

March means it's time for the annual library auction

March has arrived and that means the Friends of Pioneer Memorial Library's annual meeting and benefit auction this Saturday, which happens to be March 6 at 10 a.m. here at the library.



JoAnne Sunderman

• Now and Then

In fact, there is a silent auction going on here all this week so even if you can't attend the live auction on Saturday, you can still get in on the fun.

All proceeds will go to the library. If I were to give you a peek at what has been donated so far for this benefit auction, I think you would be really impressed. Businesses and individuals have gone all out this year to make it the best auction ever.

We have handmade wooden items from some very talented lo-

cals, wreaths, afghans, baskets, pillows, original artwork, crocheted doilies and table runners, dolls, Christmas items, a unique gas-pump telephone, a basket full of puzzles and games, lamps, marble cutting boards, candles and much, much more.

The list goes on and on and believe me, there is something for everyone and for all ages. Be sure to stop by the library and take advan-

tage of the silent auction all this week and then of course be here on Saturday, March 6 at 10 a.m. for the additional items that will be offered at the live auction.

The Friends of the Library mean so much to everyone in the community and this auction is their main fund-raiser. In the past they have used the proceeds to buy public use computers for the library, sponsor special programs throughout the

year for both children and adults, purchase best-selling books, audio book, movies and so much more. Everyone needs friends, even a library! Mark your calendars now and join in the fun.

A Library Link column wouldn't be complete without a suggestion or two of some book you might want to read (or listen to), so here are a few ideas. *Cry No More*, the latest novel by Linda Howard, is about a woman named Milla who has but one mission in life: find her son. Ten years ago her baby was snatched from her arms and she still hunts for him every day.

Eventually she opens an agency named Finders to help others in their quest for the return of their

abducted children. A generous benefactor offers a tip on the man suspected of kidnapping her boy. His name is Diaz and they say he is a dangerous assassin. When Milla tracks him down, she finds that he is not the culprit but can lead her to the one who is.

Is Milla so desperate that she will conspire with a known killer in order to find her son? *Cry No More* is both heart-wrenching and chilling and will no doubt have you clinging more tightly to your children.

Clive Cussler's latest Dirk Pitt thriller called *Trojan Odyssey*, like its 16 predecessors, is ready for the big screen. A hurricane threatens an undersea resort hotel and Dirk Pitt's twins are trapped at the bottom of

the ocean in and underwater laboratory. Good old Dirk swoops in to save the hotel and its guests—but what about his children? Cussler has written a lot of seabound thrillers and he clearly knows how to put one together to get maximum excitement from minimum material.

In a nutshell, this novel offers precisely what readers have come to expect from a Dirk Pitt adventure: danger, heroics, villains and heroes.

Plan to attend the Friends of the Library Benefit Auction on Saturday at 10 a.m. and of course stop by and take advantage of the silent auction all week.

The library is located at 375 W. Fourth. For more information contact the library at 462-4470.

Service clubs asked to start highway projects soon

Colby Shakespeare Club met at the home of Joyce Hansen on Friday, Feb. 27, 2004. The meeting was called to order by the president, Kathy Calliham.

Kathy reviewed a letter from the Kansas Department of Transportation asking groups to do their ditch cleanup in April.

Shakespeare does the ditch cleanup project with Pi Gamma. She also had received a letter from the Kansas GFWC saying that GFWC is still doing the HOBY project.

Kathy reported that \$25 has been given to Genesis.

Phyllis Elliott gave information about women driving alone. Joyce Hansen encouraged members to attend the Friends of the Library auction on March 6.

For the program, Jo Frahm, Stephen Ministry director at the Colby United Methodist Church, explained the Stephen Ministry program.

The Stephen Ministry was started in 1975 to meet the needs of a con-

gregation. Now there are 8,000 congregations from more than 100 denominations that have the program. There are 42,000 trained as Stephen Ministry directors and 300,000 trained to be Stephen Ministers. Jo went to St. Louis for intensive training and has just finished training the first class of Stephen Ministers in the Colby Methodist Church. The training consists of a 50-hour program.

The Stephen Ministers are assigned to a person or persons usu-

ally referred by the minister of the church. They meet with their assigned people two times a month to discuss whatever challenges they have. They are there to be a Christian friend. They do not give solutions to problems but are there listen.

The person being a Stephen Minister has five qualities—to be compassionate, full of faith, skilled, trustworthy and has Jesus as the center of life. They are there to pick up needs with special attention.

Members asked many questions of Jo. She has much enthusiasm for the program and is excited about it being a part of the church program. Following the program the hostess served dessert.

The next meeting will be with either Kathy Calliham or Jane Bandy. The information will be given with the call before the next meeting.

Public invited to view stallions at college farm

The public is invited to view four Colby Community College stallions and their offspring on Saturday, March 6, at the college farm.

"We will be showcasing the stallions and offspring of all ages," said Dr. Kelly Riccitelli, director of the CCC horse production department.

"This is a good opportunity for those interested in breeding a mare or wanting more information about the program."

The event is scheduled from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the farm located four miles east and one mile north of Colby on Highway 24.

Bratwurst sandwiches, hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided.

For information, call Dr. Riccitelli at 462-3984, ext. 255.

House advances bill on concealed handguns

By JOHN HANNA

Associated Press Writer
TOPEKA (AP)—A bill allowing Kansans to carry concealed handguns advanced in the House after supporters blocked the most serious efforts to water it down.

On a vote of 78-43 Wednesday, House members tentatively approved the measure, and the margin suggested that the bill will pass on final action and go to the Senate.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius has said repeatedly she supports allowing only retired law-enforcement officials to receive concealed carry permits. Spokeswoman Nicole Corcoran said Wednesday that if a broader measure passes, "It's doubtful you'd see it signed."

The House bill would require the Kansas Bureau of Investigation to issue concealed-carry permits starting next Jan. 1 to all qualified Kansans who pay a \$150 fee.

Kansans would be eligible if they were 21 and American citizens and had completed an eight-hour training course. Convicted felons or people had been treated for a significant mental illness or drug or alcohol abuse within the

past five years would be barred.

House members added a few amendments to narrow the bill's scope, but not enough to frustrate its backers. Proponents said the measure would help Kansans, especially women, defend themselves.

Rep. Peggy Long-Mast, R-Emporia, described herself as a crime victim.

"I want the ability to protect myself," she said. "I know there are other women like me," she said.

Opponents argued the bill would lead to more gun-related violence. But they failed to win support for toughening the requirements for concealed-carry permits or for letting cities and counties retain the right to set their own policies. Rep. Jim Yonally's voice broke as he spoke against the bill. He said his son survived being robbed in Kansas City in 1992 by handing over his wallet. In the same month, Yonally said, an FBI agent resisted a robbery and was shot with his own handgun.

"If you're not packing a gun, you can't be shot with your own weapon," said Yonally, R-Overland Park.

Family caregiving focus of sessions

The Thomas County Red Cross office is sponsoring a series of one-hour sessions aimed at providing help to those who care for a loved one at home.

The sessions will assist participants in providing a safe environment and the most basic care when adding in stress factors such as a job or raising children, said Mary Smith, Thomas County Red Cross director.

All meetings will be held at the Red Barn Senior Center in Rexford

starting at 7 p.m. with the first session dealing with general caregiving skills.

Those interested can attend one or all of the informational meetings and learn how to provide the best care possible.

The following is a list of the other sessions:

- Tuesday, March 2 — Assisting with Personal Care
- Thursday, March 4 — Positioning and Helping Your Loved One Move

• Tuesday, March 9 — Caring for the Caregiver

• Thursday, March 11 — Healthy Eating

• Tuesday, March 16 — Caring for a Loved One with Alzheimer's disease or Dementia

• Tuesday, March 23 — Home Safety

• Tuesday, March 30 — Legal and Financial Issues

For questions about these sessions or to register, call Smith at (785) 462-7161.

Dole's house papers open to university

LAWRENCE (AP)—Former Kansas Sen. Bob Dole is allowing a small group of students at the University of Kansas to take an early look at his political papers from his tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives.

When Dole donated his 4,000-plus boxes of papers to the university in 2001 to establish the Dole Institute of Politics, he laid out a timeline for opening the papers to the public. Most legislative and campaign materials weren't supposed to be open until 2011 or 2016.

But Jonathan Earle, an associate professor of history and associate director of the Dole Institute,

thought that was too long to wait. He approached the former GOP presidential candidate and asked if he would open his House papers to his students for one class project this semester. Dole served in the House from 1961 to 1968.

"Politicians are naturally cautious about these things," Earle said. "They don't want things out there for scholars and other politicians to see until the time has gone by. In this case, the time has gone by."

Earle said many of the people referred to in Dole's early papers are now dead. Dole agreed to allow his papers to be open to about 20 stu-

dents in one of Earle's classes.

Each student in the class chose a topic from the 1960s on which to write a 25- to 30-page paper. Christine McConnell chose to study the correspondence Dole received from constituents concerning the Vietnam War.

Most letters favored the war, she said.

"I'm a geek about this kind of stuff," McConnell said. "I love history and primary sources."

McConnell said she was amazed to find a note Dole wrote in 1963, in which he acknowledged the United States was involved in an undeclared war.

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