

# Raffle prize leads to ‘serious’ research

My husband and I enjoyed the City of Colby 25th Annual Awards Banquet on Saturday. I had the great joy of winning a prize during the raffle that guests and employees can participate in. Instead of winning the coveted prize, I won a can of Spam!

As everyone there knew, I was overjoyed to receive such a blessing. In honor of that event, I’d like to dedicate this column to all the city employees who work daily to serve those in our community.

When I received this delightful can of Spam, being the librarian I am, I wanted to paraphrase quote Dr. Seuss a bit and declare, “I do not like them Sam-I-am. I do not like green eggs and Spam.” Sam-I-am asks the character if he could eat it other places. He says, “I would not, could not in the dark.... I would not, could not, in the rain. Not in the dark. Not on a train. Not in a car. Not in a tree. I do not like them, Sam, you see ... I will not eat them here or there. I do not like them anywhere! (Green Eggs and Ham, pp. 12, 37-39).”

I have eaten Spam on occasion in my life. I had it growing up and did not really appreciate it. When I married my husband, I discovered he had five cans in the cupboard. When we moved to the Philippines four years later, we still had the same Spam. One thing we did not take with us, were the five cans of Spam!

As I was pondering this subject, I decided maybe I did not appreciate the culinary delight I might be missing by not eating this food product. The back of the can says to add it to your Mac and Cheese. Maybe there were recipes to be found in cookbooks in the library. I figured there must be a recipe to help cooks like me enhance and use such food.

The first item I looked in was the “Mom ‘N’ Pop’s Apple Pie 1950s Cookbook,” by Barbara Stuart Peterson. Many military men ate Spam during World War II, so

# Three harvest options offered by strawberries

Strawberry planting time is whenever soil becomes workable in spring. In the Midwest, that’s usually March or April.

Experts have been disagreeing for decades, however, about how many strawberry types are available to plant – two or three.

So, gardeners may find the “facts” vary from gardening book to magazine to Extension publication, said Ward Upham, K-State Research and Extension horticulturist.

“Fortunately, if you know what the terms mean, you’ll be able to select the best type for you. Then you can look up the varieties recommended by the state university where you live,” he said.

A strawberry variety’s “type” indicates how it relates to day length, Upham said. That response affects both berry and runner (daughter plant) production:

- June-bearing – easily the most popular. On average, these varieties produce the most berries – size and quantity – and the most bed-renewing daughter plants (runners). They can be early- or mid-



Melany Wilks

## •Library Links

I figured if anyone had a recipe for Spam this book should. I then looked at “Rare Recipes and Budget Savers (Volumes 1-4, from the Columns of the Wichita Eagle’s Home Town News),” compiled by Frank Good. These books had nothing.

I continued my search by looking in the following items: “Betty Crocker’s 40th Anniversary Edition Cookbook,” by Betty Crocker’s staff; “The Best Barbecue on Earth,” by Rick Browne; “Potluck at Midnight Farm,” by Tamara Weiss; “The Food Substitutions Bible,” by David Joachim; “Kansas Cookbook: Recipes from the Heartland,” by Frank Carey; “5 Ingredients in 10 Minutes or Less,” by Paula Hamilton; and last but not least, “The Librarian’s Cookbook,” by Betty-Carol Sellen and Gloria Brown. None had any mention of Spam.

I decided I’d do a quick search on Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia on the Internet. There I learned that Spam was created in 1937 as a meat product derived from Spiced Ham. After the war such places as Hawaii, Okinawa and the Philippines had this food introduced to them as a protein meat product since other forms of fresh meat were difficult to come by. Today Hawaii, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands are the largest consumers of Spam. Each person is thought to eat 16 cans per year. McDonald’s and Burger King both serve Spam in some of the above island restaurants (Spam: From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia).

As I read this article I remember that I was served Spam in the Phil-



Melanie Wilks took her Spam prize to her library office for some in-depth research.

ippines for breakfast. I learned to prefer its taste and smell to other things like the dried fish called “Daing” which smelled repulsive cooking in the early morning hours!

In desperation, I Googled, “Spam Recipes.” There I found a website, Cooks.com Recipe Search. They had numerous recipes for Spam. My favorite was Pineapple Spam Upside-down Cake. Moments later a staff member came running into my office. She declared, “You won’t believe this, but I just came across a video. Its title is ‘Blue Cheese and Spam’” (youtu.be/Sjbxh1-PXY3Y)!

I did not get to the point of Dr. Seuss’s character in the YouTube video and book. I can eat Spam with fried eggs and rice for breakfast, but I really do not want it in a box, in a boat, on a train, in the

dark, in the rain or in any Pineapple Upside-down Cake!

Speaking of delightful food, remember that next week is Chocolate And All That Jazz at 7 p.m. Tuesday. The Colby Community College Jazz Band and Sunflower Singers will join us in celebrating Valentine’s Day.

The Book Lovers Book Sale begins at 9 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 23. The hours are 9 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23, 9 to 4:45 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24, 9 to 3:45 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25.

You also need to be purchasing your tickets for the Murder Mystery Dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 3.

The library normal winter hours are: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through 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!

# Chocolate and jazz make sweet Valentine

Chocolate and jazz will be combined for a special Valentine’s Day event at the Pioneer Memorial Library on Tuesday, Feb. 14, in Colby.

The Colby Community College Jazz Band, directed by Tony Schroer, will be perform-

ing while the audience indulges in chocolate and desserts beginning at 7 p.m. in the basement of the library.

There is no charge to attend. Donations will be accepted.

For information, contact the library at 460-4470.

# Wrong-number call helps Ohio woman having stroke

CUYAHOGA FALLS, Ohio (AP) – A woman who called the wrong number when she suffered a stroke still found help a couple of time zones away.

Loretta Smith, of Cuyahoga Falls near Akron, felt her right side go numb and fell to the floor at her home last weekend.

The 70-year-old Smith said she was able to grab the phone with her left hand and thought she was calling her son. Instead, she was one digit off and reached a man in the Denver area who was originally from northeast Ohio and had kept the same number after he moved.

“It was a woman, and she said ‘I may be having a stroke,’” said Kenny Crater, 28, a sculpture major at Metropolitan State University in Denver.

Crater asked for her name and

address and offered to get help. His 911 call was answered by Broomfield, Colo., police, who transferred his call to Cuyahoga Falls.

Smith was taken to Summa Western Reserve Hospital in Cuyahoga Falls, where it was determined that she had suffered a mini-stroke, said Dr. Joseph Nienaltowski.

Smith said Crater saved her life. “I want this kid to be praised to high heaven,” she said.

Crater said Smith had done her part, too. “I do not feel like I have done anything special,” he said.

“I didn’t save her,” Crater said. “She found me.”

**Got news? Tell us!** Call 462-3963

## Deaths

## Zelma Mae Reed

Zelma Mae Reed, 95, Colby, a lifetime resident of Thomas County, died Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2012, at the Prairie Senior Living Center in Colby.

She was born Sept. 11, 1916, the daughter of Melville and Lula (Burg) Bever, in rural Thomas County. After attending Olive Branch Grade School, she graduated from Colby High School in 1934.

In October of 1939, she married Burtis Reed. While her children were young she was a homemaker; she worked at the Post Office in later years.

A member of the Colby United Methodist Church, she was known as an accomplished artist and a great cook.

Preceding her in death were her parents, her husband in 1978, a son, Ronald Reed, and eight siblings.

Survivors include two sons, Robert (Kay) Reed, Stockton; and Keith (Karen) Reed, Monument; a daughter, Kathleen (Robert) Bryan, Rochester Hills, Mich.; a daughter-in-law, Virginia Reed, Houston, Texas; five grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday, Feb. 13, 2012, at the Baal-mann Mortuary in Colby.

Visitation will be from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday at the mortuary.

The family suggests memorials to the church in care of the mortuary, Box 391, Colby, Kan., 67701.

## Daughters of Isabella

The Daughters of Isabella Immaculate Heart of Mary circle met last Thursday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Colby.

The meeting was called to order by Regent Charlene Barnett, who lit a candle and said a prayer for deceased member Dorothy Stephens. The opening ode was sung and pledge to the flag said as a group. Chancellor Joan Ziegler read a message from the Spiritual Reflection Guide.

A thank you from Darline Huffles was read for the 50-year membership certificate. Letters were read from the state and international offices.

Welfare: Joan Albers and Pat Mumm have visited the sick, Loretta Meitl and Mary Helen Bixenman. Ceann Rinehart thanked those sending cards to her mother for her 90th birthday. Albers reported Hankie Beckman has had some success from her eye surgery. Laura Krejci visited Father Dana in Salina.

Krejci and her mother went to

Washington, D.C., for the Right to Life Rally; there were 90 from Kansas on two buses. Albers said there is a web site “Priests for Life” with facts and figures about the number of abortions. At 9 a.m. Saturday there will be a Walk for a Grieving Heart to benefit Rachel’s Vineyard, a fundraiser for post-abortion healing. It will be in the Colby gym and outside; there will also be walks in Hays and Sharon Springs.

Rinehart will take the calling list to remind people of meetings and special events.

Albers took a scholarship application for her granddaughter, due to be returned by Thursday, March 1.

All but three members have paid their dues.

Following the meeting, Marje Robben and Florence Horinek served valentine cupcakes, candy, coffee and tea for the time of visiting.

– Margaret Denneler  
Recording Secretary

# Rexford scholars win middle school league

By Russ Aumiller

The Golden Plains Middle School seventh and eighth grade scholars’ bowl teams finished their season last week by competing at Brewster on Jan. 30 and the Freedom League on Feb. 1.

The Brewster Invitational was pool play format. Both teams went undefeated in their respective four rounds of pool play. In bracket play the seventh grade team did not win either match, leaving them with fourth place.

The eighth grade team won their first match of bracket play, sending them to the championship round to face Rawlins County for the second time. Unfortunately they were 10 points – one question – behind when the round was over, giving them second place overall in the eighth grade division.

On Feb. 1, the team was at Heartland Christian for the Freedom League meet where eleven

teams competed. Both teams went undefeated in their respective pools and in the bracket play to give both teams the league championship. This is the second year in a row that both teams have taken home gold medals.

Eighth grade team members were Kami Miller, Madison Walz, Kade Wessel, Koi Wessel, and Cole Ziegelmeier. Seventh grade team members included Nick Brown, Arianna Camacho, Morgan Ritter, Austin Rivera, and Dawson Spresser.

## 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.*

## AYSO Spring Soccer Registration Feb. 15th - 19th

If you are wanting to play soccer and didn’t register last fall, call

**Emily Griffin**  
**785-460-0647**

to get a form.

Registration fee is \$50 and covers insurance & uniforms.

Spring Season is from March 31<sup>st</sup> - May 26<sup>th</sup>

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