

Jewelers celebrate 15th year

By Vera Sloan
Colby Free Press
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Long-time Colby businessman Jay Donelan came home from the military in 1948. He went to work for Ben Sooby in a small but nice jewelry store on the east side of Franklin Ave.

Six months later, he bought the business and named it Donelan Jewelry. Forty-seven years later, he sold it.

Deanna Mallory and Bonnie Werth, who both went to work for Donelan in 1985, bought the store in September 1995.

The women now are celebrating doing business in the same spot for the last 15 years.

All next week, from Monday to Saturday, Sept. 18, the owners will offer prizes every day through a trivia question that will be aired over KR2Q-FM 100.3 at 8:15 a.m. each morning. Listeners are asked to bring their answers to the store and put them into a box for a drawing each day. Each day's prize is a \$100 gift certificate.

"We will also be giving away 15 strands of pearls throughout the week," Mallory said.

There will be refreshments Thursday through Saturday, and a 15 percent discount on purchases Thursday through Saturday, she added.

The owners said the biggest change they have seen since they



Bonnie Werth (left) and Deana Mallory examined a piece of jewelry at Donelan Jewelry in Colby. Werth and Mallory are celebrating their 15th year as owners of the store.

bought the store has come from the Internet.

"Although it is our biggest competition," Werth said, "we have sold merchandise in Germany because of our web site. Also, people from as far away as Savannah, Ga., have shopped here and told friends about our store, and when they travel, they stop because they like doing business face to face with independent businesses."

"We get to be extended family with our customers. We share in their engagements, weddings, holidays and graduations and we love working with our customers."

The owners belong to a buying group, the Independent Jewelers Organization, and go to La Vegas to the world's largest jewelry market each June.

"The entire jewelry industry goes to the Las Vegas market," Mallory said, "because anything new is featured there first."

The store received the Colby Area Chamber of Commerce "Business of the Year" award in 2004. The owners agreed that they've been blessed with good help over the years.

"Evelynn Saddler has been with us for 13 years, and Pam Augustine has been here on weekends for a long time, too," Mallory said, "and we couldn't do it without them."

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Beef stocker profits to be main focus of K-State field day

Kansas State University will hold its annual Beef Stocker Field Day on Thursday, Sept. 30, at the K-State Beef Stocker Unit on West Marlatt Avenue in Manhattan.

The field day will focus on optimizing stocker profitability by offering management tips and providing the latest information to help stockmen adjust to changes in the beef industry. The sessions, offered by K-State faculty and beef industry professionals, will cover current issues such as managing bovine respiratory disease risk, growth implants, mycoplasma and

others.

Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m., followed by a complementary barbecue brisket lunch with posters and demonstrations for viewing. The afternoon will feature two more sessions and one breakout. A complimentary pit barbecue will follow the last session.

The cost of attendance is \$25 per person by Wednesday.

For information, contact Lois Schreiner at lschrein@k-state.edu.

Farm Service offers conservation loans

The U.S. Farm Service Agency offers a Conservation Loan program giving farm owners and farm-related business operators access to credit to implement techniques to conserve natural resources.

"This will give farmers who want to implement conservation measures on their lands a chance to do so by providing assistance with their up-front costs," said Adrian J. Polansky, state executive director of the agency for Kansas. "In return, these producers will help to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality and promote sustainable and organic

agricultural practices."

The loans can be used for practices approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, including installation of conservation structures, forest cover, water conservation measures, permanent pastures, manure management and other practices.

Direct loans can be obtained through Farm Service county offices up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans up to \$1,112,000 are available from banks working with the agency.

For information, contact the county office at 462-7671 or go to www.fsa.usda.gov.

Brewster Homecoming



Brewster High School homecoming royalty candidates: back row (from left): Nate Adams and Tyler Williams. Front row: Sheena Rall and Whitney Schultz.

- Thursday
 - Bonfire and pep rally – 8 p.m. at the football field
- Friday
 - Mini parade and pep rally – 3:15 p.m. in downtown Brewster
- Saturday
 - Sloppy joe supper – 5:30 p.m. at the football field
 - Football game vs. Palco – 7 p.m. at the football field
- Saturday
 - Bowling party – 7 to 10 p.m. at Colby Bowl



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