

Artists called to respond creatively to help bring library's vision to life

This week I'd like to invite local artists to help create a mural, wall hanging or large painting for the Pioneer Memorial Library.

I call it a mural for ease of concept but we do not want the art painted on the wall. We want it attached to the wall so that it could be moved if the library space was ever redesigned or changed. So bear with me in my using the word mural.

The family of Jean Hutton of Brewster has given the library a memorial gift to create a mural, large painting or wall hanging that will grace our wall behind the circulation counter. Hutton often volunteered in our library helping people with family historical research. You can find a picture of her on our website at www.colby-library.com/webpages/AbouttheLibrary.htm, leaning over helping a young lady in the library with her research.

Now, let me tell you about the vision for the work by starting with a story to frame how the whole concept came into being.

As many of you know, the Friends of the Pioneer Memorial Library board meets nine months out of the year and they seek ways to help the library with special needs, projects and ongoing services to patrons of our community.

We had been talking about vision, mission statements and such. We sent everyone home to consider some thoughts on the matter.

Nancy LePell, one of our Friends board members came back to the



Melany Wilks

•Library Links

next board meeting with a statement. It was short, concise and hit the spot for a description of what the library does for individuals and the community. I was dazzled but said this is not a mission statement, it is a description of what we actually do in the library.

I said, something like, "We would call it a motto for the library, or a brand statement." The motto was "Bringing Words To Life!"

I asked her if we could steal the saying and use it for the library as a whole. She said we were free to use it as we wished. Since then I have checked the national registry of trademarks to ensure it was not used by a multinational corporation – it was not.

The reason this expression is so right for us is that it expresses the multitude of ways the library and the staff serve the community.

Think of the ways words bring life to our lives: through books – the written word; audio books – the spoken word; music – spoken or words sung or just musical melody to our heart and soul; art and photography as displayed, collected or taught in materials; computers, Internet access, eBooks, online journals; staff helping pa-

trons with a reference question or simply serving life up through a kind word.

How much joy, inspiration, creativity, discovery, imagination, fun and learning is done and experienced through words. These words help to shape and create life and new life that hopefully feeds and nurtures our mind, soul and spirit.

With this as the forethought, I had the idea of trying to bring this motto or trademark to life through a mural for the library. So my challenge to the artist in our area is, how would you create this inspirational saying without using things like books, people, computers or other dated objects to express the idea? Could you create an idea like this that communicates life through the natural beauty of the Kansas prairie, the sun, wheat or other agriculture or natural images within Kansas and the Colby area? Can you envision without people in the picture a way to express the generations or lifecycle though this scape? This may be a tall order, but I know that it can be done by someone in our area.

The area to be covered is 60 inches vertically by 96 inches horizontally. It could be on canvas, Plexiglas, or some other format material that will lie flat (and last) if attached to the wall. It could attach by a simple wooden bar across the top or large metal grommets on the top or sides. These are some of the basics.

We will be asking for small-scale drawings or diagrams of the

work you are proposing to create by a certain date so that the Pioneer Memorial Library Board of Trustees can make the final decision on which art to approve. The memorial funds will be enough to pay for the cost of materials and remunerate the artist chosen for their work.

If you are interested in this special memorial project please come to a meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 30, in the library meeting room. There we can discuss it, show you the area and answer questions you might have. There is a time limit for this project in order to honor our donors. We will have that information on our hand-out, description and instructions.

I am hoping that the meeting will clarify some thoughts you might have and make the creative juices begin to flow in the artists of our community. I am also hoping that these instructions will help you put your materials together so that the library board can make their decision for this work, and the creation can begin.

If you have any questions you can e-mail me at director@colby-library.com.

The library returns to its normal winter hours:

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.

See you in the library!

Deaths

Gary A. Garrett

Gary A. Garrett, 67, a Gem area farmer, died Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2012, at the Logan County Hospital in Oakley.

He was born March 1, 1944, in Fort Lewis, Wash., the son of Wilbur A. And Vera Ileene (Keck) Garrett.

Survivors include his wife, Linda J. Garrett of the home; a son, Grady A. Garrett, Colby; two daughters, Penny J. Nemechek, Goodland, and Jill R. Deges, Montezuma; a brother, Wayne N.

Garrett, Gainesville, Texas; and 10 grandchildren.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, 2012, at the Colby United Methodist Church, with the Rev. Carol Rahn officiating. Inurnment will be later at Beulah Cemetery.

No visitation; cremation.

The family suggests memorials in his name to be designated later, in care of the Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel, 745 S. Country Club Dr., Colby, Kan., 67701.

Colby Rotary Club

Colby Rotary Club met Tuesday with 32 members and guests Tracey Galli, Dr. Amanda Griggs, Lacy O'Neal, L.J. and Karen O'Neal, Michelle Spence, Charles and Vicky Taff and students from the Victory House Christian Academy.

The annual soup supper will be Tuesday, Jan. 31. Gary Adrian is the chairman.

Lacy O'Neal was recognized as the January Student of the Month. She told members about her study emphasis at Colby High School and the clubs, activities and organizations she has been involved with. Her future plans include attending Fort Hays State University, studying elementary educa-

tion. Marla Crumrine had the program. Vicky Taff, director, and students from the Victory House Christian Academy provided an interesting, informative program. The purpose of the academy, located north of Brewster, is to provide an affordable place for families with limited resources to send children who need guidance to get their lives back on track in a safe, structured and loving environment. The format is based on the Teen Challenge Program.

L.J. O'Neal won Roto-Lotto. Colby Rotary meets Tuesdays in Room 106 of the Student Union at Colby Community College.

—Relda Galli

Photographer to visit museum here Saturday

Nebraska photographer Bill Coe, whose works are currently on exhibit at the Prairie Museum of Art and History, will be on hand from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday afternoon to meet with the public and discuss his work.

Born in Hackensack, N.J., and now a resident of Dundy County, Neb., Coe captures stunning images of plains critters, landscapes, farmsteads and people. His photographs have appeared in several magazines and newspapers includ-

ing *Farm & Ranch* and *Nebraska Cattlemen*, and in several NTV calendars. He has recently exhibited at several Nebraska venues as well as in Burlingame, Calif.

He believes that "anyone can be creative, but to get good, you must work at it every day." His work will be on display at the museum through Friday, Feb. 10.

The museum is at 1905 S. Franklin. For information, call (785) 460-4590 or e-mail museum@st-tel.net.

Got news? Tell us! Call 462-3963

Student writers wanted for Book Festival contest

Kansas First Lady Mary Brownback announced last week the start of the KTWU and Payless ShoeSource Kansas Book Festival Writing Contest.

The contest, for students in grades three through 12 in the state of Kansas, runs through Sunday, April 15.

Winners will be contacted in August and announced at the 2012 Kansas Book Festival on Saturday, Sept. 15.

The theme for this year's contest is "My Kansas Shoes

Were Made For Walking" and asks students to use their creative minds to write around that theme. There will be a first and second place winner in each of three grade-level divisions per congressional district.

For information or to register, visit the KTWU web site at www.ktwu.org or contact Beth Perry at (785) 670-3177.

For information on the 2012 Kansas Book Festival, visit www.kansasbookfestival.com.

Thieves enter, cook gizzards

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Police say two teenagers broke into a Florida Chinese restaurant and cooked some chicken gizzards.

Gainesville police spokesman Jorge Campos says the 14-year-old boys were arrested at China House restaurant. He says they must have been hungry and couldn't find any money.

They were charged with burglary and petit theft.

Campos told the *Gainesville Sun* the suspects had been arrested on theft and burglary charges at least two times in the past few months.

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)	\$6.51
Corn (bushel)	\$6.35
Milo (hundredweight)	\$10.88
Soybeans (bushel)	\$10.60

DWIGHT YOAKAM
January 26 *21 Grammy nominations!*

SIMONE DINNERSTEIN PIANIST
January 27 *First Album "Bach a Strange Beauty" #1*

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February 19 *Superb Celtic voices, dance and music*

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The United States Air Force Heartland of America Band's **BRASS IN BLUE** is a dynamic 13-member brass ensemble! Composed of ten brass players, two percussionists and one vocalist, the innovative BRASS IN BLUE presents exciting, uplifting music including marches, classical transcriptions and jazz standards.

Thursday, January 26th
7:30 - Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
Colby High School Auditorium

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For more information, visit us at www.HeartlandofAmericaBand.af.mil

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Please send me _____ tickets (limit 4) to see the USAF Brass in Blue Concert

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Conservation Corner
Thomas County Conservation District

The complete newsletter is available at <http://www.thcoconservation.com/>.

The 68th Annual meeting and Awards Banquet will be held January 23, 2012 at the United Methodist Church in Colby at 6:30 pm. The meal will be served by the Colby High School Band Department. Area students will be recognized for their conservation posters and two producers will receive Kansas Bankers Association Awards for an outstanding windbreak and soil conservation. Make plans to come enjoy the evening with us.

Please RSVP by January 17th to Debbie @ 462-7482 ext 1303.

It is time to start thinking about spring tree planting. If you are planning to plant trees, now is a great time to start preparing your project. The district sells a variety of trees including larger nursery grown trees from Colorado. Tree day is scheduled for March 31st, from 8:00 to 12:00 at the district office located at 915 E. Walnut.

If you would like to place an order the forms are available at the office and online at <http://www.thcoconservation.com/> on page 3 & 4 of our newsletter.