

Deaths

Dorothy Stephens

Dorothy Stephens, 80, Colby, Arrangements are pending with Harrison Chapel in Colby, (785) 2011, at the Prairie Senior Living Complex in Colby.

Colby Rotary Club

Colby Rotary Club met Tuesday at Colby Community College with 33 members and guests Wayne Bossert, Tracey Galli and Kellan Ziegelmeier. Lon Frahm was host to the meeting's program which featured Wayne Bossert, director of the Groundwater Management District. He gave an overview of Gov. Sam Brownback's Ogallala Aquifer summit last Thursday in Colby. Bossert said the meeting discussed the future of the aquifer and how to extend its life, which runs underground in parts of eight states. He noted that 97.7 percent of every gallon pumped out of the aquifer goes to irrigation and the depletion of it would be a major

economic issue for western Kansas. Bossert explained that water rights are considered property rights and Brownback thinks current water rights are outdated and need to be rewritten. Bossert is hopeful that suggestions from the summit will result in improved legislation everyone can live with to ultimately extend the life of the aquifer. Marla Crumrine won Roto-Lotto. The next meeting will be Tuesday at the city recreation ball fields for a barbecue lunch. Colby Rotary meets each Tuesday in room 106 of the college's student union.

- Relda Galli

Don't despair yet, tomatoes aren't done

Tomatoes are a warm-season plant that's averse to summer heat. When daytime temperatures rise above 95 degrees, the plant's ripening fruits turn orange, not red. If those hot days combine with nighttime temperatures above 75 degrees F., the plant's fruit set is poor. "Neither reaction is permanent. If you can just keep that plant alive, it'll produce normally again when the weather's cooler," said Ward Upham, K-State Research and Extension horticulturist. To avoid heat's "orange" effect, gardeners can harvest when existing fruits first start to ripen from green. "They'll finish ripening off the vine," Upham said. "And, if you keep them in temperatures of 75 to 85 degrees, their red pigment will form just as it should. You'll get normal-looking, deep-red tomatoes. "If you don't want to go to the trouble, though, don't worry. Orange tomatoes are just as edible as

red ones." Gardeners can't force tomato plants to set fruit in hot weather. Heat not only leads to abnormal growth in the flowers' reproductive organs but also interferes with pollen's viability, he said. Wind and/or dry weather simply make the responses worse. "It takes about three weeks for flowers to try to develop fruit before you can see something's wrong. At that point, fruit should be within a week of reaching full size and starting to change color," Upham said. "Heat-set" tomatoes are now on the market under such variety names as Florida 91, Sun Leaper, and Sun Master, he said. Often, however, they can handle just 2 to 3 degrees more heat before they also develop fruit-set problems. "Fortunately, going from flower to ripened fruit generally takes no more than 45 days. So, if gardeners can keep the plants alive now, they should have plenty of time to harvest more tomatoes before first frost," Upham said.

Check canner's pressure gauge

Gardeners who borrow a pressure canner from a friend or find a bargain at a garage sale are cautioned about using a pressure canner without testing the gauge and seal, a K-State Research and Extension food scientist said. "Pressure canning gauges should be checked annually for accuracy so as not to jeopardize the food safety of home canned foods," said Karen Blakeslee, K-State Research and Extension food scientist. A gauge that is one pound off can cause a 10 percent decrease in sterilizing value. When two pounds off, there is a 30 percent decrease. Blakeslee also said rubber seals

should also be examined for wear, cracks and flexibility. K-State Research and Extension offices typically have the equipment or know of a source for checking pressure canning gauges, she said. Check canning jars at garage sales, auctions or second hand stores carefully before buying. Jars should be free of cracks and chips and the rim intact for proper sealing. Information about home food preservation is available at K-State Research and Extension offices throughout the state and online at www.ksre.ksu.edu and www.rrc.ksu.edu.

From fair parade to book sale, gardens to meetings, library's busy

The Friends of the Pioneer Memorial Library and library staff had lots of fun putting together our float for the fair parade.

We have such talented people on our board that ideas and inspiration just oozes out of them. A member of the Friends of the Library Board wrote the chant and the title of our float, "Your Library Card. Your Ticket To Fun!" If you want to be part of other such events please be sure and contact those on the Friends of the Library Board at www.colbylibrary.com/webpages/FriendsoftheLibrary.htm.

This week we are also getting ready for our annual Blow-Out Book Sale. It will begin Saturday and end Saturday, Aug. 6. We have lots of books. Books on gardening, cooking, crafts, sewing, building, literature classics, paperbacks galore, nonfiction and fiction hardbacks, children books, DVDs VHSs, and even audio books on tapes and CDs. Prices are lowered throughout the week. However, remember the early bird gets the worm.

Speaking of worms - I was out learning how to water the community garden area the Thomas County Coalition has out at the K-State Extension site behind the football field. Did you know you can have your own plot of ground to grow vegetables for no cost?

All you need to do is contact the coalition representative and sign up for it at (785) 460-8177. All you have to provide are the plants



Melany Wilks

Library Links

and the hoses to water your area. The coalition asks you give 10 percent of your produce toward a donation to the Genesis Food Bank. Also - if you just want to sign up for watering the coalition's plotted area on a specific time and day, you get to take some of the produce.

Last year the community garden produced over 1000 pounds of produce and gave over 500 pounds of fresh produce to the Genesis Food Bank.

Another thing I saw this morning while at the Extension Center were the beautiful flowers and bushes. I am told that soon they will give a seminar on the items they have grown and the viability of certain plants in the area at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 31, for their annual Horticulture Day.

Since I'm on the theme of gardening, let me tell you about some great new garden books on our new book shelf. The first is "The Week-by-Week Vegetable Gardener's Handbook: Make the Most of Your Growing Season," by Ron Kujawski and Jennifer Kujawski. This book takes you from starting plants inside before the last frost to preparing items for

winter. It shows detailed drawings of plants, harmful insects and the good bugs to leave in your garden. The Kujawskis are father and daughter, discussing everything from ways to become a gardener for the first time to adding value to experienced gardeners.

Another book is "Homegrown Harvest: A Season-by-Season Guide to a Sustainable Kitchen Garden," by the American Horticultural Society and Rita Pelczar. This book is divided up by seasons. In each season they give the gardener specific types of vegetables, lentils, fruits and other produce to plant. Photographs are brilliant and crisp. Quick, easy charts for each different plant also provide reference to sowing, planting and harvesting. A glossary and detailed index is also included.

Another great reference gardening book is "The Vegetable Gardener's Bible," (10th Anniversary Edition) by Edward C. Smith.

Three new books that discuss container gardening or gardening in a small space are: "Sugar Snaps and Strawberries: Simple Solutions for Creating Your Own Small-Space Edible Garden," by Andrea Bellamy and Jackie Connelly; "Continuous Container Gardens: Swap In the Plants of the Season to Create Fresh Designs Year-Round," by Sara Begg and Roanne Robbins; "All New Square Foot Gardening," by Mel Bartholomew.

We also have new gardening books that discuss creating natu-

ral-looking spaces on your property. The first is "Prairie-Style Gardens: Capturing the Essence of the American Prairie Wherever You Live," by Lynn M. Steiner. This book is not for the gardener who wants their garden to look perfectly groomed with no hint of overgrowth. What I saw in this is that native plants are used to create a sense of ground cover that is both beautiful and rich in color. Two other new items we have are: "Perennials for Midwestern Gardens: Proven Plants for the Heartland," by Anthony W. Kahtz; and "Prairie Lands Gardener's Guide," by Cathy Wilkinson Barash.

I had a customer come in and appreciate the air-conditioning in the library. Remember, the air-conditioning is for the comfort of our patrons. Come get out of the heat, enjoy reading a magazine, newspaper, use our computers, or your personal computer, iPod, or MP3, e-reader or book in the cool.

At 3 p.m. next Thursday, the library will be host to Kansas Advocates for Better Care. They will be presenting on long-term care and ways to be an advocate for those in your family who are elderly.

If you have not gotten your new library card, drop by and let us update your account.

Our summer schedule is 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, 9 to 8 p.m. Thursday, 9 to 5 p.m. Friday, 9 to 4 p.m. Saturday, and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday.

See you in the library!

Hot weather, vehicles can be deadly

Safe Kids Kansas is working to increase awareness and urge parents and caregivers to never leave children alone in a vehicle. With the goal of having no more children die from heat stroke when they are forgotten in cars, Safe Kids reminds parents and caregivers to always check for sleeping children before leaving a vehicle.

Between 1998 and 2010, 496 children died from heat stroke because they were left unattended in vehicles that became too hot for them to survive. Forty-nine of those occurred in 2010. "A child's core body temperature rises 3 to 5 times faster than an adult's and unattended children have no way of protecting themselves in a hot vehicle" says Cherie Sage, state director for the organization. More than 50 percent of the children who died from heat stroke were forgotten by a caring adult who became distracted when they left the vehicle. Thirty percent of kids who died from hyperthermia were left unattended by an adult or gained entry into an unlocked vehicle and became trapped and overcome by heat. It takes only

minutes for a child to be at risk of death and serious, permanent injury in a hot car. Drivers must keep car doors locked and keys out of reach from young children. Safe Kids Kansas urges all adults who transport children to take the following steps:

- Call 911 if they see a child unattended in a vehicle.
- Never leave children alone in a car - even for 1 minute.
- Set your cell phone or BlackBerry reminder to be sure you drop your child off at daycare.
- Set your computer "Outlook" program to ask you, "Did you drop off at daycare today?"
- Place a cell phone, PDA, purse, briefcase, gym bag or whatever is to be carried from the car on the floor in front of the child in

a back seat. This forces the adult to open the back door and observe the child.

- Have a plan with your child care provider to call if your child does not arrive when expected.
  - Keep keys and remote entry key fobs out of children's reach.
  - Lock all vehicles at all times.
  - Check cars and trunks first if a child goes missing.
- For information on preventing hyperthermia deaths, please call Safe Kids Kansas at (785) 296-0351 or visit www.ggweather.com/heat and www.safekids.org/nlyca.

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.

Bridge Club

Meadow Lake bridge winners for Tuesday were Sarah Jane Barrett, first; Gail Vacca, second; Alvin Koenig, third; Kevan Taylor, fourth; Dave Ulmer, fifth; and Jean Snyder, sixth.

Car misses cat

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - The driver is OK, the cat's fine and the insurance claim will be interesting.

Metro Nashville Police say a car ran off a city street early Monday and overturned, ending up on the front steps of a home.

The man who was driving told police he swerved to avoid hitting a cat in the road, according to WKRN-TV.

It's believed the cat belongs to the owner of the home where the car crashed, damaging the front steps of the house.

Police say the driver won't be charged.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day

Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$7.13
Corn (bushel)	\$7.06
Milo (hundredweight)	\$11.89
Soybeans (bushel)	\$12.65

\*Books \* DVD \* VHS \* Audiobooks \* Children's Books \* Large Print \* Westerns\*

**PIONEER MEMORIAL LIBRARY'S**

**BOOK SALE BLOWOUT!**

July 30th to August 6th -2011

Held during regular business hours

Prices lowered throughout the week

\*Romances \* Non-Fiction \* Cookbooks \* Repair \* Craft Instructions \* Health \*

**Metal House Plans AVAILABLE**

Durable Maintenance Free Economical

Available with 2" x 6" stud walls on footing or post frame

**ESH QSI**  
Quality Structures, Inc.

Richmond, KS Haven, KS  
(800) 374-6988 (800) 208-9167  
www.qualitystructures.com

Call for FREE information and estimates

**Consider the QSI Advantage**

- Free Estimates
- Free On-Site Consultation
- Fully Insured
- Pre-engineered for code laws
- Licensed ICC General Contractor
- 3-Ply Laminated Posts (60 year warranty)
- Steel Roof and Sides (40 yr. warranty)
- 16 colors available
- 8' o/c Post Spacing
- 4' o/c Truss Spacing
- 90 MPH Wind Load
- 30lb Truss Load
- Site Preparation available

**MORTON BUILDINGS, INC.**

60'x 150' Farm Storage/Arena

Call Today for Details - Offer Ends 8/30/11

Very Basic = \$52,994.00 Very Nice = \$84,896.00

Clinton (660) 885-5759	Minden (308) 832-1715
Colby (785) 462-7505	Monett (417) 235-7804
Garden City (620) 275-4105	Salina (785) 823-6359
Holton (785) 364-4177	Winfield (620) 221-3265

Call your local Morton Buildings office today for details and to schedule an appointment. Prices and availability vary by location. Pricing and products subject to change without notice. Offer ends 8/30/11. Photos and illustrations may contain optional features not included in price. Certain restrictions apply. All transactions are subject to credit approval, applicable taxes, and other terms. ©2009 Morton Buildings, Inc. Morton Buildings is a registered trademark. All rights reserved.

(800) 447-7436 mortonbuildings.com

YOUR CHILD can thrive

An online public school powered by K12 can unlock your child's academic potential.

- Tuition free
- Individualized Learning Plans
- State-certified teachers

This fall, choose a school that fits your child.

Enrollments are now being accepted.

VISIT: K12.COM/KS7

LAWRENCE VIRTUAL SCHOOL LAWRENCE VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOL iQ ACADEMY KANSAS Manhattan-Ogden USD 383 a network<sup>2</sup> school

Send local news to colby.society@nwkansas.com

**Fair Special**

5 Classic Roast Beef Sandwiches for \$5.99

Arby's

10 a.m. to Close

2005 S. Range, Colby