New novels set off September season

I hope you all enjoyed Labor Day. I had a very active time, but this meant my reading went down for the weekend. Luckily, I had taken a little time to enjoy some books in weeks past.

A pure novel with an interesting story line is "The Late, Lamented Molly Marx," by Sally Koslow. Molly, the now dead protagonist, desperately is trying to figure out how she died. She is able to watch her own funeral and activities through the years until she comes to a place of acceptance.

This book provides some fun and laughter along the way. Whether we are really able to see through the years after our death, it at least provides the reader an opportunity to view circumstances in their own lives through a new prism.

The second novel is "Rain Gods" by James Lee Burke. This modern-day mystery is set in a southwest town in Texas near the Mexican border. Hackberry Holland, the sheriff, is informed that there has been a mass murder of nine Asian immigrants in his area. Immigration (ICE) and the FBI both get involved.

There is also a couple who are involved in the murders, but Holland must keep them alive and still find out who actually performed the murders and why. Burke writes an intense book that you will enjoy. He has written 27 other novels and is a rare winner of two Edgar Awards.

A third book is about a couple who loose a child. "The Weight of Heaven," by Thrity Umrigar, goes on to show how the pain of the loss is ripping their hearts and marriage apart.

Frank Benton works for an international company and is offered a position leading the office in India. Frank says no, but Ellie, his wife, hears about it and encourages him to take the offer. She hopes this will help them close the chapter of their loss, and begin a new chapter of life together in a new environment.

Ellie gets involved in her new surroundings and begins to thrive. Frank however, learns that his company has taken over the production of crops from the local

lent insight and cultural authen- checked out or not. ticity. She has won the Nieman



Melany Wilks

Library Links

Fellowship to Harvard and was a 2006 finalist for the PEN/Beyond Margins Award.

The fourth book is "Natural Elements: A Novel," by Richard Mason. This book is about a single adult daughter who is working with her elderly mother. The daughter, Eloise, is hedge fund manager. She has been in this business for years and decides that she will invest \$130 million in a new metal compound that is said to be harder than diamonds and thus expected to become a commodity in high demand.

Her mother (Joan), has seen tragedy and pain in her years in South Africa. Joan and her daughter visit there and find Joan's mother's diary of the Anglo-Boer War. This book builds in intrigue as problems arise and questions surface. I love the historical facts and nonfiction portion of this book, which weaves in information on metallurgy.

The Pioneer Memorial Library is gearing up for the beginning of Story Time for children in the Colby area on Tuesday. At 10:15 a.m. Tuesday mornings, we have Story Time for preschoolers 3 to 5.

At 7 p.m. Tuesday nights, Story Time follows the format for preschoolers but gives an opportunity for school-aged children, working parents and other siblings to participate together. At 10:15 am. Wednesday morning is Toddle Time for toddlers 18 months to 3 years. This 20-minute program is created just for the active toddler.

The library is now operating under its winter schedule. Hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday. We close at 5 p.m. Friday and 4 p.m. Saturday. Sunday we're open 1 to 4 p.m.

Remember to explore our online library catalog. In order to see if we have what you want, go to www.colbylibrary.com and find farmers in the area. There is a the link on the left-hand tool bar death and this hits Frank hard. He that says Online Catalog. Simply begins to re-evaluate this venture. put the information in the box, Along the way he emotion- select whether you want to find ally adopts the son of their house- a title, author, or search for a key keeper and cook. This changes the word or subject. Then you can redirection of his life and the book. view the list of items found and Umrigar, originally from India, is quickly look to see if we have able to write this book with excel- what you need and whether it is

See you in the library!

Fund, when completely endowed, will be available to make grants to nonprofit groups of the couple's' choice.

Foundation.

"Since our parents have been active residents of Thomas County for such a long time, we thought this anniversary gift would be a perfect way for

Leroy and Joan Ziegler, who

were honored recently on their

50 years of marriage by their

children, have received another

The couple's children, Margo

Baker, Marla Crumrine, Marc

Ziegler, Marsha Ziegler and

Marlyn Ziegler, recognized

their parents with a gift to the

Thomas County Community

The Leroy and Joan Ziegler

honor from their family.



Joan and Leroy Ziegler

them to continue to serve their community through a grant established in their name," said

Deaths

Ruby L. Eggers

Ruby L. Eggers, 78, a Goodland resident and former craft store owner in Atwood and Colby, died Monday, Sept. 7, 2009, at the Good Samaritan Center in Good-

1931, to Fred and Mary Viola (Lilly) Allen in Rawlins County. She attended country school and school in Atwood.

In 1947, she and Ed Downing were married. She worked for Downing Electric of Atwood and had a craft and floral store in that

She lived in Colby in the late 1980s, and operated Ruby's Arts and Crafts here.

On April 1, 1991, she and Everett Eggers married in Bird City. They lived on a farm south of Bird City. She was a member of the Immanuel United Methodist Church of Bird City.

Eggers was preceded in death by her first husband, Ed Downing, in 1984, and by two sons, Ed Downing in 1996, and Fred Downing in 2004.

Survivors include her second She was born on March 31, husband, of the home; a daughter, Tammy (Mark) Siruta, Farmington, N.M.; a brother, Bill "Doc' Allen, Red Cloud, Neb.; and three sisters, Dorothy (Wayne) Brown, Atwood; Ruth Havel, Oberlin; and

Betty Jean (Ernie) Wicke, Ludell. Services will be at 1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11, 2009, at the church in Bird City, with burial in the Bird City Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 1 to 7 p.m. today at the Knodel Funeral Home, 202 S. Benton, in St. Fran-

The family suggests gifts to the Ruby Eggers Memorial Fund, in care of the funeral home, Box 606, St. Francis, Kan., 67756.

Program seeks to cut number of Kansas dropouts

MANHATTAN - In comparison to the national average - 70 percent – Kansas' 89 percent high school graduation rate might seem like cause for celebration.

This figure does not, however, tell us the number of students who start the ninth grade, but don't finish, or the number of students who drop out, said Elaine Johannes, Kansas State University Research and Extension youth development

In Kansas, during the 2007-2008 school year, more than 3,600 students dropped out of school, said Johannes, who is working with a state task force joining public and private groups to encourage would-be dropouts to join the new Kansas DropINs program.

"Dropping out of school is a loss for a child and his or her community," she said. "Dropouts typically have fewer job opportunities and lesser earning power, and can be more likely to live in poverty, face increased health risks and choose risky behaviors, including drug and alcohol abuse and

Foundation makes gift

keep giving with grants

Dropout rates may seem higher in urban areas, yet rural areas are not immune, Johannes said.

Several factors may be involved, she said. With the focus on advancement and complying with national testing standards, students may be missing basic life skills and the ability to adapt to cultural and societal changes. Some students are overlooked

and then encouraged to leave school, Johannes said, including a central Kansas student whose frustrations in the classroom were later attributed to undiagnosed attention deficit disorder.

The Kansas DropINs program is based on the premise that needs vary – there isn't a one-size-fits-all cure – and that students should be involved in resolving issues that lead to dropping out of school, she

Agencies have formed a task force and are scheduling meetings around the state this fall to encourage conversation about issues that diminish success rates, she said.

The idea is to unite state and community agencies in a common goal - education - and the meetings are expected to bring a diverse group together for discus-

School counselors, probation officers, elected officials and business leaders are among those being encouraged to attend, and teen council members will help facilitate discussions with youths from across Kansas.

The Kansas DropINs program is part of a national initiative from America's Promise Alliance, headed by former U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell.

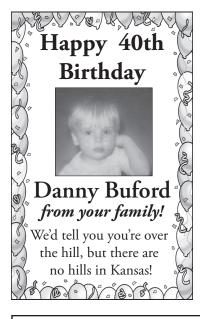
State agencies are working together to involve businesses, communities and religious organizations to provide what Johannes calls "healthy places for youth."

"Children need to see a role for themselves, learn about opportunities and build skills that will help them succeed in life," she said.

Information on the program is available at www.kansasdropins. org and at Extension offices.

The Colby **Free Press**

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Financing

Robber came back for date

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) - late Sunday. Ohio police say a suspect in a hours later to ask the victim out on a date.

Police say 20-year-old Stephfon Bennett of Columbus was among three men who robbed a couple

Columbus police Sgt. Sean robbery was arrested when he Laird says the woman recognized returned to the home about two Bennett as one of the robbers when he returned to ask her out. She had a relative call 911.

> Police say Bennett was arrested in front of the home.





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