

Area writers have chance to win prize

Local writers have a chance to receive a cash prize from the Ellsworth Area Arts Council's third annual writing contest, "Writers of the Prairie," co-sponsored by the Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter.

Authors may enter as many times as they wish by paying a fee for each entry: \$3 for youth 17 and under and \$5 for adults 18 and over. Youth must include their ages along with their entries.

Entries must be typed on 8 1/2 inch by 11-inch paper, double

spaced on one side and in 12 point type or larger. Poetry can be double- or single-spaced.

Entries must be no longer than 20 pages, and the writer's name cannot appear on the manuscript. The writer's name, title, division and category must be typed on the cover page.

Entries should be mailed to Ellsworth Area Arts Council Writing Contest, 223 N. Douglas Ave., Ellsworth, Kan., 67439. Rules and entry forms are available by calling (785) 472-5658.

Deadbeat dads sent to parenting boot camp

By Nancy Cambria

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS (AP) – Sister Carol Schumer always eats everything on her plate, makes her bed every day, wears only white and navy and admits to being a wee bit pushy in her former career as a Catholic school principal.

So there's no missing this rail-thin woman with gray hair and sensible navy shoes in the center of 18 men who've been labeled deadbeat dads.

They are seated around her in a horseshoe in a windowless conference room. Her task is to teach them ways to be engaged dads with their kids – but their differences couldn't be more marked, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch (http://is.gd/PUFvqm) reports.

Sister Carol was the second of nine children raised in rural Perryville, Mo. She gave her adult life not to a husband or to small town life, but to the Daughters of Charity 47 years ago. She was 19.

The men are in their 20s through their 50s. Some have dreadlocks, others tattoos. A few wear ties. Some are dandy and handsome, others are sad-eyed and tired. Many have been addicted to alcohol or drugs and done prison time. They are all unemployed. The majority of them owe hundreds, even thousands of dollars in back child support.

That is why most of them are here. The courts have told them to come, or go to jail.

Oddly enough, Sister Carol is one of the first people these men see as they begin a parenting class as part of The Family Formation, a six-week "boot camp" at Father's Support Center. While the current class is entirely African-American, the program is intended to re-connect fathers of all races and backgrounds with their kids as they go through intensive job preparedness, counseling and other stabilization.

A Catholic sister doling out parenting advice to a group of street-wise men at first seemed ludicrous to the Founder of the Father's Support Center, Halbert Sullivan.

Sullivan, a man who once served time in federal prison before founding the center in 1997, said he scoffed when Sister Carol pitched him the idea. First, she was a woman – which was far too distracting.

And then there was the sister thing.

"I thought, she's a white, Catholic nun. Would the men take her seriously? She's never had a child, and she's never done real parenting."

But remember that wee bit of pushiness in Sister Carol?

"He needed me," she recalled of her pitch. "He was all by himself."

The garden's coming along



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press Denise Singer, (above left) spread mulch around vegetables Saturday morning at the community garden by Southwind Plaza Mall. Other volunteers watered and pulled weeds, while Duane Cheney (above) prepared the foundation for a new tool shed, which he and some employees from Strait Line Truss and Woodwork set into place Tuesday morning (left).



Make a Difference Please Recycle

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

TO HAVE YOUR AD PLACED IN THE BUSINESS DIRECTORY CALL KATHRYN OR SHARON TODAY AT (785)462-3963

Looking for wheat straw or damaged wheat to bale

Kroskob Brothers Farms
Custom Haying and Farming

Will Prepay to secure Acres
Call for Pricing

Brandon: 970-380-4256 or Travis: 970-380-6853

NOW available at Oasis Travel Center in COLBY...

Gunnysack Greeting Cards
"Cards that have the guts to tell it like it is"



Sarcastic & Silly
Very Blunt & Unusual
Not for the easily Offended
Created by Ellis, KS resident
Tracy Augustine

Stop by to check out the wonderful selection or go online at
www.gunnysackgreetings.com

Rural American Realty & Auction Company LLC

Land - Residential - Commercial www.ruralamericanrealty.com
1900 E 25th St, Hays, KS 67601



Tara Dirks
Agent
Grinnell, KS
dirkstara@gmail.com
785-443-0385

Serving Northwest Kansas

BEE THRIFTY
BUSINESS HOURS
TUE-FRI 2-6 PM
SAT 12-5 PM
ACCEPTING CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS
1745 Taylor Ave., Colby (170 EXIT 53)
785-269-7751
facebook.com/beethrifty

Dusty Locksmith and Security

Lock installation, repair, replacement and rekeying.
Lockouts: Home-Auto-Business. Safe cracking & combination change.

785-405-0068

Dr. Tom Barlow DENTIST

785-460-7538

Appointments Readily Available

505 H N. Franklin, Colby

Mobile Home Lots for Rent

\$175 Month
(includes water, sewer & storage shed)
FREE Month with approved application

Friendly Acres Mobile Home Park

1150 S. Franklin, Colby
Call 785-462-6445

Langer Industrial Service

2022 County Road 11 • Levant, KS 67743 • 785-586-2208
Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

We pay cash up to for all scrap metal*

Brass • Copper • Aluminum • Batteries • Electric motors • Cars
• Combines • Farm Equipment • Prepared/Unprepared Iron and Tin
• Container Service • Off site baling and car crushing
• Limited pickup service available

Schedule deliveries after normal business hours by appointment when necessary.

* Some Conditions Apply

KANSAS Insurance INC

Formerly THOMAS County INSURANCE AGENCY



Dennis Tubbs
dtubbs@kansasins.com

490 N. Franklin
785-462-3939

- Home & Auto
- Farm & Crop
- Business Insurance
- Boat, Motorcycle, RV

Nationwide Agribusiness
On Your Side®

www.kansasins.com



HOXIE STATE INSURANCE, INC.

824 Main, PO Box 378
Hoxie, KS 67740

115 S. State St.
Winona, KS 67764

(785) 675.3263 – Fax (785) 675.3721

HINKLE TERMITE & PEST CONTROL

1-800-536-2704
www.hinkletermite.com

JOE HESKETT • OWNER • 785-545-6868 (CELL)

High Plains Pizza
Now Open



Made for Me.

At High Plains RV Resort
Behind the Colonial Steakhouse

YES! We deliver to Oakley!

(785) 672-2222