



COLBY FREE PRESS

Colby High commencement recognizes 87 grads Sunday

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS
Colby Free Press

From learning to read and simple addition to research papers and calculus, the Colby High School class of 2003 has completed the journey and can be glad to have finished the first 13-years of their education.

Eighty-seven graduates received their diplomas on Sunday afternoon, completing their high school careers, yet just beginning another chapter of life.

Guest speaker for the commencement ceremonies, held at the Colby Community Building, was executive director of the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees, Sheila Frahm.

Frahm shared her personal experience of being raised in the area and "going steady with" and eventually marrying a fellow Colby High School graduate, an underclassman, which was unheard of at the time. Frahm's comical recount of their courtship reminded the current graduates how much the times have changed including the fact that the girls were not even allowed to wear slacks to school and their skirts had to be long enough to pass the kneeling test.

Even though the times change, there are some things that remain constant. She said that successful communities are made-up of those born here and those who choose to be here.

"You are probably ready to learn more than about Colby, Kansas — we all have," Frahm said.

She encouraged the graduates to remember their heritage and take pride in northwest Kansas values which have help to form the first 18-years of their lives.

"Search carefully and consider



Molstad



Ziegelmeier



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

Colby High School graduate, Tiffany Focke, accepted a rose from Sharon Vap at Sunday's commencement ceremony. Focke is planning to attend Colby Community College and play volleyball for the Trojans. She is the daughter of Dwight and Susan Focke.

all the alternatives, plan for and enjoy your future families and remember those who have prepared you," she said.

Frahm concluded by reminding the graduates that people can be divided into three categories, those who make things happen, those who watch things happen; and those who wonder what is happening.

Also addressing the graduating class were Katherine Molstad, valedictorian and Lori Ziegelmeier, salutatorian.

Molstad took the opportunity to thank the people who have contributed to her success and reminded her class, "You only have one life to live."

Ziegelmeier urged the class to not worry about failure.

"Worry about the things you miss because you don't even try," she said.

Before the presentation of diplomas, assistant principal and athletic

director, Jeff Quenzer, recognized the members of the National Honor Society and the Top Ten Percent of the Class. The eight members of the National Honor Society included: Karen Higerd, Leanne Juenemann, Molstad, Sally Schlick, Jason Schwindt, Deni Wieland, Jennifer Wilson and Ziegelmeier. In the top ten percent, the previous eight were recognized as well as Jamie Quenzer.

Free Press takes first place award in series writing

The Colby Free Press was honored with a first place award for its coverage of the doctor/hospital controversy. The newspaper also was recognized with a second place award in local business writing for the coverage of Theron and Jane Johnson's bed and breakfast featuring lodging for both horses and their owners.

Both honors were announced during the 2003 Kansas Press Association's annual conference in Topeka last month with Steve and Cynthia Haynes, owners of Nor'West Newspapers, accepting the award.

In judging the series writing, the Colby newspaper submitted a total of seven articles written by Patty Decker, editor of the Free Press. The stories started with the initial suspension of Dr. Victor Hildyard from Citizens Medical Center in April of 2003 and the subsequent series of events that followed throughout the year. The second place award was also written by Decker who highlighted the unique aspects of running a bed and breakfast for "four-legged and two-legged guests."

"I was as excited as Patty to hear the news of her first place finish," said Tom Dreiling, Free Press publisher. "This was a difficult story to cover, but she didn't back off and her efforts landed her with the top honor."

Colby was one of 11 newspapers to enter in the daily division one contest, said Valerie Taylor with the Kansas Press Association. Those newspapers competing in the series writing category included Iola Register, El Dorado Times, Goodland Daily News, Atchison Daily Globe, Derby Reporter, Pratt Tribune, Coffeyville Journal, Lyons Daily News, Council Grove Republican and Abilene Reflector-Chronicle.

In total, more than 87 newspapers competed in various divisions and categories, Taylor said.

"We may not have the numbers that other dailies in our category have, but we have quality people which is underscored by the fact that we are consistently cited for our work as a newspaper," Dreiling said.

There were 30 judges from the Texas Press Association and their member newspapers reviewing the entries to decide which articles would take first, second and third place awards, along with honorable



Patty Decker, editor of the Free Press, looked at the first place award for series writing that was presented to the newspaper during the annual Kansas Press Association contest.

mentions.

"This was a tough story with solid coverage and much detail, said judges making the final determination to give the first place award to Decker and the Free Press. "There were many sources listed in the stories and names, names, names."

Decker said the honor for series writing was bittersweet.

"This controversy has been so hard on the people involved and it's difficult to accept an award based on those difficulties," she said. "It has been and continues to be a tough issue. With respect to the award, I will say that it meant a lot to me that my colleagues noticed."

Dreiling also spoke of balance in reporting. "They (the judges) saw it much as I did," he said. "A well-rounded report on a really hot issue."

"When you are accused by both sides of an issue as being biased, then you're right on target, and that's what we strive for each time we begin putting a story together."

There's a lot of pride and excitement when winning awards, he said, and being one of the state's smallest daily newspapers, it's tough competition.

"Patty has been with the Free Press for a number of years and is as loyal and dedicated an employee as you'll find anywhere," Dreiling said. "I'm convinced she bleeds ink...she lives this work 24 hours a day."

Israel moves to isolate after fourth suicide bombing

By MARK LAVIE

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP) — A Palestinian riding a bicycle blew himself up near an Israeli army jeep Monday in the fourth Hamas suicide bombing in two days, while Israel decided to deepen Yasser Arafat's isolation in response to the latest violence.

Three soldiers were lightly hurt in Monday's bombing in the Gaza Strip.

The spate of attacks by the Is-

lamic militant group underscored how difficult it will be to carry out the U.S.-backed "road map" plan, a three-stage prescription for ending violence immediately and setting up a Palestinian state by 2005.

Hamas said Monday it has no intention of halting attacks, despite Egypt's ongoing efforts to have Palestinian militant groups agree to a one-year suspension of shootings and bombings. The armed groups have said they might agree to a truce if Israel promises to stop hunting

militants — a proposal Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has turned down.

Israel reaffirmed there will be no letup in its campaign against those involved in violence. Israel "will continue to fight terror everywhere, at any time and in any way possible," a Cabinet statement said Sunday, after a Hamas suicide bomber killed seven Israelis on a Jerusalem bus earlier in the day.

The Cabinet also decided that Israeli officials would no longer meet

with foreign leaders who also want to hold talks with Arafat, according to a senior government official who spoke on condition of anonymity. Israel and the United States have been boycotting the Palestinian leader, saying he is tainted by terrorism.

Arafat, who has been confined by Israel to the West Bank town of Ramallah for more than a year, accused Israel of inciting against him.

"Not to forget I condemned it completely, these terrorist activi-

ties," Arafat said Monday in halting English.

"This is to increase the siege around me. Where did it happen that a president was forbidden from moving out of his office?"

Israel routinely holds Arafat responsible for the attacks, saying he encourages such violence. Several Israeli Cabinet ministers renewed calls for Arafat's expulsion after Sunday's bombing, but Sharon said this was not the time to expel Arafat, his personal enemy for decades.

Briefly

Jaycees sponsor alcohol awareness

In conjunction with the Kansas Highway Patrol, the Colby Jaycees will be sponsoring an alcohol awareness presentation beginning at 7 p.m., Tuesday, at the Jaycee Center. The purpose of the program, said Tohnna Thompson, coordinator, is to provide information on the alcohol problem among youth. "With the average child taking their first drink at the age of 10," she said, "this program will be of benefit to everyone." Sgt. Travis Phillips, Hays, will be the guest speaker. For questions or other information, call Thompson at 460-7147.

Arts program planned in June

Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas at 1675 W. 4th St., Colby, will host "Community Inclusion with the Arts." Judy Kleinsorge, of the Prairie Museum of Art and History, will give a program, "Pens and Pics." The program will begin at 9 a.m. on Thursday, June 5, and everyone from the community is welcome. The program is free. For addi-

tional information call 462-3012.

Red Cross plans annual meeting

The Thomas County Chapter of the American Red Cross will hold its annual meeting at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 27, at the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range in Colby. All members are welcome, which includes anyone who has donated financially, or by volunteering or by giving blood. For questions, call Mary Smith, director, 462-7161.

Carnival 'work days' continue

The Thomas County Amusement Association is holding "work days" each Saturday until fair time and everyone in the community is encouraged to lend a hand. The association, the driving force behind the home-owned carnival, has purchased several rides and with help on those work days may be able to have some of those in operation by July 4th. Contact the association's vice president, Chad L. Zimmerman at 460-1818 if you need additional information.

Clinic to give free physicals

Colby Medical and Surgical Center, 175 S. Range, will be providing free physicals to all students entering seventh through twelfth grade next year, a spokesperson from the clinic said Tuesday. Physicals will be given on Thursday, May 29, beginning at 5:30 p.m., for students at Colby Middle School; 6:15 p.m., for Colby High School students; and 7 p.m., for students from Brewster and Golden Plains. All physicals will be done at the clinic.

Students are reminded to bring their physical forms with them and it will be their responsibility to make sure the forms are returned to the appropriate school prior to beginning 2003 fall practices. For questions, call the center, 462-3332 or the schools.

Retirement reception planned

A public retirement reception for Corky Delzeit, director of public power, will be held at 3 p.m. on May 30 in the council chambers of Colby City Hall, 585 N. Franklin. Delzeit has worked for the city for 36 years.



Weather Watch

Thomas, Logan Counties
Tonight...partly cloudy with the lows near 40. North wind 15 to 25 mph with gusts up to 35 mph in the early afternoon.
Tuesday...partly sunny and cool. Highs in the lower 60s. East northeast wind 10 to 15 mph changing to southeast wind in the early afternoon.
Tuesday night...partly cloudy. Lows near 40.
Wednesday...partly sunny. Highs in the lower 70s.
Wednesday night...partly cloudy. Lows near 40.

By the numbers
Sunday's high, 78
Low this morning, 59
24-hour precipitation up to 8 a.m. today, 0.03
Month's precipitation to date 2.30
Year's precipitation to date 6.32

Water Usage/Colby
May 16, 17, 18 = 1.246 million gallons

