

# Thrillers, orphans and fools at the library

Today is April Fools Day. I skimmed some pranks from around the world online and saw some cute ideas. But, for the good of all patrons in the community, I will not provide false information. But we do have a book written by Fern Michaels, "Fool Me Once," and an old movie in videotape format called "Fools Rush In," produced by Columbia Pictures, starring Matthew Perry and Salma Hayek.

Now for information about new books the library has placed on the shelf. We have a number to tell you about, the first being "The Postmistress" by Sarah Blake. This book involves three ladies of different temperament and job positions. Iris James is a postal service employee, Frankie Bard is a radio dispatcher, and Emma is the wife of a doctor left to figure life out while her husband goes to Europe to help in the War.

Sarah Blake confesses that it took her eight years to produce this book because each character took on a life of her own. She then took the challenge and brought them together into this very interesting and stimulating story.

A thriller called "Ordinary Thunderstorms," by award-winning author William Boyd is a



**Melany Wilks**

•Library Links

captivating novel. In Boyd's 10th book he places protagonist Adam Kindred in London. Kindred is a climatologist who is trying to put his failed marriage, career and life behind him by returning to his childhood roots in London. His first night, he stops at an Italian restaurant where he meets an expert on immunology and allergies. Dr. Wang departs after a brief discussion but leaves his papers behind. Adam decides to return them to the address on the envelope. Here is where the intrigue begins and Adam finds his very life virtually hanging by a thread. Each man's life takes shape and becomes more intertwined as the story evolves.

A third book is "Ride a Shadowed Trail," by Eunice Boeve. Eight-year-old Joshua Ryder is orphaned when his mother is murdered. Joshua runs away from the family he is placed in and tries to get back to the only place where

he might find help, Victoria.

On the way he stops to sleep, awakes and is very hungry. He discovers a home where the resident has just left and there is food on the counter! Much like Goldilocks, Joshua is eating Pete Waters' food. Waters being a good-hearted cowboy decides to find out why this is happening. The boy ultimately is trained to be a cowboy, finds a true love, goes to Kansas on a trail, and meets the man who killed his mamma. In the midst of all this is the novel of growth, hope and struggle.

A fourth book is "The Hidden Flame," by Davis Bunn and Janette Oke. This biblical novel tells the tale of Abigail. She has lost all her earthly possessions, but in the process gains a life following the Messiah. However, two powerful men both desire her hand in marriage. Peter, the leader of the local church, does not want these non-believers to become entangled with Abigail - hence the drama. While it is fiction, it presents the complicated and often turbulent relationships of Romans, Jews (including Zealots, and Hasmo-deans), the new Christian sect, and other entities that make up the fabric of society in that era of time. This book is the second in

the *Acts of Faith* series. The first was "Centurion's Wife," by the same author, a title we also have.

Remember that the library is closed for Easter Sunday, April 4. We will not have *Book for Lunch* on the 7th of April, but will have a full week of *Book for Lunch* programs during our National Library Week Celebration April 12 through 16. Look for our information coming out soon. Free tax help is still available through Alvin Volk from 1:30 to 4 p.m. each Thursday for those who are glow-and middle-income with special attention to those age 60 and older.

If you have your census packet and have questions, we have a census representative who will come to the library Mondays and Wednesdays, 1 to 6 p.m., and Fridays, 1 to 5 p.m. Please come and ask them your questions. See you in the library!

*The Pioneer Memorial Library opens at 9 a.m. Monday through Saturday, closing at 8 p.m. week-nights, at 5 p.m. Friday, and at 4 p.m. Saturday. Sunday hours are 1 to 4 p.m. We are still a Wi-Fi hot-spot (24/7) and have computers and Internet access for your personal needs. See you in the library!*

# Bonemeal bad as a garden fertilizer

Bonemeal isn't the organic fertilizer that it used to be, and that's proving to be an unhappy surprise for those who learned to garden at Grandma's knee.

"It's still made from steamed, ground-up bones - typically from beef animals. But, today's processing methods are so efficient that they remove most of the nutrients. You can't count on bonemeal any more as a low-risk, complete fertilizer source," said Ward Upham, horticulturist with Kansas State University Research and Extension.

Modern bonemeal remains a good source of phosphorus (P). That nutrient helps plants perform well on the cell level and promotes root growth, Upham said. So, experts now tend to recommend bonemeal as one part of a balanced fertilizer program for bulbs, roses and other plants that could use a slow-release form of phosphorus.

But, soils typically contain natural phosphorus - unless they've been continuously farmed for years. A soil test is

the only way to know whether applying more could benefit plants.

"Overdosing soil with phosphorus continues to promote root growth. At the same time, however, it interferes with the relationship that roots normally have with a particular kind of soil fungi - what's called a mycorrhizal relationship," the horticulturist said.

The result is plant stress. Without the fungi's help, roots have to work much, much harder. And, "they can need some luck, too, to take up enough water and nutrients to support plant health," he said.

Some gardeners believe a sprinkling of any animal-based, organic fertilizer - bonemeal, blood meal, fish meal, etc. - can deter problem deer, squirrels, chipmunks and/or moles. Upham warned, however, that organics' smell can attract dogs, cats, raccoons, opossums, skunks and other meat-eating or omnivorous critters.

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