

Family

Try the tale of Beatrix Potter

Last Thursday, I attended "legislative day" in Topeka where eight librarians from northwest Kansas spoke with our representatives.

We talked to them about the importance money for libraries, schools and the technology infrastructure that serve their constituents. Rep. John Faber of Brewster rushed to meet us early in the day. Carrying his breakfast in a brown bag, sat down to talk about our concerns. He gave us considerable time before his busy schedule for the day.

Rep. Don Hineman of Dighton came out of meetings at 9:30 a.m. to snatch a moment of time with us. Rep. Jim Morrison of Colby was not available, but his office staff talked with us. State Sen. Ralph Ostmeier took time with us in his office at 1:30 p.m., listening and sharing concerns he has with the budget negotiations.

While some of their constituents may not like the outcome in the state budget decisions, I felt these legislators are working diligently for what they see is necessary. Others may perceive this budget crisis that Kansas is facing as a tall tale or fiction novel. Let's hope our representatives are as passionate about the people they are serving in northwest Kansas as some of the protagonists are in the books I write about this week.

One of the three new items on our shelves is "The Tale of Briar Bank" by Susan Wittig Albert. This wonderful tale is about a young single woman named Beatrix Potter who is an artist and author of books. Mostly, she lives with her parents in London, but in recent years, she has purchased a farm in the not-so-wealthy area of Hill Top.

Her proper Victorian mother is horrified that Beatrix would buy a place in such a lowly area, but to Beatrix it is wonderful to have home, hearth, lakes and mountains



Melany Wilks

Library Links

all around her. She loves the area so much that when another piece of property is up for sale, she buys it. Thus, begins the adventures of Beatrix.

She informs her parents that she is going to take time away from their home in London to begin renovating and improving the new property. She admits that Castle Farm needs much more help than her beloved Hill Top. Albert has a gift for weaving this tale, which includes the mysterious death of Hugh Wickstead. Was this a tragic coincidence, or had someone killed the poor man? Only the animals really know; the people must find out what really happened.

If you have not experienced reading the works of this author, just know that she has been writing for more than 20 years. She cut her teeth writing the youth mysteries of Nancy Drew (under the name of Carolyn Keene) and the Hardy Boys (under the name of Franklin W. Dixon). She has also written 16 books that are part of the China Bayles Herbal Series. She also writes with her husband, Bill Albert (under the name of Robin Paige) the Edwardian Series (12 items), as well as two nonfiction books. This is the fifth in a series of the Cottage Tales of Beatrix Potter. I understand that a sixth is being written as we speak.

One book that reminds me of the Potter book is a fantasy and fiction book written by Brian Jacques, "Doomwyte." Jacques is another author that gives animals voice to create a world of intrigue and passion. The reader once again

returns to the hallowed halls of Redwall Abbey, where good prevails and evil is shunned. Jacques writes this youth fiction in such a way that even an adult will enjoy its tale.

Save next Wednesday, when the Pioneer Memorial Library have author Nancy Pickard reviewing her novel, "Virgin of Small Plains." Lunch is always served, so come and enjoy it with us!

Middle school students need to remember that we will be having Ad-Lib At Da Library beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Saturday. Remember that the library resources such as computers, databases and Internet access are free. Checking out items on video disk and tape, audio books, magazines and books is also free. If your budget is a bit tight, come and join others who have found that the library is a great resource.

Babies

Parker Lazaro Braden Lazaro

Parker Akahi Lazaro and Braden Lee Lazaro were born Jan. 23, 2009, at Wesley Medical Center in Wichita to Tonja A. Lee and Jason Lazaro of Colby. Parker weighed 6 pounds, 2 ounces and measured 19 inches, while twin brother Braden weighed 5 pounds, 6 ounces and measured 18 inches. Siblings are Nicole and Amanda Lazaro of Yuma, Colo. Grandparents are Ivan and Leta Lee of



Braden and Parker Lazaro

Colby and Rebecca Fletcher of Escondido, Calif.

Shayla Kisner

Shayla Dawn Kisner, daughter of Rhonda Fisher and Jeremy Kisner of Oberlin, was born Friday, Feb. 20, 2009, at Citizens Medical Center. She weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces and measured 19 inches.



Shayla Kisner

Grandparents are John and Caroline Kingery of Colby, Ror Kisner of Atwood and Phyliss and Dusty Roelfs of St. Francis.

Shayla was welcomed home by a brother, Bryce.

Corrections

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.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day
Hi-Plains Co-op

Wheat (bushel)	\$5.07
Corn (bushel)	\$3.35
Milo (hundredweight)	\$4.83
Soybeans (bushel)	\$7.61

We want your local news: e-mail to colby.editor@nwkansas.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

To have your ad placed in the Business Directory call Jasmine or Heather today at 462-3963.

Public Notice

THOMAS COUNTY TREASURER'S QUARTERLY STATEMENT

STATE OF KANSAS FUND	ENDING JANUARY, 2009 BALANCE
GENERAL FUND	973,473.64
SPEC RESERVE EQUIP FUND	34,000.00
MICRO ENTERPRISE LOANS	61,151.99
REVOLVING LOAN REPAYMENT	38,925.51
TH CO SHER FORFEITURE FD	22,857.90
FEDERAL FORFEITURE FUND	22,605.53
TH CO ATTY FORFEITURE FD	1,238.85
INSUFF CK FEE TRUST FUND	4,909.60
CONCEALED WEAPONS	1,560.00
LANDFILL CLOSURE FUND	78,658.04
OFFENDER REGISTRATION FD	60.00
TEMP PENDING-JAMES MMA	25,254.29
PENDING DRUG FORFEITURE	5,400.00
PENDING DRUG FORF MMA	192,838.60
SHERIFF FORFIT-GOLDING CD	384,888.02
ATTORNEY DIVERSION FUND	1,952.82
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	243,398.05
BIOTERRORISM GRANT	17,870.25
IMMUNIZATION GRANT	2,287.23
STATE FORMULA GRANT	8,759.45
E911 CELL PHONE MMA	56,425.21
911 INVESTMENT FUND	90,060.98
ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND	531,504.70
FREE FAIR MAINTENANCE	45,957.09
FAMILY PLANNING	6,022.22
MATERNAL & INFANT GRANT	9,345.41
HEALTH FUND	111,315.60
ELECTION FUND	14,414.78
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT FUND	335,240.94
EXTENSION COUNCIL FUND	10,294.61
NOXIOUS WEED FUND	115,469.88
HISTORICAL SOCIETY	6,187.44
AMBULANCE FUND	191,327.96
MENTAL RETARDATION	46,096.70
SPECIAL EQUIPMENT FUND	207,436.56
SPEC. HIGHWAY IMPROV FUND	222,951.69
R OF D CAPITOL OUTLAY	18,004.04
AMBULANCE CAPITOL OUTLAY	93,951.73
NOXIOUS WEED CAPITOL OUTL	90,407.42
SANITARY LANDFILL CAP OUT	66,824.90
SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY	45,830.64
SPECIAL ALCOHOL FUND	17,833.74
COMMUNITY VAN FUND	1,756.41
RE-APPRAISAL	1,463.36
PARCEL SEARCH FUND	4,840.00
SANITARY LANDFILL	259,179.35
SPECIAL LIABILITY	9,349.39
HERITAGE TRUST FUND	181.56
LAND FILL NO FUND WARRANT	53,829.92
LANDFILL-CELL PROJECT	272,018.59
EAST HALE GENERAL	61,916.11
E HALE EMPLOYEE BENEFIT	180.15
LACEY DEBT SERVICE	7,801.75
MORGAN SPECIAL ASSESSMENT	7,395.84
ROVOHL GENERAL	86,093.61
ROVOHL SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	5,975.20
FAIRVIEW CEMETERY	324.44
REXFORD CEMETERY	62.71
RURAL FIRE DISTRICT 3	4,157.86
RURAL FIRE DISTRICT # 4	9,45.94
RURAL FIRE DISTRICT # 5	407.87
MTR VEH OPERATING FUND	6,267.87
PATF	11,839.88
REG OF DEEDS TECH FUND	26,506.43
MTR VEH SALES TAX TO ST	23,792.73
MTR VEH-ST. & COUNTY AUTO	9,628.63
PAYROLL WITHHOLDING FUND	213.18
BANKRUPTCY PENDING ACCT	3,468.29
ANTIQUA TAXES	714.00
CURRENT TAX FUND	218,840.05
DELINQ 16/20 PERS TAX	932.73
PRIOR YEARS ADDED TAX	8.01
ADVANCE TAX	373.27
IN LIEU OF TAX	7,049.50
MOTOR VEHICLE TAX-2605	19,603.81
RV MTR VEH TAX-2605	292.85
16/20M MTR VEH TAXES	4,275.13
DELINQ. PERSONAL TAX FUND	41,440.08
REDEMPTION & ASSIGNMENTS	119,798.97
PARTIAL PAYMENT ON TAXES	708.51
CURR YEAR DELINQ PERS TAX	31,979.71
STRAY LIVESTOCK FUND	1,920.13
INT ON CURR TAX FUND	21,322.16
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	5,761,793.51

I do solemnly swear that the above statement is complete, true, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, so help me God.

Denise Applebury
COUNTY TREASURER

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS 24 DAY OF February, 2009

Shelly A. Harms
COUNTY CLERK/NOTARY PUBLIC

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