



George Dyer

## Branson show Sunday at Colby High School

George Dyer, known as one of the world's great tenors, will present his Branson Christmas show at 3 p.m. Sunday in the Colby High School auditorium.

Joined by his wife Charisse and daughter Kendra, plus a back-up group of keyboard, piano and drums, Dyer will present a program of familiar Christmas carols and pop tunes, including such favorites as "White Christmas," "O Holy Night," "I'll Be Home for Christmas" and "Silent Night."

Mr. Dyer appeared on the oper-

atic scene in 1996 as Ralph Rackstraw in "H.M.S. Pinafore" at the New York City Opera. He has performed in prestigious halls around the globe and entertained audiences with solo performances that include many Broadway favorites. His wife and daughter join him in duets and trios.

The show is part of the Western Plains Arts Association series. Admission is by season ticket or at the door, adults \$20 and students \$10.

## Rexford junior varsity takes first at Wheatland

By Hailee Spresser

Golden Plains High School

On Nov. 19, the Golden Plains High School scholar's bowl varsity and junior varsity teams competed in Wheatland. Ten teams competed, including Golden Plains, Wallace County, Rawlins County, Grinnell-Wheatland, Palco, Weskan, Quinter, Triplains, Brewster and Greeley County.

The varsity team was in a pool with Wallace County, Rawlins County, Grinnell-Wheatland and Palco. They had four matches of pool play and went 2-2, winning against Wallace County and Palco, but fell short to Wheatland-Grinnell and Rawlins County. The varsity did not make it out of pool play into tournament play.

"The questions were more challenging in this meet than in previous meets," junior Jacob Anholz said. "We can improve on buzzing in more and guessing if we don't know. Our goal for the next meet in Colby is to place."

This was the junior varsity's

first meet of the season. Golden Plains had four pool-play matches in which they defeated Palco, Wallace County and Rawlins County, but fell to Wheatland-Grinnell. Golden Plains advanced out of pool play as the No. 1 seed in tournament play.

Taking on Brewster for their first game out of pool play, Golden Plains was down 5 to 20, but made a comeback, winning the game 35-30. For the gold medal, the junior varsity competed against Rawlins County. Golden Plains took home the gold, defeating Rawlins County 50-30. The junior varsity scholar's bowl team consists of junior Lena Janke and freshmen Kami Miller, Koi Wessel, Kade Wessel and Cole Ziegelmeier.

"We did well competing in our first high school scholar's bowl," said freshman Kade Wessel. "Hopefully, this will translate to a good season for the JV."

Both the varsity and junior varsity scholar's bowl teams were to compete Monday in Colby.

## Christmas tree farm closing

VANCE, Ala. (AP) — After 22 years spent growing firs for families to decorate with ornaments, Billy and Katie Gandy are having a bittersweet holiday season as they prepare to retire their Christmas tree business.

"We wanted to get out while we were still able to sell off the trees we had left," said Billy Gandy, 71. "But we've enjoyed it. These trees have added years to our lives."

The Tuscaloosa News reports (http://bit.ly/TDODIs) the couple started Gandy Christmas Tree Farm in 1990 and sold their first mature trees four years later. Their farm has been a holiday staple ever since. The Gandys would sell up to 500 Christmas trees every season until they decided to scale back five years ago. Where they once grew trees on 20 acres, they

cut back to about 3 acres.

Now the couple's grandchildren are grown and there's no one around to help out with the work. Billy Gandy said tree farming can be a tough job. Each fall he would plant a fresh set of trees in the ground and trim them three times a year to get the desired fullness. The trees also require spraying every 21 days to prevent fungus from growing. Getting a tree ready to cut takes four years.

"He didn't realize just how much work it would be," said Katie Gandy, who would prepare for the holiday business by making wreaths to sell along with candles and other knickknacks in the Christmas shop the couple would set up in the garage.

The Gandys said they might ease into growing a different crop.

## Bring some food; erase those big fines

The Pioneer Memorial Library began its Christmas campaign called Food for Fines Saturday. This year, it continues until 3:45 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 22.

What is Food for Fines? A library patron with overdue fines may bring in canned or boxed foods of roughly equal value to redeem the fines. Food must have current dates, intact labels and be in good condition.

You can redeem fines by bringing in food, filling out a form and giving the items and your slip to the library staff so they can remove fines from your record. We will be donating the food items to Genesis-Thomas County.

Food for Fines does not apply to lost or damaged items; please talk to our library staff about those and solve the problem.

Now, let me tell you about some great Christmas books and CDs we are adding to our shelves, just for your winter enjoyment. The first is available in book and CD, "A Winter Dream," by Richard Paul Evans.

Protagonist Joseph Jacobson is the 12th of 13 in his family. All the children work in the successful family business in Colorado. Joseph's life is going well and he believes it will continue down that path until some underhanded dealings by his siblings leave his whole world coming apart at the seams. Find out how Evans, the ultimate writer and storyteller, concludes the whole affair.

A second book is "The Bridge," by Karen Kingsbury. We have this in both regular print and CD audio format. Molly Allen and Ryan Kelly once spent many happy hours together in the Bridge Bookstore in Franklin, Tenn. Molly is now in Portland, alone and pining for Ryan, who is on the road performing country music. Even after two years he cannot get Molly's voice out of his head, a clarion call to him to follow his dreams.

Back in town briefly, Ryan decides to visit the bookstore where they use to hang out together. He finds that Charlie and Donna Barton, the owners of the store, have not only lost most of their books from a flood, they are also underwater on their mortgage. Only a miracle of circumstances can help the Bartons. Find out how Kingsbury ends this great book.

A third item is "Angels at the Table" (a Shirley, Goodness, and Mercy Christmas Story), by Debbie Macomber. We have this in both regular and large print edi-



Melany Wilks

### •Library Links

tions. Macomber brings angels Shirley, Goodness and Mercy back to earth along with Will, their apprentice angel, who has never been to earth. Arriving on New Year's Eve, Will is wide eyed with anticipation. He spies two people in Times Square and helps their relationship take off. Lucie Farrara, a chef, and Aren Fairchild, of all things a food critic, hit it off immediately — but time proves their work causes interesting challenges. Laugh, smile and enjoy this book.

A fourth book is "Christmas Pony," by Melody Carlson. In 1937, Lucy Turnbull's family runs a boarding house in town. Lucy, 8, yearns for a horse. However, her parents barely keep food on the table and adding a horse's needs to the grocery list is out of the question. Mom challenged Lucy to ask God to provide boarders so they could make ends meet. Lucy decided she'd be more creative. Find out what she did.

Other Christmas titles include some in large and regular print.

Remember we have other items such as Christmas-themed cake pans and cookie cutters for check-out. We have lots of Christmas cookbooks, craft and gift idea books. We also have Christmas DVDs. Don't forget the picture books for your children, grandchildren or just adults who love stories to read and enjoy together. If you are having a large crowd at your home, you can rent the roaster for \$5 (three days checkout) to use. We also have a bread maker and a 30-cup coffee pot to borrow as well.

Some people have mentioned they love playing board games. The library has scheduled a Game Night at 7 p.m. next Thursday in the meeting room. Those who come get to decide what we play.

Up until Sunday, Dec. 23, our regular winter hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, to 5 p.m. Friday and to 4 p.m. Saturday. Sunday hours are 1 to 4 p.m. We will tell you our holiday hours as the time gets closer and have them posted on our doors and our website (colbylibrary.com).

See you in the library!

## Golden Plains scholars place seventh in Goodland

By Tayler Petersen

Golden Plains High School

Bulldogs played Wallace County and beat them for seventh. Participating schools were Rawlins County, Cheylin, Brewster, Colby, Greeley County, Hoxie, Oakley, Quinter, Golden Plains and Wallace County.

"We have a better record this year," Macayla Easton said, "but we still could use some improvement." The next meet was to be Nov. 19 at Wheatland-Grinnell.

## Fort looks at 'Christmas Past'

The Fort Hays State Historic Site will hold "Christmas Past" from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Admission is \$2. Kansas Historical Foundation members and children 12 and under admitted free. Fort Hays is at 1472 U.S. 183 Alternate, Hays.

Officers' homes will be deco-

rated in the Victorian style and buildings lit with candlelight. Visitors can listen to live music, take a wagon ride, and visit with Father Christmas. Holiday treats include hot apple cider and fried apples made over a campfire. For information, call (785) 625-6812, or go to kshs.org/fort\_hays.

## Deaths

### Billy Keck

Billy Keck, 88, Colby, died Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2012, at the Hays Medical Center.

Services are pending at Baal-mann Mortuary in Colby, 462-2331.

## Solomon Valley 4-H Club

"What is your favorite thing about Thanksgiving?" was the roll call question asked at the Solomon Valley 4-H meeting on Nov. 12. There were 22 members present.

Kelly Sloan read October's meeting minutes.

The club discussed whether sand or wood chips would be preferred in the steer barn.

Nathan and Anna Stramel joined the club.

There were two demonstration given, by Quinlee Niblock, who made Gobble Gobble Turkey Treats, and by Chelsea Schroeder, who made apple smiles.

Guest speaker Tanya Gersh-burger talked about conservation.

Chandler Comfort led recreation with a basketball drill.

The Calliham and Stramel families provided the refreshments.

— Christian Calliham, Reporter

## Abilene Hustlers 4-H Club

In preparing for the upcoming holiday season, Abilene Hustlers 4-H Club members started off the December meeting Monday singing Christmas carols at Meadowlark Manor, Colby Care and Prairie Senior Living Center. Members were greeted by residents at all three centers. The club then gathered at the Thomas County 4-H building on the fairgrounds where they made over a hundred Christmas cards for Genesis and then enjoyed the annual soup supper.

Following the meal, club President Jory Koon called the meeting to order. Josh Koon led the flag salute, followed by Eryn Freeman leading the club in singing Jingle Bells. Club Secretary Taylor Todd called roll and 17 members answered with their favorite

Christmas song. Reporter Cassie Wells, Treasurer Tucker Gerstner and Council Representative Josh Koon gave the officer's reports. Community Leader Brandy Todd reported on upcoming club events and the annual 4-H pizza sales coming later in the month. Tucker Gerstner gave club members a parliamentary tip which was followed by a short business meeting.

Chance Hoeting gave a talk about the shooting sports project and Hunter Vaughn led the club members in "The Chinese Wall" for recreation. Josh Koon announced that Wells had perfect attendance for the past year. Kailey Shields led the 4-H Pledge and the meeting was adjourned.

— Cassie Wells, reporter

## Salina Symphony to air on television Monday

Smoky Hills Public Television will broadcast a taped production of Salina Symphony's "A Christmas Festival" from the 2011 season at 8 p.m. Monday. The symphony is led by Ken Hakoda, music director and conductor.

The concert was recorded at the Stiefel Theatre for the Performing Arts in Salina in December of 2011. "A Christmas Festival 2011" is scheduled to air three times this month: at 8 p.m. Monday, at 6

p.m. Saturday, Dec. 22, and at 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 24.

"Our Christmas Festival Concert is a highlight of every season and a true community celebration, with more than 200 performers on stage," said Adrienne Allen, executive director of the symphony. "We are thrilled to be able to present this festive holiday concert to a wider audience through our partnership with SHPTV."

## Skiing Santas hit the slopes for 'Santa Sunday' in Maine

NEWRY, Maine (AP) — A bunch of Santas have hit the slopes at a Maine ski resort.

Nearly 300 skiers and snowboarders decked out in red and white gathered at the Sunday River resort for the annual "Santa Sunday" event. Spokeswoman Darcy Morse says 292 of them pre-registered.

The 13th annual event raises money for the Bethel Rotary

Club's annual holiday toy drive.

Those who participated showed up in a Santa outfit and donated \$10 or more to the toy drive. Participants got to ski free for the day and receiving another lift ticket good through Friday, Dec. 14.

## 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)	\$8.47
Corn (bushel)	\$7.57
Milo (hundredweight)	\$13.07
Soybeans (bushel)	\$13.89

We want your local news: e-mail to colby.editor@nwkanas.com

## Look Who's Turning The Big "70"!



### KEN BIEBER Surprise Birthday Reception

at the B-Hive  
Tuesday, December 11, 2012  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Cards may be sent to:  
170 West Fourth, Colby

**OPEN HOUSE**  
**COME JOIN US...**  
**WOOFER**  
**(CHILI ~ HAM & BEANS ~ CINNAMON ROLLS)**  
**CONSTRUCTION & IRRIGATION**  
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**DECEMBER 11, 2012 ~ 11 A.M. - 2 P.M.**  
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