

Many out-of-town relatives, guests visit Winona families

Richard and Laura Ausmus of Colorado Springs spent the weekend with their daughter, Marilyn, and her husband Gary Ochs and Lane in Russell Springs. The highlight of the weekend was the arrival of Traci Betz and Jadelyn of Quinter and Stephanie Daniels and Erika of Zurich to complete the happy family gathering.

Jana Gfeller's mother, Marsha Johnson, of Sharon Springs came to the junior high basketball game to wish Jana and Kara an early happy birthday. Monday evening David



Jean Lowe

• Winona Correspondent

and Judy Gfeller and Kent and Cindy Gfeller and family were guests for cake and ice cream in observance of the birthdays. Friday night after the basketball game Jana and Dennis ventured to Colby to take Kara and her friends extreme

bowling in honor of her 12th birthday. Tori Mackley, Lakyn Mackley, Heather Martin and Jerri Williams spent the rest of the night slumbering away with Kara at the home of her parents, Dennis and Jana Gfeller.

Recent visitors in the home of Evelyn Langdon were Sam and Tracy Langdon of Colby and Gene and Doris Langdon of Leoti. Evelyn was a guest of her daughter, Joyce Boehme, in Goodland during the past holiday. She enjoyed seeing her grandchildren, Craig and Kelly

Hillman, Natasha and Meadow of Goodland and J.R. Boehme and family of Colby.

Area members and other arts enthusiasts attending the Western Plains Arts sponsored program in Oakley Sunday were Paul and Dorothy Kirkham, Lindy and Lola Bretz, Erma Latham, Lucille Bruns, Donita Goyen, LaVonne Baxter, Beth Lamb, Doneta Gates, Judy Gfeller, Laicie Clark, Jean Lowe and Tom and Nancy Schertz.

She did what? A charming, confident 9-year-old Leigh Ann Mau-

rath made her television debut on "Kids-a-Cookin'" during a break on the CBS Early Show Wednesday morning. Several months ago Leigh Ann's parents, Kurt and Julie Maurath of Oakley took her to Manhattan for an audition. She was selected from a group of youngsters to be taped. A segment of the tape has shown twice on "Kids-a-Cookin'." Leigh Ann's mother, Julie, is a former Triplains home-ec teacher. Her grandparents are Tom and Nancy Schertz, who live on a farm north of Page City.

The morning coffee group of ladies was a little out of the ordinary Saturday morning at the Winona Bar and Grill.

It was Doneta Gates' birthday so there was cake with the coffee, birthday wishes and a lot of conversation.

Those present were Kim Doherty, Hailee and Riley, Louise Smith, LaVonne Baxter, Evelyn Langdon, Dorothy Moulden, Marge Ausmus, Judy Gfeller, Jean Lowe and the guest of honor, Doneta Gates.

New state website to benefit students, teachers

TOPEKA — There is a new educational resource for students, which was previewed recently by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius Robert Hemenway, University of Kansas Chancellor.

Territorial Kansas Online 1854-1861 at www.territorialkansas-online.org is a vivid illustration of the time period when Kansas entered the Union, said Bobbie Athon, public information officer.

"This virtual repository for territorial Kansas history comprises more than 2,000 primary source documents drawn from the resources of the Kansas State Historical Society and the University of Kansas. The territory, often called *Bleeding Kansas*, was thrust into the center of the nation's debate over slavery," she said.

The site features hundreds of personal letters, diaries, and maps that bring to life the settling of Kansas during the fierce debate over slavery.

Nearly 200 images contain some

of the earliest Kansas photos and illustrations of the events of the day. Lesson plans addressing the Kansas Curricular Standards for Kansas and United States History also were developed. These lessons plans are based on documents from the Territorial Kansas Online web site.

This project also incorporates museum artifacts as historical evidence. Artifacts have the power to carry the past into the present because they exist beyond the historical event they are associated with, providing a direct connection to people who lived in the past. Images of historic sites where some of the territorial confrontations occurred also are included.

In the section, *Explore Topics*, researchers are invited to peruse popular subjects: politics and government, border disputes and warfare, immigration and early settlement, personalities, and the national debate about Kansas.

Other resources include a timeline, a day-by-day chronicle from

D. W. Wilder's *The Annals of Kansas, 1541-1885*, a bibliography, frequently asked questions, and related links.

In the section, Territorial A - Z, users will find an alphabetical listing of topics and keywords that link them to documents from Kansas' territorial past-including an 1855 picture of a young African American boy standing in front of the first house in Leavenworth; an image of a melodeon played at John Brown's funeral in 1859 (among the large holdings related to Brown); an 1859 hand-written letter from presidential candidate Abraham Lincoln declining an invitation to the Osawatomie convention, which formally organized the Republican Party in Kansas; an 1857 map of the Shawnee and Wyandot Indians at the site of present day Wyandotte and Johnson counties; an 1856 letter from Mary Holliday to her husband Cyrus K. Holliday with the message that should women gain the vote, they would elect John C.

Fremont; and a wanted poster offering a \$200 reward for the return of two escaped slaves from Saline County, Mo., who reportedly were headed for Kansas Territory.

The online resource materials are designed for middle school and high school students and others researching this period in American history, Athon said.

"The teaching tools help students explore the causes of the Civil War from a national level. This large online digital database greatly increases accessibility for researchers beyond that of the original or a microfilm copy," Athon said.

Project co-directors Patricia Michaelis, Kansas State Historical Society, and Sheryl Williams, the Kansas Collection at the University of Kansas, envisioned the project and received a major grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

"A project of this type would not be possible without the type of funding provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services," Williams said.

"We selected Kansas territorial resources because they probably bring the greatest national interest of all our collections but are also among the most rare of our documents," Michaelis said. Other core team members are Rebecca Schulte, Kansas Collection, and Matt Veatch and Virgil Dean, Kansas State Historical Society.

Credit card tips offered by K-State

MANHATTAN — Credit card solicitations are plentiful, but do you need another credit card? asked Esther Maddux, Kansas State University Research and Extension financial management specialist.

"The amount of credit available to you will influence your ability to borrow — Prospective lenders check a consumer's credit score," Maddux said.

To check your score, follow these steps: 1.) Add up the total credit available to you. 2.) Add up the amount owed. 3.) Divide the amount owed by the amount of credit available to determine your credit availability score.

Here's an example: If a consumer has two credit cards each with a \$5,000 limit and one card with a \$10,000 limit, the total credit available is \$20,000. The amounts owed on the cards total \$4,000. Divide \$4,000 (the amount owed) by \$20,000 (the amount of credit available). The answer is .2 (or one-fifth), which is considered a low credit score.

Lenders prefer a lower credit score, she said. A higher score may discourage prospective lenders or could mean a higher interest rate on a loan, said Maddux, who offered this example: Suppose a consumer has one credit card with a \$5,000

limit and currently carries \$4,000 in debt. Divide 4,000 (the amount owed) by 5,000 (credit available). The answer is .8 (or four fifths) — a higher, and less desirable, credit score.

Before applying for a credit card or a loan, weigh current financial needs, existing debts and long-term financial goals, such as purchasing a home or new car or saving for retirement. Reducing debt and increasing savings is advisable, she said. For information on family issues, call the local K-State Research and Extension office at 462-6281 or visit Extension's Web site: www.oznet.ksu.edu

Health department can meet educational needs

Editor's note: The following column is provided by the Thomas County Health Department as a public service.

Everyone is invited to the Thomas County Health Department's open house from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 3 and Wednesday, Feb. 4.

Please join in for refreshments, prize drawings and tours of the health department. Come meet the staff and receive valuable information about the department.

Have you ever needed someone to speak and educate a group or club? Did you know your health department has a qualified staff that has a great library of information to do this for you? Utilizing your health department is for your benefit.

Sometimes you might find yourself wondering about certain medical or safety issues and you may have questions about these issues.

Your health department staff will gladly help you with any information and education needed. It just takes a phone call or an appointment.

What else does the health department do?

We have blood pressure clinics

Healthy Haps

at the following locations: Meadow Lark Manor and Senior Progress Center, Fairview Estates, Rexford Senior Center and Brewster Senior Center.

We peddle flu shots to any business that wants clinics during flu shot season.

We change bandages, evaluate ears and hearing, give injections, do physicals, weigh and measure babies, trim toenails and do foot care on problem feet, make home visits to assure the growth and development of our infants, immunize our children and adults, among many other services. The staff at the health department is very cheerful, helpful and compassionate.

You should come to our open house and check us out. We would love to see you there and visit with you. Someone once told me that the health department was the county's best kept secret.

Let's not let this happen in Thomas County and let's get the secret out of the "bag."

We hope to see you at our open house.

Citizens Medical Center's First Baby of 2004, Welcome!



"Lee and I were very impressed by Dr. Slavens. He has a great bedside manner! Dr. Slavens is so busy, but was never too busy to visit with us and that means a lot to me. The epidural was a good experience all around, and made labor so much better. We were very happy with Dr. Slavens." said Brandie Ihrig,

Congratulations to Brandie, Lee and brother Bryson Ihrig of Goodland. Welcome Logan Laree Ihrig to our community. Logan was born at 4:24 P.M. on Monday, January 12th at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. She weighed 6 pounds, 7.9 ounces and was 18 1/2 inches long with brown hair and blue eyes. Logan's proud grandparents are Rick and Victoria Windell of Kanorado, KS and Larry and Rita Ihrig of Goodland. The following businesses of Colby have donated presents for Logan and her family and all give a hearty welcome to the newest member of our Northwest Kansas community.

- Dillons of Colby
- Wal-Mart
- Kansas Quick Lube
- Colby Bowl
- Horlacher Jewelry
- Stephens Construction
- CK Lumber
- Citizens Foundation
- Colby Photo
- Family Center For Health Care
- Dr. Gary Slavens
- Luetta Flanagan and Jenny Niblock
- Barton Concrete
- Citizens Medical Center, Inc.

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Southwind Plaza

Saturday, January 24th * 10 am - 6 pm

Football Toss for Prize Giveaway

Guess Superbowl winner/total points for \$50 Plaza bucks!

All ages, boys and girls - register at any store!