

## Library Link

## September is Library Card Month; facility closed for Labor Day

By Melany Wilks, librarian

*Pioneer Memorial Library*  
Today's Library Link focuses on a combination of items that the Pioneer Memorial Library has to share with our users. *Pasture and Range Plants* (second edition) is a beautifully illustrated book that brings together a breadth and depth of information about the many types of grasslands and plants that are found in the Kansas ecosystem.

It explores and explains each specific plant's unique nature, places where it will be found, the best type of soil it grows in, and the benefit or its lack to livestock. The book discusses root systems, grasses and their parts, legumes, fibers, woody plants, and poisonous plants. Each plant's picture is a photographic reproduction from original water color paintings by four gifted artists—Nina Lea Burden, Alvin Pearson, Bill Nye, and Zona Wheeler.

*Why Popcorn Costs So Much at the Movies: and Other Pricing Puzzles*, by Richard B. McKenzie, is another interesting book on our shelves.

Most of the discussion centers on the economic nature of pricing and marketers' thinking about pricing. The author admits that his reasoning comes "from a career of applying economic reasoning."

McKenzie discusses pricing and how events in life affect the pricing of an item. He also discusses price levels, costs, and consequences of housing, food, education, and many other topics from an economic point of view.

McKenzie offers explanations about why men earn more on average than women, why manufacturers offer rebates, why stores offer sales, why so many prices end in "9" and more. When I first picked up this book I thought it would be trite illustrations and full of concepts that would be useful only in a "Trivial Pursuit" game but, as I read it, I found that it was a seri-

ously written piece of literature for the person who wants to better understand issues about how economics affects all aspects of the life we experience. This well written book thoroughly documents its stories and sources in a 30 page bibliography at the end.

The most inspiring book that I read this week, however, is *What on Earth Have I Done?* by Robert Fulghum. This is the author who also wrote the best selling book *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*.

This insightful author asks and answers questions that occur in most people's lives through small vignette of his own musing and experiences.

There are 87 chapters that are each only about three pages long. It only takes minutes to read one, so it is perfect for a busy or restless person. His first chapter, "Mother Questions" (commonly asked by mothers and dreaded by children) sets the stage for what comes after. This book is thoughtful, challenging, and funny at the same time. A wish of mine would be that I could write like him, because of his wit and creative genius. Some topics he covers include the value of a house, Christmas, church, and forgiveness.

He masks his chapter themes with unique, cleverly worded titles, so the underlying message is revealed only by reading the text. Come into the library and check it out.

If you find that your neighbor beat you to it, you can reserve it by adding your name to the hold list and we will notify you when you are next in line.

The library is a free WiFi hot spot. Knowing that some of our patrons like to drink coffee or soft drinks while using their laptops, we have now placed in the front lobby a tall café table with 4 tall chairs, plus two easy chairs to accommodate you while you share our wireless Internet connection.

This preserves our policy against foods or beverages inside the main library areas, while providing you with a comfortable place to surf the Net indoors. All we ask is that you clean up after yourself. We're confident that you will.

Another new service, starting Tuesday is the Homework/Study Center for middle and high school students, which will be located in the library's basement. Comput-

er work stations will be available there for students' study needs. The study center will be staffed and scheduled as follows:

Middle school students between 3:30 to 5:45 p.m. High school students between 5:50 to 8 p.m. Hopefully, by then I will have a newly created Teen Place Web page with an expanded set of reference resources for students to use. There are, of course, other

wonderful resources that include periodicals, encyclopedias, and other print materials available in the reference center as well.

The Pioneer Memorial Library will be closed Sunday and Monday for Labor Day weekend. Please plan ahead to get your books, movies, and audio materials early.

As August draws to a close, take part as Kansas celebrates Library

Card Month.

So, if you do not now have a library card, come in and get one during September. Every person (child or adult) who does not now have a library card and applies for one during September will be entered into a drawing to win a \$10 gift card for either ice cream or coffee. We will draw for the winner during the first week in October.

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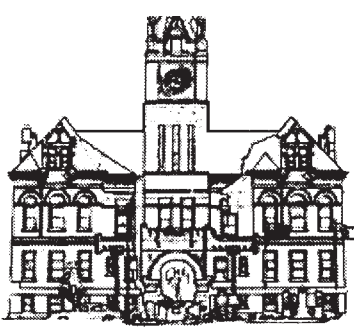
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## Fort Riley troops head to Iraq

FORT RILEY (AP) — When a Fort Riley brigade heads to Iraq at the end of next month, its soldiers and officers anticipate finding conditions much different from when many were there in previous deployments.

Lt. Col. Christopher Beckert, the 2nd Brigade's deputy commanding officer, said Thursday that while Iraq is still dangerous,

reports are that life is beginning to return to some sense of normalcy. Shops are opening in Baghdad, services are being restored and residents who fled the violence are migrating home.

Beckert said the brigade is hearing reports from the units it is replacing that progress in Baghdad is becoming increasingly noticeable.

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