

Family

Cool off with Iraq program

I want to invite you to the “Cool Off from Summer” program next Thursday. Jeff Saddler and his military friends will be speaking at 7 p.m. in the Pioneer Memorial Library basement about their service while in Iraq.

We believe they will be representing the Army, Navy and Marines. One came back in 2007. This will allow our community to understand some of the changes that have occurred since Jeff served in 2004. It will help us to grasp from the understanding of those who have served what they believe is now happening.

I have chosen to tell you about three items that have a bit of a war theme in them. The book “Ender in Exile” by Orson Scott Card is truly a classic science fiction book. This is one of 10 in a series telling a saga about unifying the earth’s peoples while discovering and creating life in space.

The protagonist, Ender Wiggins, is introduced as a 12-year-old boy who has save the human race and earth by his genius and studies in the battle school. The school was originated for young protégées with the potential to become great commanders and leaders for earth. These young men and women were taken from their homes at an early age and introduced to computer games. While they learned to conquer worlds and enemies in virtual reality, they were conquering actual dangers for mankind.

Ender Wiggins finds he has been used as a pawn and becomes entangled in a court martial of these individuals. His name is sullied so that he cannot return to earth to



Melany Wilks

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live out his life, so he volunteers to travel to a world where a species was destroyed as a result of his gaming abilities. It now may be made livable with a little genetic engineering, scientific adaptation and human ingenuity.

It is a great story involving intrigue, hope and truth about being a leader, and the treatment of others. The author writes in such a way that you come away believing that he himself is quite the intellectual giant and philosopher par-excellence.

As a librarian, I always try to read a story to find out if a book in a series can in fact be picked up in mid-stream and still be enjoyable to the reader. This book enabled me to come to appreciate the characters’ personalities without having read all the books that came before.

While Card apologized vehemently about having changed some of the facts from “Speaker for the Dead,” “Ender’s Game” and other works, he explained why he found these changes necessary (see the Afterword). I enjoyed coming to understand the delicacies involved in being consistent from one book to another.

Another science fiction book we have is “Daniel X: Watch the Skies,” by James Patterson. Daniel

has learned about an alien called No. 5 whose whole objective is to provide entertainment for clients in the galaxy by brutally killing others. Daniel, the super hero, does not like this, so he goes about changing it.

Amidst issues of being a teenager, going to school and dealing with family, he learns to creatively save the day. This is the third in the Daniel series. While many adults have read books written by Patterson, this series is one of his first in the junior fiction category.

Another recent science fiction or fantasy novel added to our collection is “One Second After,” by William Forstchen. If you like apocalyptic-type sci-fi, which deals with some actualities in the U.S., then you will enjoy the fast-paced action of John Matherson trying to save civilization from demise when an electromagnetic pulse instantly evaporates the use of our technologically advanced machinery, computers, and much more.

While it is fiction, we live in a world where it could happen. You will enjoy the way problems are solved and people work together to combat the threat to life.

The Pioneer Memorial Library summer schedule continues until after Labor Day. We open at 9 a.m. and close at 6 p.m. Monday to Wednesday, 8 p.m. Thursday, 5 p.m. Friday and 4 p.m. Saturday, and open from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday. Remember we have Wi-Fi connectivity for you 24/7, as well computers with Internet access when we are open.

See you at the library!



Barb and Steve Alwin

Couple to celebrate anniversary Saturday

Steve and Barb Alwin of Colby will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary on Saturday.

The couple married at the Alliance Methodist Church in Nebraska on Aug. 15, 1959.

Their children, Scott (Shannon) Alwin of Alliance, and Andrea (Brandon) Shepherd

and Marc Alwin of Colby, along with their seven grandchildren and other family members, will be helping them celebrate at their home.

The children suggest friends send congratulations to them at 1305 W. First St., Colby, Kan., 67701.

Search on for ‘Bigs’

As Thomas County kids go back to school, Big Brothers Big Sisters wants people to know that many of them could use someone to talk to and look up to.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thomas County is looking for volunteers for both at-school and after-school mentoring programs.

“Many people think they don’t have time to be a Big Brother or Big Sister,” said Diane Stithem, community director for the agency. “People are surprised to learn it only takes 20-30 minutes a week to volunteer in our school-based program. It is a great way to make a big difference in a child life.”

The program, Bigs in Schools, pairs volunteers with students. Volunteers can help their “Little” with homework, have fun playing games or eating lunch. The “Big” and “Little” meet at the school during lunch, at recess or after school.

More than two-thirds of Kansas children waiting for a mentor are boys, the agency says, so more men are needed as volunteers. Bigs in Schools seeks to accommodate volunteers’ schedules.

Businesses can support the organization by encouraging employees to volunteer.

“We are hopeful that local business owners will get involved in this program,” said Dawn DeArmond, head of Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters.

For information, call (785) 460-9125 or e-mail Stithem at dstithem@ksbbbs.org.

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE Tuesday
3:27 a.m. – Citizen complaint of loud noise at South Park. Spoke with everyone about keeping it down.
9:07 a.m. – Welfare check requested on mother, message to call daughter was delivered.
9:31 a.m. – Beeping noise in S. Mission area was neighbor’s smoke detector.
1:08 p.m. – Assisted sheriff’s office on First St. Annex.
1:49 p.m. – Domestic conflict, disorderly conduct report filed.
2:31 p.m. – Fight with neighbor over items in trash dumpster.
3 p.m. – Dogs attacked each other. Reporting party left before

officer arrived.
8:51 p.m. – Possible drunk driver driving nonstop around house. Everything OK.
9:52 p.m. – Arrested R.J. Phifer on a warrant.
11:01 p.m. – Extra patrol.

THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF Sunday
6:12 p.m. – Erratic driver on I-70 eastbound at mile 34. Subject tired, told him to rest in Colby.
7:07 p.m. – Man would not leave the Thomas County Fairgrounds. He has until 4 p.m. Monday to leave.

Monday
10:48 a.m. – Disabled vehicle at Franklin and Pine. Registration

information provided.
1:10 p.m. – Provided traveler’s assistance.
1:09 p.m. – Transported prisoner to Department of Corrections, Norton.
1:14 p.m. – Released Sharon Horne to Department of Corrections.
3:35 p.m. – Suspicious person hanging around at the Thomas County court house.
6:10 p.m. – Cow out at Veterans

Memorial Drive between Country Club and Franklin. Cow returned to pasture, owner contacted.

Tuesday
9:55 a.m. – Vehicle on U.S. 24 eastbound four miles west of Colby all over the road. Located and followed vehicle.
1:08 p.m. – Officers requested on First St. Annex because of domestic disagreement.
7:08 p.m. – Purse found at 457 U.S. 83.

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Bidding Ends Thurs., Aug. 20 | 10 A.M.
2001 JD 650H LT track dozer, Caterpillar 955 crawler, (2) gradall telehandlers, '86 GMC C6500 C7D042, Ingersoll Rand XP375 air compressor, 48" Ariens snow blower, Evans 0710 miter saw, Easy fuse electro-fusion processor, Vermeer T-655 track trencher, Rouser L600 skid steer, McElroy 8" trac star pipe fusion tool and much more.
Bidding Ends Wed., Aug. 26 | 10 A.M.
NH TC35D tractor w/ front end loader, '99 NH 8260, '03 JD 1290 Corn head, '07 JD 568 Round Baler, '89 JD 7200 Planter, '92 JD 4960, '03 JD 6420, '97 Gehl 4625 SX skid steer, '69 Ford 8000 tractor w/ Ford loader, '60 F600 truck with Oswalt 280 feed box, much more. Inventory added daily!
Bidding Ends Fri., Aug. 28 | 10 A.M.
40'x60' job site tent, '95 Chevy Suburban 4WD, Feed conveyor belt, (34) Miller MIG welders, Eclipse burners (Vor to metric), 40' pod with work bench, office & more, 1984 48' enclosed semi trailer, assorted concrete forms and more.
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