

Characters brought to life through reading adventures

Well, I think summer is finally here! Some say it officially arrived when the summer solstice passed us by at 5:45 a.m. on Sunday. The day of the summer solstice – June 21 – is the longest day that the sun shines upon us during the year.

From June 21 onward, our days become shorter until we come to the winter solstice, which is the day when the sun shines the least. That's why we have longer days in the summer; it really is not due to Daylight Saving Time!

A book that I have read recently is "Heart and Soul" by Maeve Binchy. This is the same author who wrote "Whitehorn Woods." "Heart and Soul" is about a doctor who agrees to open a new type cardiology clinic that trains patients to take control of their health.

During the first day of Dr. Clara Casey's work, she is confronted by the administrator of the hospital, who wants to oppose her work and control the way the facility is established. This sets the stage for some swift but orderly decision making of Dr. Casey. She promptly begins her second day by dismantling an old section of the hospital and thereby creating an inviting environment for the soon-to-come patients.

While working through this, she hires a security guard, two nurses, a physiotherapist, a physician and an assistant. The wonderful thing about this book is that each character is fleshed out in imaginative ways. For instance, her assistant hails from Poland and speaks very little English, but she is a hard worker, quick to learn and extremely loyal.

I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know each character in the novel.

Since I am a woman, I approach picking out books that men might enjoy with fear and trembling. Now, while I believe that men and women can enjoy books written by either sex, I try to be aware that many men may especially enjoy a story written by another male. The next four books picks are by men and might be appreciated the most male readers.

The first is "The Story of Edgar Sawtelle" by David Wroblewski. The protagonist, Edgar, lives on a farm with his parents and a number of prize bred dogs. Edgar learns to love and enjoy these



Melany Wilks

• Library Links

animals even though he was born mute. The animals and he learn to communicate nonverbally and a bond grows.

A crisis arises in Edgar's life when his father dies. Directly after this tragedy, Edgar and his dogs find themselves learning how survive in the wilderness. You might enjoy the way the book ends and the relationship bonds that are so vividly written by Wroblewski.

A second book is "The Last Patriot," by Brad Thor. This book brings the suspense of a modern-day novel describing an evil plot by militant Islamists, with American government leaders and agents trying to respond, and the political intrigue of attempts to cover up some of the real meaning behind events. If you love thrillers and suspense, this book is likely to keep you in your seat.

A third book is "Cemetery Dance," by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child. These two *New York Times* bestselling authors begin their ninth Pendergast mystery with the murder of a *New York Times* reporter. The wife of the reporter is an anthropologist who works at the New York Museum of Natural History. Wee bits of mystery and anthropological facts are woven into the story. Once again, these authors amaze

their readers with the intriguing plot and a surprise ending.

Lastly, is "Charlemagne Pursuit: A Novel," by Steve Berry. This fourth book in the series brings Cotton Malone (the protagonist, an ex-Justice Department agent) into full action. Cotton is pursuing the truth about his father's demise. What he thought had happened turned out to be clear fabrication. Adm. Langford Ramsey, another character, emerges in the story and the two face off and are bound together by intrigue.

If you love historical fiction mixed into mystery, then you will enjoy how Berry mixes ancient manuscripts and scientific investigations with topics of the Aryans, Charlemagne and the Nazis. Suspense happens.

Today, June 25, the Pioneer Memorial Library has a special event at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Susanne Lively is sharing unique stories while creating an interactive balloon show. Kids of all ages will enjoy this. It is free, but tickets need to be picked up at the library.

For all of you needing wi-fi or computers with Internet access, remember that you can come to the library and enjoy using them in the comfort of air conditioning. Our summer schedule is 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Wednesday; 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Come cool off at your library!

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE

Saturday

12:30 a.m. – Check at B-Hive.
12:56 a.m. – Check at Twisters.
1:34 a.m. – Theft from purse.
2:33 a.m. – Assisted sheriff's office with domestic situation.
3 a.m. – Caller reported friend hadn't came home. Looked for vehicles, not found.
7:14 a.m. – Subjects arguing in a vehicle in parking lot. Two officers responded.
8 a.m. – Neighbor yelling and crying inside a pickup. Report filed.

8:53 a.m. – Manager at 2320 S. Range reported trespasser. Damage to property.
2:12 p.m. – Dog at large at 1150 S. Franklin taken to Colby Animal Clinic.

3:06 p.m. – Gave subject a ride to Country Club Motel.

3:38 p.m. – Burglary: back door was damaged.

6:20 p.m. – Vehicle peeling out at 600 block W. Eighth. Subject spoken with.

8:59 p.m. – Protection from abuse violation. Caller reported father is calling his mother.

9:16 p.m. – Cattle out on U.S. 24 west of Colby. Owner contacted.

11:43 p.m. – Subject came in to report vehicle taken from Oasis. Vehicle located at Oasis.

Sunday

12:37 a.m. – Check at B-Hive.

12:58 a.m. – Check at Twisters.
1:48 a.m. – Driving under the influence: traffic stop at 245 W. College. Wagoner's towed vehicle.

10:14 a.m. – Found a check in wood pile, spoke to owner. Account was cancelled already.

12:12 p.m. – Loud music. Spoke with subject, who turned music off.

4:29 p.m. – Pickup window

damaged by a BB pellet.

4:43 p.m. – Officer wanted for a neighborhood dispute. All OK.

5:52 p.m. – Question about using four-wheel ATV on roadways.

9:19 p.m. – Report from Citizens Medical Center that someone was bitten by one of his own dogs. Spoke to owner.

9:27 p.m. – Barking dog complaint. Spoke to owner.

10:43 p.m. – Dark-colored car on S. Range without lights. Not found.

11:53 p.m. – 911 call for an ambulance.

Monday

12:08 a.m. – Check at B-Hive.
1:35 a.m. – 911 request for an ambulance.

8:51 a.m. – Anonymous letter about trailer parked for more than a week. Spoke to owner.

10:29 a.m. – Removed debris from road at Eighth and Franklin.

4:49 p.m. – Gas skip at Loves.

5:26 p.m. – Assisted ambulance at the Dillons fuel station.

7:43 p.m. – Ernest W. Triplett arrested on warrant out of Madison County, Tenn.

8:57 p.m. – Reckless driver.

11:35 p.m. – Driving under the influence: traffic stop at 1980 S. Range. 24/7 towed vehicle.

Tuesday

8:16 a.m. – Accident on Smith Dr.

11:57 a.m. – Injured deer at U.S. 24 and Smith Dr.

12:55 p.m. – Accident at Conoco Travel Shoppe.

5:57 p.m. – Incident at Friendly Acres.

11:42 p.m. – Barking dogs at Second and Copeland area. Not found.

THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF

Monday

12:11 a.m. – Assisted motorists on westbound I-70 mile 54, then escorted to Walmart.

8:41 a.m. – 911 report of goat running loose in north ditch of I-70 mile 69. Not found.

11:34 p.m. – Provided transportation from law enforcement center to Gem.

Tuesday

6:05 a.m. – 911 report of a possible death. Ambulance paged.

10:06 a.m. – 911 report that vehicle rolled then hit guard rail at U.S. 24 mile 40. Not found.

11:31 a.m. – 911 report of accident 1 1/2 miles north on County Rd. 11. Three deputies assisted Kansas Highway Patrol.

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Cowboy artist to be featured in exhibit

The late artist Keith W. Avery will be featured in a free exhibition of art and poetry at the Prairie Museum of Art and History throughout July and August.

Avery, who died in June 2005, left behind an extensive collection of western paintings and other works that realistically depict horses and cowboy life.

His paintings appeared on the covers of the Quarter Horse Journal and Western Horseman many times, and he wrote numerous articles. Avery was nationally known

to those involved with American quarter horses.

Born in Lansing, Mich., in 1921, Avery had the encouragement of his father, an internationally honored master photographer. At a young age, he was impressed by Reserve Officer Training Corps cavalry unit drills at nearby Michigan State University.

From that point on, Avery had a fascination with horses. He was involved in the stock horse industry as an owner, trader, breeder and trainer. He judged and pro-

duced rodeos, even occasionally competing.

Avery graduated from New Mexico State University and received an honorary doctor of letters later. In 1994, he was awarded the New Mexico Governor's Award for Excellence in Art. His widow, Carol Haddan Avery, still lives in New Mexico.

The museum is at 1905 S. Franklin in Colby. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For questions, call (785) 460-4590.

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