

Historic site celebrates old-fashioned holidays

Celebrate rich holiday traditions at the Fort Larned National Historic Site. Everyone is invited to a Christmas Open House beginning at 1 p.m. on Saturday, with guided tours. A walk through a few of the original buildings will capture the essence of the fort in winter. The traditions of the past can be found in its simple decorations and the foods. Visitors will be invited to experience at the fort. Lend a hand with decorating a tree. Meet the officers and their wives as they prepare for a holiday celebration. Be sure to stop in the barracks and see how the enlisted men celebrated Christmas. From 5 to 7 p.m. all will assemble in the hospital, where Chris Day and Janet Armstead will perform holiday music of the period. Santa Claus will make an appearance before the close of the evening's entertainment. The site is six miles west of Larned on K-156. Open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., information on visiting is at www.nps.gov/fols, or call (620) 285-6911. There is no admission fee.

Group of major hard copy publishers restrict E-book access to public libraries

Six major publishers are making it difficult, if not impossible, for libraries to purchase E-books. Those same six publishers are responsible for publishing nearly all the bestsellers. The State Library of Kansas has been at the front of the E-book conflicts, since State Librarian Jo Budler rejected a contract renewal from the E-book monopoly OverDrive, that would have increased costs nearly 700 percent. Since then, Kansas has settled in nicely with alternative platforms that include 3M, OneClickDigital and the newly acquired Freading and Baker & Taylor. Now the dilemma seems to lie with six publishers, Hachette, Macmillan, HarperCollins, Simon & Schuster and the newly merged Random House and Penguin Group. In reaction to the restrictions and prices these publishers are placing on E-books in libraries, the State Library launched a community Facebook page, www.facebook.com/thebig6ebooks, bringing attention to the titles publishers are refusing to sell to libraries, price gouging or limiting checkouts per copy purchased. Budler is hopeful that this page will bring librarians and library users together and show that they are aware of the

gaps on their digital shelves and are mindful of the publishers responsible. "Writing to publishers and complaining to each other about the publisher/library E-book conflict wasn't enough," said Budler. "We needed a platform of our own to come together with the public and really take a look at the content not available. It's really a missed opportunity for these publishers. Data indicates that libraries increase ebook buying business. Why are these publishers seeing this as a threat and not an opportunity? This is a gain-gain for all parties – the libraries, the publishers, and the readers." To help bring attention to titles affected by publisher's unwillingness to work with libraries, please visit and like www.facebook.com/thebig6ebooks. For information on E-book lending in Kansas, visit your local library or go to www.kslib.info/digitalbooks.html.



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