

# Give them Thomas County

Christmas is fast approaching and with it comes the holiday rush to get everything done.

One of those agenda items is making sure Christmas cards get sent out to all of your friends and family. Choosing just the right card, however, can be a chore. So this year, the Friends of the Pioneer Memorial Library are offering an exclusive set of four note cards printed with four different grand prize winners from the Day in the Life of Thomas County photo contest.

Give them as a gift for Christmas or use them as a thank you, Christmas, or note card. The photo shows Friends of the Library Board Members Ann Miner and Jeff Horlacher helping package note cards which are on sale at Pioneer Memorial Library for \$5. Try something original this year and send a card that highlights beautiful Thomas County.

Of course, another of those other details of Christmas is food, specifically Christmas cookies. Cookies come in many different flavors ranging from molasses to chocolate chip. In the book "Christmas Cookies from the Whimsical Bakehouse" by Kaye and Liv Hansen, you can find a number of recipes for cookies.

This book is unique in the fact that the presentation of the cookie is essential. Directions are given in this book on how to make a gingerbread house cookie or a celestial wreath cookie or a yin-yang cookie.

How about a quick Christmas read such as "The Christmas Scrapbook" by Philip Gulley. Pastor Sam Gardner has been a long time in giving his wife a meaningful gift for Christmas.

This year Pastor Sam vowed to remedy the situation and enrolls in a scrapbooking class on Wednesday nights.

His routine absences on Wednesday evenings however, are beginning to raise the suspicions of his wife and his lame alibis aren't doing much to resolve the problem. To compound the problem, a series of mishaps is building up to a Christmas that no one will soon forget.

And last, but certainly not least, try reading a book that the whole family can enjoy. Years ago "Where's Waldo" was popular as



**Jeff Friesen**

•Library Link



the reader searched for Waldo in the mixture of events taking place on each page.

Along the same lines are the now popular "I Spy" books. Just in for the holiday season is "Can You See What I See? Night Before Christmas." Search through a variety of Christmas scenes for hidden snowflakes, penguins, reindeer, and sleighs. Adults might find this book even more challenging than children.

See who finds it first! Happy Holidays!

Pioneer Memorial Library is located at 375 W. Fourth St. and open seven days a week.

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

## The Hoxie Elk's 2005 Christmas Home Tour

Sunday, December 11th  
2 - 5 P.M.  
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Bill & Shelly Nondorf

Lenny & Michelle Patmon

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Tickets are available at any of the homes the day of the tour or may be purchased in advance at the Elks Lodge, or from any Officer's wife: Anita Beckman, Charlotte Hinger, Tanya Schwarz, Heather Kaus, Glenda Schaffer, Darla Sealock, or Pan Post.

# Giessel appointed to union

McPHERSON — As a result of the recent passing of farmer and activist Vernon Deines of Wichita, the Kansas Farmers Union Board of Directors met in November and appointed Tom Giessel of Larned to fill Deines' unexpired term as vice president.

Vernon Deines, 72, died Oct. 30 from cancer. Deines was the member services director and vice president of the Kansas Farmers Union. Giessel, 53, has farmed in the Larned area since graduating from college in 1975. He served as the Kansas Farmers Union Vice

President from 1983- 2000.

The Kansas Farmers Union State Convention at the Best Western Holiday Manor Convention Center in McPherson, Jan 13-15, will convene to elect a president, vice-president and the full board of directors.

## 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 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 Hollis 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](http://statefarm.com) for more information.

Are you getting Million Dollar Advice?

Jane Johnson 905 East 4th Street, Colby, KS 67701 785-462-7525  
[jane.johnson.gh2i@statefarm.com](mailto:jane.johnson.gh2i@statefarm.com)

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