



EVAN BARNUM/Colby Free Press

Sue Evans (left), Lisa Hansen, Don Saddler and Sue Draper worked on plans for the Once a Month Lunch program being started in Colby. It is a no cost, no donation, no obligation, no requirement chance to get together and share a meal.

Monthly lunch program starts

Interested in having a no cost, no donation, no obligation, no requirement lunch this Saturday? A new program has been started that offers just such a deal every month.

Called Once a Month Lunch, the goal is to provide a meal for anyone who would like to get together, either because of need or the companionship. From 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month, it is open to anyone who wants to come. It will be served in the basement of the Colby Presbyterian Church, 115 W. Fourth St., 462-6342. There

is an elevator available for those who have trouble navigating stairs.

Lisa Hansen, who is heading the program, said that while the church is host, the meal is not a religious event, but rather an opportunity to share fellowship with the community. Advanced notice or reservations are not needed.

Anyone who wants to come is encouraged to bring a friend the second Saturday of each month, she said.

Backpack program gets boost

At-risk school-aged children in the Colby public school system have a few more dollars in this year's budget thanks to a recent \$2,355 donation from the CHS-United Plains Ag Quinter location.

"How generous of CHS to think of our program when deciding where this could go," said Jo DeYoung, business manager for the schools.

The donation will support the district's "backpacks for kids" program - a food-shelf modeled service for middle-schoolers.

"There are children in our communities for whom Friday's school lunch may be their last meal until lunch on Monday," explained DeYoung.

"It wasn't a tough decision to use these dollars to feed hungry kids," said Jeff Kahle, agronomy manager at CHS-Quinter. "CHS has a long history of supporting the communities where we live and work."

A team of United Plains Ag custom application operators "won" the money behind the donation. Annually, CHS brings together custom applicators across its trade territory to sharpen their skills in a fun, competitive learning environment at Applicator Rodeos where teams of operators move through a variety of skills-based events, including driving courses that simulate field conditions. The most recent rodeos incorporated a "Calcutta-style" auction where

corporate sponsors bid on the teams. Top teams then designate organizations to receive the winnings.

Corporate sponsors included John Deere, AGCO, Case IH, BASF, DuPont, Raven, Dow AgriSciences, West Central Inc., Monsanto, FEI, Trimble, Bayer CropScience, Fairbank, WinField Solutions, Croplan Genetics, Stueve Construction Co., Waconia Manufacturing, Inc. and AgriSolutions.

Two teams from United Plains Ag, Quinter, took first and third places among the more than 40 operators from seven cooperatives participating.

Flowering plants a colorful Mom's Day choice

Many U.S. moms will get a greeting card this Mother's Day. More than 60 percent of them will also get flowers - and perhaps another gift, as well, according to a poll commissioned last month by the National Retail Federation.

Cut flowers will be popular, particularly for gifts sent from a distance. But, Mother's Day weekend usually marks the year's peak for container plant sales - annual flowers in pots, flats and hanging baskets; foliage plants; and herbaceous perennials, said Jamie Hancock, K-State Research and Extension horticulturist.

The timing is near-perfect for living plants, Hancock added.

While annuals such as violas and pansies can handle some cool weather, most transplants simply won't grow until the soil is warm enough, she said. Even with this year's early warm periods, planting in April did little more than give gardeners a jump start on getting things into the ground.

"That's not the same as getting ahead of the game in flower production," Hancock said. "You get to weed, water and cover the plants every time the temperature drops at night. But, you're just keeping the plants alive, not helping them grow."

"I've planted early, and I've planted later, when the soil was warmer. Almost every time, those I waited to plant outgrew the ones I put out earlier - plus required less labor."

She advises gift givers to survey their mom's yard, to 1) note areas

that could use a splash of color; 2) determine if the likely area is in full shade, part-shade or full sun; and 3) get a mental picture of the area's current color choices and plant heights.

"Light requirements make a big difference when selecting plants. A shade plant will not grow well in full sun and vice versa," Hancock said. "You can be a lot more creative, though, on color selection."

White and even yellow flower choices tend to be "safe," she said. Another option is to go along with Mom's obvious favorites - pink, lavender and white, for example, or red, purple and gold.

"Don't be thrown if you can't immediately identify what your mom prefers," Hancock said. "She may like everything - a sort of cottage garden approach - so would welcome any color. Or, she may be fairly subtle, seeming to have all kinds of colors, but actually being monochromatic - for example, including light pink to dark red, which are all various shades of the same color."

For adventurous gift givers - and moms - remembering her favorites and choosing from the opposite side of the color wheel can add excitement, she said. An orange flower will add real punch to a bed of blues. Chartreuse (yellow-green) is a great contrast for red. Purple with yellow makes both colors vibrant.

"Don't forget we've also got foliage plants that will add color without flowers," the horticultur-

ist added. "Coleus plants can give you all kinds of color options. Sweet potato vines are plants that gracefully drape, plus provide color or choices. Dusty miller always has grayish-silver foliage, but that can be an attractive addition that also stands out at night."

In general, Hancock said, gardeners tend to prefer tall plants toward the back of planting beds and short ones for the front. That can be another consideration for shoppers, although an interesting variation is to plant combinations of heights in groups.

"If the plants aren't enough ... well, also you've got a number of thoughtful additions," she said. "Gardeners' hands get lots of repetitive use, so good gardening gloves or an ergonomic hand tool can be a welcomed idea. If you've bought a big geranium, you also could select an attractive pot plus good-quality potting soil. If you've bought plants for her garden, you could add anything from a soil improvement to a bag of mulch."

Hancock said the following are other possibilities that can go with garden transplants:

- Osmocote plant food may have made slow-release (time-release) garden fertilizer popular. But, now most major brands have something available on the garden-center shelf, so you can select the brand you know/trust.
- Many gardeners buy less peat

Finishing floors, cleanup get library all spruced up

The library has been very busy this week installing tile and finishing up the carpet installation. After we do this we will begin putting things back, then dusting and cleaning.

This has been quite a project! Many people have asked us if we have had time off. Staff has actually worked harder during this phase because we have had some special tasks we wanted to accomplish while we were closed.

The library will officially open at 9 a.m. Friday, May 18.

We are having a special Open House from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 20. We want to invite you to see our new surroundings. We will be serving cookies and ice tea.

Some of you may ask what will keep us busy after this project. Remember that Summer Reading is coming at the end of May.

Judy Kleinsorge has been working on the programs and flyers for Summer Reading. The schedules will be available no later than our open house. I think she will be handing some materials out in the schools, so look for your children to bring something home.

This summer we are also going to have a Summer Reading program for adults. Nancy Saddler, our adult librarian, has been working on ideas and implementing our first such summer activity for adults. It will be for men and women of varying ages. A young person may even find books on the list they'd like to tackle. We will get information out on this soon as well.

When we reopen we will be adding many new junior fiction and youth books to our collection. Our staff is processing them right now. The first book I want to tell you about is "Starcrossed" by Josephine Angelini. Helen Hamilton is a 16-year-old girl struggling to understand her heritage and the



Melany Wilks

Library Links

role past generations have in her very existence.

She has begun having terrible dreams at night and hallucinations during the day. A new young man has just appeared in her path. Their relationship seems to have issues that they both need to work through. The two of them are both learning to work with powers beyond their control and they know they must learn to harness them or it will destroy them.

The second book is "Dog Lost," by Ingrid Lee. This is a redemption story of a pit bull puppy and a boy.

Mackenzie was given the pit bull by his father. The problem is that since his mother died, his father has become unable to contain his rage.

Cash, the pit bull becomes the victim when the father decides Mackenzie can no longer own the dog. Hence, his father dumps the puppy. Mackenzie must find Cash and goes about on his own journey to do just that. I'd say this book is for about a fourth grade reading level. It is fun and a good easy story book especially for boys.

The third book is a fun book written by Dr. Cuthbert Soup. If the book is anything like the introduction, this book will prove to be a really enjoyable read for those who love wit and creative writing.

Protagonist Mr. Ethan Cheeseman has three children and has recently created a time machine. This has caused several bad actors on the international scene to

search for them. These international spies and secret agents want what Cheeseman has invented. However, they are not used to a person with such creative genius and the help of his children, a dog and a sock puppet.

The fourth, fifth and sixth books added are part of the *Mysteries of Middlefield* series. Book one is called "Summer Secret," book two "Hide and Seek," and book three, "The Secrets Beneath," all by Kathleen Fuller. These three books have different characters. They are part of the Christian and Amish romantic fiction genre of books.

Other books that we are adding include: "Ascend" by Amanda Hocking; "The Treasure Map of Boys," by E. Lockhart; Book nine of the *Ranger's Apprentice* series called "Halt's Peril;" "The Calling," by Kelley Armstrong; "Fear: A Gone Novel," by Michael Grant; "Fibble: the Fourth Circle of Heck," by Dale Basye; "Whisper," by Alyson Noel; and three books of the *Filippa Fisher* series. Book one is called "Fairy Godsisiter;" book two, "Dream-Maker's Daughter," and book three, "Fairy's Promise."

We are also adding some in the *Dear Dumb Diary* series: "Me!: (Just Like You, Only Better)" and "Okay, So Maybe I Do Have Superpowers." I could add more, but I just invite you to peruse the shelves when we reopen!

Remember, we are asking patrons to have their items returned by Friday, May 25. To return items earlier, return them through our drop off slots in the driveway or in our drop box on School Avenue. If you have a question, please e-mail us at contactus@colbylibrary.com. We are getting very excited about re-opening; we have really missed all those we serve in the community.

Scholarships accepted

Rachel Juenemann and Jennifer Schwanke of Colby are among the students who have accepted scholarships to Fort Hays State University. The students and their scholarships are listed below.

• Rachel Juenemann, a Colby High School senior, accepted a \$1,200 Miller Black and Gold Academic Award. Juenemann is the daughter of Steve and Sara Juenemann, Colby, and plans to major in chemistry.

• Jennifer Schwanke, a Colby High senior, accepted an \$800 Hays City Silver Academic Award. Schwanke is the daughter of Vernon and Robin Schwanke, Colby, and plans a career in medicine.

• Carrie Pilkington, Oakley High School, 2011: \$700 Fort

Hays Bronze Academic Award, \$500 Academic Opportunity Award in teacher education. The daughter of John and Carla Pilkington, Oakley, she plans to major in early childhood development.

• Shelby Heim, Hoxie High School, 2012: \$800 Hays City Silver Academic Award, \$500 Academic Opportunity Award in teacher education. The daughter of Mike and Lorna Heim, Hoxie, she plans to major in elementary education.

• Kaycee Niermeier, Hoxie, senior: \$900 Academic Opportunity Award in art and design, \$700 Fort Hays Bronze Academic Award. The daughter of Fred and Nancy Niermeier, Hoxie, she plans to major in art.

Corrections

The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$5.71
Corn (bushel)	\$6.90
Milo (hundredweight)	\$10.13
Soybeans (bushel)	\$13.00

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Lynn Hagler will be celebrating his **80th birthday** on **Tuesday, May 15th**. His children & grandchildren would like to honor him with a card shower. Cards can be sent to Lynn at 1280 Lue Drive, Colby, KS 67701

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