

Family

Fun part of legacy found in biographies

This week I have been hit by a bit of the nostalgia. After having attended “Cherishing Our Historical Legacy,” performed by Marla Matkin at the Prairie Museum of Art and History and backed by the American Association of University Woman, I want to write about biographies of famous persons.

A new item that might be interesting for many is the book “You Can Observe a Lot by Watching: What I’ve Learned about Teamwork from the Yankees and Life,” by Yogi Berra with Dave Kaplan. Berra admits he’s from the old school, but in today’s society, it is image, name, stats and drama that make one famous and on the top.

He writes that spirit and cohesiveness can make a good team into a champion. He also points out that the best on the team can bring the weakest to a higher level of confidence, performance and achievement.

While he claims this is not a self-help book for business or even sports, I think that we in today’s world would fare better if we took on this way of operating. The old saying all for one, and one for all, would be better for Americans to aspire to than self-serving practices.

Another new item is “The Crowd Sounds Happy: A Story of Love, Madness and Baseball,” by Nicholas Dawidoff. His life began happily, interacting with his father and mother separately. He portrays his mother as a woman of great fortitude after his father stopped supporting the family. Dawidoff grew up in a home where he was aware of the need to scrimp and save to make the family survive. He weaves the fabric of his life with stories about family relations, school, friends, cities, and his father, who struggled with mental illness and the Boston Red Sox.

Another book is by Rita Rudner, “I Still Have It ... I Just Can’t Remember Where I Put It: Confessions of a Fiftysomething.” This book in no way conjures up the image shared by Marla Matkin about the hearty women on the Kansas Prairie, but it will speak to those who strive for eternal youth.

Rita will not disappoint you. I found that she was considered funny enough to write the jokes and dialogue for the Oscars when Steve Martin was the host. Her honesty and light-hearted ways of challenging or dealing with issues makes this book enjoyable and insightful! If you are inching your way up to 50, it is a must read,

Another wonderful book is “Christopher Plummer. In Spite of Myself: A Memoir.” This book



Melany Wilks

Library Links

portrays Plummer coming from a family that is well off and cultured. His background groomed him toward leading roles in Shakespeare. He’s not stuffy, though; he opens his first chapter with a declaration that his Airedale dog brought him up. Later in the book he has a picture of Rags, his dog, and another with his daughter.

Plummer tells of his life in the 1950s, and the great movies and producers he was blessed to work with. The book is a who’s who gallery of stories and vignettes of lifelong friendships. He has always been one of my favorite actors. I guess there was no hope for my judgment after watching the movie, “The Sound of Music.” However, Plummer has brought laughter and enlightenment to my view of the movie. He quotes Doug McClure as saying, “Watching ‘The Sound of Music’ is like being beaten to death by a Hallmark card (p. 390).” Plummer’s intellect and wit are aptly shared with the reader in this very personal memoir.

We at the library had a wonderful time with the guests and participants at the 2009 Murder Mystery. We laughed and guffawed quite a bit through the evening. The Friends of the Library board worked hard to organize this event with library staff. I want to thank Mike Larmer for directing the Murder Mystery and the cast, who were all enthusiastic and extremely creative in their portrayal of their individual characters.

Remember that the library resources, including computers, databases and Internet access, are all free. Checking out items on DVD and VHS, audio books, magazines and books also is free. Stretch your dollar, not your expenses; come and join others who have found that the library has great resources at a price that is unbeatable!

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Relaxing after 5

ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press
Alex Larson, daughter of Shawn and Mary Larson, ate a sugar cookie during the monthly Business after 5 event sponsored by the Colby-Thomas County Chamber of Commerce at Fotogirl Photography. Kash Hawkins was taking a drink next to his mother, Kelsey Hawkins, as Kelsey's daughter, Hadlie Focke, looked on.

Corrections

A photo caption on Page 4 of the Monday, March 9, *Free Press* identified the event as a retirement reception. It was not a retirement, but a customer appreciation reception. Mike Woofter of Woofter Construction says Darrell Follis is not retiring. This was a report-ing error.

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A Briefly item on the "Food for Thought" program at the Prairie

Museum of Art and History in the Wednesday, March 11, issue incorrectly said the final lecture would be today. It is next Thurs-day, March 19. This was an edit-ing error.

☆☆☆☆

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.

Time heralds spring

Now that the time has jumped forward an hour, an illusion that spring is here has entered many households.

How many of you have start-ed gardens and planted peas on March 1? Not me, even though the suggestion had been given to me. I do have good intentions of plotting out a garden and enjoying the fruits of my labor.

Spring gives us beautiful weather as well as the severe weather. The National Weather Service of-fice in Goodland, in cooperation with emergency management of-ficials, designated this as Kansas Severe Weather Awareness Week. A test tornado warning took place at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday. Everyone is encouraged to treat the test warn-ing as if it were an actual emer-gency and review your emergency procedures.

Walk Kansas began Sunday. Cleda Moeder was able to see her grandson, Taylor Moeder, a student at St. James Academy in Kansas City, Kan., win the cham-



Vicki Allison

Rexford Correspondent

pionship in 112-pound class at the State Wrestling Tournament in Salina on Feb. 27 and 28. Cleda and Buck Harper rode with Dan and Betty Racette of Colby, Tay-lor's other grandparents.

A happy birthday to Morgan Wark, who turned 5 on Sunday. She celebrated her birthday with family and friends on Saturday. One of the special gifts she re-ceived was a doll house her daddy and mother, Chad and Dez, built for her.

Golden Plains School will have spring break next week. Classes resume Monday, March 23.

Do you have any Rexford news? Call me at 687-2525.

Until next time, make your week memorable.

Dinner supports water project

Brewster Community Church plans its second annual old-fash-ioned canned beef dinner to help support the Water for Life project from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday at the church.

Pastor Mike Pinkelman said there is no charge for the meal. They are asking for donations which will go to support the project to bring safe drinking water to people around the world.

One well can serve 1,000 peo-ple for around \$4,800. To date, more than 1.5 million people have benefited from wells provided by the program. Pinkelman said films about the project and conditions facing people are available from the church.

Everyone is invited to enjoy the dinner and all that goes with it, he said. The church is at 511 Third St. in Brewster.

Girl Scouts Of America

Congratulations on 91 years!

It's Girl Scout Week!

This year, from March 9 through 15, Girl Scouts celebrate Girl Scouts Week—a commemoration of the organization’s beginning 91 years ago. Since 1912, Girl Scouting has helped some 50 million women grow up courageous and strong. Continually evolving, while remaining true to core goals, Girl Scouting cultivates values and social conscience in girls—teaching them real-life skills to succeed.

The gains being made now by nearly three million girls would not be possible without the adult volunteers who donated their time and talents to serve the girls in their community. Girl Scout Week is a perfect time for anyone thinking about volunteering to get involved. Did you know that today’s Girl Scouts utilize volunteers in many ways other than as troop leader? Men and women, young and old, can share their passion for a particular hobby, become a mentor for an at-risk girl, or organize a tour of their workplace for girls. Once a week, every other month, or even just once a year—all volunteers are welcomed!

To find out how you can ensure that even more girls have the opportunity to grow strong and realize their own potential, call 1(800) GSUSA 4 U or contact your local Girl Scout council.

Congratulations Girl Scouts!

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Thank You Girl Scouts of America

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