

Family

Wild winter weather wreaks havoc on wedding celebration

When people ask me why I don't write for the Free Press any more, I tell them nothing much exciting happens to me, but I thought you might like to hear about my granddaughter's wedding, or The Wedding Trip From Hell as it will be referred to.

This is my 'Sister Granddaughter,' my oldest daughter's oldest daughter, who went on an 18-month mission in Germany for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We address each other as sister and brother in my church, so I guess, for that reason, I can call her my Sister Granddaughter.

She returned last summer, visited her parents in Derby, and then went out to Utah to seek her fortune/associate with like-minded people/escape from her parents or for whatever reason young people like to



Maxine Nelson

● Random Thoughts

leave home.

When young men and women go on a mission in the church, they are advised to marry and start raising families soon after they return home.

Following that advice, my granddaughter who had not been interested even in dating previously, met another returned missionary and, after prayer, decided to marry him on Dec. 30 in the Ogden (Utah) temple. Whoever listened to that prayer must have been giggling hilariously, knowing what was in store for the young people.

They decided to have a reception following the wedding at the home of his parents in Ogden, and have another on Jan. 5 in Derby. Her parents and I suggested strongly that they have the Derby reception later in the spring because of the weather and the roads, but his parents said they knew how to drive in bad weather, and had relatives in Wyoming so the roads were no problem. (It turned out the relatives lived in southwestern Wyoming... not across the continental divide.)

I was invited to the wedding; my daughter would have picked me up and taken me to the airport in Denver. I checked the weather forecast and declined. They flew from Wichita to stay with my other daughter in Salt Lake City.

Meanwhile, my youngest son from Seattle flew to Kansas City,

visited her parents, and drove out here on Wednesday. He was supposed to leave on Friday, but left Thursday in time to catch the last plane out of the Denver airport before they closed it down because of the storm. So they got to Utah in time for the wedding.

The wedding went off without a hitch on Saturday, and someone sent me cell phone pictures of the reception so I wouldn't feel left out. On New Year's Eve, the group went to the home of the groom's parents for supper and to 'blow up the Christmas tree.' They put fireworks on the tree and blew it up. This is a new custom to me. My daughter flew home on Tuesday.

On Wednesday the couple set out for Denver in his parent's car planning to stay the night and drive on the next day. He had rolled his own

car a few weeks ago. At Rawlins, Wyo., a wind gust hit them and rolled that car. They must have had their seatbelts on, because they were not seriously injured. She hit her head and blacked out for a moment, but the car was totaled. After a trip to the hospital for x-rays and CAT scan, they rented a car and continued on to Denver. Fortunately she was still on her parents' health insurance. They came through Colby Thursday on the way to Wichita.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, my daughter was baking a wedding cake because the woman who was supposed to bake it was ill. My daughter had never baked a wedding cake before, but they had decided to have three round flat cakes instead of a stacked cake, so she was baking them and freezing them, and

the bride said she would decorate them when she got there. Fortunately, the cake lady did recuperate in time to decorate the cakes.

They tell me the reception was nice. My daughter said she didn't realize a reception was so much work. The couple were supposed to leave early Saturday morning for Denver, but decided to sleep late, so it was 7 p.m. when they came through here.

Sunday afternoon my daughter called to tell me the couple had to travel 5 miles per hour from Denver to Laramie due to weather conditions. When they got to Laramie, Interstate 80 was closed. His folks were in Rawlins waiting for them to turn in the rental car and ride home with them. His parents decided to return home and let the kids rent another car to drive home when the interstate opened. I hope they caught up on their rest in their motel room.

My kids all decided long ago not to come to Colby in the winter time, when two of them went off the road on the way home one year. I'd bet these kids won't either. Of course, my kids didn't listen to me, their kids don't listen to them, and I must admit, I didn't listen to my parents, either. Guess people are entitled to make their own mistakes.

Winona residents help each other out in storm aftermath

In time of need angels of mercy appear from out of nowhere. One doesn't miss the water 'til the well runs dry. Such were situations area residents experienced in the remaining of 2006 when a major ice and snowstorm paralyzed the city and rural areas.

Heat was restored through caring friends. Men labored to get the water works flowing after many hours without water.

Mother Nature foiled many Christmas and New Year's plans. Dianne Kvasnicka said, "We had



Jean Lowe

● Winona Correspondent

a 911 New Year's Eve Party." A surge protector in an attic room caught fire and engulfed the entire house in black smoke at the Richard Kvasnicka residence New Year's Eve.

The only means of communication was Rich's cell phone which

was on low battery. Thanks to only three digits, 911, it summoned help. Jim Boyd broke through the drifts on the county road and the Winona Fire Department showed up in full force PDQ. "They acted so professionally and consoling," Dianne said. "The smoke damage and stench is terrible but we are so blessed the fire department saved our house," she added. Their three local married children, Clint, Wyatt, and Jolene have opened their homes to their parents until they can return to their home. As a personal

note, one of my favorite quotes is Romans 8:28.

Dale and Velda Kelly of Topeka were in Colby visiting Velda's mother, Hazel Koons, Wednesday and Thursday. Velda called to say she had received word of the death of Roland David on Christmas Eve. He lived in Topeka for many years. His widow is Eula Faye David, nee White. They both spent their childhood and teen years in Winona.

Mary Elizabeth Carlson, nee Hooker, called to share the news of the death of her brother, Robert

"Bob" Hooker. Bob was a 1946 graduate of Winona High School. He lived in Hutchinson at the time of his death. Cards will reach his widow, Phyllis Hooker, at 4405 Pagoda, Hutchinson, Kan., 67502

Ruth, Sam, Rachael, Rebecca, Seth, Rose, Silas, and Simon Smith spent several days in Hays with Sarah and Susanna Smith.

Mick and Vickie Lowe of Lawrence and Chris and Dara Lowe, Cameron, and Jacob of Colorado Springs, Colo., were post-Christmas guests of Jean Lowe.

Triplains students and teachers returned to school, Thursday, Jan. 4.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat	\$4.12
Corn	\$3.45
Milo	\$5.66
Soybeans	\$5.68

Life slowly returning to normal in rural community

Brewster is still pretty slow on activities because of all the ice and snow. Basketball games have started up since vacation is over, but the center is still slow.

Sounds like another storm coming in later this week. We probably won't see the ground until April. Guess that's okay because of the much needed moisture.

Warren Reid's brother Jerry Reid passed away last week, in Broomfield, Colo. Funeral was in Boulder last Monday. Our sympa-



Betty Jo Baird

● Brewster Correspondent

thy goes out to the Reid family.

Collette Carpenter went to Fort Morgan, Colo., over the weekend, to visit family and friends.

Bucky Williams of Goodland passed away this week. He farmed

north of Brewster. Our sympathy to his family.

James and Musette Balwin of Brewster had a baby girl on Jan. 1. Her name is Regina. Regina has a brother at home.

Dear God: Teach me how to mind my own business. To take care of myself. To remember that there are just certain things that certain people have to go through.

Please remind me: That I can't fix anyone; nor can I change them, and when there is something that others

cannot do for themselves, they need to come to You, not me.

Give me the strength to: Hear with compassion; to watch with empathy; to pray and trust Your merciful grace; and how, to stay put and still until You tell me to move.

Allow me to be: A guide to the lost; a teacher to the willing; a blessing to the meek; a tool and not a doormat.

Inspire me to: Give and move on; share without controlling; expect the best for others no matter how bad it looks; and to know that when I don't do it, You will.

God is the ever present help we all need.

Community Calendar

SATURDAY, JAN. 13

Pancake feed, Colby Community Building, 7 a.m.
Northwest Kansas Piano Teachers League Clinic, Colby Community College, 8 a.m.
Thomas County Wellness Fair, Colby Community College Student Union, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Golden Buckle Square Dance Club, Colby Community Building, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, JAN. 14

Wings Upon the Prairie drop-in center, 485 N. Franklin, 2-6 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous candlelight meeting, City Hall basement, 8 p.m.

MONDAY, JAN. 15

Downtown Alcoholics Anonymous, city Hall basement, 8:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 16

Red Cross blood drive, Colby Community Building, ends at 5:45 p.m.

Babies

Emma Celeste Johnson

Doug and Melissa Johnson of Colby announce the birth of their daughter, Emma Celeste Johnson, Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2007, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. Emma weighed 6 pounds, 10 ounces and was 19 1/4 inches long.

Maternal grandparents are Joe and Sheryl McInay of Colby. Paternal grandparents are Theron and Jane Johnson of Colby.

Great-grandmothers are Doreen Kennedy of Hoxie and Peggy Walker of Las Vegas, Nev.

Emma was welcomed home by brother Brandon Johnson.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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	Cardiac Rehab III Monday - Wednesday - Friday "Exercise for Life"		NUC Stress Test Echocardiograms 10:30 Ultrasounds		MRI Mobile Unit 9:30 Vascular Ultrasounds	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Dr. Rubiniowitz Oncology		Echocardiograms 10:30 Ultrasounds Dr. Frankum Surgery	Mammography	MRI Mobile Unit 9:30 Vascular Ultrasounds	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
			Echocardiograms 10:30 Ultrasounds Dr. Curtis Cardiology		MRI Mobile Unit 9:30 Vascular Ultrasounds	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		Dr. Miller Cardiology Clinic	Echocardiograms 10:30 Ultrasounds		MRI Mobile Unit 9:30 Vascular Ultrasounds	
28	29	30	31	1	2	
In House Services - Available Daily CT Scan ** Bone Mineral Density ** EKG Electrocardiograms			Echocardiograms 10:30 Ultrasounds	Dr. Reeves Podiatry	Dr. Reeves Podiatry	

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Cheryl Banister, RN - Specialty Clinic Director
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Ask for details today.

"A" and "C" above are effective during the months of January and February, 2007. "B" is effective January - March, 2007. The report card "Pay for A's" drawings will be held on March 1, 2007.

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