

Librarian Is Critical Of Book ‘Censorship’



Christine Sauro

McAlester Librarian Christine Sauro is not the quiet librarian of years ago. Last Tuesday she was critical of “censorship” of books offered by local libraries, and legislators who offer bills that would ban certain books.

A local library does not offer child pornography or national security secrets to the public, she said. But decisions that books that should be put in an “Adult” or “Young Adult” section should be made in each community, not by “legislation that withholds funds from libraries” or by “the Law of the Land,” she stressed.

Provisions are set up for local library boards so that local persons who are interested in the library can make such decisions, she explained.

Ms. Sauro said she thought that a censorship bill in the last State Legislature was a “one-time bill,” but she said she was mistaken.

A censor is sincere, and his or her intent is usually to

“restore moral values.” But a public library is not a “student library,” she noted. “They shouldn’t tell us what to read,” she stated.

“We carefully select” material for the McAlester Library, she said. The best thing local citizens can do is to stay informed, she added.

A few years ago, the Muskogee Library banned, “To Kill A Mockingbird” and there was a fight to make it a statewide ban, she recalled.

Asked what books people have called about here, she replied “the Harry Potter books” and books about dinosaurs. Dinosaur books have been popular, but some churches contend that the books indicate that the earth is older than the Bible says it is.

Rotarian Wayne Hanway, director of the Southeast Public Library System of Oklahoma, said there has been legislation to set up a state censorship board.

Rep. Terry Harrison, also a Rotarian, said he feels that the topic is a “local control issue.”

Hanway introduced the program.

Rotary Notes & Quotes

There are two weekends, to give us a choice when we can help the Salvation Army.

Remember, there is no meeting Dec. 26.

Pathologist Tells About New Therapy for Swallowing Ills



Krystal Whaley

Krystal Whaley told us Nov. 7 that she is a pathologist, but works as a speech therapist for people with speech and swallowing problems.

She said she is located at McAlester Regional Health Center, and evaluates patients with speech or swallowing problems.

“Every single swallow is a problem for some people,” she said.

She watches her patients swallow, looks at X-rays, and discusses the pros and cons of diet on each patient.

One new treatment, called VitalStim Therapy, is to put an electrode on throat muscles to stimulate the muscles used to swallow. It is approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Difficulty in swallowing is called Dysphagia. Symptoms may include coughing or choking while eating or drinking, excessive mouth movement during chewing and swallowing, food remaining on tongue after swallowing, “pocketing” of food on one or both sides of the mouth, drooling, increased body temperature of unknown cause, pneumonia, and chronic respiratory distress.

Her patients may have severe levels of dementia, may have had strokes, or may have Parkinson’s Diseases, she said.

Channel 8 Anchor Speaks At Heritage Day



Cindy Morrison

Cindy Morrison, News Anchorwoman at Channel 8 in Tulsa, talked about her career as speaker for the McAlester Heritage Day Luncheon, Nov. 14.

Ms. Morrison said her great grandfather, on her mother's side, took part in the Oklahoma Land Run and her paternal great-great grandfather was an Indian agent.

She said while she worked at Channel 5 in Oklahoma City, during the Oklahoma City bombing, she saw the

dedication and courage of the rescuers and the helpful spirit of Oklahomans.

She also told about her investigation of the death of a "toddler" named Kelsey. Her story on TV got over 500 e-mail messages about "The Kelsey Story." Many of those she took to state legislators. She said she told them the public is "demanding change."

Our great-grandparents built the future for us and we are building our children's future, she told those at the joint civic club meeting.

McAlester High School and elementary school students were presented awards for their art about Oklahoma's heritage.

Life Church Pastor Brings Thanksgiving Message



Pastor Terren Anderson

Terren Anderson, pastor of the Life Church told us Nov. 21 that we "can agree we have a lot of things to be thankful for," on Thanksgiving, 2006.

"We live in an outstanding country... with a roof over our heads and food to eat," he said.

We have families to be thankful for, and Anderson said he is thankful to be pastor of Life Church in McAlester.

"Sometimes life throws us curveballs," he admitted.

We could be facing a situation we are not too happy about. "But we can still realize that God is good... and faithful," He added.

"If we had no challenges, we would not need God," he observed.

Sometimes the holidays are sad times. "But my prayer is that you can see God work," he stated. "Whatever your problem, He works all things out for good."

The Bible says we should have faith in things seen and not seen, he noted. He quoted from several Psalms, and ended:

"My prayer for you is to see the work of the Lord... Bless each person here, Lord. We can do everything through you. Be with us this holiday season. Amen."

Attendance, Visitors, and Handshakers

Last Week there were 51 Rotarians and guests present. Katie Peters was a guest of Iva Due, and Deana Means was a guest of John Freeman.

On Nov. 21, 39 attended. Chad Barney was a guest of John Freeman.

And on Nov. 7, the attendance was 48. Dorothy Chatenay was a guest of Jack.

HANDSHAKERS-A new member gave the dollar last

week to Yvette Martin. He was a banker, but he didn't realize that the women and the politicians are trying to control the money.

On Nov. 21, old Jim Elliott gave the cash to Rep. Brian Renegar. Brian said out loud what the politicians all think: "I wonder what he wants?" But Jim probably didn't hear him.

On Nov. 7, John Freeman tried to give the money to the Salvation Army. Don Harris took the dollar and stuck it in his pocket.