



COLBY FREE PRESS

Colby High School Graduation Sunday

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Colby High School seniors will celebrate their commencement on Sunday at the Colby Community Building. Seventy-six seniors will be receiving their diplomas during the ceremony.

The graduation ceremony starts at 3 p.m. and will feature music by the Colby High School band which will provide the processional and recessional and additional music during the event.

Nick Rohr, the 2005 class president, will introduce the guest speaker, who is Larry Koon, profes-

sor of psychology at Colby Community College.

Koon's presentation will be followed by the high school choir singing "You are the New Day" and "Celtic Suite" by the high school band.

Principal Brian Kraus will present the valedictorian and salutatorian awards, and both will give their speeches during the ceremony.

Activities director Jeff Quenzer will do the recognition of National Honor Society members and the top 10 percent of the class.

Superintendent Kirk Nielsen will present the graduating class and

hand out their diplomas.

The ceremony will be closed with the recessional, with the band playing the class of 2005's song, "Forever Young" by Rod Stewart, Nielsen said.

The baccalaureate will take place before the graduation ceremony, he said.

It is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. at the community building.

The class colors are orange and black and the class flower is a white rose with orange tips.

Their motto is "Remember yesterday, dream for tomorrow, live for today."

Brewster's ceremony Saturday

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Brewster High School will be holding its graduation ceremonies at 4 p.m. Saturday in the high school gym. Fourteen seniors will be graduating.

They are: Andrie Baird, Heath Baird, Paul Flanders, Christopher Grantz, Andrea Horney, Darren Howard, Tyler Johnson, Jake Long, Mark Luckert, Ryan Luckert, Anne Pinkelman, Joshua Ryan, Amber Searle and Johnny Siruta are the graduating seniors.

Commencement speaker will be Jill Jorgenson Stewart, a doctor and former Brewster student who will be starting her own practice in Quinter in August.

The graduation will also include speeches from the valedictorian and salutatorian and a slide presentation on the seniors.

The baccalaureate ceremony will take place at 2 p.m. at Brewster Community Church.

Katie Fulwider will do the invocation, which will be followed by special music by Megan Allen and Sarah Flanders.

Mike Flanders will give the address and Leland Francis will present the class.

The class colors are midnight blue and silver and the class flower is the white daisy.

The class motto is the Ralph Waldo Emerson quote "Make the most of yourself, for that is all there is of you."

Plane prompts Capitol scare

WASHINGTON (AP)—A security scare in the nation's capital served as a mostly successful terror alert test after authorities diverted a small plane that flew within three miles of the White House and led to the frantic evacuation of thousands of people.

Alert levels at the White House and Capitol were raised to their

highest state, red, on Wednesday when a Cessna 152 crossed into restricted air space and failed to respond to a Homeland Security helicopter scrambled to stop it.

Military jets fired four warning flares at the single-engine aircraft, which was carrying a pilot and a student pilot flying from Pennsylvania to North Carolina, before it turned

away from the national landmarks.

The plane appeared to be "on a straight-in shot toward the center of the Washington area," Capitol Police Chief Terrance W. Gainer said.

The scare, which lasted about 45 minutes, sparked a frenzy of activity that tested the capital's post-Sept. 11 response system, Homeland Security officials said.



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Electrical crews from the city spent more than two hours repairing a power pole Wednesday night caused by a driver missing the curve at Donelan Avenue and Brookside.

City officials have busy day

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

Two separate accidents — one on the south side of town and one on the northeast side — kept city police and power plant officials busy for more than three hours on Wednesday.

The first incident involved a bicycle and black 2000 Pontiac coupe at Pine and Franklin Avenue, said Gary Shull, police investigator.

The mishap occurred at about 5:10 p.m., he said, when Sharrie Emahizer, 40, of Colby, driving the Pontiac attempted to turn left (south) onto Franklin Avenue from Pine at the same time William E. Dill, 41, also of Colby, was headed north on Franklin.

As the Pontiac pulled out into the intersection, the bicycle hit the driver's side, tossing Dill across the hood, hitting the windshield and falling to the ground, Shull said.

From the way the accident happened, it appeared that neither the bicyclist or driver saw one another prior to the crash.

Dill was taken to Citizens Medical Center by Thomas County Emergency Medical Services ambulance. As of today, Dill remains hospitalized in



Ambulance personnel assist the bicyclist after he struck the driver's side of a 2000 Pontiac coupe, police said today.

stable condition, said Gwen Young, at the Colby hospital.

As police barely drove away from that location, a second accident involving one vehicle and an electrical pole was reported at 6:28 p.m. at Donelan Avenue and Brookside.

In the initial report, Shull said, Kelsey L. Dunn, 18, of Colby, was westbound and rounding the curve on Brookside, but instead of making the curve, she left the street as it crossed Donelan Avenue and hit the electric pole.

Dunn, along with a passenger, Mickayla Curry, 13, also of Colby, were both taken to Citizens Medical Center by ambulance where

they were treated and released later Wednesday evening.

After both Dunn and Curry were transported, the city's electric department arrived at the scene to repair the pole, which was cracked and held up solely by the damaged pickup, Shull said.

Rick Carter, electric distribution supervisor, said anyone in the northeast side of Colby was without electrical power from about 7 to 9:15 p.m. He also said that for about seven minutes everyone was without power.

In both accidents, the estimated property damage was unavailable.

Oakley student has perfect attendance, all A's in 16,380 hours of school

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

OAKLEY — Wednesday closed the book on an Oakley teen's goal of spending some 16,380 hours in school and earning all A's.

Marcus Geist has attended school in Oakley for the past 13 years without missing a single day. After graduation on Saturday, Geist will take a 4.0 grade-point average to Kansas State University to study civil engineering.

"Knowing that through dedication, hard work and effort, that any goal can be accomplished is the best thing about this," Geist said Tuesday morning on his next to last day of his senior year.

While having a perfect attendance record wasn't a goal as a young child, after Geist didn't miss any school from kindergarten through fifth grade at Sacred Heart

Elementary School, he knew he was on to something.

"It wasn't a goal as a young kid, but when I hit middle school I thought, 'Wow, I've completed these years and don't want that to fall,'" he said.

Geist said the words "playing hooky" are not part of his vocabulary.

"The hardest part of this has been when I was tired I was always there. I caught a lot of guff from my friends that I've never missed a day of school, but I know they were just joking," he said.

Not only has Geist made high marks in the academic world, he's

an accomplished athlete having participated in basketball, football, track and golf. In addition, Geist has completed 12 college credits through Colby Community College by taking English composition I and II, psychology and speech along with his high school classes.

When not in school, Geist has worked as a lifeguard at the Oakley swimming pool, an umpire for girls' softball teams and been the yard keeper for an Oakley couple.

Geist attributes his efforts to his parents and one special teacher at the high school level.

"My favorite teacher is Andy Starbuck. He teaches economics and I've learned a lot from him and he's funny," Geist said.

Geists said his parents, Gerri, an executive secretary at the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center, and Kenny, a technician at

Oakley Motors, played a significant role in helping him achieve what he has. His parents believe the credit goes to their son.

"He's just a dedicated young man. I know there were mornings after late nights of golf or track that it would have been easy to stay home those days but he didn't," Gerri Geist said.

She said in January, Marcus even passed up the opportunity to attend a scholarship award ceremony in Manhattan to personally receive a \$2,000 award for leadership from Kansas State University. She said had Marcus attended the ceremony and banquet, he'd been listed as absent so he opted not to attend the event. He did still receive the award.

"I felt bad that he didn't go because he didn't receive the recognition he deserved. Every time he needed to be away from school he'd

talk to the principal to find out if he'd be excused," Gerri Geist said.

This is the couple's second child to graduate from Oakley High School with a 4.0 grade point average. Like her younger brother, Tricia Geist, a 21-year-old junior at Kansas State University, made all A's in high school, but she fell short of his perfect attendance record by 1 1/2 days.

"She missed a half day in kindergarten and missed one day as a senior because of a concussion from volleyball," Gerri Geist said.

Leadership from both parents and a hot breakfast from their dad is what helped the Geist children along in life.

"As little kids I made them go to bed early and eat well. Supper was often rushed, so Kenny always cooked breakfast," she said.

Kenny Geist said his morning

breakfast ritual of biscuits and gravy, pancakes, French toast, or scrambled eggs and hash browns along side a serving of fruit, has always been dependent on "how much Dad has going on."

Despite his dedication to making sure his children's day started out well, Kenny said he knew Marcus' drive to succeed is what took precedence.

"Marcus has made a lot of sacrifices to get to where he is. There's been a lot of things he'd like to have gone to, but he didn't want to miss school. Those things were no school sponsored, but he didn't go," Kenny Geist said.

While Marcus has done all he can to prepare for college, his dad already knows of one thing that will change when August rolls around.

"I'll probably sleep in a half-hour later or so," he joked.



M. Geist

