

Family

Happenings

Community soup and scripture begins Dec. 7

The Advent Soup and Scripture will be held at local churches at noon on the three Wednesdays before Christmas. The schedule is: Dec. 7, First Christian Church; Dec. 14, United Methodist Church

Colby Community College to host winter concert Dec. 6

The Colby Community College Vocal Music Department will present their Winter Concert on

and Dec. 21 at First Presbyterian Church.

All are welcome for a soup luncheon, scripture reading, a brief message and singing of Christmas carols.

Tuesday, Dec. 6, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center.

Tips for parents:

Children and gardens

WICHITA — Seasonal weather changes that signal the time to put the garden to bed need not dampen a child's enthusiasm for gardening as a healthy, educational hobby, said Evelyn Neier, Kansas State University Research and Extension coordinator of the Junior Master Gardener Program.

During late fall and winter months, garden stores and catalogs can still serve as a resource for gift ideas that nurture an interest in gardening for children and adults alike, said Neier, who also is a 4-H youth development specialist.

With a reminder to keep a child's age and experience in mind, Neier offered these gift suggestions to nurture interest in gardening during winter months:

- Amaryllis or paperwhite narcissus bulbs, some of which may come in a kit complete with a pot, can keep children engaged in checking progress each day.
- Bird feeders and bird houses also require involvement and can help children learn about seed mixes and birds that frequent the feeders or about the birds that choose the houses as their winter

home.

- Such weather gadgets as an outdoor thermometer, rain gauge, or journal for recording weather data and seasonal changes.

- Watering cans in a bright color or fun shape.

- A plant press.

- A magnifying glass.

- Field guides or identification books for trees, flowers, insects, butterflies, birds or wildflowers.

- Gardening gloves in colorful prints or patterns.

- Tools, such as a trowel or pruner.

- A worm composting kit or supplies.

"Activities that offer an opportunity for daily or weekly involvement are helpful in keeping a child involved and maintaining his or her interest in gardening until the spring seed catalogs come," Neier said. "In reality, even a Chia Pet that requires periodic care can stimulate a child's interest in growing things."

More information on educational gardening practices for children is available on the Kansas 4-H Web site: www.kansas4h.org (click on "Junior Master Gardeners").

Pi Gamma delivers baby book baskets

Friday, Nov. 4, Pi Gamma Club of Colby met at the Pioneer Memorial Library. Six members and three guests were called to order by Sharon Kriss, presiding officer. Guests Lucille Davis, Joanne Calhoun and Joanne Sunderman were welcomed and introduced then joined in repeating the Collect.

Treasurer, Mary Smith, reported receiving a thank you card from "Books for Babies" foundation, who in turn donated \$100 to Smart Start Kids Port.

Mary reported delivering 79 "Books for Babies" baskets to Citizens Medical Center to be presented to all newborns.

In old business, Curt and Bev

Eicher were recognized for cleaning Fike Park flower beds, a much appreciated task. A sympathy card for fellow member, Carol Baker, in the loss of her son, killed in Iraq was signed by all members.

Guest speaker, Joanne Sunderman, related the fascinating story of "Benjamin Franklin's an American Life."

Not only was he a great scientist-inventor, but a world renowned statesman, writer and world traveler. A great read found at the library!

After Joanne's presentation, the club's roll call was answered with "books presently being read by members." Everyone was involved

in a good book, ranging from frightening mysteries to health concerns, historical novels and social issues. After the flag salute, cookies made by each club member were shared with the library staff guests and friends.

On Friday, Nov. 18, Pi Gamma met at the home of Mary Smith. Co-hostess, Bev Eicher served a Thanksgiving specialty and coffee to our members and special guests, Dale Taylor, wife and sister. Dale Taylor, originally from Hoxie, is a research ecologist and proudly introduced by his cousin, Katie Currier. He gave a fascinating slide presentation of travels to Africa. He and his wife made it clear they only

shot photos, not wild animals!. His photos were spectacular of people and wildlife. We hated to see him pack up his projector and screen.

Minutes read and approved. Treasurer report included sending \$60 to Genesis, \$30 to Santa City and \$30 to Thomas County Historical Society. In new business, Shakespeare Club has graciously invited Pi Gamma to join them on Friday, Dec. 9 for a Christmas luncheon at Quality Inn.

Our next meeting will be at Fairview Estates on Wednesday, Dec. 7. We will be wrapping Christmas candies then delivering on Thursday, Dec. 8.

Happy Holidays to all!

Department of Health asking Kansans to recognize today as World AIDS Day

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) unites with partners throughout Kansas to commemorate the 18th annual World AIDS Day which is today.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) notes the 2005 World AIDS Day theme is "Stop AIDS: Keep the Promise" addresses the importance of prevention, testing, treatment, and care programs for persons at risk for or living with HIV/AIDS.

According to CDC, there are approximately 1.1 million people living with HIV/AIDS in the U.S. Approximately one fourth of these persons were believed to be unaware of their infections underscoring the need for increased efforts to reach populations at-risk with HIV testing and prevention services. Recently released statistics from the CDC reveal that the domestic epidemic continues to dispropor-

tionately affect communities of color. Between 2001, and 2004, African Americans accounted for 51 percent of all new HIV diagnoses in the 33 states with confidential, name-based reporting, which includes Kansas.

As of June 30, there were about 1,650 HIV/AIDS reported cases presumed to be living in Kansas. From Jan. 1 through June 30 there were about 100 newly reported HIV/AIDS cases in Kansas.

The rate of HIV/AIDS is substantially higher among some minority populations in Kansas. The rate of HIV/AIDS cases diagnosed in 2003 in Kansas was more than eight times higher among non-Hispanic blacks and more than four times higher among Hispanics than among non-Hispanic whites (34.4 and 17.9 compared to 4.0 cases per 100,000 population, respectively).

The Kansas HIV Prevention Program is working diligently to reach

these populations most at risk for the disease. KDHE works with community-based organizations and local health departments across the state to conduct prevention and care activities for Kansans with HIV/AIDS. It is only through these collaborative efforts that progress toward eliminating the disease can be made.

HIV disease is a disease transmitted through behaviors. If you or a

partner has ever been placed at risk for contracting HIV, get tested. If you or a partner is diagnosed with HIV, ask about services that are available and ways in which transmission can be prevented in the future. HIV testing is available at over 80 sites in Kansas. For more information, call 785-296-6174 or visit our website at http://www.kdheks.gov/hiv/std/counsel_testing.html.

**It's the
NUMBER ONE
cancer killer.**

NO MORE EXCUSES.
NO MORE LUNG CANCER.

lungcanceralliance.org

RECOVERY.....

The Bright Side of Addiction

Narcotics Anonymous
is there for you and your family!

Meetings are Open to the Public
City Hall Basement
Tues., Fri. & Sun. - 8:00 p.m.

Professor apologizes for email on intelligent design

LAWRENCE (AP) — A University of Kansas religion professor apologized Monday for a recent e-mail that infuriated religious conservatives already upset about his decision to teach a course that equated intelligent design and creationism with mythology.

Also on Monday, the department faculty approved the course but dropped the reference to mythology. The course, originally called "Special Topics in Religion: Intelligent Design, Creationisms and Other Religious Mythologies," will instead be called "Intelligent Design and Creationism."

The class was added to next spring's curriculum after the Kansas State Board of Education decided to include more criticism of evolution in science standards for elementary and secondary students.

In the e-mail, Paul Mirecki, chairman of the university's Religious Studies Department, called supporters of the teaching of intelligent design and creationism religious "fundies" and said it would be a "nice slap in their big fat face" to teach the subjects as mythology.

In a written apology Monday, the professor said he would teach the class "as a serious academic subject and in a manner that respects all points of view."

Mirecki's e-mail was sent Nov. 19 to a list-serve group for the Society of Open-Minded Atheists and Agnostics, a student organization for which Mirecki serves as faculty adviser. Mirecki addressed the message to "my fellow damned" and signed off with: "Doing my part

to (tick) off the religious right, Evil Dr. P."

The university on Monday defended the teaching of the class.

"Given the current national debate, it is especially appropriate that intelligent design and creationism be treated as academic subjects in a university-level religious studies class," Provost David Shulenburg said in a statement.

During the weekend, Chancellor Robert Hemenway began a review of Mirecki's e-mail, which resulted in Mirecki's apology, issued Monday night in a written statement.

"I accept full responsibility for an ill-advised e-mail I sent to a small group of students and friends that has unintentionally impugned the integrity and good name of both the university and my faculty colleagues," Mirecki wrote. "My words were offensive, and I apologize to all for that."

He said he had assured the university provost that he would teach the course "as a serious academic subject and in a manner that respects all points of view."

In response to the controversy, talk swirled among legislators about withholding funding from the university.

"If you read his e-mail, it's not a short e-mail. It's not a little blurb. It's venomous," said Rep. Brenda Landwehr, vice chairwoman of the House Appropriations Committee. "He's not sorry he wrote it. He's sorry it became public."

Landwehr, R-Wichita, said withholding funding from the school remained "a very good possibility." She said she would request a hearing with Mirecki and Hemenway before the House Appropriations Committee once the Legislature convenes its 2006 session.

Bridge Results

Tuesday night Country Club bridge winners were: Mary Molstad, first; Bob Jones, second; Helen Donelan, third; Lyle Worthy and Larry Barrett tied for fourth place. Marje Roulier was low.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat	\$3.44
Corn	\$1.71
Milo	\$2.67
Soybeans	No bid

Faced with a Drinking Problem?
Perhaps
Alcoholics Anonymous Can Help
Meetings are Open to the Public
City Hall Basement
Mondays & Thursdays - 8:30 p.m.

Y'all come to the

**GIFT
MARKET!**

Sponsored by
The Gift Cache, Karen
Hopper & Elaine Hansen

**Sunday, December 4
1-5 p.m.**

Sunflower Room at Quality Inn
Colby, Kansas

Cash & Carry from the many discounted items that will be on hand; plus catalog orders taken. Accent furniture, Christmas decor, designer handbags, kitchen, bath, yard and garden, and more!!

Fill your Christmas List!!
Gift Certificates Available!
Hourly Door Prizes!
Refreshment Beverages!

Letters To Santa

Calling all kids!!

Bring your Santa Letter by the office or mail to:

Colby Free Press
155 W. 5th St.
Colby, KS 67701

Deadline for letters is Mon., Dec. 12th

Your letter will appear in the paper on Thurs. Dec. 15th so Santa can read it.

