

Youth experience their Kansas history

One hundred fifty fortunate grade and high school youngsters attended the annual Kansas Day Celebration at the Logan City Building on Jan. 27. This celebration is designed to provide students and the public with knowledge about the heritage Kansans all have in common.

More than 20 displays, complete with hands-on activities included period clothing, Native American artifacts, the art of bobbin lace, fur displays, an old-fashioned milk separator, fur harvesters, farm-life reenactments, butter churning, chickens and eggs, storytelling, farm machinery and historical photos and memorabilia from Phillips County's past.

Long-time participant and one of the key organizers of the Kansas Day event, Doug Zillinger says the Kansas Day Celebration teaches youngsters that the city of Logan and its people have been an important part of the fabric and history of Kansas.

"There's plenty of history and education represented here today for our young people," Zillinger says. "After attending one of our Kansas Day Celebrations, you seldom see students who don't walk away with a greater appreciation of our state's heritage and a better understanding of our farm and ranching industry."

In addition, Zillinger believes the youngsters are genuinely happy and excited to be part of the celebration. He's convinced they should have an opportunity to learn more about and understand their Kansas heritage.

As an example, one of the Farm Bureau displays included a corn sheller, a corn grinder that made corn meal and muffins. As with most of the demonstrations at the Phillips County Farm Bureau Kansas Day Celebration, those attending were able to watch their food move from a raw product out of the field to a finished product warm and ready to eat.

"They see the entire cycle of where our food comes from," Zillinger says. "This is something most children don't have an opportunity to see because of our large integrated agricultural system."

Another integral cog in the agricultural history of Kansas displayed at the Phillips County Kansas Day Celebration was a working cream separator. Students from the schools of Plainville, Phillipsburg and Logan saw firsthand how cream is separated from milk from a cow and churned into butter. Once the butter was churned it was spread directly on home-made biscuits and the students received samples of the tasty treats.

Farmer/stockman Leland Rundle brought his mom and dad's old International cream separator to the celebration. His early 1950s vintage machine purred like a kitten as it separated the cream from milk.

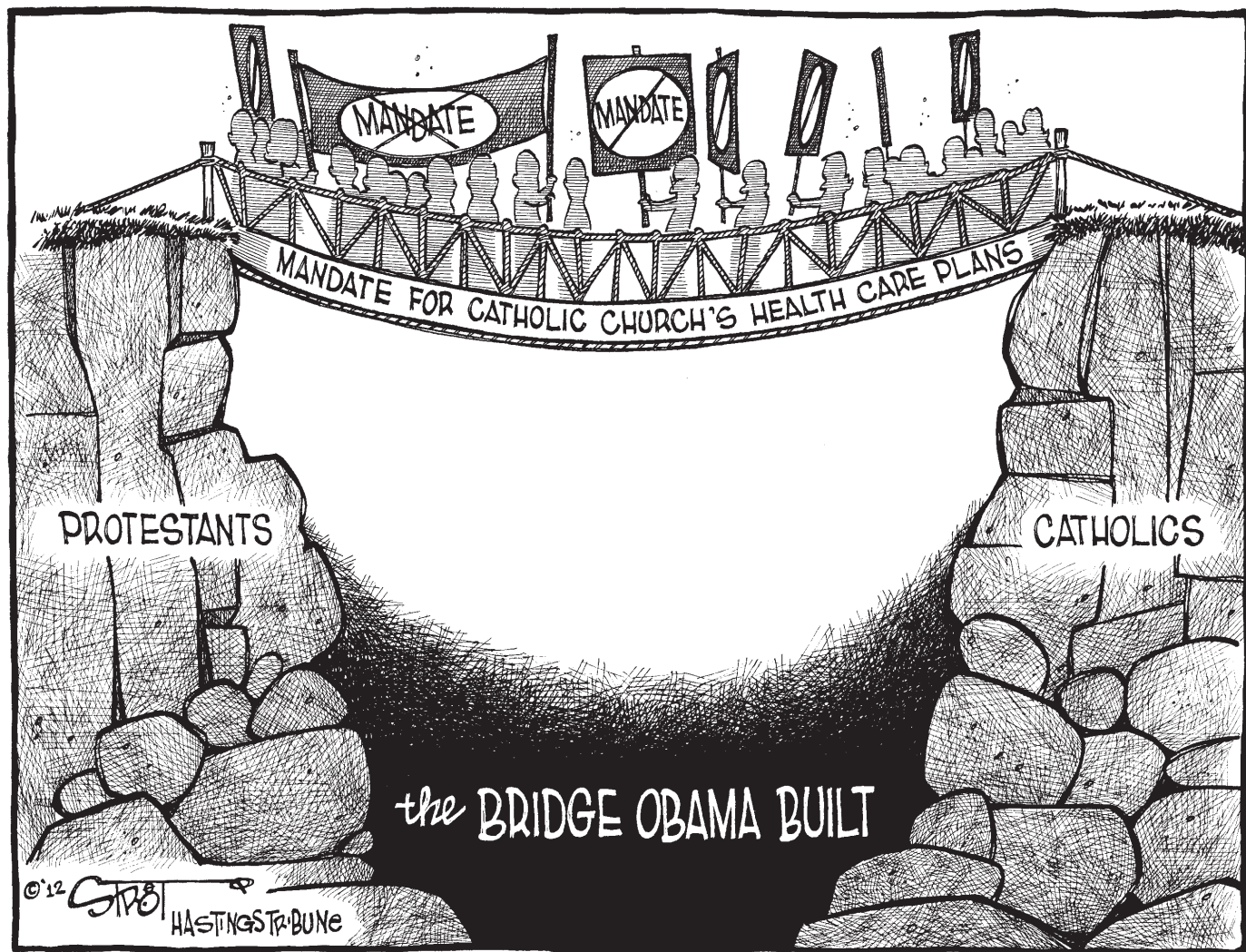
Rundle told the Phillips County students how extra cream on the farm in those long-ago days was poured into metal cans, hauled to town for grading and then dairy producers like his parents received a check for their product.

"Mom always kept some of the cream for us to pour over fresh peaches and strawberries," Rundle recalls. "We also poured the wonderful cream on green peas picked right out of our garden. There's absolutely nothing like this wonderful taste today," he told the youngsters.

Phillips County resident Janet Gottstine organized the day's celebration and thanked all the volunteers for their talent, time and energy. Gottstine said that without all of these dedicated folks the Kansas Day Celebration wouldn't be the success it is each year.

"Our celebration has something for anyone and everyone," Gottstine says. "I believe the youngsters absorb what interests them from each and every display we feature during our Kansas Day event. I'm so happy we can provide them with an activity that is steeped in our rich, Kansas heritage."

Insight
John Schlageck



A difference of opinion on nature

It started out innocently enough, but ended up in a major fracas.

I was on Facebook and clicked on a link, to what appeared to be a cute story about a large, male elk in a zoo somewhere that, evidently, rescued a drowning marmot (furry little animal that looks similar to a well-fed prairie dog).

Zookeepers observed "Shooter" the elk, acting strangely at his watering tank. His size and aggressive behavior prevented them from entering his enclosure. Shooter kept trying to submerge his head in the water, only to have his massive antlers get in the way. Then Shooter would paw in the water with his front hooves. The zookeepers then observed, and photographed, Shooter reaching into the water with his mouth, and, ever-so-gently, lifting a half-dead marmot from the water. Shooter then placed the animal on the ground and nudged it with his hoof, until the marmot scampered off into the brush, lucky to be alive.

Now, here's where you're supposed to go, "Awwwww. Isn't that sweet?" And I admit, I gave into that warm, fuzzy feeling you get when reading about such altruistic behavior - especially from an animal. But wait. I began to read comments posted by other viewers. Some, shamelessly, credited Shooter with human characteristics and said he

Out Back

Carolyn Plotts



must have known the marmot was in trouble and wanted to help. Others said Shooter was acting merely on the instinct of protecting his territory.

From there, though, any attempt at civility disappeared. The postings devolved into the debate of evolution vs creation; human-kind vs the animal kingdom; and good vs evil. People were calling each other stupid, ignorant, tree-huggers, even vegetarians. It was ugly.

Where do I stand on the debate? Probably somewhere in the middle. I love animals, but I know they are animals. Not variations of "us" with fur. They are capable of affection, especially when you feed them regularly. But, "love": I don't think so. Animals don't have a conscience. If a dog comes out and bites the mailman, he doesn't feel remorse and think to himself, "Now, why did I bite that nice man. He brings me samples of 'Doggie Do-Nuts'." I shouldn't have bit him."

No. The dog hides back under the

porch and bites the mailman again the next day. It's their nature to defend their territory, mate or offspring.

In the animal kingdom it is survival of the fittest. Now, don't go getting all "gooshy" on me about how animals are so sweet and kind. In my own backyard I know how chickens can attack and peck to death a weak bird in their own flock (maybe even their own sister); or how a tomcat will kill kittens, just so he can mate again with their mother. In the wild, male animals of most species will fight off other males from intruding on their territory until they are too old and weak to defend it and then they succumb to stronger, younger males who will, eventually, get too old and weak and the cycle of life continues.

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The weatherman got it wrong this time. And aren't we glad. No blizzard; at least not by western Kansas standards. It contained lots of moisture, came almost straight down and didn't hurt a thing. Grocers benefited because everyone was stocking up for the "big blow" which didn't happen.

We stayed in and cooked. I made French toast for breakfast; Jim made his famous "bean burros" for lunch; and I put ribs in the oven to bake all afternoon 'til they were fork-tender. Life doesn't get much better than that

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What to look for and treatment of new calves

Did you know that scours is the most important threat to your neonatal calves and it causes the greatest economic loss in this age group than any other disease? Calf scours is not a single disease entity; it is a clinical syndrome associated with several factors characterized by diarrhea. Prevention means concentrating on nutrition, immunity, and environment. Scours is a management disease, when one of these areas is overlooked, scours is inevitable.

There are a number of pathogens that can be responsible for scours; E. coli, rotavirus, coronavirus, cryptosporidiosis and Salmonella are among the most common. They often occur as multiple infections in the same calf. Different pathogens tend to cause scours at different times during the first month of life. But, they all cause the same result: diarrhea, dehydration, and acidosis.

Vaccines are available and are most beneficial when administered to the cows and heifers prior to calving. This way the calves will receive antibodies via their mother's colostrum. I prefer to vaccinate heifers at six weeks prior and again at three weeks prior to calving. Cows get one booster 30 days prior to calving.

Since the pathogens are all around,

Vet tips

Dr. Aaron White



management can be the key to whether an outbreak will occur. The most important reservoir for these enteric agents is previously or currently infected cattle. That is why it is very important to maintain a closed herd throughout calving season. Another good rule of thumb is to keep heifers separate throughout calving season. Generally, their calves scour at twice the rate of cows. Calves that demonstrate symptoms should be removed as soon as possible from the group and placed into an isolation area.

Nutrition is a critical anchor to a scour prevention program, so that the immune system is ready to respond. 60 to 90 days prior to calving, make sure your cattle have balance rations. Long before calving, cow condition and grass pasture should be evaluated. Cows that go into winter with a BCS of 5.5 to 6 are easier to maintain into the colder months. The most important nutritional point for calves, of course, is to get sufficient colostrum quickly.

Absorption of important IgG antibodies begins to decline immediately after birth. The result of inadequate colostrum intake is inadequate passive transfer, and it may be the single most important factor in calf scours.

Controlling the weather during calving isn't possible, but you can have a good cow flow system. This includes four different areas, which have been unoccupied since the previous calving season. These include: a pre-calving area that cattle move into just a couple of weeks before calving starts, a calving area, a nursery, and a treatment area for sick calves to remain isolated. Avoid calving in used feeding pastures or lots with heavy fecal contamination. All calving areas should be as clean and dry as possible; also producers should feed in different places moving feedbunks every few days. Not overcrowding animals is an important part of keeping sanitation as high as possible. Also, don't forget a good windbreak; it can make a big difference in the health of your herd. The bottom line is management; calf scours is a preventable and treatable condition. A well managed herd is the best way to control scours and to keep your calf crop healthy! Your veterinarian is your best information source for your cattle!