



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Colby High School principal Rocky Robbins, left, visited with Carol Wilson and her son, Brett, before the senior awards ceremony Tuesday. Brett is one of 70 seniors graduating from Colby this year.

Plenty to hear about at Pioneer Memorial

If you haven't heard by now, "Audio Books, Music, and More" is now going strong.

This project, led by the State Library of Kansas, is in full swing and anyone with a free Kansas Library Card is free to participate. You can find out what downloadable audio books are available by going to www.colbylibrary.com and clicking on the "Audio Books, Music, and More" icon under quick links.

To provide the best service possible, a public access computer at Pioneer Memorial Library has been setup with everything you need to select an audio book title and upload it to your portable audio device. If you don't have a portable audio device, check one out from Pioneer Memorial Library.

So you might be questioning what titles are available through "Audio Books, Music, and More."

There are some excellent titles available for check-out now and the collection will continue to grow as more resources continue to be added. Here are a few titles that might tickle your fancy.

"24 Hours" by Greg Iles — This one is definitely a page turner or rather a real listener. A mastermind kidnapper has a well-staged operation. His slightly retarded, but extremely loyal cousin is sent to kidnap a child of a doctor in a targeted



Jeff Friesen

• Library Link

location of Mississippi. A "reasonable" ransom is demanded for the safe return of the kidnapped child along with a note stating that if any word is leaked to the authorities, the child will be kidnapped again and then killed. All is working well until the kidnapper unwittingly makes the mistake of provoking the wrath of Dr. Will Jennings.

"Black Rose" by Nora Roberts — Reena Hale is determined to become an arson investigator. Her "spark" stemmed from an arson incident during her youth that destroyed the restaurant owned by her family. Reena's choice of careers has brought about demands and danger that no man seems willing to endure. That is, until she meets a handsome carpenter named Bowen Goodnight. Life seems to be on the right track with Bo. After a phone call however, Reena discovers that a jealous and extremely dangerous arsonist prefers that no man is part of her life. Worse yet, he will stop

at nothing to ensure that Reena stays single.

"The Complete Western Stories of Elmore Leonard" by Elmore Leonard — Westerns are a niche genre and those that are hooked are hooked for life. Leonard has been writing Westerns for the better part of 50 years. With this audio book, you will be able to listen to 30 action-packed stories that highlight the distinguished writing career of Elmore Leonard.

And here are just a few other recognizable authors and books that are also available as free downloadable audio books:

- "Boogers are My Beat" by Dave Barry;
- "Mary, Mary" by James Patterson;
- "Metro Girl" by Janet Evanovich;
- "Saving Fish from Drowning" by Amy Tan;
- "Freakanomics" by Stephen

Bush urges graduatses to help

BILOXI, Miss. (AP) - President Bush on Thursday urged graduates of a Mississippi community college to use the resolve they showed in restarting their lives after Hurricane Katrina to help improve schools and fight poverty.

In an arena still under repair, Bush quoted Republican Gov. Haley Barbour, who said:

"People aren't leaving. They're hitching up their britches and rebuilding Mississippi."

About 660 graduates at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College warmly applauded Bush's upbeat message about post-Katrina recovery.

"Over this past nine months, you have shown a resilience more powerful than any storm," Bush said. "I urge you to take the same determination you brought to rebuilding schools and use it to ensure that every school provides a good education — use that same bravery it takes to rescue people from water to rescue communities from poverty."

First lady Laura Bush on Thursday told the graduating class at

Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., that helping others can bring happiness.

She urged them to "dedicate a vacation to recovery" by participating in Gulf Coast rebuilding efforts, or to volunteer their talents anywhere they might be needed in the world.

Katrina smashed much of Mississippi's 70-mile coast, destroyed 68,700 homes and hundreds of businesses, including a dozen massive casino barges. Mounds of debris still litter roadsides and hundreds of volunteers report daily to help clean up waterlogged buildings. An estimated 102,000 people are in government-provided travel trailers and mobile homes.

On his way to the Mississippi Coast Coliseum, Bush's motorcade drove along the coast, passing skel-

etons of beachfront hotels, boarded-up homes and demolished buildings, including the remains of a Smoothie King ice cream stand. A sign on one home said:

"Lee and Chi Chi's New Pad. Thanks FEMA. We will survive."

"Across this state, a powerful spirit has emerged: A Mississippi spirit that sees hope in adversity and possibility in pain and summons a strength that wind and water can never take away," Bush said.

Not all is rosy on the rebuilding front, and this year's hurricane season begins June 1. Bush's pep talk to students involved in the rebuilding comes amid heightened congressional scrutiny of contracts and audits showing the government wasted millions of dollars — much of it on large contracts awarded to politically connected companies.

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Four Marines drown in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Four Marines drowned when their tank rolled off a bridge and plunged into a canal, the military said Friday, adding that while the accident occurred in a Sunni insurgent stronghold, it was not the result of an enemy action.

The deaths brought to at least 12 the number of U.S. service members who have died in Iraq this week, according to an Associated Press count.

The accident occurred Thursday when the four Marines with Regimental Combat Team 5 were traveling in a U.S. M1A1 Main Battle Tank near Karmah, 50 miles west of Baghdad in Anbar province. U.S.-led coalition forces have seen heavy

fighting in the area, known as the Sunni Triangle because it is rife with Sunni insurgents.

"We are a close-knit family and this loss affects us all," said U.S. Col. Larry D. Nicholson, commanding officer of Regimental Combat Team 5. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of these Marines during this difficult period."

The accident was under investigation, and the military said no other information was immediately available, including what kind of operation the Marines were taking part in and whether fighting with insurgents was under way in the area at that time.

Three U.S. Army soldiers were killed Thursday when

roadside bombs hit two U.S. convoys southwest of Baghdad, the military said. The U.S. command also announced that an American soldier died Tuesday from wounds not suffered in combat.

Their deaths raised to at least 2,434 the number of members of the U.S. military who have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

Three months ago, Iraq's freely elected Parliament took office, but the country's complex mix of Shiite, Sunni-Arab and Kurdish politicians are still trying to form a Cabinet that will make the government fully operational.

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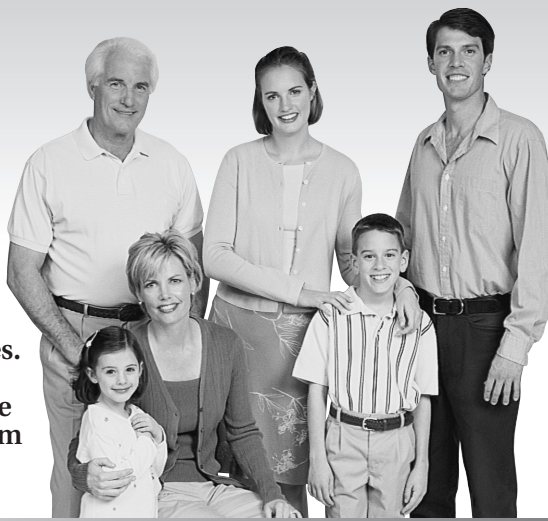
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Presenter: Dan Diederich is both an Attorney and a Certified Public Accountant. Mr. Diederich operates a law practice focused on family estate planning, and has prepared living trusts for residents throughout the state of Kansas. Mr. Diederich is a frequent public speaker on the subject of family estate planning and thousands of people have attended his seminars and learned how to protect their estates from probate costs, estate taxes, and have learned how to protect their children's inheritance from creditors claims, spousal claims and divorces.

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