

Learning and fun go hand-in-hand

MEDIEVAL, from Page 1

ing 25 million people in one year. She said symptoms included a high fever — which most often killed people first — and swollen, black skin. Crottinger said though the Middle Ages are interesting, she wouldn't have wanted to live during that time. "They didn't have a cure for anything," she said, adding that her peasant woman had to live in a small house with dirt floors. Of course, she speculated, the times may have been less violent, as

gunpowder wasn't invented until late in the era. Another student, Sandy Johnson, used a chain, thimbles, wheels, screws, levers and a coffee can to make a well. She said her machine would have been helpful in medieval times because it delivers numerous buckets of water with one turn of the lever. Her partners, Taylor Frazier and Jeremy Montoya — leaning on a life-size cardboard cutout of a jester — talked about the life of a jester, saying the funny men could be killed if they didn't make the king laugh.

Johnson and the rest of her group researched the legend of Sir Lancelot and the knights of the Round Table, saying there were over 50 knights who sat at the table — which was round so King Arthur could look everyone in the eye and to keep the knights from associating a seat with status. Andrew Pettibone, with the painters craft guild, said he liked studying falconry for his research paper because he enjoys sports, likes birds and was interested in what medieval people did to pass time. "I always wondered what they did back then for fun," he said.

House wants tobacco money for kids

BUDGET, from Page 1

makers set up a trust fund to hold most of the money and set it aside for children's programs. Graves and senators want to spend \$16 million of the funds on general government programs. "There aren't really too many more T's to cross and I's to dot," Adkins said. House members are more pessimistic. Their negotiators didn't want to

siphon off the tobacco money for general government programs. They argued that would break a commitment to children's programs. "They want to rob the children's trust fund and rape the programs," said Rep. Rocky Nichols, D-Topeka, one of the negotiators. The negotiators have been trying to fashion a plan that trims some spending from appropriations already approved for fiscal 2002, steps up the

collection of delinquent taxes, taps funds that aren't normally used to pay for general government and makes other accounting and tax changes. Small increases in taxes, fees and even traffic fines also are part of the discussion. In other action Wednesday, proposals increasing the number of appeals court judges and raising the fee for birth and death certificates by \$1 went to Gov. Bill Graves.

Mix up with memo causes confusion

CHINA, from Page 1

version would be sent to make clear that military-to-military ties were not suspended. Monday's memo was quite detailed. It said Rumsfeld had directed that defense attaches abroad be permitted to attend social functions, as part of their usual activities, in which Chinese officials may be present. But there were to be no Pentagon contacts with Chinese diplomatic representatives in Washington, it said. The confusion over the future of U.S.-Chinese military relations became public on the day that a team of U.S. civilian defense contractors in China began

assessing what would be required to return the Navy surveillance plane that made an emergency landing at a military airfield on Hainan island on April 1 after colliding with a Chinese fighter. The Lockheed Martin technicians spent about four hours aboard the Navy plane Wednesday to begin their assessment. When they returned Thursday they were unable to power up the EP-3E Aries II aircraft because the Chinese military did not provide the required support, a Pentagon official said. As a result the Americans planned to resume their work Friday, he said. Taiwan's president, Chen Shui-bian, said in an interview with USA Today that China's behavior following the

collision between the Navy plane and the Chinese fighter "leads us to believe that China is indeed a threat to the Asia-Pacific region." The remark could annoy Beijing, which regards Taiwan as a rebellious province. Chen confirmed his intention to visit the United States this month despite objections from communist China. In a brief appearance before reporters earlier Wednesday before the internal memo leaked to the news media, Rumsfeld did not mention his intentions regarding contacts with China. He said it wasn't clear whether the Navy spy plane would be flown off the island or be disassembled and brought by ship or air.

Farmers find few surprises in state's wheat fields

MEADE (AP)—Participants in the annual Kansas wheat tour are finding few, if any, surprises as they tromp through fields from one end of the state to the other. The tour began Tuesday as 60 people took off from Manhattan headed for Colby in 15 cars across six different routes. The next day, they headed south from Colby to Wichita. The tour will inspect southeastern Kansas fields Thursday, ending up at the Kansas City

Board of Trade. By the time it reached Meade on Wednesday, the group had estimated an average wheat yield for Kansas of 32.6 bushels per acre based on what they'd seen so far, said Brett Myers, vice president of the Kansas Wheat Growers Association. That is far below last year, when the group estimated after the first full day an average yield of 40.8 bushels per acre. "In the central part, we've seen what

we expected to see: some good wheat, really some decent wheat," Myers said, adding that this year, decent wheat means average. But as the tour group got further west in Barton County, wheat condition deteriorated. They didn't see too much abandonment on the first leg of the tour, until they started getting closer to Colby. Still more fields were abandoned as they headed south from there to Meade.

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