

# The start of a new year raises many, many questions

A new year has arrived and with it all sorts of ideas and pondering about what it will bring.

For a librarian, that begs several questions. Who will be that special author that catches everyone's eye in 2004?

Will the majority of books continue to be mysteries and courtroom dramas or will biographies and true stories rule the roost?

Will books about the American Revolution remain in high demand or will the Civil War books make a comeback—not to mention WWII stories?

Will everyone be scurrying around to read the latest Scott Petersen trial account or will they be



## JoAnne Sunderman

### •Library Link

more inclined to want to read about Osama bin Laden?

Whatever the new year brings in terms of books, Pioneer Memorial Library will be ready.

There are a few blockbusters we already have on order and some debut novels we'd like you to try.

Whatever your preference, the library will always do its best to provide for you.

John Grisham has another courtroom drama coming out soon. He keeps hinting that this one could be the last in this genre, but I'll believe that when I see it.

His new one, called *The Last Juror*, is said to be a new thriller that incorporates his signature of themes of corruption, high drama and the quest for the truth in today's justice system.

Although we have not received it yet, Grisham's books are always in high demand so you might want to give the library a call and have us reserve a copy for you when it comes.

James Patterson is back with a new book starring FBI Agent Alex Cross (*Kiss the Girls, Along Came a Spider*, etc.) called *The Big Bad Wolf*. This one goes back to the onset of Alex's career with the FBI when he is instructed to hunt down a band of kidnappers who are snatching people and possibly selling them into slavery.

Alex becomes frustrated while trying to solve the case, especially with the Bureau's outdated meth-

ods. In addition, mysterious threats against Cross's family complicate the case as well.

*The Big Bad Wolf* is sure to be another hit for this author so you might want to call and have us put your name on the reserve list. It is available on audio tape and CD as well.

Former President Jimmy Carter has written a lot of memoirs and history books but now the Nobel laureate and best selling author has decided to make his debut into fiction with a book called *The Hornet's Nest*.

The story offers a richly textured study of the American South during the Revolutionary War. It follows Ethan Pratt, his wife Epsey, and

their neighbors Kindred and Mavis Morris as they become caught up in the conflict and the growing problems confronting the local Indian tribe. *The Hornet's Nest* takes a look at the War for Independence in a whole new way.

Stop by Pioneer Memorial Library and start the new year off right.

We are located at 375 W. Fourth and are open seven days a week as follows: Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday 1-4 p.m.

For information contact the library at 462-4470. We look forward to serving you.

## Snowball festival nears for dancers

The Shooting Stars Singles Square Dance Club in Hays is sponsoring its annual Snowball Festival Jan. 16 and 17 in the Black and Gold Ballroom in the Fort Hays State University Memorial Union, 600 Park St., in Hays.

On Friday, Jan. 16, area callers

and cuers will start with rounds from 7 to 8 p.m. and follow with squares from 8-10:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17 will feature Lanny Weakland of Omaha, Neb. as the caller and Jim and Carol Tucker of Lincoln, Neb. will be the cuers. There will be a round workshop at 10 a.m., a square workshop at 1 p.m.

and a plus dance at 3 p.m.

Rounds will be from 7-7:45 p.m. Saturday followed by the grand march at 7:45 p.m. Squares and rounds will run from 8-10:30 p.m. Singles and couples are welcome.

For information, call (785) 726-4432.

## Holiday guests abound in Winona

From "WINONA," page 4

Robin, Barbara Fisher and Randall Fisher. Virgil and Roberta Christy of Hoxie, Bill and Angie Sroufe, Dalene Bartell, Glen Kemp and Kyle Bartell were Christmas Day guests of Joyce Bartell.

Pat and Clarence Kahle enjoyed their families on several occasions. Christmas Day Kim and John Bruggeman of Hoxie were dinner guests. Later in the day the Kahles and Bruggemans went to the home of Kurt and Pam Kahle for a family gathering along with Russ, Grant and Evan Kahle. Patsy and Clarence hosted a post-Christmas dinner on Saturday for Cory Horinek of Topeka, who was also an overnight guest, Kim and John Bruggeman, Kurt and Pam Kahle, Evan and Grant, and ReChelle Kennedy, Ashley, Chase and Jared of Hoxie.

Darrin and Jacklyn Fulton of Manhattan and Alicia Fulton and Trenton of Overland Park spent Christmas with their parents, Marshall and Tammy Fulton. Gladys Fulton and Dorothy Francis of Colby joined them for dinner on Christmas Day. Marshall and Tammy traveled to Manhattan Friday and were guests of Darrin and Jacklyn Fulton, returning to Winona on Sunday.

John and Tonya Lamb's Christmas Eve guests were Beth Lamb, Jason and Molly Lamb and Maddie and Amy Lamb who is a student at Fort Hays State University. Amy spent several days with John, Tonya, Gus and Kelly. Christmas Day dinner guests of John and Tonya,

Gus and Kelly Lamb were Amy Lamb, Beth Lamb and Charlie and Pat Norton and Carson of Leoti.

The Pepperl siblings met at the home of Therese Phillippi in Norton Christmas Day. Family members included Adam, Billy, Jay and Anita Phillippi, John Pepperl of Winona, Tom and Lori Pepperl from Kearney, Neb. and Marie Brier and Tim of Hays.

The country home of Roscoe and Harv Kahle was bustling with holiday gaiety while Jim and Becky Denning, Ralph, Matt and Andy from Wichita were house guests of Roscoe and Harv. Christmas Eve Laura Kahle, Auston and Ayonna from Oakley joined the family for supper and a gift exchange. Kysa and Kasiah Nichols were also guests. Christmas Day, the Denning's were dinner guests, returning to their home in Wichita Dec. 26. Sunday, Roscoe and Harv Kahle went to Kanorado for a post-Christmas celebration with Kerry and Michele Kahle. Kerry and Michele had spent Christmas in Denver. Jeff and Jana Kahle of WaKeeney spent Christmas in North Carolina with daughter, Linda and Chris Carter, so they were unable to be with family in Winona.

After the sun had set in the western sky and dark prevailed over Winona, five ladies set out to view some of the spectacular exhibits depicting holiday scenes and crèches.

The plan was to head east and drive through the panorama created by Kurt and Pam Kahle. The next stop was north of Winona where

every little detail was pointed out on the circle drive at the home of Roscoe and Harv Kahle. Several yards and homes in town were appealing to the eye and tastefully decorated. The magnitude and diversity of the spectacular sight at the home of Bob and Virginia Arnbarger was a delightful finale of the evening for Erma Latham, LaVonne Baxter, Donita Goyen, Doneta Gates and Jean Lowe.

With the festivities in the past, it is now time for the aura to change. Western Plains Arts Association is bringing the Seem-To-Be Players to Oakley. "The Tales of Tom Sawyer" is designed to delight audience members of all ages. Sunday, Jan. 11 at 3 p.m. at the Oakley High School auditorium is the place to be to enjoy a play that will feature some music with a contemporary bluegrass feel.

## Water levels dropping significantly

By ROXANA HEGEMAN

Associated Press Writer

WICHITA (AP)—With drought lingering in western Kansas, groundwater levels appear to have fallen dramatically for the second year in a row, the Kansas Geological Survey said Monday.

The early findings are unofficial; the annual survey of 500 water wells in central and western Kansas is only half complete, said Rex Buchanan, the associate director of the Kansas Geological Survey, which is based at the University of Kansas.

In a telephone interview en route to a well near Garden City, Buchanan said the survey's water specialists are finding just what they expected: water level drops very similar to last year's numbers. "It exacerbates an already tough situation," Buchanan said.

The geological survey's study is conducted annually in conjunction with a survey of an additional 700 wells measured by the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division

of Water Resources. Between them, the two agencies measure water wells in 47 Kansas counties.

Water specialists started taking measurements in northwestern Kansas on Friday, moving south to Syracuse, Garden City and Liberal over the weekend. They expect to finish around Dodge City on Tuesday.

Final measurements will not be available until next month, but specialists comparing notes daily during throughout the survey are already predicting declines as severe as those found last January.

Those measurements showed groundwater levels dropped an average of 2.5 feet in northwestern Kansas, 4.75 feet in southwestern Kansas and 1.5 feet in west-central Kansas between January 2002 to January 2003.

"We were expecting to see things very similar," Buchanan said. "It was just as dry in northwestern Kansas this summer as it was the previous summer."

For several years groundwater

declines had "flattened out" some because of conservation measures and wetter weather during the 1990s. But the big declines of the past two years are the result of people pumping more to make up for the lack of rainfall, he said.

It has been so dry in some parts of the state for so many summers that survey crews this week have come across irrigation wells already putting water on the ground to make up for the lack of subsurface moisture. They found the same thing happening a year ago.

The water well measurements are taken at the same time each January, after the end of the irrigation season, which gives water levels a chance to stabilize.


Most of the measured wells are used for irrigation — tapping into the High Plains aquifer, which includes the Ogallala aquifer. Recharge on the Ogallala is typically less than a half inch a year, regardless of rainfall.

"There is no question it speeds the depletion up," Buchanan said.

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