

Fun, learning, creativity: all can be found at the library

Tonight, the Pioneer Memorial Library is holding a Game Night starting at 7 p.m. Come and have fun with us playing various games. If you want a snack, bring one you like to eat. We will provide drinks and a few chips.

At 7 p.m. next Thursday we have the event "Who Are You?" - a workshop on family history and genealogy. Come and learn how to use the computer to find out more about your heritage.

Also - don't forget to tell your artists to come to a meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 30, to learn how they can contribute to the special memorial project for the library. Information is on the website (colbylibrary.com), or you can come in and pick up an announcement. At the meeting we will discuss a bit more and show you the area, answer questions you might have. There is a time limit for completing this project in order to honor our donors. If you have questions please do not hesitate to call and talk to me.

We have recently added the book, "The Ballad of Tom Doolley," by Sharyn McCrumb. This is book nine of the *Ballad* series. If you remember the song, "Hang



Melany Wilks

• **Library Links**

Down Your Head Tom Doolley," by the Kingston Trio, then you may want to read this book.

Laura Foster has told friends that she is going to elope to Tennessee. However, a few months later she is found dead. Here is where the mystery comes in. Who murdered Laura Foster? The officials of Wilkes County, N.C., decide that it is returning Confederate soldier, Tom Dula. Tom was sweet on Ann Melton and he was not interested in Laura Foster. McCrumb finds some new discoveries in the Appalachian Wuthering Heights area that may implicate others in the murder. Read to find out who and how this may have been accomplished.

A second book recently added is "The Time In Between," by Maria Duenas. This is the author's first published book in America. The book has swept Europe in recent

months. Protagonist Sira Quiroga grows up with a mother who is a seamstress. By the time she is 20 years old she is well on her way to understanding the world of fashion. She thinks she knows where she is going until two gentlemen bring her into a new exciting life in Morocco.

The excitement is there until she is abandoned and life gets very difficult. Her skills as a seamstress catch the eye of others and they talk her into moving to Madrid. There she assumes a new identity and become part of the espionage against the Nazis. Her skill at creating beautiful clothes for the wives of Nazi agents is profitable and yet dangerous. This is a captivating book.

A third book is "Three-Day Town," by Margaret Maron. This is Book 17 of the *Judge Deborah Knott* series. Judge Knott and Sheriff Bryant have been married for just a year now. The sheriff's sister-in-law gave them a trip to New York. Judge Knott has been asked to make a delivery to Lt. Sigrid Harald, who works at the New York Police Department.

Not wanting to disturb the vaca-

tioners, he will come and pick up the package. When he arrives he finds the doorman has been killed and the package left with the doorman is missing. Needless to say this brings Judge Knott, Sheriff Bryant and Lt. Harald into high gear trying to solve this murder.

We have also added the newest book from Pulitzer Prize-winning author Edna Buchanan, "A Dark and Lonely Place." Other added titles are: *Prince of Ravenscar*, by Catherine Coulter; "A Perilous Conception," by Larry Karp; "Black Thunder," by Aimee and David Thurlo; and "Shadow in Serenity," by Terri Blackstock.

Some newly added audiobooks (CD's) are: "Eisenhower: The White House Years," by Jim Newton; "90 Minutes in Heaven," by Don Piper; "Locked On," by Tom Clancy; "The Affair" by Lee Child; and "Down the Darkest Road," by Tami Hoag.

The library's normal winter hours are: 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 in the library!

Deaths

Emajo Kathryn Brown

Emajo Kathryn Brown, 73, Mesa, Ariz., mother of Jim (Tami) Brown of Colby, died Sunday, Jan. 15, 2012, at her home after a long battle with colon cancer.

She was born on Oct. 28, 1938, to Hobart and Evelyn (Deal) Brown at Elsie, Neb.

On Feb. 24, 1956, she married James R. Brown, and in May 1956, she graduated from Elsie High School. As the graduate with the highest grade average, she won a regent's scholarship to the University of Nebraska.

She worked for Montgomery Ward for years, managing the North Platte, Neb., store for five years before it closed. Following a stint as a campaign coordinator, she began working in a printing business in North Platte, which she bought along with several coworkers in 1987. She managed Pro Printing until retiring in 1996, when the couple moved to Arizona.

She was treasurer of the Republican Central Committee in North Platte for several years. She was a member of the Church of Christ

wherever they lived and taught Bible classes in Ogallala, Neb., and North Platte.

Preceding her in death were her mother and a granddaughter, Amanda Kathryn Hohl.

Survivors include her husband, of the home; her father and step-mother, Hobart (Wynona) Brown, Yuma, Colo.; two other children, Gerald (Jerry) Brown, Crete, Neb., and Joni (Ron) Hohl, Loveland, Colo.; seven siblings, Charlene (Joe) Starkey and Beverly (Mike) Kuskie of Colorado Springs; Nancy (Raymond) Berges, Holyoke, Colo.; Tom (Carol) Brown, Curtis, Neb.; Vicki Peters and David (Monie) Brow of Ogallala; and Bob (Sharon) Brown, North Platte; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Services were to be today, Thursday, Jan. 19, in Mesa, with a memorial service Monday in North Platte.

The family suggests memorials to the New Mexico Christian Children's Home, 1356 New Mexico 236, Portales, N.M., 88130.

High Plains Art Club

The High Plains Art Club was called to order on Jan. 10 by co-president Ruthie Hughes. Attending members were Marj Brown, Margaret Denneler, Barbara Highland, Mary McNutt, Bev Kern, David Ketchum, Tom and Kathie Peyton, Maxine Nelson, Poppy Dean, Shirley Baker, Marion Boyd, Marlene Carpenter, Alice Wolf, Fritz Ostmeier and Marilyn Surmeier. Lissa Mazanec was a guest.

Plans for the club's first juried amateur art show next spring were discussed. There will be a \$15 charge for every two paintings submitted. Each member will receive four tickets to the reception; others attending will be charged \$5 each.

A letter received from the Thomas County Community Foundation concerning a donation to the club noted that the donation was from the Frahm Farmland Employee Advised Fund through the Foundation, and had been made out to the Thomas County Historical Society who passed it on to the club. The money will probably be used

to help fund the art show.

Brown said her computer had been scammed, and several members received e-mails purporting to be from her, saying she was in London and asking for money.

Hughes reminded members about the club's art exhibit Friday, March 16, through Monday, April 30, at the Prairie Museum of Art and History. Each member may exhibit three pictures.

Ketchum proposed a life drawing workshop. He explained the equipment and facilities needed. Members suggested he contact the college and see what arrangements can be made.

Ketchum said he is working on an art show, with paintings of 20 to 25 historic buildings in Thomas County.

Refreshments of crackers, cheese and fruit were served by Poppy Dean.

The next meeting will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, at the Colby United Methodist Church. Guests are welcome.

- Maxine Nelson, secretary

Farm conference focuses on women

The eighth annual Women Managing the Farm Conference will be Friday and Saturday, Feb. 10 and 11, at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita.

In an industry traditionally dominated by men, more and more women own and manage their own farms. The conference is a comprehensive program designed to give women the insight to manage their investment.

"Farm women who are helping to grow the nation's food supply are being recognized more and more for their contribution to agriculture," says Janet Barrows, conference coordinator and vice president of marketing and

communications for Frontier Farm Credit. "The conference provides a unique situation to participate with women who see the value and importance of learning ways they can impact issues affecting today's agriculture."

Presentations regarding business planning, health, managing employees and more will be interspersed with opportunities for networking and learning from others attending the conference. The conference has been developed for all women involved in an operation from the full-time manager to the absentee landowner.

Keynote speakers include Dana Peterson, National Association of Wheat Growers; Dan

Thomson, veterinarian, K-State Research and Extension; Cheryl Tevis, *Successful Farming* magazine; Ed O'Malley, Kansas Leadership Center; and Cheryl Unruh, author of "Flyover People."

Registration and information is at www.togpartners.com/wmf. Cost is \$145 if paid by Friday, Jan. 27; \$170 after that date.

The Soybean Commission has provided money for 25 scholarships of \$150 each for farm women with limited resources. The scholarship form can be obtained on the website. If you do not have web access, contact the Odyssey Group at (320) 224-0154.

Kansas chief justice seeks flexibility for courts

By John Hanna
AP Statehouse Correspondent

TOPEKA - Chief Justice Lawton Nuss asked Kansas legislators Wednesday evening to give the state Supreme Court more flexibility in administering the judicial branch and endorsed repeal of a law that requires each of the state's 105 counties to have at least one judge.

That could mean an end to a long tradition of resident judges in many western Kansas counties, where caseloads are light and many judges are not lawyers. The rule has been a topic in discussions over the last year by a special panel on court reorganization.

Nuss also asked legislators to provide money for projects that will allow court documents to be filed and stored electronically across the state and unify dozens of judicial computer systems so that clerks in widely separated counties can help each other.

The proposals for improving technology, giving the Supreme Court more administrative flexibility and repealing the one-judge-per-county law were recommendations from a commission the justices created last year to study ways to make the judicial branch more efficient. Nuss used the annual State of the Judiciary address to make the commission's recommendations public.

The chief justice also repeatedly cited the State of the State address last week by Republican Gov. Sam Brownback to the GOP-controlled Legislature in saying that the seven-member Supreme Court

is pushing to make the judicial branch operate more efficiently.

"Times are changing, and Kansas is in transition," Nuss told legislators. "We wanted to see if we could improve our administration of justice, be more efficient and make best use of the hard-earned money of Kansas taxpayers."

Nuss described the one-judge-per-county rule as outdated. The review of judicial branch operations included a study of district court workloads, both for the number and complexity of cases, and it said while no new judges are needed, "a reallocation should be considered."

The Legislature enacted the law in 1983, after it unified the administration of county court systems under the Supreme Court. Judicial branch officials and some legislators have suggested the law's repeal in the past, but the idea always has faced strong opposition from rural lawmakers.

Legislators listened politely to Nuss' address and praised the Supreme Court's emphasis on making the judicial branch more efficient, but some had misgivings about eliminating the one-judge-per-county rule. Senate President Steve Morris, a Hugoton Republican, compared losing judges to losing schools.

"That's a tough issue when you come from a rural area," said Rep. Mitch Holmes, a St. John Republican.

Nuss stressed that repealing the law won't necessarily lead the court to remove judges from any counties, but he said the justices need the authority to shift person-

nel when workloads shift.

"What it's doing is removing an artificial restriction," Nuss told reporters after his address.

House Speaker Mike O'Neal said the commission's recommendations, endorsed by the high court, deal with longstanding issues and aren't surprising. Still, he said, having the commission's report and the caseload study are helpful.

"Hopefully that will be the impetus to getting some changes made," said O'Neal, a Hutchinson Republican and an attorney. "The court ought to be able to manage its own judicial resources."

The court system previously has struggled with budget problems because its staff accounts for almost all of its costs. In 2010, the court was forced to close four days, keeping employees home without pay.

Nuss thanked legislators for not cutting the court budget this year and urged them not to remove almost \$2 million for developing an electronic filing system from the judicial branch's request for the fiscal year beginning July 1. Nuss said the courts are developing an estimate for the cost of merging district court computer systems.

Under its recommendations, the judicial budget would increase 3.3 percent, or about \$4.3 million, during the next fiscal year, to more than \$133 million. The bulk of the money would come from state tax dollars, but it includes up to \$11 million raised by a special

surchage in court fees that the justices imposed amid previous budget problems.

"We ask to be free to exercise more of the flexibility practiced by today's Kansas farmers and other Kansas businesspeople" Nuss said, "because this increased flexibility is necessary for us to better meet the justice needs of all Kansas citizens."

Bunnies gone before meal

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) - Portland police say more than a dozen rabbits reported stolen the night before a rabbit-cooking class have been returned by bunny advocates who had been caring for them.

Members of the volunteer group Rabbit Advocates say they're trying to buy the bunnies so they can live as pets.

Police say 18 rabbits belonging to farmer Levi Cole disappeared on Jan. 7. Cole says the theft occurred the night before he taught a class on raising, slaughtering and cooking rabbits.

Cole is an instructor for the Portland Meat Collective. He believes the theft was politically motivated. Police have no suspects.

Rabbit Advocates board member Erin Ford says the bunnies were dumped anonymously at the home of a volunteer.



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Timothy Eugene Wetzel

Timothy Eugene Wetzel (4-20-78 to 12-28-11), son of Bill and Melanie Wetzel, was born in Hays. Tim graduated from Augusta High School and received his associate's degree from Butler Community College. He then graduated Summa Cum Laude in mechanical engineering from WSU. He had an interest in trumpet that continued into college and later joined the praise band at Holy Cross Lutheran Church where he was a member. He resided and worked as a mechanical engineer in the Wichita aircraft industry at Hawker Beechcraft and most recently Learjet. Tim was the owner/operator of Wichitaracing.com, a car enthusiast Web site that brought together thousands of people and created numerous lifelong friendships.

Tim is survived by his parents, Bill and Melanie Wetzel, 2340 Crest St., Augusta, KS 67010; brother, Daniel and wife Becca of Wichita; and brother, Matthew and fiancée Jessica Sutton of Augusta. Glenda Albright, Colby, was an aunt. Memorials may be sent to: Holy Cross Lutheran Church Memorial Fund, 600 N. Greenwich Rd., Wichita, KS 67206.

Photos on YouTube.com - search Tim Wetzel.