



Jeffrey Kochtanek and Sally Schlick

## Couple to marry in Overland Park

Sally Schlick of Colby and Jeffrey Kochtanek of Columbia, Mo., plan to marry Saturday, Aug. 27, at Queen of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Overland Park.

The bride is the daughter of Larry and Mary Schlick of Colby. She received a Bachelor of Science in dietetics from Kansas State University in 2001 and a master's degree in applied nutrition from Northeastern University in 2011. Schlick works at Cerner Corporation in Kansas City as a performance nutritionist.

Her grandparents are the late

Seraphine and Florence Zdrow and the late Bill and Rosemary Schlick.

The groom is the son of Tom and Barb Kochtanek of Columbia, Mo. He received a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from the University of Missouri in 2005. He is employed at Burns and McDonnell in Kansas City, Mo., as a staff civil engineer.

His grandparents are Eve and the late Jack Kochtanek and Bob and Patte Brandt.

The couple plans to live in Kansas City, Mo.

# New books tell story of hope

This week I am sitting outside while I write this column. I have my computer on my lap, the books and materials I need around me and an umbrella to break the sun's rays off my face over head. It is 10 in the morning and the air is still cool and crisp. I do not always get to sip coffee while outside and write. I think this is pretty close to heaven!

Today's column turns to books that bring hope and inspiration to our lives. With all the grim world and financial news, I think it does us good to look to more uplifting subject matter. Not only does it help us to view our circumstance differently, it may bring inspiration to others as well.



**Melany Wilks**  
• Library Links

On our new book shelf, the first book available for checkout is the fourth in the series of the *Yada Yada House of Hope* by Neta Jackson. The book is "Who Is My Shelter?" Here Gabby finds herself at the House of Hope with her sons.

This is one of the most traumatic times of her life. The importance of career and being the driven woman who must gain at all costs is being challenged. In this place she has to reevaluate her future plans.

She finds joy in the midst of her circumstance by helping other homeless ladies. She believes her marriage is over and will never be restored until something chal-

lenges that too. Read to find out what choices are made as this book comes to an end. The other books in the series are "Where Do I Go?" (Book 1), "Who Do I Talk To?" (Book 2), "Who Do I Lean On?" (Book 3).

A second book in this area is "The Homeless Bishop," by Joseph F. Girzone. The protagonist, Carlo Brunini decides that he must be able to identify himself with the plight and circumstances of the homeless. As a young Italian bishop, he takes to the streets and becomes known as Charlie.

He is searching to find just why did Jesus so love the poor? This book is insightful and compelling. Like the book "Joshua" by the same author, readers will enjoy this new book. If you have not read "Joshua," check out the movie version by the same title and get a glimpse of why people love the author's point of view.

A third item is a nonfiction book written first hand by one of the greatest quarterbacks of college football. This young player writes his story to date about his

decision-making processes, life choices and pressures of media attention placed upon him as he rose to his current position.

The book "Through My Eyes," is written by Tim Tebow with Nathan Whitaker. Some may think it's a bit early to write such a book, but in today's market of tell all, it is a great uplifting and inspirational book to encourage us all to live at a higher level of integrity and common good for others.

The last book is clearly a light and enjoyable romance with a bit of intrigue. Kelly Eileen Hake has just published book No. 3 in the series, *Prairie Promises*. "The Bride Blunder," set in the Nebraska Territory of 1859 is just plain fun to read.

Protagonist Gavin Miller has a vision of his future. He decides to write home to ask for Marguerite's hand in marriage. The problem is there are actually two Marguerite Chandlers. One goes by Daisy and the other Marge! To Gavin's surprised Marge arrives and is accompanied by Daisy her cousin. It is Daisy he wanted to marry. Now he must find a way to graciously not marry Marge while marrying Daisy. The other books in the series are "The Bride Bargain" (Book No. 1) and "The Bride Backfire" (Book No. 2) both by Hake.

Are you a woman who would like to learn about financial man-

agement? The library is holding a six-week seminar on financial management beginning in September, called "2011 Women and Money Series." The classes will be Thursday evenings. Please come in and find the literature on the reference counter or ask a librarian. Registration is required. I will be posting the information on the library website in the next week.

I visited the Colby Visitor's Center last week at 2015 S. Range while showing a friend and guest about Colby and the Thomas County area. There I was able to see the poems written by local children of the area. As part of the summer reading project, children first grade through eighth grade wrote poetry. They will be displayed there until Sept. 11. If you come to the library you will also be able to see the mobiles and license plates made by children displayed in the children's area of the library.

Have you gotten your new library card yet? If not, drop by and let us update your account. We continue to be under summer hours until after Labor Day weekend. Our summer schedule is: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to 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!

## Drought continues in much of country

Dry conditions through vast swaths of the country, including parts of Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, are influencing everyone from homeowners to farmers to business managers. But, a short-term dry spell and a full-fledged drought are not the same thing.

"Drought is a major focus for many this summer," said Kansas climatologist, Mary Knapp. "One means of measuring a drought is the Drought Severity Classification, developed by the National Drought Mitigation Center, based at the University of Nebraska" (droughtmonitor.unl.edu).

When conditions are drier than usual because of a lack of rainfall or snow, factors including soil moisture levels, weekly streamflow, precipitation and the Palmer Drought Index are taken into account to determine conditions across the country. For instance, about 75 percent of Kansas currently is experiencing "abnormally dry" to "exceptional drought" conditions, said Knapp, who maintains the Kansas Weather Data Library at Kansas State University.

"It's really eye-opening to view the Drought Monitor that shows the whole United States. You get the full extent of the current drought situation."

The conditions in affected areas have forced sales of cattle, due to a lack of forage. They've curbed crop development and dried out home landscapes. Water-use restrictions are in place in multiple

locations, and the drought has taken a toll on water quality in some areas, she said.

A comparison of the various indices used to determine the severity of dry conditions and their current values for Kansas climate divisions are on the Kansas Water Office web page (www.kwo.org/reports\_publications/Drought.htm).

The rankings used by the National Drought Mitigation Center are:

- Abnormally Dry. Going into drought - short-term dryness may be slowing planting, slowing growth of crops or pastures. The label also can apply to an area that is coming out of drought, with lingering water deficits and with pastures and crops that are not fully recovered;
- Moderate Drought. Some damage has occurred to crops and pastures. Streams, reservoirs, and/or wells are low. Water shortages are developing or imminent, and citizens are being asked to restrict water use voluntarily.
- Severe Drought. Crop or pasture losses are likely, and water shortages are common. Water restrictions are imposed.
- Extreme Drought. Major crop and pasture losses are occurring, and water shortages are widespread. Water restrictions are in force.
- Exceptional Drought. Exceptional and widespread crop and pasture losses occur, while shortages in reservoirs, streams, and wells create water emergencies.

Information about drought conditions in Kansas and other weather information are available at www.ksre.ksu.edu/wdl. The Kansas Weather Data Library is part of K-State Research and Extension.

## Now that it's not so hot outside...



Frank Musalek, Hays, traveled to Colby from a high school reunion in Goodland to play a round at the Meadow Lake Golf Course on Wednesday.

## Disaster help available for ranchers

Adrian J. Polansky, state executive director of the Farm Service Agency, reminds ranchers and livestock producers to apply under the Livestock Forage Disaster Program for losses incurred during the 2011 grazing season up to Saturday, Oct. 1.

Among the counties meeting the program's trigger requirements for native and improved grasses: Gove, Logan, Ness and Wallace. Additional counties could be become eligible later.

An applicant must have purchased coverage through the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program or the Pasture, Rangeland and Forage Insurance-Rainfall Index for Grazing program offered through the Risk Management Agency. Socially disadvantaged, limited resource, or beginning farmers or ranchers do not have to meet this requirement. Payment limitation and income eligibility requirements must be met in order to qualify for disaster benefits.

The program provides payments to producers that have suffered livestock grazing losses due to qualifying drought or fire. Qualifying drought ratings are determined using the U.S. Drought Monitor located at www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html.

"To ensure a smooth application process, producers should have all required supporting documentation with them at the time they visit the FSA office to apply for benefits," said Polansky.

## Woman not really murdered

KENNEWICK, Wash. (AP) — Cheri Schumann would like Kennewick High School's class of 1971 to know she is very much alive.

A story in Saturday's *Tri-City Herald* about Kennewick High's reunion focused on seven classmates who were slain out of 80 who had died. Schumann — now Cheri Taylor — was included.

But Taylor lives in Mill Creek,

north of Seattle, with her husband and four children. She says she's happy, healthy and not ready to be buried.

Reunion co-chairwoman Debra Blum told the newspaper (http://bit.ly/qwpMcG) the report of Taylor's premature demise came by e-mail, apparently from another classmate. Blum says she used other sources to verify it.

## 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.

## Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day

**Hi-Plains Co-op**

Wheat (bushel)	\$7.15
Corn (bushel)	\$6.93
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