

‘Spook-tacular’ book sale planned next week at library

Pioneer Memorial Library’s annual “Spook-tacular” book sale will take place Saturday, Oct. 29 in the basement of the library. Once again, there has been a complete turnover of books since our last book sale during the summer.

So count on seeing a whole new selection of books.

The book sale will run from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Be there early!

Something you won’t see at the book sale this year is “Chick lit” books.

Chick lit is now all the rage. According to Wikipedia at <http://www.wikipedia.com>, chick lit is “is a term used to denote a genre of popular fiction written for and marketed to young women, especially single, working women in their 20s.

The genre’s creation was spurred on, if not exactly created, in the mid-1990s with the appearance of Helen Fielding’s *Bridget Jones’s Diary* and similar works; it continued to sell well in the 2000s, with chick-lit titles topping bestseller lists and the creation of imprints devoted entirely to chick-lit.”



Jeff Friesen

• **Library Link**

This new genre of literature seems to be exclusive of the male species.

There is however, another less popular genre of literature geared towards middle and high school aged students known as “Lad lit.” (evidently lad lit is not popular enough to warrant an official definition by Wikipedia) Following are a couple of chick lit books and a lad lit title available at the library.

Chick lit #1 — *Lipstick Jungle* by Candace Bushnell: Nico O’Neilly is the editor of a trendy New York magazine with a seemingly perfect life.

Victory Ford is an acclaimed fashion designer but her latest fashion designs have tanked. Wendy

Healy is an executive at Picador Pictures.

All three of these women have accomplished more than most men ever will but enough is not enough for any of them. Nico is looking to upend her current boss to improve her position with the magazine she is working for.

Victory has plenty of ideas but not enough time, yet she has managed to keep her single status.

Wendy has a dead-end husband which has made her even more ambitious to climb the corporate ladder. In short — three high falutin’ high maintenance women = plenty of drama.

Chick lit #2 — *The Other Woman* by Jane Green: For some of you, the plot of this book might strike too close to home. The “other woman” as the title proclaims, is the infamous mother-in-law.

Ellie has found the man of her dreams — or so it seems. She could handle the meddlesome mother-in-law creating havoc during her wedding, but things haven’t changed much since the wedding. Worse yet,

her first baby boy has basically erased her from the family picture. Is it possible for Ellie to bridge the gap with her mother-in-law or will her husband continue to let nature run its course?

Lad lit — *Plan B* by Jonathan Tropper: Ben and his 3 pals are all feeling somewhat purposeless in life as they are approaching 30. Turns out that their friend and

movie star Jack Shaw has given them a perfect script. Jack is heavy into drugs and Ben (narrator and novelist wanna-be), Lindsey (former teacher), Chuck (soon-to-be surgeon), and Allison (lawyer) have hatched a plan to intervene.

The plan is to take Jack to the Catskills and force him into withdrawal. As the title suggests, plan A fails quickly thereafter and the rest

of the story is about plan B.

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. - 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. For information call the library at 460-4470. As always, we are here to serve you.

Colby State Farm Agent, Jane Johnson, Named Member of Million Dollar Round Table.



Jane Johnson, agent for State Farm Insurance in Colby, KS has earned membership in the Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT). Achieving membership in MDRT is a distinguishing life insurance career milestone, attained only by those who have demonstrated superior professional knowledge, experience and client service. MDRT membership represents the top life insurance and financial service professionals worldwide. Less than 1% of all agents internationally achieve this esteemed goal. MDRT is an international, independent association of over 27,000 of the world’s best life insurance and financial service professionals from 70 nations and territories. Of State Farm’s over 16,700 agents less than 200 achieved this award last year.

Jane Johnson has been the Colby State Farm agent since 1993. Prior to beginning her insurance and financial services career, Jane earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and special education and a master’s degree in educational administration K-12 from University of Las Vegas, Nevada. She also completed the master’s degree course work from University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah where she was an adjunct professor. When asked why she pursued this ambitious Million Dollar Round Table goal Jane stated, “My father, Conrad Patrick Walker, was my greatest mentor. He worked in the life insurance industry and specialized in estate planning. I worked with him on several cases and was inspired by his ethics and the value of his services to his clients. I have many of Dad’s plaques on my office wall. MDRT awards are included in his plaques and I wanted my MDRT award next to his! It was one of the highest goals I set for my career. I just wish Dad could have been there with me when I received the award.”

Jane’s agency serves over 6,000 policies in Kansas and Colorado. She has excellent team members who assist her clients; Bonnie Lewis has been with Jane for 11 years and was with Don Kready, the former agent, for 3 years prior; Mary Schroeder has been with Jane for 8 years and with State Farm for 18 total years; Rhonda Hurtt has been with Jane for 5 years. “It is a great team effort. We would not have this level of success if we lost any one of our members. They are the best!” was Jane’s comments about her office staff.

Jane has lived in Colby, Kansas since 1987 and resides there with her husband, Theron E. Johnson, retired from Colby Community College. They have 5 children and 5 grandchildren. Theron operates Tin Acres Quarter Horse breeding farm and Home on the Range Bed and Breakfast and Horse Hotel. He provided AI services using two stallions, Ote Chex and San Hollys Tangy Gin; working cow and reining AQHA world show participants.

State Farm Insurance was founded in 1922 by George J. Mecherle (pronounced Ma-herl). At age 22, George started farming his own land near Bloomington, IL. Within a few years, he was one of the leading farmers in the area. After he and his wife, Edith Mae Perry, had farmed 20 years, Mrs. Mecherle’s health began to fail and the couple decided to move to Bloomington, IL. George accepted a job selling insurance for a small company but he did not feel the rates for the business practices of the company suited the needs of farmers. He believed that farmers should pay less for insurance because the drove less and had fewer losses than folks living in cities. Using this idea, he started State Farm as a mutual automobile insurance company owned by its policyholders. State Farm has grown to include 79,200 employees and more than 16,700 agents servicing 71.6 million policies in the United States and Canada. State Farm Insurance Companies has grown from a small farm mutual auto insurer to one of the world’s largest financial institutions. But despite State Farm’s growth, Mecherle’s original philosophy of insurance coverage at a fair price coupled with fair claim settlement has remained. Visit statefarm.com for more information.

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