

Colby art club member talks about eBay sale

Fritz Ostmeyer, program chair for the High Plains Art Club, surprised art club members at their meeting in October.

She told how her niece sold a painting on eBay she had received from the estate of her great aunt getting \$950 for it.

"Little did she know," said Ostmeyer, "that the painting would be returned to her and that she would get to keep the money."

Ostmeyer said that her niece, Nancy Swartz, who lives southwest of Colby, couldn't find a place for the large painting in her home and that it didn't go with any of her décor. That is why she decided to list the watercolor, by Eliot O'Hara, on eBay.

"After seeing how the bids were growing," said Ostmeyer, "Nancy started checking into the background of the artist."

"Because of the newspaper clippings that accompanied the painting, Nancy knew that her Aunt Jo, a beautiful lady who had no children of her own, had spent the summer studying with O'Hara. The clippings stated that the painting had been presented to Nancy's aunt as a gift. After searching the Internet," Ostmeyer said, "Nancy found that O'Hara was indeed a 20th century artist who was considered an expert in the difficult media of watercolor."

O'Hara was born in Waltham, Mass., in 1890 to parents who owned a successful business there. O'Hara and his wife spent several months in Europe just after they were married in 1924. While there he completed around 300 paintings on site. Fortunately," Ostmeyer said, "when O'Hara returned to the U.S., European-inspired watercolors were accepted into the Philadelphia Watercolor Exhibition and he was able to show his work."

The next year O'Hara's first one-man show in Boston was sold out. This allowed him to devote his time to his art and to study and teaching. Later, O'Hara received the prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship and a life membership in the American Watercolor Society. O'Hara's studio in Goose Rock Beach, at Kennebunkport, Maine, where he taught many students, painted and wrote several books, burned to the ground in 1947; therefore, his earlier paintings are even more valuable because so many of them burned in the fire.

"O'Hara's paintings are included in more than 60 museum collections and that he was considered the most popular watercolorist in America from 1930 to 1950," Ostmeyer said.

"Now — this is the rest of the story — when Nancy wrote to her buyer for mailing instructions, she asked what interested her in this particular painting and in the news-



Nancy Swartz painted the above picture, which was sold on eBay and later returned to her aunt Fritz Ostmeyer.

“ Little did she know that the painting would be returned to her and that she would get to keep the money.”

Fritz Ostmeyer, High Plains Art Club member

paper articles that went with it,"

Ostmeyer said.

The buyer wrote that O'Hara was a favorite of her ailing mother, who was also an accomplished watercolorist, and that she wanted to give the painting to her for Christmas. She wrote that she once asked her mother if the O'Hara print she had on her wall was an original and she replied, "Oh no. I would never be able to afford an original O'Hara." The buyer closed her letter by saying; "I can just imagine the look on her face when I give it to her."

"Nancy removed the frame and glass from the painting in order to mail it and then wrote to the buyer again to see if the painting had arrived in good condition. Nancy told the buyer that she was so happy to receive the \$950 for the painting because she was a breast cancer survivor and would use the money to help pay off her medical bills.

"In reply, the buyer wrote that when she showed the painting to her mother it was wonderful to see the way she viewed the painting."

"She went on about the design and about how O'Hara painted and taught. She loved being able to see it in person," Ostmeyer said. "However, Mom is older now and lives in a small house with no room for large paintings."

"She said she would have loved to have had the painting three years ago before the back surgery that left

her crippled and changed her life and even her outlook.

She said that she would prefer the painting to go to someone who could enjoy it more. So I am sending it back.

You might want to keep it since it was your aunt's. Life has been good to me and I am not looking for a refund. I just want you to have a less stressful recovery, so it will be my gift to you."

Ostmeyer closed by saying that Nancy, of course, wrote back and offered to return the money, but the buyer refused the offer and sent Nancy some pictures of her mother's water colors and some of a butterfly exhibit she is sponsoring."

The business portion of the meeting was called to order by Vice President, Margaret Denneler in the absence of Marlene Carpenter, president. During her report, Bev Kern, treasurer, informed the ladies that they had enough registrations to pay for the Rita Roberts oil painting workshop they had sponsored.

Marj Brown, secretary, told the group that they were considering applying for a grant to bring more workshops to Colby. Brown also passed out the new yearbooks and made plans for the Christmas luncheon she would be hosting in December.

Next month the meeting begins at 10 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 8, at Southwind Plaza. The members will work on individual projects, and the business meeting and program will be at 2 p.m. All artists are invited. Program chairman for that meeting will be Mary McNutt and hostess will be Kern.

Editor's note: The preceding was contributed by the High Plains Art Club.



F. Ostmeyer

'Get rich quick schemes' not always what they seem

Dear Attorney General Kline: Recently I received a letter promoting a seminar that promises to help make me rich in just a short time. If I decide to attend this meeting, what advice can you offer?

Dear Kansas Consumer: Promises of quick and easy money can be a very powerful lure.

Seminar promoters like the one you describe say they will give you valuable information about how to invest successfully or operate a profitable business. Their "success stories" and testimonials seem to show that anyone who attends the seminar can make money from the investment and business program they are selling. Some promoters may even go so far as to claim to have gotten rich from their own investment in the program.

If you decide to attend one of these seminars, you're likely to hear a series of sales pitches for a variety of business opportunities and investments. Consumers who invest in these so-called "opportunities" frequently find that the payoff is not as promised - and they can't recoup the money they spent.

You need to be wary of sales pitches or promotional materials that make these claims:

- That you can earn big money fast, regardless of your lack of training or experience.
- The business opportunity or program is being offered for a short time only.
- The deal being offered is a "sure thing" that will deliver security for



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years to come.

• You'll be able to reap financial rewards simply by working part time or at home.

• You'll be coached each step of the way to success.

• The program worked for other participants - even the seminar organizers.

If you do attend, the best advice is to be cautious. Don't be rushed into buying anything and avoid high-pressure sales pitches that require you to buy now or risk losing out on the opportunity.

Thoroughly investigate any business you're considering investing in. Talk with experienced business people and experts in the field before spending your money. Be wary of "success stories" or testimonials of extraordinary success. The seminar operators may have actually paid people to give these glowing stories. Be extremely cautious about purchasing from seminar representatives who are reluctant to answer questions, or who provide evasive answers. Remember that legitimate businesspeople are more than willing to give you information about their investment or sales opportunity. Ask about the amount of

money needed to qualify for the investment or sales opportunity, and ask about the company's refund policy. Keep in mind you may never recover the money you give to an unscrupulous seminar operator, despite the stated refund policies. If you are victimized by a seminar promoter, contact my Consumer Protection Division to file a complaint. But remember that taking precautions before you invest is a more effective way to safeguard your money than trying to get a refund after the investment has been made. Finally, use common sense. If an opportunity like the ones described here seems too good to be true, it probably is.

Editor's note: Attorney General Phill Kline offers this public service to help people avoid becoming a victim of consumer fraud. Although some of the details have been changed, the cases appearing in this column are based on actual complaints or questions. For information or to file a complaint, write Attorney General Phill Kline, Consumer Protection Division, 120 SW 10th Ave., 2nd Floor, Topeka, Kansas 66612, or call the toll-free Consumer Hotline, 1-800-432-2310.

TV LISTINGS

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SATURDAY												OCTOBER 29	
	6 AM	6:30	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30	
KLBY/ABC (4) (6)	La Gente	BusinessWeek	Good Morning America (CC)	Lilo & Stitch	Buzz-Maggie	Proud Family	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Phil of Future	College Football			
KSNK/NBC (3) (8)	Today (CC)			Paid Program	Paid Program	Tutenstein	Time Warp	Trading Spaces	Darcy's Wild Life	Flight 29 Down	Endurance (E)		
KBSL/CBS (12) (11)	Saturday Early Show (CC)			LazyTown	Go Diego	Backyardigans	Dora the Explorer	Little Bill (E) (CC)	Blue's Clues	Paid Program	Paid Program		
K15CG (2)	Business	Market-Market	Thomas-Friends	Jay Jay the Jet	Bob the Builder	Real Wheels	Dragon-flyTV	Kids A Cookin'	Score-board	Seasonings	Food	Victory Garden	
ESPN (28)	SportsCenter (CC)		SportsCenter (CC)		SportsCenter (CC)		Sports-Center	College Gameday (Live) (CC)		College Football: Wisconsin at Illinois.			
USA (37)	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	WWE A.M. Raw		Coach (CC)	Coach (CC)	Movie: American Psycho *** (2000, Suspense) <i>Christian Bale</i> . (CC)				
TBS (38)	Saved by Bell	Saved by Bell	Movie: Heart Condition **½ (1990, Comedy) <i>Bob Hoskins</i> . (CC)				Movie: Boat Trip **½ (2003) Straight pals unwittingly set sail on an all-gay cruise. <i>Cuba Gooding Jr.</i> . (CC)		Movie: Fantasia <i>Christopher Reeve</i> .				
WGN (39)	Enterprise	People-People	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Winning Edge	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Health Corner	
TNT (40)	(5:00) Movie: The Bodyguard **½ (1992, Suspense) <i>Kevin Costner</i> . (CC)			Movie: Message in a Bottle ** (1999) A woman seeks the author of a letter that washed ashore. (CC)			Movie: Steel Magnolias *** (1989) <i>Sally Field, Dolly Parton</i> .		Movie: Steel Magnolias *** (1989) <i>Sally Field, Dolly Parton</i> .				
DSC (42)	Paid Program	Select Comfort	Paid Program	Paid Program	Roswell (CC)		Area 51 Military base. (CC)	America's Loch Ness Monster (CC)		Dive to Bermuda Triangle (CC)			
A&E (47)	Murder, She Wrote	Alma Murder (CC)	Biography: Stephen King. (CC)		Ask This Old	Ask This Old	Inside This Old	Old House	Movie: Superman II **½ (1980, Fantasy) <i>Christopher Reeve</i> .				
HIST (48)	Automobiles	Mercedes (CC)	20th Century With Mike Wallace (CC)		The Last Days of WWII (CC)		Heavy Metal (CC)		Battlefield Detectives (CC)	Mail Call (CC)	Hands-Hist		
NICK (55)	Rocket Power	Rugrats (CC)	Grown Up	Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob	Cats-crat	Oddparts	Danny Phantom	Avatar-Last Air	Grown Up	Teenage Robot	Chalk-Zone	
DISN (56)	Koala Brothers	Higglytown	Einsteins	JoJo's Circus	Doodle-bops	Charlie & Lola	The Wiggles	Lilo & Stitch	Lilo & Stitch	Whiskers	American Drgn	Buzz-Maggie	
FAM (58)	Battle B-Daman	Dragons: Fire and Ice		Get Ed Optigops	Kong-Series	Power Rangers	Super Robot Monkey Team	Dragon Booster	Full House	Full House	Full House		
HALL (60)	Little House on the Prairie (Part 1 of 2)		Little House on the Prairie (Part 1 of 2)		Movie: Escape to Witch Mountain *** (1975, Adventure) <i>Kim Richards</i> . (CC)		Movie: Return From Witch Mountain *** (1978, Fantasy) <i>Bette Davis</i> . (CC)						

SATURDAY												OCTOBER 29	
	12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30	
KLBY/ABC (4) (6)	(11:00) College Football: Teams to Be Announced. (Live) (CC)					College Football: Washington State at USC or Game to be Announced. (Live) (CC)							
KSNK/NBC (3) (8)	Horse Racing: Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championship. From Elmont, N.Y. (Live) (CC)											Paid Program	NBC News
KBSL/CBS (12) (11)	Paid Program	Rodeo: PRCA -- Pace Picante Pro Challenge. Omaha, Neb.		Football Today	College Football: Florida at Georgia. (Live) (CC)								
K15CG (2)	Yankee Shop	This Old House	Ask This Old	Home-time (N)	Woodwright	For Your Home	Paint! Paint!	School-Fine Art	Love of Quilting	Piano Guy	Cabin Country	Rare Visions	
ESPN (28)	(11:00) College Football: Wisconsin at Illinois. (Live) (CC)				College Gmday	College Football: Maryland at Florida State or North Carolina at Miami. (Live) (CC)					College Gmday		
USA (37)	Movie: Queen of the Damned **½ (2002, Horror) <i>Stuart Townsend, Aaliyah</i> . (CC)				PGA Golf: Chrysler Championship -- Third Round. From Palm Harbor, Fla. (Live) (CC)	Law & Order: SVU							
TBS (38)	(11:20) Movie: Down to Earth **½	Movie: Twister *** (1996) (PA) Storm chasers race to test a new tornado-monitoring device. <i>Helen Hunt</i> .			Movie: The Haunting **½ (1999) Research subjects spend a weekend in a haunted house. <i>Liam Neeson</i> .								
WGN (39)	Soul Train Marquee	Fatty Koo.	Movie: Gun Shy (2000) A nervous federal agent goes under cover to bust mobsters.			Farscape (CC)		Farscape Crackers Don't Matter (CC)		Ultimate Arena Paintball			
TNT (40)	(10:30) Movie: Steel Magnolias (1989)	Movie: Something to Talk About **½ (1995, Comedy-Drama) <i>Julia Roberts</i> . (CC)			Movie: Stepmom ** (1998) A woman tries hard to make her lover's children accept her. <i>Julia Roberts</i> .		Movie: I Shouldn't Be Alive Shark Survivor						
DSC (42)	(11:00) Dive to Bermuda Triangle	Exorcists: The True Story (CC)		A Haunting in Connecticut (CC)		A Haunting in Connecticut (CC)		A Haunting Beastly Bargain		I Shouldn't Be Alive Shark Survivor			
A&E (47)	(10:00) Movie: Cold Case	American Justice		American Justice Love Triangle (CC)		American Justice		American Justice		Investigative Reports (CC)			
HIST (48)	Weird U.S. Tales from the grave. (CC)	Weird U.S. Fact or Fiction (CC)		Weird U.S. The Odd House (CC)		Weird U.S. Crimes and Punishment		Infams Murder		Witch Hunt	Witch trials in Salem, Mass., in 1692. (CC)		
NICK (55)	Rock Star	Cats-crat	Nick-toons TV	Nick-toons TV	Nick-toons TV	Nick-toons TV	Nick-toons TV	Nick-toons TV	Nick-toons TV	Nick-toons TV	Nick-toons TV	Nick-toons TV	
DISN (56)	Movie: Under Wraps (1997) Three friends help a mummy search for his long-lost love.			American Drgn	American Drgn	Kim Possible	Kim Possible	Buzz-Maggie	Buzz-Maggie	Naturally Sadie	Life With Derek		
FAM (58)	Full House	Full House	Movie: When Good Ghouls Go Bad (2001, Fantasy) <i>Christopher Lloyd</i> . (CC)			Movie: Tower of Terror ** (1997, Mystery) <i>Steve Guttenberg</i> . (CC)		Movie: Deep Rising **½ (1998) (CC)					
HALL (60)	Movie: Frederick Forsyth's Icon (2005, Suspense) A former CIA operative must foil a Russian politician. <i>Patrick Swayze</i> . (CC)			Movie: Jules Verne's Mysterious Island **½ (2005) Civil War refugees encounter Captain Nemo. <i>Kyle MacLachlan</i> . (CC)									

SATURDAY												OCTOBER 29	
	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	
KLBY/ABC (4) (6)	News (CC)	The Insider	Movie: Monsters, Inc. (2001) Animated. A human child slips into a world of monsters.			Desperate Housewives (CC)		News (CC)	Seinfeld The Nap	Seinfeld (CC)	Enterprise		
KSNK/NBC (3) (8)	News	Wheel of Fortune	Movie: Scary Movie (2000) A killer stalks nubile teens in a sendup of slasher films.			Law & Order: SVU		News	Saturday Night Live	Lance Armstrong: Sheryl Crow. (CC)			
KBSL/CBS (12) (11)	News (CC)	Friends (CC)	CSI: NY Crimes & Misdemeanors (CC)		CSI: Miami Game Over (CC)		48 Hours Mystery Scared to Death (N)		News (CC)	Drew Carey	Alias Reckoning (CC)		
K15CG (2)	Antiques Roadshow	Reno	Keeping Up	As Time Goes By	The Lawrence Welk Show	Red Green	Austin City Limits (N) (CC)	Soundstage (CC)		Tavis Smiley			
ESPN (28)	College Gmday	College Football: South Carolina at Tennessee. (Live) (CC)					SportsCenter (Live) (CC)						
USA (37)	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent				
TBS (38)	College Football: Teams to Be Announced.							Movie: Anaconda * (1997) A huge snake stalks a film crew in the Brazilian jungle.		College Football			
WGN (39)	Race Car Driver	Race Car Driver	Movie: Platoon (1986) A soldier embarks on a yearlong tour of duty in Vietnam. (CC)			WGN News at Nine (CC)		Sex and the City	Becker (CC)	Home Improve.	Movie:		
TNT (40)	(5:30) Movie: Runaway Bride ** (1999, Comedy) <i>Julia Roberts, Richard Gere</i> . (CC)	Movie: Erin Brockovich (2000) A woman probes a power company cover-up over poisoned water. (CC)			Movie: Unfaithful *** (2002, Drama) <i>Richard Gere</i> . (CC)								
DSC (42)	Dirty Jobs Bio-Diesel-Man	Billy the Kid Unmasked (CC)		Jesse James: Legend, Outlaw, Terrorist Investigating the legend of Jesse James.		Exorcists: The True Story		Billy the Kid Unmasked (CC)					
A&E (47)	City Confidential	Movie: The Shining ***½ (1980, Horror) A haunted hotel menaces a couple and their psychic son. <i>Jack Nicholson, Shelley Duvall</i> . (CC)			Cold Case		Movie: The Shining ***½ (1980) (CC)						
HIST (48)	Modern Marvels	Haunted History of Halloween		History's Mysteries Historical monsters.		The True Story of Hannibal (CC)		Haunted History of Halloween					
NICK (55)	Oddparts	SpongeBob	Zoey 101 (N) (CC)	Unfabulous (N)	All That (CC)	Amanda (CC)	Foxworthy	Foxworthy	Foxworthy	Foxworthy	Roseanne	Roseanne	
DISN (56)	Zack & Cody	That's-Raven	Movie: Twitches (2005, Fantasy) Reunited twins use magic against evil. <i>Tia Mowry</i> .			Zack & Cody	Naturally Sadie	Phil of Future	That's-Raven	Life With Derek	Buzz-Maggie		
FAM (58)	(5:00) Movie: Deep Rising **½ (1998)	Movie: The Sixth Sense (1999) A child psychologist counsels a boy who can see dead people. (CC)			Movie: Campfire Tales **½ (1997, Horror) <i>Jay R. Ferguson, Christine Taylor</i> . (CC)		Scariest Places						
HALL (60)	Movie: Coronado (2003) A woman looks for her missing fiancé in Central America.			Movie: Supernova (2005, Science Fiction) A scientist discovers that the sun will explode in a week. <i>Peter Fonda, Luke Perry</i> . (CC)		M*A*S*H (CC)		M*A*S*H (CC)					

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