

Student recognized for poetry

By Patty Decker
Free Press Editor

One Colby Middle School student can see her name, and work, in print.

Tera Raymond, a seventh-grade student in Sue Nielsen's extended learning program, had one of her poems printed in "Twilight Musings," an anthology of poets from across the country.

"I like writing," Raymond said. "Poetry is something I have always adored."

Raymond said her poems vary depending on her experiences.

"I have written about candy, food, fall leaves and even my mother's hair."

Raymond said she had never been in a contest quite like this one until Nielsen showed her the information.

"While brainstorming for ideas, I watched the news with my mother and the headlines were about the war overseas," she said.

After thinking about an entry, Raymond said the war would be a perfect setting for her poem. What made her recent inclusion in "Twilight Musings" even more special Nielsen said, was Raymond's poem was the first entry.

The poem, *Courageous Soldier*, is written in rhyme and is Raymond's tribute to the men and women who put their own lives on the line each day for us.

"It was an honor to write this poem about our courageous soldiers," she said.



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

ABOVE: Sue Nielsen, extended learning program instructor, and Tera Raymond, seventh grade student at Colby Middle School, looked at the book Raymond's poem was published in. Nielsen said Raymond's poem was on the first page of poems.

Courageous Soldier

Her cries were lost in the mad battle cage,
no one could hear through the war and rage.
Her cries for help were no longer heard,
although I heard her each and every word.
They came from her heart in sorrow times,
but enough was heard to continue this rhyme.
"My love and gratitude goes out to all who die,
and those whose souls will soon also fly."
Those words from her mouth were indeed the last
but now are words from the past.
Her time and effort was praised by all,
although her death was a tragic fall.
No one saw her collapse on that field,
no one even thought to yield.
She realized now that no one cared,
her cries for help were now no longer shared.
We all pray for those who fight,
and those whose duties are to protect our lives.
We thank you for your help each day,
and your protection for the USA.

In mobility wars, wireless providers think simple is better

OVERLAND PARK (AP) — Nathan Bales poses a troubling trend for cellular phone carriers.

The Kansas City-area countertop installer recently traded in a number of gadget-filled phones for a stripped-down model.

He said he didn't like using the phones to surf the Internet, rarely took pictures with it and couldn't stand scrolling through seemingly endless menus to get the functions to work.

"I want a phone that is tough and easy to use," said Bales, 30. "I don't want to listen to music with it. I'm not a cyber-savvy guy."

But the wireless industry needs him to be comfortable with its technology and actively use it. Consumers last year paid \$8.6 billion for so-called data features on their phones, up 86 percent from the year before, according to wireless trade group CTIA.

As the universe of people who want a cell phone and don't already have one is getting smaller, wireless carriers are counting on


data services to generate the bulk of new revenue in coming years.

Consumers, however, have also shown a growing frustration with how confusing those added functions can be. A.J.D. Power & Associates survey last year found consumer satisfaction with their mobile devices had declined since 2003, with some of the largest drops linked to user interface on Internet and e-mail.

That has providers working hard to make their devices easier to use — fewer steps, brighter and less cluttered screens, different pricing strategies — so consumers will not only use data functions more often but also be encouraged to buy additional ones.

For Sprint Nextel Corp., the process begins in a suite of small rooms on its operations campus in suburban Kansas City.

On one recent day, a trio of researchers watched through one-way glass and overhead cameras as a volunteer navigated her way through a prototype program that lets parents set limits on their children's phone use.



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