitation remains at 0.10 inches for the month. The records for May 14: 97 in 1944 and 26 in 1953. *(The temperatures and precipitation are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)*

### High school vocal concert today

The Colby High School Vocal Concert is tonight beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the school auditorium. Joining the high school vocal students will be middle school vocalists as well, said officials. There will also be a high school band concert on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. with musicians performing solos, ensembles and large group selections.

### Spaghetti feed fund-raiser planned

The Colby High School faculty and administration is sponsoring a spaghetti feed in the commons area of the school, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., Monday, May 20, to help defray medical expenses for a fellow teacher's daughter. The fund-raising event is for three-month-old Brielle, the daughter of Paul and Tawnia Bange, who will be undergoing open heart surgery in Denver on May 31. For those who might be unable to attend the free-will donation dinner, Brette Pfeiffer, one of the coordinators, suggests calling her

for other alternative ways to contribute. For questions, call Pfeiffer at 465-5300.

### Colby schools showcase artwork

All Colby Public Schools are taking part in an art show beginning next week. Everyone is being encouraged to view the many talents of these students at the elementary, middle and high school levels, said Donna Roberts, high school art instructor. Colby High School and Colby Elementary School have planned their artshows for 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and again from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, May 17, in the art departments at each building. The Colby Middle School's artshow is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21.

### Spring Sports program Monday

There will be a Spring Sports Awards Program, Monday, May 20, beginning at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Parents of students who participated in baseball, softball,

boys golf, boys tennis and track are invited to attend the event, which will recognize these athletes. For questions, call 465-5300.

### Physicals on tap today

All Thomas County students in grades 6-11 who plan to participate in athletics, cheerleading and drill team next school year, will have an opportunity to get their physicals today, said Jeff Quenzer, assistant principal/activities director. Colby Medical and Surgical Center, 175 S. Range, is offering physicals, at no charge. Colby Middle School students will need to arrive at the center by 5 p.m.; Colby High School students by 5:45 p.m.; and Brewster and Golden Plains students at 6:30 p.m. Students are reminded to bring with them the Kansas High School Activities Association physical forms the day of the exam and make sure to return all paperwork to the appropriate school since no copies of the physical are kept by the physicians.

