

Puppeteer and storytelling session Saturday at Fike Park

Don't forget to join Pioneer Memorial Library at Fike Park this Saturday at 1:15 p.m. Priscilla Howe will be in Colby for a puppeteer and storytelling session.

Plan to be at the park early. Before Priscilla takes the stage, Larry Booth will be entertaining us while we eat watermelon!

If the weather is not cooperative, the performance will take place at the library.

Thank you to the Colby Kiwanis Club for generously agreeing to sponsor this event.

There is always good news and bad news about this time every summer. For the pessimist, the summer is halfway over.



Jeff Friesen

• Library Link

For the optimist, half of the summer is still left! If you have some time to kill or are seeking relief from the summer heat, come to the nice, cool library, sign-in to one of the eight public access computers and surf the Internet to <http://www.bored.com>. This website will keep you more than entertained for a few hours.

If you missed it, Gov. Sebelius was at the library last Tuesday! After reading the book *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak, the Governor graciously signed and donated the book *No Matter What* by Debi Gliori. *No Matter What* has been chosen as the book for National Children's Book Week in Kansas this year.

Get it now; it might not be around in November for National Children's Book Week!

Of course, the library always hopes that reading to a child is on the short list of things that every parent plans on doing this summer.

However, summer is the prime time to finish up many of the "to-do" items that have been procrastinated too long.

And, as every woman knows, men can have the best of intentions but that won't fix the leaky faucet. Evidently Julie Sussman and Stephanie Glakas-Tenet were thinking the same thing when they decided to take action and write the book *Dare to Repair: A Do-It-Yourself*

Guide to Fixing (Almost) Anything in the Home.

This "how-to" manual describes the processes of fixing everything from replacing a toilet handle to adjusting the automatic garage door opener to adjusting the temperature of the hot water heater. Your husband is guaranteed to be surprised.

Some days it is just too nice outside to be hunched over a toilet bowl trying to fix a loose handle.

If it is, get some ideas from the book *Curb Appeal* published by Sunset Books on how to spruce up the outside of your house.

Give your yard a little more character by adding a "sleepy gardener" made out of terra-cotta pots. (page

101) Strategically add plants to the front of your house or look at different ways to dress up your house numbers. Landscaping ideas including trellises, retaining walls, masonry work, and pathways abound in this book. Have fun and good luck!

Pioneer Memorial Library is located at 375 W. 4th and open seven days a week.

Summer hours are as follows: Monday through Wednesday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. For information contact the library at 460-4470. As always, we are here to serve you.

Claim to name for baby is causing 'tug-of-war' between relatives

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I expect our first child in about a month. We know it will be a girl, and we are now in the process of selecting a name for her.

I love a certain unusual name, "Dallas," and my husband likes it, too.

It also works well with our last name. The problem is, my husband's sister, "Rita," has apparently claimed the name and forbids us to use it. Rita was almost named Dallas herself because that's where she was conceived. In truth, my husband and I are considering the name because of the story about his sister.

Abby, Rita isn't pregnant, married, or actively trying to have a baby. For all we know, she may never have one, let alone a girl. My husband and I really want to name our little girl Dallas, but we're worried about hurting Rita. Is it wrong to "steal" the name, and is Rita justified in telling us not to use it?

— MOMMY-TO-BE

DEAR MOMMY-TO-BE: I



Abigail Van Buren

• Dear Abby

shouldn't have to tell you that stealing is wrong, and you already know it will create hard feelings.

Unless you're prepared for the possible confusion of having two first cousins with the same name, I'd advise against giving your baby a name that has so much emotional significance to your husband's sister. How about naming her "Houston"?

DEAR ABBY: I haven't spoken to my middle sister, "Julia," since Christmas because we had a disagreement and she physically assaulted me. She tried to put my eye out with her fingers and push me down some stairs. She did it in front of my children as well as my niece. I know my sister needs help for her

anger issues.

How can I make Julia recognize that at 42 years of age, physically assaulting those who do not agree with her is not an option?

My siblings and I have endured years of abuse because if someone doesn't agree with her, Julia feels she has the right to strike out. She's abusive to everyone. She has even had physical altercations with my parents.

My children are afraid of her because of what she did to me. How can I get her to realize she's in desperate need of counseling? In her book, she is never wrong and everyone is against her.

— BEWILDERED SIS

DEAR BEWILDERED: Your sister appears to have serious mental problems that have gone untreated because your family has tolerated her bizarre behavior. When Julia began assaulting family members, the police should have been called and charges pressed. Stop covering for her. The next time it happens

— and it will — press charges. A judge can order a mental evaluation if she is a danger to others — and that's what she appears to be.

DEAR ABBY: Should a mother write thank-you notes on behalf of a child, and if so, for how long? My daughter has her first birthday coming up, and I'm curious about proper etiquette in this situation. — NEW MOM IN KANSAS

DEAR NEW MOM: Because your child is too young to write, you should write a thank-you note on her behalf. However, when she is old enough to have learned to print and spell, she should begin writing them herself. They don't have to be fancy, but "Thank you for ..." and her signature would be appreciated, I'm sure.

DEAR ABBY: I have a daughter, "Morgan," who is 4. I recently found out that Morgan's father wants to start having visitation with

her again after being out of her life for more than two years. We've gone to court, and I have been ordered to let this happen even though Morgan doesn't remember him.

Morgan has a problem with people; she gets very scared and upset when anyone gets too close to her, and becomes hysterical when someone tries to take her from me. She hasn't started preschool yet because the teachers told me they couldn't deal with her because she would cry until she made herself sick or passed out!

Now Morgan will have to be around her "father," and the courts say that after a few months of supervised visits he will be allowed to take her for unsupervised visits. I know how extremely hard this is going to be for my daughter, and it tears me apart to see her cry.

My question is, how do I explain to Morgan who this person is (she has had a "daddy" — my husband — since she was 1), and that I have no control over the fact that she has to see him and spend time alone

with him? Is there anything I can do to help her?

— HURTING

DEAR HURTING: Because your daughter's extreme separation anxiety has prevented her from entering preschool, my advice is to take her to a child psychologist for evaluation and therapy. You will be doing her an enormous favor.

Sometimes parents telegraph their fears to their children. Therefore, in order to manage your own anxiety about what's coming, some sessions with a therapist would be beneficial to you, too. Please don't put it off.

**friends
don't let friends
drive drunk.**

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