

Got to hear these



**Jeff Friesen,
Librar Link**

• Pioneer Memorial Library Director

Technically, summer doesn't end until the third week in September. But, for all intents and purposes, the figurative death of summer is the beginning of the school year.

The frenzy of getting everything moving in the right direction for school makes this a particularly hectic week of transition. Below are a couple of audio books that you can listen to (if only in spurts) when you find the time.

Our latest shipment of audio books includes a cutting edge spy-thriller by Daniel Silva. The storyline of his book "The Messenger" is eerily evocative of current world events.

A bombing aimed at the Catholic Church (and all infidels of Christendom) has put the world on high alert for terrorism. Gabriel Allon, an art restorer and moonlighting spy, has been approached to help work with the investigation into the bombing.

Before he can give an answer however, some information is uncovered revealing a far more devastating plot targeting the Vatican.

With so much at stake, Gabriel Allon feels compelled to help in the investigation.

His sense of urgency stems from a car bombing 13 years earlier that took the life of his wife and daughter. Worse yet is the fact the plot by the terrorists, is already in action and the Vatican compromised. Gabriel's chances of success hinge on his well-honed instincts and the abilities of a striking art expert named Sarah Bancroft. Sarah is given

the dangerous task of infiltrating the terrorist organization behind the plot. A lot of luck will be needed to catch the terrorists if the plot can be stopped.

Hopefully I'm not "dead wrong" in recommending the most recent novel by J.A. Jance. Her suspense thriller titled "Dead Wrong" is the latest in the Joanna Brady series.

Set once again in Southwestern Arizona, Joanna is facing yet another murder as the Sheriff of Cochise County. This time however, she has the added complication of being near the term date of her pregnancy.

An ex-con has been discovered dead in the desert with all of his fingers severed. At approximately the same time, one of the members of Joanna's department was beaten nearly to death by an attacker.

With most of the already stretched resources in the police department going towards the case against one of their own, Joanna feels more focused and troubled by the ex-con found dead in the desert. What did the severance of the victim's fingers have to do with anything?

Have a terrific back-to-school week.

Pioneer Memorial Library is located at 375 W. Fourth St. and open seven days a week. Summer hours are: Monday through Wednesday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m. - 8 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 or visit our web site at www.colbylibrary.com.

Crossdresser no threat in ladies restroom

DEAR ABBY: Yesterday I made a visit to a city larger than the one in which I currently reside and encountered a problem I have never had before.

I was in a women's restroom when a man wearing a wig walked in.

It was obvious that this 6-footer, with a large Adam's apple, deep husky voice, dressed in a floral print dress and high heels, was a man.

Should a transvestite be allowed to use the ladies' restroom? And if sex change surgery was performed, are there any visible signs?

— BEWILDERED IN ADA, OKLA.

DEAR BEWILDERED: There is a difference between a transvestite (someone who feels compelled to wear the clothing of the opposite sex) and a transsexual. A transsexual is a person who feels trapped in the body of the wrong sex. Before a transsexual is allowed to have gender reassignment surgery, he or she must live for one year in the role of someone of the opposite sex. This includes using the restroom facilities of the opposite gender. It is not against the law, and it was no threat to you.

(And it was probably safer for the pre-op transsexual than using the men's room would have been.)

When sex change surgery is performed, the surgeons have perfected their technique to such a degree that it can be difficult, if not impossible, to tell that it has been done.

DEAR ABBY: I recently re-



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

ceived the following invitation via the Internet:

"You are all cordially invited to a
"WEDDING SHOWER FOR
"Tristan" and "Isolde"
"at 222 Valentine Court
"On July 25 from 1-5 p.m.
"Tristan and Issy are registered at:

"Pier One, Costco and Target
"Come and bring a friend! Tell everyone else you know as well, because I only had a few e-mail addresses. Thanks and God bless!"

Maybe casual is "in," but I still believe we should observe some of the rules of etiquette, don't you? I thought this was really rude and tacky, and your comments would be appreciated.

— CRYSTAL IN KANSAS CITY

DEAR CRYSTAL: Where I come from, showers are warm, intimate, personal gatherings where friends come together to give gifts and good wishes to the people being honored.



— MILLIE IN MIAMI

DEAR MILLIE: You and your fiance need to go for a consultation with the doctor who is treating you for your allergies, which are nothing to be sneezed at. Your fiance's attitude may not be about disrespect as much as woeful ignorance about how severe these kinds of allergies can be. Allergy sufferers exposed to certain chemicals have been known to have severe, life-threatening reactions. If, after discussing this with your doctor, your fiance still feels you are being "unreasonable," then you may indeed need to break the engagement.

Editor's note: Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069.

The "invitation" you received had all the personal warmth of a casting call for extras in a historical epic and I don't blame you for being turned off.

DEAR ABBY: This may seem ridiculous, but it's true. My fiance and I are about to break up over his cologne. I'm allergic to it and other manufactured scents. He insists he "must" use it.

I have concluded it's about his disrespect for my needs. He says I am being unreasonable. Where do we go from here?

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Barnett, Sebelius agree on language

TOPEKA (AP) — Democratic Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and Republican challenger Jim Barnett agree Kansas should make English its official language, but Barnett has been far more vocal in pushing the idea as he criticizes her on immigration issues.

Barnett began raising the issue during his successful campaign for the GOP nomination, and argues he's simply responding to voters' concerns. Sebelius didn't address the issue until reporters asked her about it, saying in a statement Wednesday, "I believe the language of the United States is and should be English."

The issue hasn't spurred much interest from Kansas legislators over the past two decades, even as other states, including Missouri, adopted such policies. But the national debate over illegal immigration, particularly from Mexico, may put the issue on the state's political agenda.

"I think language serves as a lightning rod for tensions that we're experiencing with immigration," said James Crawford, a Maryland writer and founder of the nonprofit Institute for Language and Education Policy.

Since 1986, Kansas legislators have introduced 10 proposals to designate English as either the state's official or "common" language, and some would have required public meetings and public documents to be in English. Only one, in 1996, emerged from committee in the Senate, but the chamber never voted upon it.

However, such proposals have been successful in other states. Twenty-six now designate English as their only official language, the most recent being Iowa in 2002. Hawaii's constitution designates both English and Native Hawaiian.

Tim Schultz, a spokesman for U.S. English Inc., a group advocating official-language status for English since the 1980s, said such policies promote the assimilation of new immigrants.

"The trip wire for assimilation is language," he said. "That's why this issue resonates."

But Sebelius and her aides question how much the issue resonates. Spokeswoman Nicole Corcoran said voters talk most about creating jobs, improving schools, keeping communities safe and making sure they have access to affordable health care.

"We believe right now, it's best to focus on the job at hand, which is continuing the progress we need to move Kansas forward," Corcoran said.

Barnett said immigration-related issues weigh heavily on voters' minds.

He's repeatedly criticized Sebelius for supporting a 2004 law that allows some illegal immigrants in Kansas to pay the same, lower tuition rates as legal Kansas residents at state universities and colleges.

And he's attacked her over her 2003 endorsement of an unsuccessful legislative proposal to grant driver's licenses to illegal immigrants.

"With the significant amount of illegal immigration we have in our state, Kansans are concerned that English is becoming a second language," Barnett said.

Crawford questioned whether such a scenario is possible, even though the state's Hispanic population doubled between 1990 and 2000, according to the U.S. census.

He said studies show immigrants are learning English more quickly than they have in the past.

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<p>2006 Chevy Avalanche</p> <p>LIKE NEW Black - 1 Owner - SLT 3 K Miles</p>	<p>2005 GMC 3/4 Ton Crew</p> <p>LIKE NEW 4x4 - Gold - Off Lease - SLT 37K Miles</p>	<p>2003 GMC Yukon XL</p> <p>PRICED RIGHT Pewter - Locally Owned Cloth - 62 K Miles</p>	<p>2001 Chrysler 300M</p> <p>PRICE RIGHT Silver - Leather - Roof 69 K miles</p>

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