

# Library celebrates season with month of movies for kids

We at the library are celebrating the Christmas season, beginning with the Colby Community College Sunflower Singers serenading us during *Booked For Lunch*. These students did a beautiful job helping us get into the feeling of this special season.

During December and until Friday, Jan. 3, we will be showing movies in the basement for kids. Beginning Tuesday and Thursday, Dec. 19 we start at 4 p.m. (at 3 p.m. on Wednesdays when students get out of school early). Then Monday, Dec. 23, to Jan. 3 we have a movie each day at 2:30 p.m. in the basement, excluding Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. The schedule is posted at the library and on our website ([www.colbylibrary.com/Children.html](http://www.colbylibrary.com/Children.html)) and our Facebook page. This is for kids and teens up to just before 18 years of age.

Now, let me tell you about a few new Christmas books you may enjoy adding to your stack of reading for the season. The first book contains four stories that make up this composite titled "Secret Santa." In the publishing world these are called omnibus publications because more than one author writes the work. Fern Michaels' story is "Mister Christmas" and



## Melany Wilks

### Library Links

Marie Bostwick wrote "The Yellow Rose of Christmas." "Nightmare on Elf Street" was written by Lauren Levine and "Room at the Inn," is by Cindy Myers.

Marie Bostwick has written the *Cobbled Quilt* series and other novels. Laura Levine is a comedy writer whose television credits include *The Bob Newhart Show*, *Laverne & Shirley*, *Three's Company* and *Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman*. She is known for her *Jaine Austen Mysteries* series. Cindy Myers is known for her book "The View from Here." Under the name of Cindi Myers she has written over 36 novels, including the *Creste Butte, Colorado series*.

The second item is "The Christmas Visitor: An Amish Romance," by Linda Byler. This book was purchased with the Jean Baughn memorial funds. Ruth is a mother of six children. Her husband is helping a neighbor raise their barn, when tragedy strikes. Ruth does not know what she will do

to make it through the next few weeks, let alone Christmas. Help comes from a source that Ruth is determined to discover.

The next item is "Christmas at Harmony Hill," by Ann Gabhart. This book is described as "a stirring story of healing, hope, and home at Christmas." Protagonist, Heather Worth lives during the Civil War era, earning what she can from doing laundry for her husband's army unit. His unit is called south and her husband tells her to return to her family in the south. Since she is married to a man from the north, this brings problems to Heather. She must break through the hardness of her family to survive the circumstances before her.

Other Christmas books are: "Silent Night," by Robert B. Parker; "Christmas Bliss," by Mary Kay Andrews; "Peace," by Shelley Shepard Gray; "A Nantucket Christmas;" and "Christmas Carol Murder," by Leslie Meier.

Some other new books, already checked out for a few days are: "A Proposal for Christmas," by Linda Lael Miller (large type only). The next three are available in regular and large type print: "Christmas on Fourth Street," by Susan Mallery "A Seaside Christmas," by Sherryl Woods; and "Starry

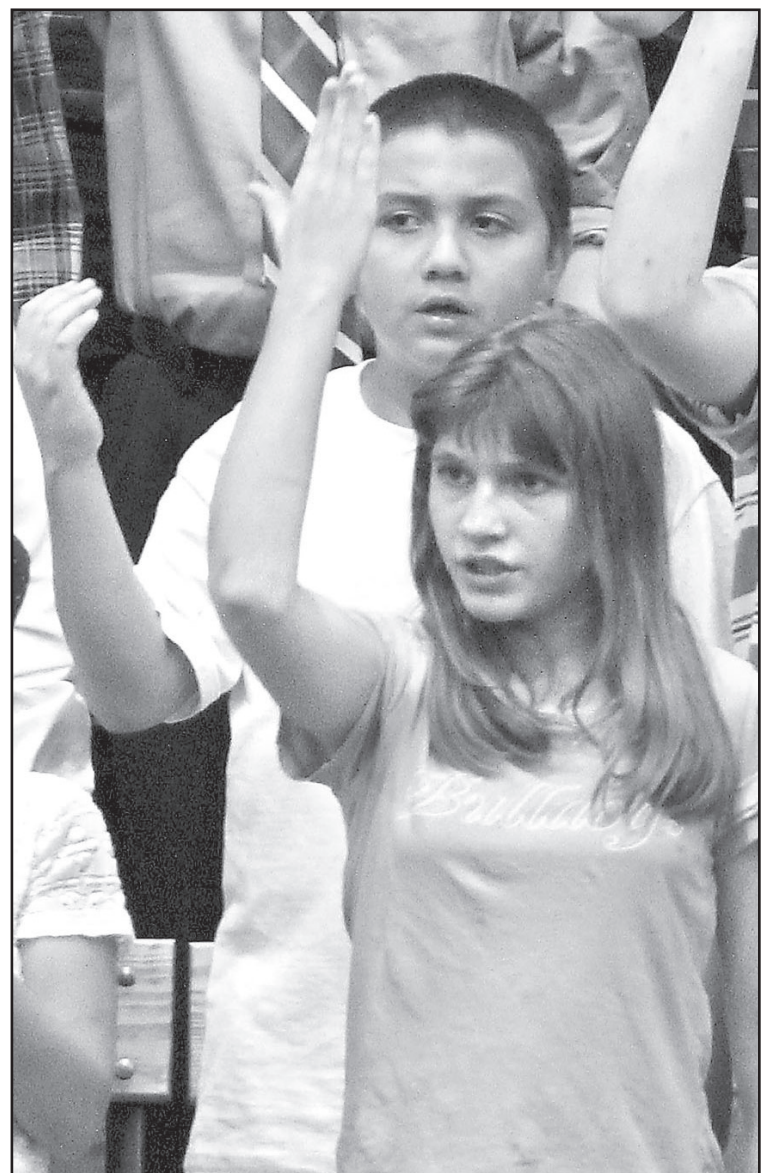
Night," by Debbie Macomber.

We also have purchased some Christmas DVDs: "Journey to the Christmas Star," "Coming Home for Christmas (Norman Rockwell Presents)," "Home for Christmas: A Golden Christmas 3," "Nickelodeon Peter Rabbit Christmas Tale," "Duck Dynasty: I'm Dreaming of a Redneck Christmas," "Christmas Lodge" and "Christmas Miracle."

I checked our eBook and audio resources available on our "Sunflower eLibrary ([www.sunflowerelibrary.org](http://www.sunflowerelibrary.org)) webpage, and if you sign in with your Pioneer Memorial Library card number, then go to the search box (upper right) and type in Christmas, you will find about 98 pages of Christmas items to check out. If you want to look at magazines for Christmas ideas go to our website at [colbylibrary.com](http://colbylibrary.com) and follow the instructions to sign up for the Zinio Digital Magazines. If you need help, call or come in and we can help you.

Our winter hours until Dec. 23 are: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Come get information on your new eBook and digital audio-book service at your library!



Golden Plains High School Leann Fringer, eighth grade, performed choreography at the Western Kansas Liberty League Middle and High School Vocal Clinic concert Nov. 12 at Golden Plains. The students gave an evening performance after working all day with the clinicians.

## Deck the halls safely for kids this Christmas

Festive decorations are an enjoyable part of the holiday season for many families. But some decorations, especially candles and electrical lighting, can be dangerous. Safe Kids Kansas reminds parents and caregivers to take a few precautions when decorating.

Holiday lights and other decorative electrical lighting were involved in an average of 160 home fires per year from 2006 to 2010, according to the National Fire Protection Agency. During that same five-year period, 230 home structure fires began with Christmas trees, and 11,640 home structure fires were started by candles. The top three days for home candle fires were Christmas, New Year's Day and Christmas Eve.

"As you deck the halls this holiday season, keep safety top of mind," said Cherie Sage, Safe Kids Kansas. Pay attention to labels on lighting. "Decorative lighting should be labeled with the seal of an independent testing lab. If it's not labeled for outdoor use, don't use it outdoors."

If you decorate a tree, Safe Kids Kansas recommends these precautions:

- Never leave a lit Christmas tree or other decorative lighting display unattended. Inspect lights for exposed or frayed wires, loose connections and broken sockets. Do not overload extension cords or outlets and do not run an electrical cord under a rug.
- Natural Christmas trees always involve some risk of fire. To minimize the risk, get a fresh tree and keep it watered at all times or consider an artificial tree. Do not put the tree within three feet of a fireplace, space heater, radiator or heat vent. LED lights burn cooler than incandescent lights and pose a lower risk of fire.
- Decorate with children in mind. Do not put ornaments that have small parts or metal hooks, or look like food or candy, on the lower branches where small children can reach them. Trim protruding branches at or below a child's eye level, and keep lights out of reach.
- Do not burn Christmas tree branches, treated wood or wrap-

ping paper in a home fireplace.

- Never leave burning candles unattended. Don't put candles on a tree or a natural wreath, or near curtains or drapes. Keep matches and lighters locked out of reach. Battery-operated flameless candles are an alternative that does not have a fire risk.
- Have working smoke detectors on every level of your home and in every sleeping area.

Safe Kids Kansas also offers these tips to prevent accidental poisoning:

- Keep alcohol, including baking extracts, out of reach and do not leave alcoholic drinks unattended. Don't forget to store all medications, including those for children, out of reach.
- Color additives used in fireplace fires are a toxic product and should be stored out of reach. Artificial snow sprays are also harmful if inhaled.
- Holly berries, mistletoe berries, poinsettias, amaryllis, boxwood, Christmas rose, Crown of Thorns, English ivy and Jerusalem cherry are all potentially harmful if eaten. If a child eats any part of a non-food plant, call the Poison Control Center at (800) 222-1222.
- Have furnaces inspected annually and install carbon monoxide detectors in your home.

We want your local news: e-mail to [colby.editor@nwkansas.com](mailto:colby.editor@nwkansas.com)

## Abilene Hustlers 4-H Club

The December Abilene Hustlers 4-H Club meeting always proves to be lots of fun getting everyone in the Christmas spirit.

Club members started the evening off Monday singing Christmas carols for the residents at Meadowlark Manor, Deseret Care Center, Prairie Senior Living Center and Fairview Estates before heading to the Thomas County 4-H building to prepare Christmas cards for Genesis and troops overseas. After the cards were finished club members, parents, leaders, and guests then partook in the annual soup supper.

President Brook Ziegelmeier called the meeting to order and Shelby Crampton led members in the flag salute. Fourteen club

## Oakley ladies plan craft fair

The Oakley Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies' Auxiliary will have an arts and crafts fair from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday at the Vets Club, 317 Center in Oakley. Lunch will be served each day.

For information, call Carla Dible at 443-1107.

## 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.

## Abilene Hustlers 4-H Club

members answered roll call with a gift they would like to give for Christmas. Aliza Bartlett led the members in singing the school fight song and Sarah Lamm read the minutes from the previous meeting and a thank you from the Kansas 4-H Foundation. Other reports were from Cassie Wells, reporter, and the 4-H Council.

Club members voted to give \$50 to Rotary for their annual glove and hat campaign, \$50 for the Angel Tree and \$150 in incentives for pizza sales. Following the business portion, Mac Haines led members in playing Shark and Minnows.

Josh Koon announced the program for the meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 6, at the Thomas County 4-H building.

Jake Koon led the 4-H pledge and the meeting was adjourned.

- Cassie Wells, reporter

## Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day	
Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$6.97
Corn (bushel)	\$4.27
Milo (hundredweight)	\$7.38
Soybeans (bushel)	\$12.20

## League vocal clinic held at Golden Plains

By Brianna Stoll  
Golden Plains High School

On Nov. 12, Golden Plains High School and Middle School held the annual League Vocal Clinic.

Schools with students attending the high school vocal clinic this year were Brewster, Cheylin, Golden Plains, Healy, Logan, Northern Valley, Palco, Triplains, Weskan, Western Plains and Wheatland. The middle school attendees were from Brewster, Triplains, Golden Plains, Grinnell, Healy, Logan, Northern Valley, Damar, Triplains, Weskan, and Western Plains.

The middle school vocal clinic's guest conductor this year was Jennifer Ruder. She is a graduate of Norton Community High School and Fort Hays State University, currently in her second year as the music teacher at Eisenhower Elementary in Hays.

The middle school choir sang six songs, including the mass choir song, the "Star Spangled Banner."

The high school vocal clinic's guest conductor was Kelly Knedler. He is the director of

choral music and musical theatre at Dodge City High School. He serves as the co-chairperson for mentoring for the Kansas Music Educators' Association and is the executive director for the Southwest Kansas Music Educators' Association.

He was host for the association's mentoring program. He also sponsors the seminar "In the Trenches" for new teachers and was the guest presenter for Tri-M day at the association's annual meeting. This is his 17th year teaching vocal music in public, private and college settings in several states.

The high school group also sang six songs this year, with their mass choir song being "Blowin' in the Wind/America."

The choirs put on a performance that was open to anyone who wanted to come. Golden Plains senior Tristan Schwarz was selected as a soloist for the concert.

"I was honored to be selected to be one of the soloists at vocal clinic this year," said Schwarz. "It was a really cool experience."

# Letters To Santa

## Calling all kids!!

Dear Santa...



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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Bring your Santa Letter by the office or mail to:

Colby Free Press  
155 W. 5th St.  
Colby, KS 67701

Deadline for letters is Friday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>

Your letter will appear in the paper so Santa can read it!



High Plains Lions Club  
**PANCAKE FEED**  
Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

\$5.00 Donation • 7am - 2 pm  
Colby Community Building



Net proceeds for community projects

## Save \$\$\$ on prescription drug costs!

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**October 15, 2013 -**  
**December 7, 2013**

Call TODAY! 1-800-860-5260.



SHICK is administered by the Kansas Department for Aging & Disability Services

## "We Serve" PANGAKES

EGGS - SAUSAGE - PIE  
**GEM LIONS CLUB**

Gem Community Building  
December 11, 2013  
11:00 AM - 7:00 PM

"Serving the best since 1955"