

Pioneer Memorial Library has new item for check-out

Stop reading this article at the end of this sentence if you think a library should only be a storage bin for books — because the library is now offering an mp3 player (aka audio player) loaded up with audio books for check-out!

Still reading? Every other month it seems like we have a “Oh — one more thing” announcement about a new Apple product from Steve Jobs, (chief executive officer of Apple Computers).

Just this week it so happens, Jobs announced the sale of a new Apple iPod with video capabilities.

This new trend of fitting more capabilities into one device is called “convergence.”



Jeff Friesen

• Library Link

A cell phone is now a phone, a calendar, a camera, an mp3 player, a memory device, a clock, etc. Technology, for its many benefits, is becoming harder to escape.

For upcoming generations these new trends are becoming a way of life. Alice Kahn said somewhat tongue-in-cheek, “For a list of all

the ways technology has failed to improve the quality of life, please press three.”

Pioneer Memorial Library has embraced technology as a means of providing a diverse and balanced set of formats to access information. We have computers available with Internet access.

For those who are not as comfortable with technology, we have references services to help find information as well print sources in our reference collection. Videos are provided in both the VHS and DVD format.

Books are available for check-out in regular, large, and electronic formats. And now, to complement the CD and tape collection of audio books, we have added a digital audio (aka mp3) player.

The audio player is less than half the size of a single CD but has the capability of holding up to 40 audio book titles! The following audio titles are currently available with the audio player and two more titles

will be added to the collection each month: *Matilda* by Roald Dahl (author of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory), *The Historian* by Elizabeth Kostova, *Tyrannosaurus Days* by Douglas Preston, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis (coming out as a movie this Christmas), *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd, and *Kira Kira* by Cynthia Kadohata (2005 Newberry Award Winner).

The audio player is our most adaptable format yet.

You can use it at home, in the car, or during a walk.

All accessories come with the audio player so you can use it under almost any circumstances — except underwater and I’ve heard rumors that even that isn’t true!

So swing by this week and check-out the future.

Pioneer Memorial Library is located at 375 West 4th and open

seven days a week. Winter hours will be as follows: Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information contact the library at 460-4470.

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Group criticizes Kansas science standards

TOPEKA (AP) — Proposed Kansas science standards that detractors view as attacking evolution have been criticized by a nonprofit educational research firm for being confusing and poorly written in places.

A report from the Mid-Continent Research for Education and Learning in Aurora, Colo., gave the Kansas standards good marks for being appropriate for all students, meeting testing criteria and challenging students to learn at a high level.

However, the report criticized the standards as unclear, especially in areas related to evolution and the study of life’s origins. The review noted the state doesn’t expect to test students on many key elements of evolution covered by language in the standards.

“These standards still need a lot of work, and there’s still a lot of problems with them,” said Steve Case, assistant director of the Center for Science Education at the University of Kansas.

Case is co-chairman of a committee of educators who proposed revising the state’s existing science standards but continuing to treat evolution as solid science, crucial for students to learn. Kansas law requires the State Board of Education to update academic standards regularly.

The board could vote on the final version of the science standards later this year. The standards will be used to develop tests for students.

Intelligent-design advocates persuaded the state board’s 6-4 conservative majority to include language

in the proposed standards indicating there’s a controversy over evolutionary theory — drawing criticism from many scientists.

The state board ordered Mid-Continent’s review, a standard practice when the board is revising academic standards. The board could order its staff or Case’s committee to make further revisions in response.

But Case said his committee is unlikely to do more work, noting that much of the criticism in the Mid-Continent review arose from changes made by conservative board members.

Case said there’s no excuse for anything but top scores from an outside review. However, Mid-Continent’s criticisms — that parts of the proposed standards were poorly worded or unclear or that statements were not supported by

scientists — are reason to continue working on the document, he said.

Yet the Mid-Continent report cited only 7 percent of the material in the standards as questionable. Much of that material reflected intelligent-design advocates’ criticism of evolutionary theory that natural chemical processes can create the building blocks of life, that all life has a common origin and that man and apes share a common ancestor.

“I’m not sure the public understands the nature of this review,” Case said. “What they will hear is that the standards are pretty solid.”

John Calvert, a retired Lake Quivira attorney who helped found the Intelligent Design Network, said he expected criticism of the proposed standards.

But he noted that a board subcommittee had four days of hear-

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Meal: 6:00 p.m. until gone
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IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE ADDITION OF...



Andy Rose, PA-C

Andy Rose, Physician Assistant will be joining Dr. Gary Slavens and staff at Slavens Family Practice on November 3rd 2005. Andy has been a practicing PA in Lamar, Colorado since 1997. He was born and raised in Northern Utah on a dairy farm. He attended PA school at Saint Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri. He and his wife Katie are the parents of 4 boys and 1 girl. They are excited to be coming to Colby to work with Dr. Slavens.



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