

Watch out down below

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press
The old St. Thomas Hospital on Range Avenue shed its roof earlier this month as a crane from Murray Roofing took pieces of scrap metal off the roof. Leo Stephens was waiting at the bottom to take the metal away.



Old year rapidly coming to close

Well, in five days we will be singing the traditional folk song for New Year's Eve, "Old Lunge Syne."

Did you know that this was originally a poem by Robert Burns? It was then turned into a song. If you do not recognize the name, maybe the first line will help you; "Should old acquaintance be forgot..."

I remember writing the first column for 2013 and being overwhelmed with the thought that we were 13 years into a new century. Now we have just finished it. Wow. What will you write in your journal for this year? Remember to write down the things you are thankful for, and all the wonderful things you learned and experienced.

Now down to library business. The first book I would like to tell you about is "The Signature of All Things," by Elizabeth Gilbert, historical fiction set in the early 1800s. Gilbert's protagonist is Alma Whittaker, a young woman well versed in botany. She meets a young artist who brings a spiritual dimension into her scientifically oriented mind. Together they share and learn lessons of life together.

Another item is "Looking for



Melany Wilks

• Library Links

Me," by Beth Hoffman. Protagonist Teddi Overman restores old furniture and other people's junk. In fact, her first piece came from alongside the road in Kentucky. She is well known in her business and enjoying life when she must face circumstances from years ago when her brother disappeared. She has never gotten over it; now she finds there is more to the story than she ever thought. Teddi shares relationships, joy and fun with the reader as the story unfolds.

The next book is "Arsenic and Old Puzzles," by Parnell Hall, No. 14 of the *Puzzle Lady Mysteries*. Elderberry wine and two murders at Bakerhaven Bed and Breakfast brings Cora the Puzzle Lady to investigate just what is happening at the inn. Cora has other important events and people in her life right now, but she just cannot stand it when she's unable to solve a mystery easily. Enjoy this easy fun

read. The next item is "Light of the World," by James Lee Burke. This is No. 20 in the *Dave Robicheaux* series. In this mystery thriller, Louisiana sheriff detective Dave Robicheaux takes a vacation with his wife Alafia, partner Clete Purcel and Clete's daughter, Gretchen Horowitz. They are looking forward to a nice quiet time together in Montana. However, serial killer Asa Surrette, a Kansas convicted murderer, escapes from a transport van. Surrette heads out of state to - where else - but Montana. Read the book to enjoy the suspense and intrigue.

Amazon tells readers that if you like James Lee Burke you will enjoy the newest added item, "Down River," by John Hart. Hart brings the reader protagonist Adam Chase. Chase has returned to his hometown, Salisbury City in Rowan County. No one expects him, not his friends and most of all his family. Adam knows it's time to confront his past and stop running from the accusations of those who drove him away. He doesn't know whether he should hope in the future or fear it, but he knows he must face it.

The next added novel is "Unwritten," by Charles Martin. Martin has Father Steady Capri an elderly priest, give sage advice to a middle-aged mystery man. These two go way back; the priest knows that this mystery man has buried his past deep within himself. The two are having an important con-

versation as two men who know that their relationship is important to both. Father Steady decides he must ask Edmond to help him save the life of another lost individual. It begins with a short visit to the Sky Seven which is monitored and guarded by ex-Navy Seals. Learn what this new challenge holds and just who really gets "saved" by who.

Best-selling author, Ted Dekker has also come out with a new book, "Outlaw." The title brought me to think about a western outlaw, but this book is far from that.

Julie Carter and her son are on a ship near the northern tip of Queensland. Captain Moses is the master of the ship until a storm leaves Julie and her infant son alone on the ship. Julie must try and save them alone in this monstrous storm. She finds herself a captive in Irian Jaya jungles beyond the reach of civilization, as son and mother fight for their lives while relating to a primitive culture.

Other items we have added are: "The Light in the Ruins," by Chris Bohjalian; and "The Supreme Macaroni Company," by Adriana Trigiani.

Our hours this week are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. today and Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday. We will be open until 5 p.m. Monday and Tuesday and closed New Year's Day. Regular hours return Thursday, Jan. 2.

See you in the library!

Boy awakens family in fire

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (AP) - A 6-year-old Kansas City, Kan., boy alerted his family to a fire at their home, giving the family enough time to escape the blaze.

Firefighters responded to the alarm early today to find heavy fire at the one-story residence. *The Kansas City Star* reports (bit.ly/JuclSR) fire crews had the blaze

under control within 30 minutes.

The adults told investigators the boy woke them, alerting them to the fire. Four other children had spent the night with relatives elsewhere.

The house was destroyed. Fire investigators estimated the loss at \$65,000.

Cleo C. Case

March 2, 1921- December 18, 2013

The family of Cleo Case extends sincere thanks to: Colby Medical Services for all the years of care, Logan County Hospital staff who took such good care of him when he was hospitalized. Hays Medical Center for the loving care he received during his final days. George Werth for the many hours and stories he shared with Cleo. The residents of Fairview Estates the last 2 years. Cleo lived a long and fulfilling life. His oldest granddaughter, Keela Lee Allison, said, "now grandpa has his angel wings".

He will be missed by friends and family. Thank you all.
- Keela, Colleen, Colin & Linda, C. Wayne & Kathy

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

From the Ortners & American Implement



Deaths

Bette L. Hackney Grout

Bette L. Hackney Grout, 89, an Atwood homemaker, died Sunday, Dec. 22, 2013, at the Rawlins County Health Center in Atwood.

She was born Feb. 20, 1924, in Beardsley, the daughter of Dewey and Laura (Ohlson) Lorimer.

On Aug. 15, 1941, she married Kermit Hackney. They lived on a farm in Bassettville Township of Decatur County.

Later she lived in Atwood.

On Oct. 15, 1986, she married Lewis Grout.

Preceding her in death were her parents; two husbands; an infant brother, William Lorimer; and two sisters, Ruth Peyton and Leta Fox.

Survivors include a son, Marlin (Betty) Hackney, Kansas City, Mo.; two daughters, Sandra

(Ross) Van Curen, Peabody; and Vicki (Roger) Houston, Lake-wood, Colo.; two brothers, Doran Lorimer and Roland (Linda) Lorimer, all of Atwood; 12 grandchildren; and numerous great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 27, 2013, at the First Christian Church in Atwood, with burial in the Oberlin Cemetery.

Visitation was to be from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. today at Pauls Funeral Home in Oberlin and from 9 a.m. to service time Friday at the church in Atwood.

The family suggests memorials in her name in care of the funeral home, 121 N. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan., 67749.

Condolences for the family may be left at www.paulsffh.com.

Bruce Halvorson

Bruce Halvorson, 62, Gem, production manager at Crop Production Services of Oakley, died Monday, Dec. 23, 2013, at the Hays Medical Center.

He was born Sept. 18, 1951, in Crosby, N.D., to Selmer and Glen-nie (Moum) Halvorson.

An Army veteran, he served in Vietnam from 1969 to 1971.

On Sept. 21, 1996, he married Paula (Dinkel) Riedel in Colby.

He enjoyed working with farmers and agriculture at Crop Production. Before that he had been an over-the-road truck driver for 22 years.

Preceding him in death were his parents; a brother, Boyd Halvorson; and two sisters, Hazel Morales and Gayle Olsen.

Survivors include his wife, of the home; three daughters, Carrie

(Travis) Towns, Monument; April Riedel and boyfriend Scott Baker, Goodland; and Brandi Halvorson and boyfriend Clyde Bishop, Pueblo, Colo.; a sister, Sylvia (Stan) Stefan, Botthell, Wash.; and three grandchildren.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 30, 2013, at the Baalmann Mortuary in Oakley.

The family will receive friends from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday at the mortuary.

Memorials are suggested to the Northwest Kansas Foundation for Hope or Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter in care of the mortuary, Box 204, Oakley, Kan., 67748.

Condolences for the family may be left at www.baalmannmortuary.com

Willard W. Hughes

Willard W. Hughes, 87, a retired Oakley plumber, died Sunday, Dec. 22, 2013, at the Logan County Manor in Oakley.

He was born Sept. 2, 1926, to Harry and Hazel (Barritt) Hughes on the family farm in Gove County and attended school in Grinnell. He served in the Navy from 1944 to 1946. On April 9, 1951, he married Rose Lager in Oakley.

A master plumber, he worked in and later owned the family business, Hughes Plumbing in Oakley, from 1948 to 1996.

He was a member of the Kansas State Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors, a former president of the Oakley Lions Club, and a former member of the Oakley City Council. After retirement, he took up woodworking.

Preceding him in death were his parents; a brother, Robert Hughes; and a sister, Marjorie Hoth.

Survivors include his wife,

of the home; three sons, Walter (Leann) Hughes, Oakley; Keith (Rena) Hughes, Hutchinson; and Roger (Leigh) Hughes, Yellowknife, Alaska; two daughters, Nancy (Darrell) Dietz, Colorado Springs, and Sharon (Jerry Conroy) Hughes, Minneapolis; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 27, 2013, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Oakley.

The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the Baalmann Mortuary in Oakley, with a vigil service at 7 p.m.

The family suggests memorials to the St. Joseph Catholic School in care of the mortuary, Box 204, Oakley, Kan., 67748.

Condolences for the family may be left at www.baalmannmortuary.com.

Berniece E. Luker

Berniece E. Luker, 86, Colby, died Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2013, at the Presbyterian/St. Luke's Medical Center in Denver.

Services are pending with the Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel in Colby, 462-7979.

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)	\$6.39
Corn (bushel)	\$4.25
Milo (hundredweight)	\$7.25
Soybeans (bushel)	\$12.66

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