

# Family

## Holiday books are for young, old

Today as I write this, I am thinking that Christmas is a mere eight days away! Lots of things yet to accomplish, yet I still want to take time and enjoy reading a festive book or two as well.

One such book might be "Plum Pudding Murder" by Joanne Fluke. If you have loved her Hannah Swensen Mystery series, you will enjoy this. Hannah, who is expecting a fun outing to the Crazy Elf Christmas Tree Lot, finds herself embroiled in a murder. When she arrives, Larry Jaeger, the owner of the lot, is dead. Evidently, Larry has not a few enemies, so Hannah has her work cut out for her to solve the mystery before the New Year.

Another fun-loving book is "The Perfect Christmas" by Debbie Macomber. Cassie Beaumont is tired of being single and 33. She decides she is not going to dally with Internet matching sites; she is going to get serious and hire a matchmaker.

Simon Dodson accepts her as a client, but expects three things before she can meet Mr. Right. However, she must accomplish all of them during the Christmas season.

Macomber stays true to form in bringing the reader into a very enjoyable story.

Another book by the same author is "One Simple Act: Discovering the Power of Generosity." If you want to read this one, you'll find it in the nonfiction area (241.4 Ma). Here, Macomber shares with the reader ways to implement the Abrahamic Covenant of being a blessing to others, as Abraham and his descendants were supposed to be. She shares heartwarming examples for us, not just for family, but strangers as well.

Danielle Steele has written "Matters of Heart." Hope Dunne has taken a photographic assignment in London during the Christmas season. What she thinks will be quick journey with a return to her quiet life in America, takes a bit longer. This is because she never expected to meet the charming Finn O'Neill, a famous well-to-do Irish-American writer who enjoys the dark side of literature. She becomes involved with him and finds that his writing may not be the only dark side to him.

If you are looking for a western Christmas story, Janet Dailey has written "Santa in a Stetson." Fashion model Diana Palmer has a photo shoot on a ranch in Texas. While there, she falls madly in love with a good-looking and romantic cowboy, Lije Masters. They become attached.

Diana is thinking about leaving her fame and the fast-paced fashion world for what she thinks is the slow and easy life of ranching.

## Big bird gets talon caught

WASHINGTON (AP) — Every so often in the Washington Metro subway system, a foot gets caught in an escalator.

Usually, the culprit is a shoe lace or a flip-flop. On Monday, it was a bird's talon.

D.C. Fire Department spokesman Pete Piringer says rescuers were called to the Benning Road station in northeast Washington shortly after 8 a.m. Monday. A large bird of prey — possibly a hawk or a falcon — had its foot stuck in the escalator.

Metro employees shut off the power, and a passer-by held the bird to keep it from injuring itself more. When firefighters arrived,



**Melany Wilks**

### Library Links

Others get in the way of their romance and some difficulties must be worked out before this couple can reconcile.

A children's picture book is "Matchless: A Christmas Story," by Gregory Maguire. The author has retooled "the Little Match Girl" by Hans Christian Andersen (which is also in the library). He has produced a wonderful illustrated book about a Frederik, the child of a seamstress to the Queen. Frederik spends hours of his time creating a village-life he dreams to enjoy with his family sometime.

A book for children 8 to 12 is "Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Writing Thank-you Notes," by Peggy Gifford and Valerie Fisher. Moxy has agreed to write all her Christmas thank-you notes by the day after Christmas. While the making of the agreement went fairly well, the procrastination and machinations that Moxy goes through before getting the task done are really fun! Tweens may revel in this creative book.

Our Food for Fines campaign continues until Wednesday. Anyone who has overdue fines may bring in canned foods to redeem them. We ask that the canned food have current dates, labels intact and be in good condition. You can redeem your library fines by simply filling out a small form available at the front desk and then giving us your items. We will be donating the food to the Genesis-Thomas County food bank.

The Pioneer Memorial Library adjusts its operating hours when school is out. For two weeks, we will stay open only until 6 p.m. Wednesday and New Year's Eve, we will close at 5 p.m. We will be closed for four days over Christmas, Dec. 24 to Dec. 27, and reopen on Monday Dec. 28. See our website (colbylibrary.com) for a list of our hours, or check the outside doors.

With the holidays coming, plan to check out items early. Since videos are normally checked out for three days, if your disc or tape are checked out on Wednesday, it will not be due in until Dec. 28. You get two extra days!

Remember, you can find Christmas movies by entering the words "Christmas films" and then pressing the subject key on the website. There you will find a slew of movies that may be checked out. See you at the library!

they removed a portion of the escalator to free the bird.

Piringer says that despite a slightly injured foot, the bird flew to the top of a nearby gas station, where it sat for a while.



Mrs. and Mrs. Justin Schwanke

## Colby son married in Virginia ceremony

Mary Beth Link and Justin Charles Schwanke were married Saturday, Oct. 17, at Cross Keys Vineyard in Harrisonburg, Va.

The Rev. Stuart T. Link, uncle of the bride, officiated.

Parents of the couple are Audrey Liskey of McGaheysville, Va., Charles Link of Wichita, and Charles and Debbie Schwanke of Colby.

Maid of honor was Krista Lathrop and best man was Michael Schwanke, brother of the groom.

Bridesmaids were Laura Hasey, Jennifer Miller and Jessica Montgomery. The groom's

niece, Jorja Schwanke, was flower girl.

Groomsmen were Justin Finley, and brothers of the bride, Joshua Link and Jonathan Link. A nephew of the bride, Garrett Link, was ring bearer.

The bride, a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, is an accountant with Cargill Inc. in Wichita.

The groom, a graduate of Fort Hays State University, is a senior analyst with the firm.

After a honeymoon in Jamaica, the couple is living in Wichita.

## Swine flu etiquette says kiss on the cheek for holidays

LONDON (AP) — Britain's authority on etiquette says it's more hygienic to exchange kisses on the cheek than to shake hands — so the swine flu pandemic should not make people afraid of kissing under the mistletoe this holiday season.

But Debrett's warns people to observe proper etiquette by kissing others on the cheek instead of the lips and to avoid touching the

person being kissed except on the shoulder or the upper arms.

Debrett's etiquette adviser Jo Bryant warns people who are not feeling well to avoid parties altogether.

She also urges those who have been drinking a lot to steer away from the mistletoe — because their "social skills will be impaired." She did not elaborate on the swine flu implications of that.

## Abilene Hustlers 4-H Club

The Abilene Hustlers 4-H group met Dec. 7. Before the meeting, the club went Christmas caroling at Colby Care Center and Fairview Estates, made Christmas cards for Genesis and had a soup supper at the 4-H building.

President Sarah Lamm called the meeting to order. Josh Koon led the flag salute. Kailey Shields and Piper Koeperich led the song, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

The club will sell pizzas from Dec. 14 to Jan. 28. Each family needs to sell at least four.

Community leader Brandy Todd thanked the Standage family for providing and decorating the 4-H float for the Christmas parade.

The club signed a card for the Bob Rundell family and voted to give \$50 to the Thomas County Fair in his memory.

Hallie Vaughn had a guessing game for recreation. They had to guess how many M & Ms were in a jar. Jenna Crampton won.

Seth Bredemeier led the club in the 4-H flag salute before the meeting adjourned.

Next meeting will be Monday, Jan. 4.

— Brook Ziegelmeier

## 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.

## Grazing conference coming in January

The 2010 Kansas Hay and Grazing Conference is scheduled for Jan. 13 at the Kansas Farm Bureau building in Manhattan.

The event, sponsored by K-State Research and Extension and the Kansas Forage and Grassland Council, will begin with registration at 8:30 a.m. and the program at 9:30 a.m.

Dr. David Davis of the University of Missouri-Columbia will be the keynote speaker, said Gary Kilgore, event coordinator. The day also will feature breakout sessions, educational displays and commercial exhibits.

"This is a public conference for anyone interested in livestock grazing, hay production and utilization or the buying and selling of Kansas grass and hay products," Kilgore said.

Breakout session will include:

weed control in cool season and native grass pastures, biomass research in Kansas, weed management in alfalfa fields, control of insects in alfalfa, managing native rangeland for yearling cattle, experiences with year-round grazing, establishing legumes in grass, an alfalfa variety update, and using a computer program to determine fertilizer selection and cost for grass fertilization.

The \$45 fee includes membership in the council, lunch and breaks, a copy of conference proceedings and a 2010 council discount coupon book.

Information and registration are available at (620) 431-1530 or kwalters@ksu.edu. Checks to the Kansas Forage and Grassland Council should be mailed to Gary Kilgore at 308 W. 14th St., Chanute, Kan., 66720.

## Applications due soon for incentives programs

The next application cutoff date for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program under the 2008 Farm Bill, known as EQIP and WHIP, will be Friday, Jan. 15, the U.S. Department of Agriculture says.

Eric B. Banks, state conservationist for the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service in Salina, said applications may be submitted anytime, but only those submitted by the cutoff date will be ranked in the next round.

Landowners or operators with crop, range or forest land which might be eligible for the programs should apply at their county office and work with the staff there on a conservation plan, Banks said.

Priority concerns for the Kansas environmental program include:

- Air Quality — odors.
- Domestic Animals — inadequate stock water.
- Fish and Wildlife — threatened and endangered species, declining

species and species of concern.

- Plant Condition — noxious or invasive plants; productivity, health, vigor.

- Soil Condition — organic matter depletion.

- Soil Erosion — streambank.

- Water Quality — excessive nutrients/organics in ground or surface water, sediment and turbidity in surface water, harmful levels of pesticides in either.

- Water Quantity — aquifer overdraft, inefficient water use on irrigated or nonirrigated land and insufficient flows in water courses.

Kansas wildlife priorities:

- Threatened and endangered species and species in need of conservation.

- Grassland birds.

- Natural communities.

"These programs are available to help address the unique circumstances and concerns of socially disadvantaged, limited resource, and beginning farmers and ranchers," said Banks.

## Woman Decorates Three City Blocks After Using Thera-Gesic®

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 Friday & Saturday 7:00 & 9:00  
 Sunday - Thursday 7:00

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