

Birthday arrives, Feb. 22

The family of Ada Siegfried is holding a card shower to help her celebrate her 90th birthday on Feb. 22. Cards may be sent to her in care of Box 843, St. Francis, KS 67756 or to Ada Siegfried c/o Hillcrest Nursing Home, 360 Canyon Ridge Drive, Wray, CO.



Ada Siegfried

Program offers help to stretch food budget

The deadline for the Prairie Land food program for February is Feb. 9. Pick up will be on Feb. 21. For more information concerning the program you made call Amanda Milne Mahon - 308-297-3214 or 785-332-6371; Video Connection - 785-332-3965; Empire Motel - 785-332-2231; Tim E. Poling D.D.S. (Margaret) or Lee Nichols

One way to help make your food budget stretch is with the Prairie Land Food Program. People who lead youth groups, help out their neighbors, volunteer at their children's local school, sing in their church choir - they don't do so to be rewarded. The act itself is reward enough. Prairie Land Food is a way showing appreciation for the volunteer service that people give to others by offering those volunteers a great deal on food

packages.

The Prairie Land Food program is not a government program, it is available to everyone regardless of income. Prairie Land Food is a 501(c)(3) organization with a goal of providing nutritious food at a low cost to help stretch food dollars. Prairie Land Food will also give back to communities through a grant system for community projects. It is funded through participation, the more people that participate, the greater the package values are.

To see what will be offered each month, you can contact one of the volunteers listed above. If interested you can pay volunteers with check, cash or EBT food stamps. You can go on-line to www.prairielandfood.com and pay with debit card or check.



BRINGING THE WEST alive. Historian Arnold Schofield took time to explain life on the plains to the St. Francis third grade class.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Kansas Day gathering entertains all there

There were still patches of snow on the ground for the 80th Kansas Day celebration in Bird City; however, it was 148 years ago that Kansas became the country's 34th state. This year's theme was "Cattle Trails of Kansas."

When the American Legion hall opened the doors at 10 a.m., it did not take long to fill up the seats with both young and old who came to hear some of Kansas' history, look at the displays made by St. Francis and Cheylin elementary students, and be entertained with cowboy music and square dancing.

During lunch, the Swinging Seniors treated the audience to music and after lunch was over, the program started with the St. Francis third grade class singing and dancing to "Turkey in the Straw." With one of the students dressed up like a turkey, it had the crowd tapping their toes.

Next up were the Cheylin fourth graders, dressed in cowboy hats and with the help of the fifth and sixth grade classes, started their presentation. However, they experienced some audio difficulties and had to wait until later in the show to perform. When they did, it was another real toe-tapper as they sang and square danced. Continuing with song and dance were the St. Francis Singers, led by Louanne Isernhagan and accompanied by Sandy Bandel.

Following the entertainment was guest speaker, Arnold Schofield, historian and cultural resource specialist at Fort Scott National

Historic Site. He wore a Union uniform that was a replica of the type worn during the battle. He explained each strip and emblem, and how the uniform was properly worn.

Bringing the story alive, Mr. Schofield shared interesting information that separated fact from fiction about what actually happened during the Mine Creek battle. In addition, he demonstrated how several weapons were carried into battle and how they were used.

Continuing with the program, special recognition was given to Marlin "Bud" Houtman for being both the eldest Kansas-born man at the Kansas Day ceremony and the eldest Cheyenne County-born man. Meta Dankenbring received recognition for the eldest Cheyenne County-born woman, Otto Bandel for the eldest foreign-born man; Galina Tseruibel eldest born foreigner from Toropels, Russia; Susan Chomer for youngest foreign-born woman from Wurzburg, Germany.

The eldest-man recognition went to Edwin Meyer of Smyrna, Neb., born in 1912 and eldest woman honor went to Myra Miller from Hunter, born in 1910. The youngest girl attending the Kansas Day ceremonies went to Marcelle Ceballes, born in 2006.

Ending the ceremonies was a memorial tribute given by Pastor Jeff Landers, Christian Church, St. Francis.

Future of prison raises questions

By Tom Dreiling
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The fate of the Norton Correctional Facility is in limbo at present. Or so it would seem. What created an uproar of sorts in the community the last couple of days was word that the prison would close on April 1.

That assumption probably resulted from a Department of Corrections letter from the Secretary of Corrections Roger Werholtz, to employees of the Norton and Winfield facilities. In that letter he addressed the cuts his department is facing in the new budget and concluded that closing of some facilities might be in order.

"The Norton Facility is not going to close!" That was the statement made Wednesday by Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer (R-40th District) in a conversation with The Telegram. He hoped he could say the same thing for the Stockton prison too, but wasn't as adamant as he was about the Norton facility.

"Where are we going to put all those inmates if Norton was to close?", he asked. Norton has in the neighborhood of 730 inmates.

The State Senate initially passed the budget cutting bill on Wednesday. The final Senate vote was expected to come sometime yesterday.

The budget-cutting bill moved to the Kansas House Thursday with an uncertain future. Reports from Topeka indicate Republican moderates in that body are not solid in their support.

The effect on Norton and the surrounding area would be devastating should the prison here be closed. It would mean 267 state employees would lose their jobs. Whether or not all of this becomes a reality hinges on action the House takes and then what eventually can be ironed out with the Senate — if that need arises — and then how Gov. Sebelius weighs the pro and cons.

In the letter referenced at the outset of this report from Corrections Secretary Werholtz, he told employees in part that the budget proposal provides for a 3.4 percent across the board reduction for state agencies. He said for the Department of Corrections this reduction would be in addition to reductions previously submitted by the department. He said a 3.4 percent cut means approximately \$9.3 million.

The secretary said that "since

we are now completing the seventh month of the fiscal year, it would be very difficult to realize reductions of \$9.3 million in the remaining five months... To accomplish this, reductions would have to be made in major budget areas."

Then the secretary said in his letter — and this is what caused the uproar locally, "The possible areas of budget reductions include: suspension of operations at Winfield and Norton Correctional Facilities effective April 1, 2009; advance the suspension of operations at Stockton Correctional Facility (from June earlier reported) to April 1, 2009; abolish parole and post release supervision effective April 1, 2009; and terminate all offender treatment and intervention programs effective April 1, 2009"

He said these actions would obviously have a significant impact on the Department of Corrections, the employees involved, the communities affected, as well as the overall citizenry of Kansas.

He said decisions would have to be made regarding what to do with the number of inmates who would then exceed the capacity of the remaining correctional facilities. The secretary also said that exceeding the capacity of remaining facilities and abolishing all treatment and intervention programs would significantly impair the department's ability to keep the inmate population productively occupied so inmate management actions to ease the strain of increased idleness would be necessary.

He then added, "With all treatment and intervention programs closed and parole and post release supervision eliminated, how would offenders be reintroduced to the community in a way so that future victimization is kept as low as possible?"

Secretary Werholtz said these actions, should they have to be implemented, would have a negative impact on the safety of staff and the public.

The secretary did emphasize that decisions regarding budget reductions are not yet final. "A number of steps in the process have yet to be taken," he said.

As the lawmakers in Topeka debate, the communities involved, sit and wait. Jobs and security are at stake. To contact either Sen. Ostmeyer or Rep. John Faber, call (785) 296-0111.

Obituaries

Melba Beeson

April 16, 1918 - Jan. 31, 2009

Longtime Kanorado, Kan., resident Melba Beeson, 90, died Saturday, Jan. 31, 2009, at Wheat Ridge Acres in Goodland, where she had been a resident since 2007.

She was born April 16, 1918, on a farm north of Agra, the daughter of Grover and Etha (Sargent) Munyon. When she was 3-years-old, the family moved to Kansas City, where her father attended the university to enter into the ministry. As a minister in the United Brethren Church, the family moved to several central Kansas towns, so she attended several schools, graduating in 1936 from high school in Esbon.

In 1937, she met and married Cleo Beeson at Bird City. They had 70-years together. The family moved from Bird City to Kanorado in 1942.

To this union were born four children: Lonnie, who died at the age of two weeks; daughter Karen; and sons Ronald and Robert.

Melba was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother and her life revolved around her family. The family table was always surrounded with grandchildren and great-grandchildren visiting and helping on the farm.

She was a member of the Kanorado Methodist Church and other community organizations.

Preceding her in death were her husband, Cleo; son, Lonnie; grandson, Jeffrey; parents; brothers, Arnold and LaVere, and several sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law.

Surviving family includes daughter, Karen Coon and her husband, Gary of Goodland; son, Ronald Beeson and his wife, Jeanie of Kanorado; son, Robert Beeson and his wife, Marlene of Newton; six grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; sister, Dorothy Furst of Frisco, Texas;

sister-in-law Betty Beeson of Bird City; brother-in-law Clinton Beeson and his wife, Phyllis of Englewood, Colo.; and sister-in-law, Ruth Kretzel and her husband, Warren of Denver, Colo.

The funeral will be Friday, Feb. 6, at 10 a.m. mountain time, at Koons Chapel in Goodland, with Pastor Leonard Cox officiating. Burial will follow in the Bird City Cemetery.

Friends may share their respects on Friday, from 9 a.m. until the service.

Memorials may be designated to Hospice Services of Sherman County, or the Kanorado United Methodist Church, and may be left at or mailed to Koons Funeral Home, 211 N. Main, Goodland, KS 67735-1555.

Non-surgical treatment of hemorrhoids.

John D. Ferris, MD will be at: 291 15th Street Burlington, CO

Wednesday, Feb. 18 & Friday, Feb. 20

For information or appointment, call 1-800-593-0009






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