

Celebrate reading, share a book for Read to Preschoolers Week

This week at the Pioneer Memorial Library, as well as at daycares and preschools we are participating in the Kansas Reads to Preschoolers initiative.

Each year the Colby Rotary Club donates a book for each daycare and preschool in the area. This year they purchased 42. Then Child Care Aware, the library and others work to coordinate with the daycares and preschools to read the book being given. The book being read in our area is "The Letters are Lost," by Lisa Campbell Ernest.

This reminds me to tell our readers that we have lots of children's picture books about Thanksgiving and Christmas. Have you tried using the "Kid's Catalog" on our on-line catalog found at www.colbylibrary.com? It is found in the upper right hand corner of the catalog (not the home page). If you click on the words "Kids' Catalog" the screen content will spin and before you will be a screen with search parameters "words," "author," and "title." I merely put in the word Thanksgiving in the "words" category and up came with about 15 items to choose from. Another fast way to find such subjects is to look on the area above the search boxes. It has subject areas ready for your search. Subject areas like animals, art, dance, music, health



Melany Wilks

Library Links

and medicine, history, hobbies and games, holidays, kids issues, nature, people, places, reading and writing, science, sports, stories and folklore. The Kids' Catalog pulls up items designated for children or youth. If you search music or some art categories other materials will also come up.

We are adding a number of new fiction items to our collection. The first I want to tell you about is "11/22/63: A Novel," by Stephen King. This 842 page book is not for the faint of heart. Stephen King has written a story about a man that travels back into time. Jake Epping finds that he can travel back in time. It is his responsibility to stop the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963. King in no way solves the mystery of whether Oswald was a patsy or if there was a conspiracy, but he weaves a story from historical documents to produce a fascinating read. We have this book in print and in audio-book (CD) formats.

A second book we have in regular print, large print and audiobook is "Zero Day," by David Baldacci. Protagonist John Puller has found himself in the middle of investigating a heinous crime in West Virginia. This U.S. Army Criminal Investigator is not prepared for what he finds. When he is drawn into this investigation he thinks he will find answers that help to solve the mystery. What he discovers is that what he has been told is not the real truth. He must find what is true and who he can trust.

A third book we have added in print and audio-book format is "Kill Alex Cross," by James Patterson. This is number 18 in the *Alex Cross* series. Detective Cross finds he is the first at the scene when the U.S. president's children have been abducted. He begins to work on this but finds it leads to another deeper and more sinister plot. Someone is trying to poison the water supply of Washington, D.C. His efforts to solve both issues are being thwarted. When he finds out, they will be sorry!

A fourth book we have added is "A Prince of Ravenscar," by Catherine Coulter. This is book 11 of the *Sherbrooke* series. In this book, Lord Julian has been asked to consider marrying a friend's daughter, Miss Sophie Wilkie. His mother made the request and full

ly expects him to comply. Julian makes the trip to reconnect with Miss Wilkie who he has not seen since she was 12 years old. This is the only beginning of the relationships that swirl in this book. It is an enjoyable new addition to our library.

Other books we are adding are "The Wedding Quilt," by Jennifer Chiaverini; "Hotel Vendome," by Danielle Steele; "Coffin Man," by James D. Doss; "The Prague Cemetery," by Umberto Eco; "The House of Silk," by Anthony Horowitz; "A Dark and Lonely Place," by Edna Buchanan; and "Out of Oz," by Gregory Maguire.

Remember to stock up on books and audio books for those long winter travel trips to visit relatives and friends. For those who will stay in town, our schedule will be a bit different next week. We will be closing early - at 5 p.m. - Wednesday. The library will be closed all day next Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, and Friday the 25th. We will be open on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 26 and 27, during our normal hours. The Pioneer Memorial Library opens at 9 a.m. Monday through Saturday, closing at 8 p.m. weeknights, at 5 p.m. Friday, and at 4 p.m. Saturday. Sunday hours are 1 to 4 p.m.

See you at the library!

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars met Nov. 9 at the Post home with President Anita Thiel presiding.

Roll call of officers was read. The meeting opened with a prayer followed by patriotic instructions and a flag salute.

Minutes were read and approved and the treasurer's report was accepted.

General orders were read and letters from the Commission on Veterans Affairs and Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce.

Veterans and family support chairperson reported 65 felt boots made for the kids' Christmas party at

the Post home at 6:45 p.m. Monday, Dec. 19.

Publicity reported October meeting item in the *Colby Free Press* and the *Northwest Journal*.

A monetary donation was allowed to purchase wreaths for the veterans' cemetery at WaKeeney for the Wreaths Across America ceremony.

A \$100 donation was given to Santa City.

An allowance was made to purchase food items for Genesis food baskets.

The meeting was closed per ritual with prayer.

The next meeting will be at the Post home at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 14.

- Hazel Duffey

Grant to boost foster kids' graduation

A new federal grant will help the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services improve the policies and practices for educating children who are in the Kansas foster care network.

The \$250,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will fund a 17-month collaboration between the department, the University of Kansas, and the Kansas State Department of Education.

The purpose is to develop a stable educational environment for youth in foster care. Its approach is to improve the sharing of information among the agencies involved in their lives, specifically the department and the schools they attend. The goals are to reduce the number of times foster children have to change schools, and improve their graduation rates.

"The kids in foster care face enough challenges without the added burden of trying to navigate a complex educational system where their records are hard to access," said department Secretary Rob Siedlecki. "We are going to do everything we can to make communication among agencies more efficient to ultimately benefit children who are in state care."

Food drive supports fired Sugar Plum Fairy

ST. CHARLES, Mo. (AP) - The Sugar Plum Fairy was fired for cursing, but a growing number of fans are hoping she'll get her job back.

The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (<http://bit.ly/s5qEmB>) reports that Mike Swart, the same man who started a Facebook page to save the Sugar Plum Fairy's job, is organizing a food drive on her behalf.

"They can bring a bag of sugar, a pack of cookies, some candy - things the Sugar Plum Fairy might endorse - or canned goods," said Swart, of St. Charles. "I think we should harness the passion and the excitement everybody has here and do something good with it."

Laura Coppinger, 29, of St. Louis, is an actress who has portrayed the Sugar Plum Fairy for the past six years on historic Main Street in St. Charles during the annual Christmas Traditions festival. She was recently fired for cursing

- not on the job, but when she went to take a drug test required of all city employees.

Coppinger accidentally flushed the toilet during the drug test, which is prohibited. When told she would have to wait at the drug testing facility until she could provide another urine sample, she said she swore out of frustration because the delay meant she would miss a job interview.

A short time later, she was told to go home.

The city's human resources department said she violated the code of conduct for a Christmas Traditions character by uttering "naughty words."

Coppinger said she has gotten an outpouring of support since she made her story public on Saturday.

"It's very exciting to know that the Sugar Plum Fairy has inspired so many people and has made people's Christmases and that

people are standing up for her and for me as the actress playing her," she said.

A St. Charles spokeswoman has declined comment, citing the issue as a personnel matter.

Several Main Street merchants are upset by the firing.

"I'm just really disappointed that common sense can't win out," said Chris Stergos, the owner of Patches Quilt & Button Shoppe.

"We rely on the reputation of what we do down here, and this really puts us in such a negative light."

Stergos said some have suggested that the merchants hire Coppinger as a private contractor to work the monthlong festival.

"I'd be all for it," she said. "The Sugar Plum Fairy always has been one of the biggest attractions."

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)	\$6.32
Corn (bushel)	\$6.32
Milo (hundredweight)	\$10.75
Soybeans (bushel)	\$10.57

COLBY AMERICAN LEGION POST 363 MEETING

The Colby American Legion is looking to spread the word about scholarships local youth can obtain through the organization.

The Legion will be holding an event Saturday at the club, 1850 W. Fourth St. From 5 - 6:30 p.m. the Legion will have an all-members meeting, including the Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion.

At 6:30 p.m. the Legion will open the meeting to the public and talk about the many scholarships it can offer to high school and college students.

Members and their families are invited to the dinner.

In Memory of
Mark John Krannawitter
12/15/56 - 11/17/06

If tears could build a stairway and memories a lane, I'd walk right up to Heaven and bring you home again!

With all our love,
Deanna, Jessica, Dan,
Jolene, Sarah, Brice,
Kylie, Bea & Kristin
And all your Family

friends don't let friends drive drunk.

U.S. Department of Transportation
Aq Council

Christmas Cards are in!

Come in today and pick out your Christmas cards.

We have a wide assortment of boxed and individual cards.

PALACE DRUG STORE

460 N. Franklin • Colby • 785-462-7507

Open: 8:30 - 6:00 Mon - Fri
8:30 - 2:00 Sat

Deaths

Helen M. Frahm

Helen M. Frahm, 98, Colby, died Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2011, at the Prairie Senior Living Complex in Colby.

Services are pending with Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel in Colby, 462-7979.

Nellie M. Pennington

Nellie M. Pennington, 91, Colby, formerly of Oakley, died Monday, Nov. 14, 2011, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby.

She was born Nov. 23, 1919, in Fellsburg, to Charles and Anna (Dunn) Huffmaster. She grew up in Satanta and graduated from Satanta Rural High School in 1937, where she played basketball and was a pianist and singer.

On Sept. 2, 1939, she married Merritt E. Pennington. During his service in World War II, she worked for draft boards in Illinois and Sublette.

In 1950, they moved to Oakley, where her husband and brother-in-law established Pennington Rexall Drugs.

In the early 1970s they moved to Colby. After her husband's death she was a bookkeeper at TG&Y.

An active member of the Oak-

ley United Methodist Church, she was also in PEO and Eastern Star, where she held many posts. She also enjoyed playing the piano and playing bridge.

Preceding her in death were her parents, her husband in 1979, four brothers and three sisters.

Survivors include two daughters, Judith (Daniel) Dibbern, Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y.; and Joyce (Dale) Smith, The Bronx, N.Y.; a sister, Alma Ricketts, Spearman, Texas; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 25, 2011, at the Oakley United Methodist Church with inurnment in the Oakley Cemetery. No visitation.

The family suggests memorials to the church in care of Kennedy-Koster Funeral Home, Box 221, Oakley, Kan., 67748.

Daughters of Isabella

The Daughters of Isabella Immaculate Heart of Mary Circle met Nov. 3 at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Colby.

The meeting was called to order by Regent Theresa Baker. She lit a candle and said a prayer for deceased members. The opening ode was sung and pledge to the flag was said.

There will be installation of officers at the Park church at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4.

Baker thanked members for their help at a biscuit, sausage gravy and fruit breakfast.

Thanks were read from the Catholic Youth Organization for a gift for their trip to Indianapolis. Darline Hutfles appreciates the *Magnificat* magazine subscription given when she moved away. State and International correspondence was read by the regent.

Laura Krejci, Rhonda Rogers and Nancy Barlow are planning the Christmas party for Thursday, Dec. 1. They will prepare and serve the meal. Awards for service

will be presented.

Joan Albers reported 440 saves for the Right to Life 40 Days for Life. The devotion called 40 Hours for Life held last week in the Catholic church was a success with more people praying than last year.

The shortage of armbands members wear for honor guards at a member's funeral was discussed again. Two members took an armband home to see how it could be made. Joan Ziegler plans to take one to Lisa Wark for advice.

A message about temptation was read from the Spiritual Reflection guide by secretary Margaret Denner.

The obligation was said as a group. The meeting adjourned as the closing ode was sung.

Hot cider and gingerbread were served by Albers, Gail Bremskamp and Marge Mowry, who was host.

- Margaret Denner, secretary

Lego man taken into custody

SARASOTA, Fla. (AP) - Lego man is going to stay in police custody for three months.

Lego man, a 100-pound, 8-foot-tall sculpture, didn't do anything wrong except wash up on a Florida beach. Sarasota County Sheriff Tom Knight says his office will hold the fiberglass sculpture for 90 days just like all other lost and found property.

During that time, authorities will try to determine who the owner is.

The *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* (<http://bit.ly/uExBYk>) reported that the local tourism bureau had hoped to use the Lego man to promote the area, but the sheriff says it needs to remain in police custody a little longer.

The sculpture mysteriously appeared on a Siesta Key beach Oct. 29.

A Legoland recently opened in Winter Haven, which is about 70 miles northwest of Siesta Key.

You're Invited to the Midwest Energy Annual Meeting of Members

Monday, November 21, 2011
Beginning at 1:30 p.m.
at the Robbins Center on the Fort Hays State University Campus in Hays

Business to be conducted includes the reports of the officers and the announcement of those elected to the Board of Directors.

There will be information on Midwest Energy's Energy Efficiency Programs available.

Those attending the meeting will receive a compact fluorescent light and have the opportunity to join in discussions about Midwest Energy's policies and programs.

Coffee, tea and snacks provided
Register for Door Prizes

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