

June 6, 2008

Friends, family say goodbye to Linnea Dick

BY HALLIE WOODS

HallieWoods@coloradoan.com

Despite pouring rain, dozens of people waited outside St. Andrews Episcopal Church on Thursday to say goodbye to the woman with a personality as fiery and vibrant as the color of her hair.

The small church could not hold all the people who came to celebrate the life of Linnea Dick, so many watched from the hall or listened from outside the church.

Family and friends described Dick, 20, as a fun, caring and loving young woman who wanted to help those in need.

"She had such a compassionate spirit," said her mother, Opal Dick, in a statement read by Eric Gliva, Linnea Dick's brother-in-law.

Dick was found dead in her Fort Collins home May 30. She had been strangled and sexually assaulted before two fires were set in her home in an attempt to cover up evidence, police say.

Fort Collins police arrested Joseph Curl on Monday afternoon. He is charged with first-degree murder and sexual assault in Dick's death.

Dick, a student at Front Range Community College, aspired to get a bachelor's degree from Colorado State University and dreamed of helping other people.

"In my future I will do many things," Pastor David Bradshaw read from a note Dick wrote about her plans. "Some will be great, some will be small deeds."

Dick had recently laid out an ambitious road map for her life.

"My baby had blossomed into an interesting and determined young lady," Opal Dick wrote.

Atop a pearly white casket, her daughter's picture looked out onto the crowd as family and loved ones shared their favorite memories.

Cousins told tales of pretending to be the Spice Girls, in which Dick was always "Ginger Spice" because of her red hair.

"There was never a dull moment when she was around," said Ashley Snyder, a cousin of Dick's.

Amid the celebration of her life, family grieved over Dick's unnecessary death.

"I am sorry I could not hold you tight enough to protect you on Friday, May 30," Opal Dick wrote.
