

Couple plans 50th wedding celebration

The children of Allan and Lois Pence invite friends and relatives to attend a special 50th wedding anniversary in the couple's honor. Allan and Lois were married March 20, 1955 at the Rexford Community Church. They will be celebrating at the Quality Inn in Colby, from 7-10pm, on Saturday. The couple has requested no gifts, please, family members said.



Allan and Lois Pence on their wedding day, March 20, 1955 in Rexford.

Card shower requested for Colby woman

Francie Zoberst is celebrating her 90th birthday on Thursday, March 17. In honor of this special day, family and friends are requesting a card shower in her honor to "celebrate her being 90 years young." Cards may be sent to her at: 1860 S. Range Ave., Colby, Kan. 67701.



Francie Zoberst to celebrate 90th birthday.

Man wants DNA profile destroyed

WICHITA (AP) — Police hunting for the BTK serial killer kicked down the door at Roger Valadez's home, coming in with guns drawn. They handcuffed the Wichita man before taking a sample of his DNA with a swab from his mouth. Turns out, that swab proved Valadez wasn't the notorious BTK. Now he wants it destroyed, and he wants some answers about why they took it in the first place. The DNA sample, taken on Dec. 1 as police searched and seized items from Valadez's home, was one of 1,300 tested during the BTK investigation, making it one of the largest such DNA sweeps in the United States. But when authorities arrested Dennis Rader, and later charged him with 10 slayings police blamed on the BTK killer, it came as a result of old-fashioned police work. It's the latest example, according to civil rights advocates, of a widespread DNA sweep that failed to nab a suspect. "As the case has unfolded, it

proves our basic point of our report: this mass swabbing is really unproductive. "This is not how they caught the

Parks service asks for deterrent on heritage sites

WASHINGTON (AP) — A proposed national heritage area in eastern Kansas would highlight violent events that led to the Civil War, a supporter told members of Congress Tuesday. A National Park Service official, however, urged lawmakers to defer legislation authorizing any additional national heritage sites until Congress establishes a uniform system of guidelines for deciding what areas are nationally significant. Sens. Sam Brownback and Pat Roberts, both Kansas Republicans, introduced legislation earlier this year to designate the Bleeding Kansas and Enduring Struggle for Freedom National Heritage Area, which

Senate looks to advance safety law

TOPEKA (AP) — Senators are trying again to strengthen Kansas' child passenger safety law, giving first-round approval Tuesday to a bill requiring all minors to wear seat belts or ride in special safety seats. The measure, advanced on a voice vote, also would triple the fine for violating the law to \$60 and make it easier for law enforcement officers to ticket young drivers. The Senate planned to take final action on the bill Wednesday, when passage would send the measure to the House. Senators approved similar bills in 2001, 2002 and 2004, only to see them die in the other chamber. Strengthening the law has been a goal of some legislators, law enforcement agencies and child advocates since 2001, when Kansas' existing law received an "F" from the National SAFE KIDS Campaign. Supporters of the bill contend a stronger law will save lives. "It's time to have kids buckle up," said Sen. Mark Taddiken, R-Clifton.

guy," said Sam Walker, a University of Nebraska-Omaha professor who has conducted a national study of DNA sweeps.

Man wants DNA profile destroyed

would include 24 counties in eastern Kansas. The designation would bring in money and other resources from the National Park Service to create historic markers, signs, brochures and museums. Heritage areas also can qualify for up to \$1 million per year in federal funds for up to 10 years. Bleeding Kansas mainly refers to 1854 to 1861, when pro- and anti-slavery forces in the area erupted in violence. "Events in Kansas were significant to the evolving story of American freedom," Judy Billings, of the Lawrence, Convention and Visitors Bureau, told a congressional subcommittee Tuesday.

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