

Family

It's time to read for Christmas

The Christmas season is upon us and what joy fills my heart to be able to celebrate it in Colby.

The Pioneer Memorial Library has hung its lights outside, and garland inside. The trees are trimmed and we are ready for the season.

As I prepared for Booked for Lunch on Dec. 3, I roamed the library's shelves for inspiring and relevant books to read. One book that I found was written by Ace Collins, "Stories Behind the Great Traditions of Christmas." This book provided some wonderful information on this holiday. Collins explains that for many centuries the Church did not celebrate the birth of Christ on any specific day. It was not until the fourth century that the date was set.

Pope Julius (320 AD) grew tired of the confusion and made a proclamation that the Dec. 25 would be the date. The people of the Roman Empire were Christians but the emperor was not. Aurelian had proclaimed this date to be the celebration of Natalis Solis Invicti (the festival of the birth of the invincible sun). However, five years later when Constantine the Great became a Christian and ruled the empire, he made Christmas an immovable feast day on Dec. 25.

The book goes onto say that Christmas celebration still had trouble gaining traction up to 1649. Christmas was such a raucous occasion in England that the Puritan politician, Oliver Cromwell called for a ban of festivities. The celebration had become wild carousing with many of the poorer



Melany Wilks

Library Links

classes preying upon the wealthy.

Songs that we sing so innocently such as "We Wish You A Merry Christmas" were sung by large groups of men demanding food, drink and money. Hence, the verse asking for some figgy pudding and the third verse saying "We won't go until we get some, so bring some out here."

This book goes onto tell us that it was Germany that truly helped Christmas evolve into what we know today. The music, homespun decorations, homemade treats and the evergreen tree became part of the holiday.

When Queen Victoria married Germany's Prince Albert in 1840, family-centered traditions of the season were brought to the aristocracy of England.

Meanwhile, in 1822, Clement Clarke Moore (a minister and teacher) introduced a poem he wrote for Christmas Eve, "A Visit from St. Nicholas," now called "The Night Before Christmas." Collins tells us that "the door was now open for the holiday to be reshaped into one that children... could view as their own" (p. 18).

In 1834, a book that changed the way society saw the responsibility of the individual to others was "A Christmas Carol," by

Charles Dickens. He wrote about a dreary time during the industrial revolution. He stressed charity, hope, love, generosity and family. This book called people to re-evaluate their values and beliefs. There are many more items on our library's shelves for your enjoyment. We begin earlier in the year to prepare for Christmas. Nancy Saddler, our Adult Services Librarian has been purchasing items for this special time of the year and here are a few of our seasonal reading ideas:

"Tis the Season," by Lorna Landvik

"A Wall Flower Christmas," by Lisa Kleypas

"A Christmas Grace," by Anne Perry

"Under the Mistletoe," by Linda Howard

"The Spy Who came for Christmas," by David Morrell

"Six Geese A-Slaying," By Donna Andrews

"A Cedar Cove Christmas" by Debbie Macomber (in large and regular print)

"White Christmas Pie," by Wanda Brunstetter (large print)

In the spirit of giving and generosity, the Pioneer Memorial Library is giving all patrons the opportunity to pay their overdue fines by donating canned foods. The Food for Fines campaign will be held between Dec. 15 and 23. We will then donate those canned goods to Genesis, the Thomas County Food Bank.

Deaths

Lucille Crotinger

Lucille Lillian Allen Crotinger, 92, grandmother of Daniel Crotinger of Colby, died Friday, Nov. 28, 2008, at Wheatland Healthcare Center, in Kingman.

She was born March 8, 1916, in Rush County, the daughter of James M. and Faye Robinson Allen. She had been a Kingman resident since 1993, and previously of McCracken and LaCrosse, a homemaker and a former teacher. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Ness County and United Presbyterian Women, both of Kingman.

On April 21, 1935, she married Alfred Crotinger in Ness County. He died in 1992.

Survivors include a son, Gerald of Hays; a daughter, Dorothy Graham; brothers, James and Glenn Allen; four grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren and two great-great-granddaughters.

Services were to be Wednesday in Kingman, with Rev. John Barkett presiding. Graveside services were to be today at the Locust Hill Cemetery at Rush Center.

The family requests that memorial be made to the First Presbyterian Church or Wheatlands Healthcare Center, both in care of the Livingston Funeral Home.

Hoxie students win calendar art contest

Two students from Hoxie, Bryann Niblock and Aaron Heim, were among the 13 students from across the state who were selected as winners in the "2009 Kansas Don't Spoil It!" calendar contest.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment said it received thousands of entries for the contest in which kindergarten through 12th grade students were invited to submit original artwork that promotes recycling, reusing materials and reducing waste.

Niblock is a fourth grader at Hoxie Grade School and Heim, a senior at Hoxie High School.

On Nov. 17, the contest winners met Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and received an enlarged version of their artwork signed by the governor and Roderick L. Bremby, secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

"Participation in the contest has increased over the years, as teachers use it in the classroom to teach art skills and environmental awareness," said Bremby. "It's been our privilege to judge so many impressive entries turned in by talented student artists from

across Kansas."

Other winners in the contest are Kinley Jones, kindergarten, Quivira Heights Elementary in Holyrood; Sally Rose, first grade, Holy Spirit School in Overland Park; Sarah Unruh, second grade, Waverly Grade School; Tory Thomson, third grade, Riley County Grade School; Darla Heuer, fifth grade, Hanover Grade School; Shaylyn Stallbaumer, sixth grade, Saints Peter and Paul Grade School in Seneca; Lauren Moore, seventh grade, Winfield Middle School; Kaci Nuss, eighth grade, Ruppenthal Middle School in Russell; Jalina Head, ninth grade, Norwich High School; Ivy Henderson, tenth grade, Phillipsburg High School; and Jessica Harris, eleventh grade, Garden Plain High School.

Copies of the calendar will be printed and distributed to Kansas schools, government offices and businesses. To order, call (800) 282-9790. Supplies are limited.

The winning artwork will be displayed on the "Kansas Don't Spoil It!" website at www.kdheks.gov/kdsi.

New provider chosen for foster care

The Kansas Juvenile Justice Authority Foster Care program has chosen Associated Youth Services of Wyandotte County to provide help for 41 counties in western Kansas.

Juvenile Justice Foster Care is intensive help for youth in the juvenile justice system.

"Associated Youth Services has previous experience in western Kansas and plans to grow the service for the benefit of youth

and their families" said Dennis Vanderpool, the youth services chief executive officer.

Through juvenile justice, young people from 10 to 23 can get help in dealing with severe emotional and behavioral disorders.

Associated Youth Services has more than 36 years experience serving thousands of the area's hardest to reach youth annually, the juvenile justice authority said. The western region includes the

cities of Atwood, Colby, Dodge City, Garden City, Goodland, Great Bend, Hays, Liberal, Pratt, Russell and Ulysses.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$0.00
Corn (bushel)	\$0.00
Milo (hundredweight)	\$0.00
Soybeans (bushel)	\$0.00

Corrections

In an outline for a Colby High School wrestling picture in the Wednesday edition of the Colby Free Press incorrectly said that the team's first match will be Saturday. The first match will be against Burlington at 6 p.m. on Friday at the Colby High gymnasium.

The mistake was a reporters error.

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The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

City Administrator Valley Center, Kansas

City seeks qualified person as leader for most executive functions of municipal operation of 47 employees, \$7.6 million budget. Four years experience as public manager; bachelors degree in public administration or related field; and progressive, stable career history required. Five years experience as city administrator or assistant administrator, masters degree, grant acquisition experience; ICMA membership and Credentialed Manager designation preferred. Recruitment profile: www.valleycenterks.org. Send application letter with salary history, resume and three professional references. Preference to applications received before December 12.

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Happy Holidays

Best wishes for a joyous season

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Clarice L. Osborne Memorial Chapel

Letters To Santa

Calling all kids!

Bring your Santa Letter by the office or mail to:
Colby Free Press
155 W. 5th St.
Colby, KS 67701

Deadline for letters is Wed., Dec. 10th

Your letter will appear in the paper so Santa can read it!