

Cold day for a water-main break



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Workers used a boom Tuesday morning to clean up after a water main broke Monday night at Third and Range, sending water through the gutter for several blocks. Public Works Director Omar Weber said a compression clamp gave way when part of the main was being changed out, and repair work was finished just before noon.

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Quirky titles spice up new books

This week I am going to tell you about some fun books with quirky titles.

The first is "The Pigeon Pie Mystery," by Julia Stuart. The author places this book in Hampton Court Palace near the Thames River in dear old England.

Queen Victoria has taken pity on Indian Princess Alexandrina after her father dies. Having been granted the rights to live in the palace, Princess Alexandrina is invited to a luncheon with others that live in the surrounding area. After eating lunch, General-Major Bagshot is found dead. Pooki, her lady's maid, is a suspect. This causes no small alarm for the princess.

The second book is "Blackberry Winter," by Sarah Jio. Protagonist Vera Ray goes to work on a blustery blackberry wintry day. She is behind on her rent and the landlord has just threatened her.

Daniel, her 3-year-old son, is afraid of this bad man and does not want his mom to leave him alone in their apartment to go to work. Vera must go however, so she can make money for their survival. When Vera returns in the early morning hours, she finds Daniel gone, but Max his teddy bear is lying suspiciously in clear sight. Vera must find out who has taken her son.

The next book is "The Worst is Yet to Come," by Mary Daheim.



Melany Wilks

•Library Links

This is book 27 in the *Bed-And-Breakfast* series. Mary and Joe run a bed and breakfast out of their home. Joe is working some back cases for the local police; Mary is going to a tourism event where the state bed and breakfast association will put up a booth.

Everything is going fine until a body is found. Mary is already under suspicion since there was a body found at her bed and breakfast, Hillside Manor. Events make Mary the highest suspect on the list. Joe and she must try and find out just who is doing these horrible things before it costs them their freedom or lives.

The next item is "The Beginner's Goodbye," by Anne Tyler. Aaron lost his wife about a year ago. All of a sudden Dorothy, his deceased wife, appears and begins to accompany him everywhere. At first, people that know them are surprised. Some acknowledge them, others look at Aaron and don't acknowledge her presence. Then Dorothy begins to come and go - which is driving Aaron crazy.

He begins talking to acquaintances and work associates about experiences with the dead. The first he runs into is a contractor building a bookshelf area in Daniel's home - the only one that confirms such an occurrence ever happened. Daniel is struggling, but banter at the office helps him to ask Peggy to go out with him. He decides to continue considering the subject and just let circumstances unfold. One day he will find peace again and Peggy will be there to see it.

If you love romance novels you might like to read "Shadow Into Sunlight," by Elaine Shelabarger in preparation for Valentine's Day. Read this short Avalon book now before everyone else is looking for love stories.

Lucy is a young beautiful woman who has just had her heart crushed by a suitor. Her stepmother sent her to Florence to her great-grandmother, Contessa di Lorenzo, who has great wealth and social prominence to share. Lucy is schooled in Italian and growing in confidence of her surroundings. Her grandmother expects her to conduct herself properly as a young lady of substance. Secret romances and such are forbidden.

When Lucy meets Maj. Charles Ryman, the troubles begin. Soon Lucy has to return to England. Ryman follows her but Lucy must be sure his intentions are honorable

and she will not be throwing her life away if she follows him to America.

Other Avalon Romance novels are: "Wait A Lonely Lifetime," by Leigh Verrill-Rhys; "Everything But A Mother," by Holly Jacobs; "Merely a Mister," by Sherry Lynn Ferguson; "What's In a Name," by Karen Frisch; "Matrimony and Murder," by Lois Lamanna; "Gets Her Man," by Sarah Richmond; "Nobody's Perfect," by Gina Arditto; "A Man for Amanda," by Jane McBride Choate; and "Accident Prone," by Heila Claydon.

In February the library is participating in the statewide Kansas Read program, this year reading "Then We Came to the End," by Joshua Ferris. This book was a National Book Award finalist about how our work sites become like family. It is supposed to be fun and enjoyable to read.

We will have Valerie Brown-Kuchera help us with a book discussion at 7 p.m. Monday, March 4. There are quite a few reading this book now, so get your name on the list for the ones that become available in February.

Our normal winter hours are now 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday. Hoping your new year has begun with joy.

See you in the library!

Some call ferrets pets, officials say pest

By Sue Manning
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES - The difference between owning a ferret in Hawaii and one in Pennsylvania can be up to three years in jail - and hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines.

That's the penalty for ferret fans in the Aloha State, where the three-pound members of the weasel and polecat family are banned amid concerns of the animals escaping and wreaking havoc on the islands' delicate ecosystems. Similar fears are behind a decades-old ban in California, which has one of the nation's most diverse ecosystems.

"The concern is that if these animals were released, like other non-native species have been, they would adapt and thrive and out-compete native species for food, and prey on native species," said Adrianna Shea, deputy director of California's Fish and Game Commission.

States have had problems with feral animals in nonnative environments, creating problems for native species by eating them or ravaging their food supply. Feral

cats, for example, have decimated bird populations. In Hawaii, the introduction of the mongoose to combat a rat problem "was a very poor idea. Rats are nocturnal and mongooses are diurnal. They only saw each other for a short period between dusk and dawn," said Minami Keevin, a land vertebrate specialist with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

But ferret fans argue that the foot-long domesticated creatures make excellent pets and shouldn't be regulated by wildlife agencies.

"Ferrets are really wonderful animals for those of us who are so inclined. They are messy, and they're expensive, and they're demanding, but they are full of personality, full of love and full of joy," said Pat Wright, who lives in La Mesa, near San Diego, and has been fighting California's ban for nearly 20 years.

Keeping a ferret as a pet takes more time, care and money than owning a dog or cat. The American Veterinary Medical Association in Schaumburg, Ill., which recently posted a YouTube video on pet ferrets, noted that they need to be caged most of the time, require hours of exercise and emit a

musky odor that many people find unpleasant. Large cages are expensive, but on the other hand, ferrets don't require as much medical or dental care as cats or dogs.

"They are wonderful little clowns that not only steal your heart but they will steal anything they deem is theirs. This includes your shoes, socks, pens, pencils, hairbrushes, potatoes, car keys, wallets and clothing. I had two ferrets that tried to take my notebook computer to what is called their hidey-hole," said AmyJo Casner of Harrisville, Pa., who legally owns ferrets Manny, Marcuz and Marylin.

Their antics are better than antidepressants, said Casner, whose pets inspired her to start a ferret clothing line that she sells online.

A count of ferret owners across the U.S. was unavailable, but the American Pet Products Association said that in 1992, 2 percent of people who owned a small animal like a mouse, rat, ferret, gerbil,

rabbit, hamster or guinea pig said they had a ferret. In 2000, 10 percent of small-animal owners said they had a ferret, and 7 percent in 2010 had them. That's despite bans in the two states, plus a number of large cities including New York, and U.S. military bases.

In California, where having a ferret can net a \$500 fine or six months in jail, Wright estimated between 50,000 and 500,000 pet ferrets live a clandestine existence. His guess is based on ferret-supply sales and a 5,000-member mailing list for his ferret legalization cause.

Shea, who said Fish and Game has never tried to verify those numbers, said California doesn't have enough game wardens to chase violators, so the ban is not strictly enforced. Billboards close to the borders of Arizona and Nevada point motorists in the direction of ferret sellers. And most pet stores in California carry ferret food and supplies.

Deaths

Katherine Ann Kirby

Katherine Ann Kirby, 50, Parsons, formerly of Colby, died Thursday, Jan. 10, 2013, at her home.

She was born July 15, 1962, in Burlington, Colo., the daughter of Lewis and Glovine (Doughty) Kirby. She grew up on a farm north of Burlington and graduated from Burlington High School.

In 1982, she moved to Colby with her mother and sister Jeanie.

In 2003, she moved to Parsons, and in 2006, she moved to Connections Resident Care for a brief time, before she moved to Successful Dreams Support Services.

She enjoyed her family and friends both in Colby and Parsons. She loved to swim and to go to rummage sales, Vintage Heir-

looms, Red Barn and St. Vincent DePaul, always looking for a bargain to share with friends. She enjoyed participating in community events such as Special Olympics, concerts in the park, family gatherings, graduations, holiday gatherings and the Sunbelt Rodeo.

Preceding her in death were her grandparents, her father, and a brother, Billy J. Kirby.

Survivors include her mother, Glovine Kirby Golemboski, and two sisters, Alice Russell and Jeanie (Travis) Sies, all of Colby, nephew and niece, and two aunts.

A graveside memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, 2013, at Beulah Cemetery in Colby with Pastor Eugene Rothfuss officiating.

David L. Browne II

David L. Browne II, 82, Norton, father of David (Joan) Browne III of Colby, died Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2013, at the Norton Community Hospital in Norton.

He was born Oct. 6, 1930, to David and Helen (Correll) Browne in Norton. A fourth-generation Norton County resident, he graduated from Norton Community High School in 1948, and entered the University of Notre Dame, studying business and accounting.

Following his junior year, he served two years with the Marine Corps in Korea, attaining the rank of sergeant. He returned to Notre Dame, graduating in 1954.

He was an office manager for the Upjohn Pharmaceutical Co. in Kansas City when he met Norma "Honey" Wurster Browne. They married June 23, 1956. In 1960, he returned to the family business, operating Browne's Clothing in Norton and Hays for over three decades. After retirement, he continued to operate Browne Farms.

He was involved in community affairs, serving on the Norton County Fair Board, as chairman of the United Fund Campaign,

the Norton School Board and the Booster Club, the Norton County Hospital Board, the First Security Bank board, and the Norton Development Corp. The Browne family has been a strong supporter of the Norton Library. David, his brother, John, and sister, Ann Davis, donated the Browne's Store building to the youth of Norton County.

Preceding him in death were his parents and his brother, John.

Survivors include his wife, of the home; two daughters, Becky (Hank) Spencer, Marshfield, Wis., and Lisa (Bruce) Fillingim, Coppell, Texas; and two other sons, Steve (Julie) Browne, Leawood; and Chris (Kerrie) Browne of Tulsa; and 14 grandchildren.

Services were Monday, Jan. 14, 2013, at the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Norton, with burial in the Norton Cemetery.

The family suggests memorials to the library, in care of the funeral home, 215 W. Main, Norton, Kan., 67654.

Condolences may be left at www.enfieldfh.com.

Colby Rotary Club

The Colby Rotary Club met Tuesday at Colby Community College with 35 members and guests Marla Bauman, Michelle Hubert, Joy Rothfuss and Heather Reitcheck.

Thank you notes were read from Colby Grade School, Puddle Duck Preschool and Colby Housing Authority for recent service projects.

Tama Unger reported the Coats for Kids project provided for 27 children and thanked members for their donations.

Gene Rothfuss had the program. His guests were Bauman, foster parent recruiter, and Reitcheck, resource worker, with Saint Francis Community Services.

Saint Francis was started in 1945 by Father Robert (Bob) Mize Jr., an Episcopal minister from Ellsworth, as an alternative for juvenile delinquents who were becoming lost in the system of institutions, reformatories or jail.

Today Saint Francis provides a range of services for family preservation, reintegration, foster care homes and residential services and is serving over 4,000 children and their families in 77 counties. The organization's mission statement is to be an instrument of healing for children, youths and families in spirit, mind and body, so they live responsibly and productively with purpose and hope.

There are 12 foster care homes in the Colby area and there is a need for more. Bauman encouraged anyone interested in becoming a foster parent to contact them.

Leilani Thomas won Roto-Lotto.

The club meets each week in Room 106 of the Student Union.

- Relda Galli

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$7.82
Corn (bushel)	\$7.37
Milo (hundredweight)	\$12.52
Soybeans (bushel)	\$13.46

BANKRUPTCY LAWYER
800.347.1353
Appointments by phone:

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Recycle Please Recycle

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.

Jared Pete Gile

APPEARING LIVE

Saturday, Jan. 19th
9:00 p.m.

Meadow Lake Golf Course

Going out of Business Sale

C & M Gun • January 16th - 19th

All Bass Pro, Fishing Products, Hunting Accessories, Knives, Belt Buckles - **50% OFF**

Leather Conchos, Snaps, Sewing and Lacing Supplies, Conditioners and Dyes, Instruction Books - **50% OFF**

Some Ammo Still Available In Store

785-465-2257 or 785-462-5598

Colby American Legion Post 363

BREAKFAST FEED

When: Sat. Jan. 19

Time: 7:00 - 10 a.m.

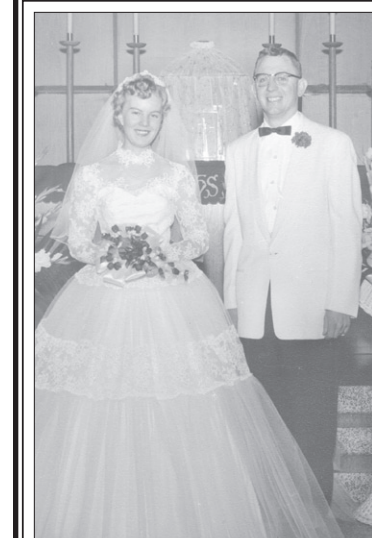
Where: 1850 W. 4th St.

Biscuits & Gravy

Hashbrowns

Scrambled Eggs

★ ★ Free will donation ★ ★



55th Anniversary

A celebration of Charles & Pat Wagoner's 55th wedding anniversary will be held Saturday, January 19th at City Limits Convention Center in Colby.

Reception at 4:30 p.m. followed by a dance from 7 to 10 p.m.

Couple requests no gifts.