

## Looks like governor-elect is off to a terrible start

Governor-elect Kathleen Sebelius is off to a terrible start with her promised effort to overhaul Kansas government, and the truth is, she doesn't understand why she's in trouble.

Apparently oblivious to the state's Open Meetings Law, Mrs. Sebelius decreed that — except for a few public hearings — sessions of her study panels would be closed to the public.

She trotted out the same old tired excuse for closing the meetings that public officials always use: Members wouldn't be free to speak their minds if people were listening.

What that really means is, she expects the panels to come up with a plan that can be crammed down someone's throat if they are not watching.

The outgoing attorney general, Republican Carla Stovall, ruled that the committees can meet in closed session, but only until she is sworn in. At that point, they'll change magically into state-sponsored committees that fall under the law.

That ruling ignores the fact that as governor elect, Mrs. Sebelius is using state money and state employees on the transition process to help run the panels. But at least the attorney general came down on the side of open government.

The tragedy here is that Mrs. Sebelius has shown she neither understands nor values the principle of open government which is central to democracy.

Legal or not, how can she propose that something as crucial as an overhaul of Kansas government be

drawn up in secret session?

We don't let the Legislature work that way. We don't let the school board or the city council work that way, and with good reason.

The people need to know what their government is doing. Opponents need a chance to oppose cuts and consolidations. Supporters need to know what programs are threatened.

Of course, they'll react. That's how the system works. The only reason to plot in secret is the hope to slip a few by those who otherwise might object.

Doing things that way might result in a cleaner reorganization plan and a bigger budget cut, but it's not democracy in action. It's old-fashioned backroom politics.

With the state's economy in the tank and tax revenue in free fall, the incoming governor is going to have enough problems to deal with as is. She doesn't need the bad image being generated by her secret meetings. She doesn't need the lawsuit and the political losses it will entail. Already, the state's newspapers have her in court, and one of her token Republicans has quit the panels.

Most of all, though, she needs a lesson in civics and a clear understanding of how a democracy is supposed to function — with an informed electorate judging is how it's elected officials function.

Judging by her stubbornness on this issue, she hasn't learned much yet in the school of hard knocks. — Steve Haynes



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## Hangin' With Marge

By Margaret Bucholtz



The holidays are once again upon us and it is a great time for sharing time with our loved ones.

Reading Karen's Korner in the paper this last week brought a smile to my face. I could relate to the hurrying, trying to balance our everyday lives with the prospect of having this wonderful, out of this world, Thanksgiving.

As usual I did most of my planning in the middle of the night and by the next morning I would forget part of what was on the menu.

I told myself that for once dinner

wouldn't be ready at 10 a.m. but I would shoot for 2 p.m. and then maybe at noon we would eat.

Things went as planned until one of the kids asked me to help them scan a picture. The next thing I knew the other kids were looking around for me and wondering if I was going to make the gravy and fix anything else. I sort-of chuckled to myself because at least they couldn't tease me about getting around so early.

The gravy was made and everyone was called to the table. I watched as

some filled their plates till the sides were running over, and felt sorry for the wrestlers in the family that were taking their Slim Fast to the basement.

Then it happened, the words that I hear each year ring in my ears. My son just about had his food gone when he made the announcement — "Sure do miss my grandmother's cooking."

I'll try again at Christmas, but it will never be like my mother's cooking.

## Genealogy Korner

### The Lambert family

By Marilyn Holzwarth

This week we received a request for information about the Lambert family. We were able to help with some of the names because they appeared in the county family files, and are connected with other families here, however, there are many we do not have. If you are related to these Lambert/Halley/Chamberlin/Hitchcock families, please let us learn more about your family so we will be able to help this searcher with more of the family. He

is interested in learning the important dates, spouses and places of burial.

We were able to help with those buried in Cheyenne County, and also Bernice and Wilber Lambert who are buried in Twin Falls, Idaho. If you are interested in the names he listed for information, please let me know, either by mail or email. My address is Box 671, St. Francis, and my email is hmholz@ruraltel.net.

If you have questions about any early family just ask, chances are they appear in the family file which contains

over 85,000 names of people with some connection to Cheyenne County.

The Cheyenne County burial book is scheduled to be done sometime around Christmas, please let someone in the Historical Society know if you are interested in one of these, a hundred are being printed so there will be enough for everyone who wants a book. I have just learned about one error, and one omission, please let us know about others so we will be able to print a page of these mistakes so people will not be confused by them.

## Years Ago

### 5 years ago - 1997

John Knodel has been appointed to the St. Francis Board of Education to complete the term of Dean O'Brien. Daryl Loyd has been appointed a coaching aide for wrestling and Robyn Raile a coaching aide for girls' basketball.

Members of the Chamber of Commerce are busy untangling strings of Christmas lights as preparations are being made for Santa's Hut. The Public Access Video Steering Committee will soon be videotaping the public meetings in Cheyenne County to be shown on cable television.

Pioneer Area Development of Hill City had a plane flying over Cheyenne County taking pictures of piles of old tires. The Cheyenne County Commis-

sioners said that the findings added up to over 189 stacks of old tires they are working on a plan concerning what to do with them.

The Cheyenne County 4-H Judging team represented Kansas at the Na-

tional 4-H Livestock Judging Contest in Louisville, Ky., last week and took second overall. Teams members include Jessica Dunn, Megan Douthit, Nikki Krien and Darin Wiley. Lyn Wiley is the adviser.

**GOD SAYS**  
**Fear thou not; for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yes, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.**  
 Isaiah 41:10

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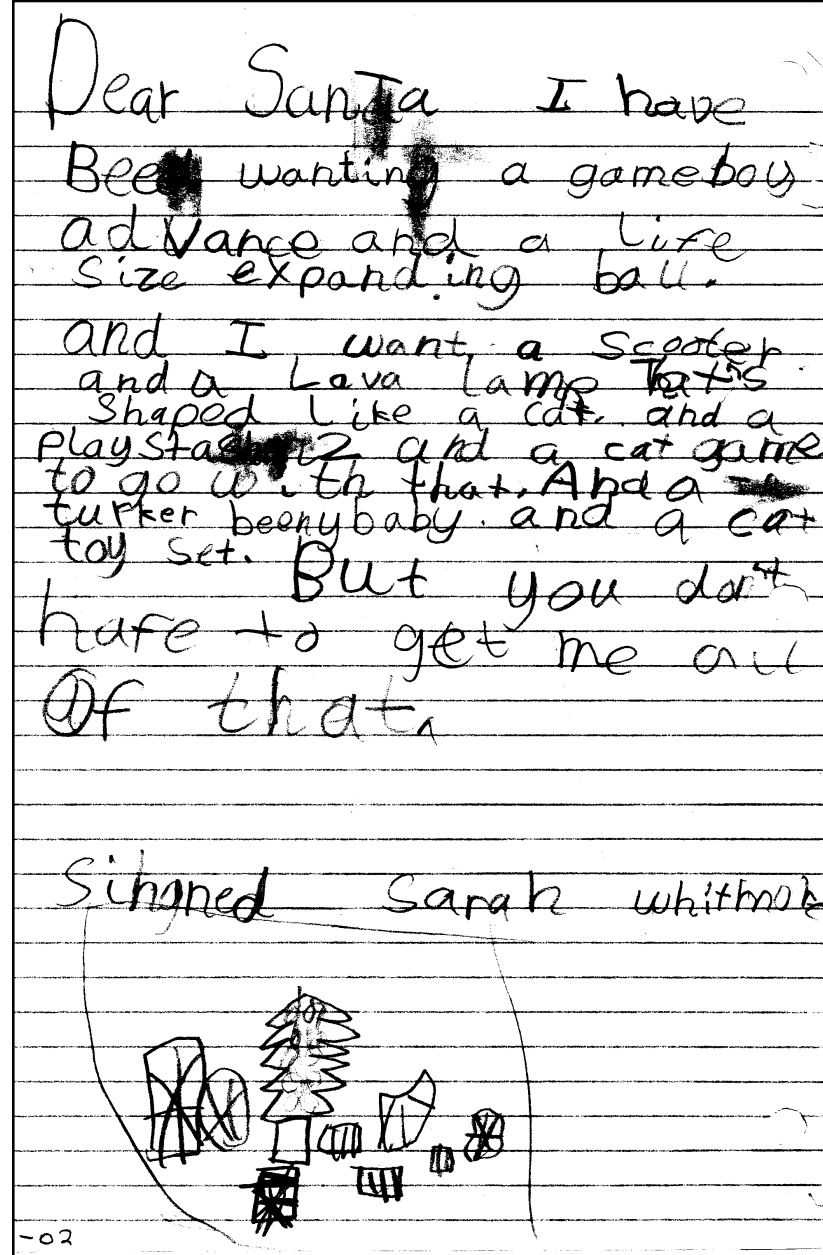
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## -Lines from Library-

The following new books are at the library: *Q Is For Quarry* by Sue Grafton; *Stranded In Paradise* by Lori Copeland; *Season Of Blessing* by Beverly LaHate; *The Beloved Land* by Janette Oke; *Christmas Vows* by Lori Copeland; *The Murder Book* by Jonathan Kellerman; *Chesapeake Blue* by Nora Roberts; *Jerusalem's Hope* by Bodie and Brock Thoene; *Somewhere A Song* by Judith Pella; *No One To Trust* by Iris Johansen; *The Christmas Basket* by Debbie Macomber; *Twisted Roots* by V.C. Andrews; *Quintins* by Mauve Binchy; *Let There Be Light* by Al Lacy; *Fire Ice* by Clive Cussler; *The Crush* by Sandra Brown; *The Diary of Ellen Rimbauer: My Life At Rose Red* by Stephen King.

The following new books have been added to the children's department: *Crafts From Your Favorite Nursery Rhymes* by Kathy Ross; *Arriving At Ellis Island: Adding It Up At The Zoo* by Judy Nayer; *Terrorism In America* by Tricia Andryszewski; *Just Not Invited* by Mercer Mayer; *Just A Secret* by Mercer Mayer; *Muck's Sleepover* by Kike Thorpe; *Spike At Halloween* by Gail Herman; *Franklin's Canoe Trip* by Paulette Bourgeois; *Dizzy And Muck Work It Out* by Annie Auerbach; *Angelina And The Rag Doll* by Katherine Holaberd; *Angelina And The Wings* by Katherine Holaberd; *Angelina And The Butterfly* by Katherine Holaberd; *A Day At The Fair* by Katherine Holaberd; *Naughty Bunnies* by Richard Scarry; *Just Like You* by Sarah Albee; *Expedition Down Under* by Rebecca Carmi.

## Honor Roll

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<p><b>Wesleyan Church</b>          Hwy 36 • 734-2727          Pastor Scott Baker          Sunday School 9:45 a.m.          Worship 11:00 a.m.          Sunday Bible Study 7 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Peace Lutheran Church</b>          202 N. College          332-2928 Pars. 332-2308          Pastor David Rossbach          Sunday School 9:30 a.m.          Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>United Methodist Church</b>          Church Office 332-2292,          Church 332-2254,          Pars. 332-3170          512 S. Scott          Pastor Nel Holmes          Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.          Sunday School 9:30 a.m.          Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>
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<p><b>Grace Assembly of God</b>          332-2925, Pars. 332-2899          208 E. 2nd          Rev. Rob Meyer          Sunday School 9:30 a.m.          Worship 10:30          Sunday Eve. Service 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Seventh-Day Adventist Church</b>          332-2888 • 3rd &amp; Adams          Pastor Arlin Cochran          Sabbath School 9:30          Morning Worship 10:45</p>	<p><b>Clough Valley Baptist Church</b>          Pastor Al Davis D. Min.          12 m. west, 6 m. north of SF          332-2506          Sunday School 9:00 a.m. CT          Worship 10:00 a.m. CT</p>
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