

# Library winter hours begin after Labor Day weekend

Library hours will change back to winter hours the day after Labor Day on Tuesday. Winter Hours will be Monday through Thursday — 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. — and Sunday 1 to 4 p.m.

School activities have already hit full-swing and the school year has barely started!

One of these activities is the Max Pickerill lecture series hosted by Colby Community College.

Two prominent authors will be among the excellent speakers participating in this lecture series.

The first author Thomas Frank will be speaking in Colby Tuesday, Oct. 11.

Thomas Frank is best known for his latest book *What's the Matter with Kansas? How Conservatives*



**Jeff Friesen**

• Library Link

*Won the Heart of America.*

The second author Jim Wallis wrote the book *God's Politics* and will be in Colby to speak Thursday, April 6.

The books written by these two authors will be in high demand shortly before their date on the lecture series so get them early and avoid the rush.

Below is a brief synopsis of *What's the Matter with Kansas* and *God's Politics*.

Thomas Frank was born and

raised in Kansas. His book *What's the Matter with Kansas* takes an introspective and insightful look into the politics of the people of Kansas. Conservative used to be the word associated primarily with the wealthier citizens of America.

Now the term conservative and the association with the Republican Party apply to the majority of the population in the midwest, including Kansas.

So the fundamental question that Thomas Frank addresses in his book is why the people of Kansas, who are predominantly middle class citizens, have decided to vote against the party that would (in theory) create the most benefits for them?

To articulate and explain this shift in politics, Frank wrote the

book *What's the Matter with Kansas?* More information on Thomas Frank can be found at the website <http://www.tcfank.com>.

The New York Times bestselling book *God's Politics* by Christian activist Jim Wallis takes a very different approach to identifying the issues of American politics today.

Wallis does not advocate for the Republican or the Democrat. On the back cover of his book a simple message is printed at the top, "God is Not a Republican Or a Democrat."

Wallis makes the point that although there is a clear separation of church and state in America, the success of our country still depends on the institution of religious and moral values.

The blame game that is all too familiar with politics today is only serving as a distraction to the all too real issues facing both the United States and the world.

In this book Wallis offers a very fresh perspective on the American

political system and ironically, you might find that this book about politics is without politics.

Pioneer Memorial Library is located at 375 West 4th and open seven days a week.

Winter hours will be as follows:

Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

For information contact the library at 460-4470. As always, we are here to serve you.

CLOSED



**LABOR DAY**

*We will be closed Monday, September 5th for Labor Day! Have a safe and enjoyable holiday!*



## 'Ham' operators use radios for hobby, emergency contact

HUTCHINSON (AP) — Amateur radio just isn't what it used to be.

In an era where computers and cell phones provide instant communication to all parts of the world, the necessity of obtaining an amateur radio license from the Federal Communications Commission might not seem as important as it once was.

Yet some would say it's more important than ever.

"This is not your grandfather's amateur radio," said Allen Pitts, media and public relations manager with the American Radio Relay League. The FCC lists 7,024 licensed amateur radio operators in Kansas, said Ron Cowan, the state section manager for the American Radio Relay League.

Each of those hams — "ham" being an old nickname for amateur radio operators with various suggested origins — has taken at least one if not a series of tests, quizzing them on knowledge from electronic theory to safety issues.

Once licensed, a ham receives a call sign of numbers and letters designating their license class and the geographical region where they live.

"It's still very much regulated by the FCC, and we still try to be self-policing," Cowan said. "It's just like you can't get in a car and go because you're on public streets."

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has recognized the importance of encouraging amateur radio operators to respond to emergencies, especially those aligned with Citizen Corps programs such as the Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), as well as other emergency organizations like the American Red Cross.

"Emergency operations are getting more and more complex as the world got more and more complex," Pitts said. "Hams are trying very hard to stay up on developments so they can continue to provide good emergency communications." Many hams have the know-how to construct an antenna and conduct quick, efficient communications, making them particularly useful in situations where phone service may be knocked out or unavailable.

During the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, some cell phone and other radio towers were located on top of the World Trade Center. When the buildings collapsed, so did the communication network.

"Amateur radio communications aren't that centralized," said Tom Lappin, a Hutchinson ham.

While times are changing, the

reasons that Lappin became a ham haven't changed much.

The former technology instructor at Hutchinson Community College learned about his first job at the school from a fellow ham.

"It's been a really good hobby for me," he said. "I've never gotten away from it. You meet a lot of people and make a lot of friends."

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