

Library to host 'Food for Thought' hands-on class

What is it about food that we just can't stop loving?

Life sometimes seems to revolve around food — whether there is too much or too little.

Thus — what I am about to say is nothing short of a shameless attempt to waylay your diet plans, ravage your resolve, and leave you helpless against the power of food.

Pioneer Memorial Library will be hosting a hands-on food preparation class titled "Food for Thought," from noon to 1 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 19.

October is Apple Month and in that spirit it has been decided that the featured food will be a fresh baked apple pie.

This class will take you through



Jeff Friesen, library link

• Pioneer Memorial Library director

the process of making a tender, flaky crust to preparing the apples and ultimately creating an All-American apple pie. By the end of the program, all you will have to do is take the pie home and pop it in the oven.

In order to get an idea of how many people will be attending; we are asking all interested participants to pre-register for "Food for

Thought" through the library (460-4470) or the Thomas County Extension Office (460-4582).

When you call we will mail you a supply/ingredient list to bring to class.

A note for men, this program is not just for women.

In fact, many of us men have probably tried to create a romantic mood at one time or another by step-

ping in as the official cook for an evening. (whether we succeeded or not is another story) The Food Network's Rachel Ray says, "A man who cooks is hot!"

In her book "Guy Food" Rachel Ray gives us some tips on cooking — which in turn is supposed to make us imminently more appealing to the opposite sex.

Her recipes sound a bit intimidating at first but she guarantees that all of the ingredients used in each of her recipes are common and easy to find.

Take for example the mussels in Mexican beer. I can almost guarantee that the mussels will be harder for a guy to come up with than the Mexican beer. Or, make the tender-

loin steaks with gorgonzola.

Hunters take heart!

Cooking up that deer tenderloin could completely reverse your image as a hardened, ruthless killer. Finally, reinforce your image as a more sensitive, caring guy by whipping-up some mango-black bean salsa.

And if that isn't enough to spice up your love life we have "The El Paso Chile Company's Burning Desires."

There are plenty of recipes in this book that will literally leave you in tears.

Trying making and eating some evil jungle prince salsa; just the name makes me want to cry. The soft lobster tacos had me sweat!

early in the morning. The beer-braised grill-finished beef short ribs with spicy molasses mop simply leaves a person out of breath.

Cooking is no longer a unilateral process. We have enough cookbooks in the library to satisfy anyone from the most domestic housewife to the manliest of men. Try something new this week!

Pioneer Memorial Library is located at 375 West Fourth St. and open seven days a week.

Winter hours are as follows: Monday through 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 call the library at 460-4470 or visit our Web site at www.colbylibrary.com.

Trip through Wichita County reveals hidden gems, treasures

GARDEN CITY (AP) — For a little bit of railroad history and a lot of unique finds, a short trip to Wichita County may prove beneficial to the southwest Kansas explorer. The Santa Fe Railroad ran through Leoti and Selkirk in its early days and left traces of history preserved throughout the county.

The Ol' Coyote Saloon beckons cowboys in for a drink as part of the 'Leoti City' exhibit. The exhibit features several replica businesses meant to represent life in 1887 Leoti.

Even though the population may not be huge, the pride and the knowledge of the Wichita County residents makes the trip beneficial for families of all kinds.

As a free museum for visitors, the Museum of the Great Plains in Leoti has a wide range of history to offer, much of it coming from donations and items on loan from residents.

On its top floor, the museum features different themed exhibits for history buffs, including collections of mustache cups, stamps, Skookum dolls, saddles, violins, guns and war memorabilia.

Karen Walk, curator of the museum, said the collections draw people to the museum who want to see the local history of some of the residents.

But the newly remodeled lower floor of the museum is an attraction for local residents. One room, adorned in red, white and black houses old memorabilia from Wichita County High School, including trophies, uniforms and year-books from years past.

“The school was going to throw away a few trophies, but ended up donating them to the Historical Society for preservation.”

Karen Walk, museum curator

“The school was going to throw away a few trophies,” Walk said, but ended up donating them to the Historical Society for preservation. “They just didn't have room for them.”

Around the corner, Leoti City, in 1887, waits for the visitor to re-enter the past.

Caprock and Cargill Industries financed a \$5,200 grant for the historical society to take artifacts they had in the basement and transform them into a living city for museum visitors.

“We had all the old, cool stuff, but we just couldn't build the town (before the grant),” Walk said.

The town was finished in 2005 and features buildings like a blacksmith's shop, harness and shoe repair stores, an undertaking parlor, hotel and carpenter shops, all named after stores that existed in the town of Leoti in 1887.

One re-created building, the Broadway Hotel, features some original architecture from the Old Broadway Hotel that was torn down in 1982, Walk said.

Other features of Leoti City in-

clude the Wichita County Bank, then located in Coronado, and a wall of quilts dating back to 1936. Walk said one quilt features more than 500 names stitched on it as a fundraiser for the Methodist Church.

Just this summer, the museum received a Wichita County Community Fund matching grant to fund a chair lift so people with disabilities can access the exhibit in the basement.

Walk said the historical society also plans to use extra wood to recreate the wooden sidewalks present in early Leoti history and install a barbed wire collection.

“You can come back month after month and see something new,” said Judy Lechtenberg, museum volunteer. Although the unincorpor-

ated town of Selkirk, which sits 10 miles west of Leoti on Kansas Highway 96, only has a few houses and a grain elevator at first sight, a second glance behind the grain elevator may prove lucrative.

The Wichita County Historical Society has preserved the Selkirk Hand Dug well, a 102-foot deep, 24-foot wide stone well, which was used to supply water for the steam engines used on the Santa Fe Railroad.

Since the well was dug in 1887 the town of Selkirk slowly has reduced in size, but the history has not diminished.

Walk said the Wichita County Historical Society wanted to preserve the history of the Santa Fe Railroad, which ended its route in

Selkirk because it ran parallel to the D.M.&A. Railroad through Scott City.

Just east of the well site, an old yellow building sits behind a bright red caboose.

The yellow building: The depot that originally sat in Shallow Water, just south of Scott City. After being moved from various locations, the depot eventually settled in Pierceville under the ownership of Don and Pam Smith.

The Smiths wanted to transform the depot into their dream home, but plans for the expansion of Kansas Highway 50 on their property allowed them to change their plans and donate the depot to the Wichita County Historical Society, Walk said.

The red caboose: Stamped with the numbers 999190 on the side.

Walk said in 1998, Bob Petrie, of Garden City, donated the caboose that was sitting in Syracuse to the Historical Society. After that, the hand-dug well preservation project came full circle with three of the essential components in place.

“There is lots of neat stuff to display,” Walk said.

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