

I need a home!



MICHELLE MYERS/Colby Free Press

Megan Johnson, veterinary technician, showed one of the dogs ready for adoption at the Colby Animal Clinic. If interested in providing a home for this gentle, friendly animal, who was abandoned, call 460-8621 or stop by 810 E. Fourth St. for details.

Goodland grad joins KU Student Senate

A University of Kansas sophomore and graduate of Goodland High School has been named one of the Student Senate's executive officers for the 2008-09 academic year. Michael Wade Smith, majoring in pre-business and the son of Celia Smith was named Student Senate deputy communications director.

During spring elections, Adam McGonigle, Wichita junior, and Michael Gillaspie, Ashland senior, were chosen to be president and vice president.

Together with the executive staff, the president and vice president will direct internal operations and various Student Senate programs for the coming year, said a public relations spokesperson.

"The Student Senate consists of more than 90 elected and appointed senators representing each school of the university and campus living groups and orga-

nizations, including three hold-over members elected by previous senate members," sources said. The senate maintains five standing committees that are open to all students. In addition, the Student Senate president appoints students to dozens of other all-university committees and boards. The executive staff is chosen through an application and interview process following the annual spring semester student elections.

Established in 1969, KU's Student Senate is based on student governments that have existed in some form since the early 1900s at the university. All have been organized to enhance students' collegiate learning experiences in and out of the classroom with a variety of student-run activities. With its elected and appointed representatives, Student Senate plays an integral role in shaping policies and procedures that affect the university.

Summer reading program a success

By Library Staff
Pioneer Memorial Library

Nearly 200 youngsters participated in guided activities and "caught the Reading Bug" this summer. There were a number of offerings for children, preschool age through 8th grade revolving around this year's bug theme, which encouraged reading for pleasure during the summer and retaining reading skills. Weekly Storytimes were well attended and 116 kids signed up for the Reading Challenge Game: Library ANT-ics. Of those, 26 completed every challenge and earned an invitation to the 'blackout' party held Thursday, July 24.

The highlights of the Summer Reading Program were the special events hosted by the library and made possible by the generosity of area sponsors. The Bug Juice Jamboree with Thad Beach kicked off the summer at the library on Thursday, June 5. Everyone settled in around the campfire at Camp Bugaboo for hilarious original participatory songs and traditional sing-alongs. This program and the books, supplies, snacks and party were funded through the support of the Friends of the Pioneer Memorial Library.

On Thursday, June 19, the Butterfly Pavilion of Westminster, Colorado presented Summer Safari: Live Bugs to a crowd of 175 people. Everyone got up close and personal with live insects, spiders and other arthropods from

around the world. This visit was made possible through a grant from the Midwest Energy Community Fund.

The Midwest Energy Community Fund was established to benefit charitable, educational or nonprofit agencies in their service area.

The Community Fund improves their ability to channel dollars to causes most important to their local customer-owners. Five customer committees, representing specific counties across the 41-county service area, review charitable requests and submit recommendations to Midwest Energy management for approval. The committees can direct funds to activities that focus on youth, arts, education, libraries, community events or other priorities that fall within the guidelines.

Then to start the Fourth of July weekend off with a bang, Bongo Barry of Healthy Sounds from Overland Park was on the stage in the library parking lot on the evening of Thursday, July 3. Over 135 people brought lawn chairs or blankets and settled on the lawn east of the library for an interactive program entitled Buggies with a Beat.

This program was supported by a generous grant from the Thomas County Attorney SLEF Fund from the Thomas County Community Foundation.

The mission statement of the Thomas County Community Foundation is "Forever Better-

ment." The foundation strives to lead the way in improving and maintaining the quality of life for all Thomas county residents by providing a full-range of donor services and community grants. By doing so, the foundation will help meet the needs of this constantly changing community, far into the future. For more information call the Thomas County Community Foundation, 460-9152 or go to www.thomascountycommunityfoundation.com.

The final event was held July 17 and engaged a large crowd. The 2008 players of the Reader's Theater presented Ladybugs and Gentlemoths: A Bug Collection.

Local youth presented an amusing and entertaining collection of skits and poems for kids. Members of the troupe were Bridget Bickner, Marc Bremenkamp, Matthew Dickman, Abby Friesen, Alex Juenemann, Jory Koon, Taylor Quattlebaum, Brady Rose, Brittany Silsbee and Reed Stephens.

Though the Summer Reading Program has ended, youngsters are still encouraged to come to the library and "bug" the staff for books to read. It's a fact that readers are 'succeeders' - - and with another school year looming around the corner - - that's good to know.

I will appreciate your vote on August 5, 2008.

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