

About Town

La Leche League continues series of meetings Sunday
Area parents and parents-to-be are encouraged to attend the new series of meetings on breastfeeding, which began last Sunday and will continue once a month through November, said Connie Davis, series leader.
The meetings are on Sundays from 3 to 5 p.m. at 1515 West 4th Street, Colby.
"These informal meetings, sponsored by La Leche League of North-

west Kansas, will be held in a meeting room of the First Presbyterian Church of Colby," Davis said.
For information on the informal meeting, or for breastfeeding support, call Davis at 785-462-7188 or Lisa Splattstoesser at 785-675-3540.
Divorce care class begins next week
A 13-week Divorce Care course, which includes topics of forgiveness, financial survival, child care and new relationships, will begin

next Thursday at Colby Wesleyan Church.
The course will help those who are separated or divorced understand and heal from the pain and loss that occurs from divorce, said Karen Merryman, one of the organizers. The program is biblically-based and open to anyone. "According to the latest statistics," she said, "more than half of all marriages end in divorce." For questions or to register for the classes, call Merryman at 460-9077.

Gambler peeved when date wants half the money

DEAR ABBY: If a gentleman asks a lady to accompany him to a casino and gives her money to gamble, is it proper for him to insist that she split her winnings with him? This happened to me recently.
Even before the \$1,000 credits were finished rolling, my date called out that it was a 50/50 split. Most of my friends felt it was highly inappropriate, and that I should have been entitled to my entire jackpot.



Abigail Van Buren
• Dear Abby

I would have preferred being given the chance to make up my own mind about whether I wished to share my winnings. My friends also pointed out that this man makes four times the money I do and should have been more generous.
Do you think my friends were right?

of what he will want you to sacrifice. My advice to you is to postpone the wedding until your fiancé can find enough love in his heart for the three of you, because you are a package deal.

— SHORTCHANGED
DEAR SHORTCHANGED: Considering the fact that your date advanced the money that brought your windfall, I'd say you are 100 percent ahead of where you would be had he not been so generous. You may feel offended at his sense of entitlement, but a lady would have offered to share.

DEAR ABBY: Please tell people that when shaking hands, not to "squeeze" a person's hand hard. I have arthritis in my hands and it hurts so bad when some people shake my hand. Just a gentle shake is sufficient. Please print this.

— SORE HAND
DEAR SORE: A person can shake your hand only if you extend it. The next time you're in a social situation and someone extends his or her hand — smile, reach out and touch the person on the upper arm and say, "I'd shake your hand, but I can't because I have arthritis."

DEAR ABBY: I am a 33-year-old woman who has never been married. My boyfriend, "Mickey," recently proposed and I accepted. We're planning a small wedding in about four months. It's a first marriage for both of us.

DEAR ABBY: I am the wife of an Army soldier who has been deployed to Honduras for six months. In a telephone call a couple of weeks ago, he confessed that he had cheated on me since he left. He said he has cut off all contact with this local woman, yet he continues to go to the bar where they met. He says I should trust him because he's told me about the infidelity, and I should trust that he won't do it again.

I have two small dogs whom I adore. Their names are Melody and Harmony. Mickey insists that I get rid of one of them and that I am immature for wanting to keep both.
I explained that Melody and Harmony were around before he was, and I can't give up either one. He knew about them before we began dating.

But, Abby, how can I trust him when he lied to me all this time? I know he is stressed being away from home, but the stresses of him not being home are equally hard on me and the children.

They are not outdoor pets. I keep them very clean and do not see what the problem is. Melody and Harmony both have been through basic dog training and are well-behaved.
I am disturbed that, knowing how much I care for them, he would ask such a thing. We seem unable to reach an agreement about this. I love Mickey dearly and know he loves me, too. How can we resolve this?

How do I get over this?
— CONFUSED ARMY WIFE
DEAR CONFUSED: If your husband didn't have a conscience, he wouldn't have confessed his indiscretion to you. However, your concerns are valid. Tell your husband that, as proof of his contrition, you want his promise that he will avoid not only that bar, but any other tempting situations that might present themselves while he's away. Once he returns, marriage counseling to heal the breach he has caused would be a giant step in the right direction.

— BROKENHEARTED
DEAR BROKENHEARTED: What your fiancé is suggesting is a very poor start for a marriage. If you cave in to these demands, you will never forgive yourself — and it will only be the beginning

DEAR ABBY: As your readers mature, some of them will be

among the 9 million older Americans who have some signs of age-related macular degeneration. Nearly 2 million struggle to read because of it. AMD is a painless disease. It sometimes develops so slowly that people notice little change in their vision. But AMD blurs the sharp, central vision needed for "straight-ahead" activities, like reading, sewing and driving.

There are two forms of AMD: wet and dry. Wet AMD is the more serious form. It's caused by new blood vessels that grow at the back of the eye and then bleed. Usually the first symptom is when straight lines begin to look wavy. If you have dry AMD, the most common symptom is a slight blurring. You might also have trouble recognizing faces, and you may need brighter light to read or perform other tasks.

The good news is, recent clinical trials show that a combination of high-dose vitamins and minerals can slow AMD and vision loss. Many advances in technology are also providing effective solutions to AMD and other age-related vision problems.

Please encourage readers who suspect they may have AMD or other vision problems, who are over the age of 60, or have diabetes, to consult an eye health-care professional as soon as possible.

— PAULA SIEVING, M.D., PH.D., DIRECTOR, NATIONAL EYE INSTITUTE

DEAR DR. SIEVING: I'm pleased to spread the word. The subject may not be "sexy," but it's important. Readers, any change in vision should be immediately reported to your doctor. This includes blurring of vision, "flashing lights" or an increased number of "floaters." Before buying

Wichita takes action against mussels

WICHITA (AP) — Zebra mussels that have moved into Cheney Reservoir are no threat to Wichita's drinking water, officials say.
The lake provides about 60 percent of the city's reservoir, and many larvae — but no adult zebra mussels — were found there last week.
"It's not the best news, but it's a challenge we'll overcome," said Mike Carney, Wichita Water and Sewer Department superintendent

of production and pumping.
The mussels have moved into about 20 states in recent years, causing millions of dollars of damage by clogging intake structures for water supply plants.
"We'll have to spend some money, but we'll protect our water supply," Carney said.
Biologists think zebra mussels or their larvae are transported in wa-

ter or vegetation hauled by ships, boats or boat trailers.
The zebra mussels are prolific and are known to out-compete native mussels and small fish for food in many waters. They were first brought to the Great Lakes region in bilge water from barges in the late 1980s and quickly spread throughout that region and down connecting river systems.

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vitamin supplements to maintain your vision, ask your doctor which kind is most helpful.

The federal government's National Eye Institute provides a wealth of information to help people of all ages maintain healthy vision via its Web site: www.nei.nih.gov. A clever feature of this site allows users to increase the text size as needed.

Just Graduated

from the University of Minnesota, Carlson School of Management, in Computer Science with a major in Entrepreneurship, **Walter Barker, Jr.**, a former 2000 Colby High School graduate. At the U of M he was vice president of ALPHA KAPPA PSI. Walter is currently an employee of ACCENTURE. Best wishes from his mom, dad, sisters and friends.

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