

## City-style emergency service makes it to area

The next big thing you can't afford, but may get to pay for anyway, is city-style emergency medical service in rural Kansas.

The Kansas Medical Foundation and its Kansas Medical Institute appear to be renewing a push for state-set standards that would apply in both rural and urban areas.

Today, ambulance service is vastly different in bigger towns, where often a fire department runs the service, employing paramedics with advanced training, than in rural areas, where counties depend on volunteer emergency medical technicians with less training. Distances mean it can take an hour or more to get an accident or heart-attack victim to a hospital, not just minutes.

That's always been part of what we accept when we decide to live in the country. We know it might take longer to get an ambulance, and we know the crew will be volunteers from among our friends and neighbors. But we also know we're far less likely to have a wreck or be shot — even have a stress-induced heart attack — than if we lived in the city.

It's not that the care you get here will be poor — far from it. But it won't meet the city standard for training, speed or emergency-room trauma care.

Rural people have lived with the difference all their lives. But back east, people who may never have lived in a small town think it's terrible. They want to do something to help us by putting all the state under a one-size-fits-all set of standards.

The Kansas Medical Foundation, backed by tax-free money, apparently wants to push this issue again, though it's gone nowhere in 13 years since the group first turned a spotlight on the issue. The facts are outlined in two stories which appeared on Page 1 of *The Salina Journal* last week, written by employees of the Kansas Medical Institute.

The institute and its parent foundation are issue-oriented groups with a mission, but the stories appeared identified as coming from something

called the KHI News Service. It's unusual, to say the least, for a major newspaper to turn its news pages over to an outside pressure group.

It's not that the stories are not factual, but they have a slant designed to make the current rural medical service appear inadequate, though offering no real proof anyone is in danger. They argue for statewide standards without a thought to how counties might pay the cost, or even what that might be.

There's no thought that the current system, where counties set their own standards based on what they think they can and should provide, and what taxpayers can afford or want to pay for. People seem reasonably happy with that.

As with many issues, though, ranging from drinking water to voting, people in Topeka and Washington think they know what's best for all of us. They have no qualms about forcing standards on rural areas, then forcing those who live here to pay.

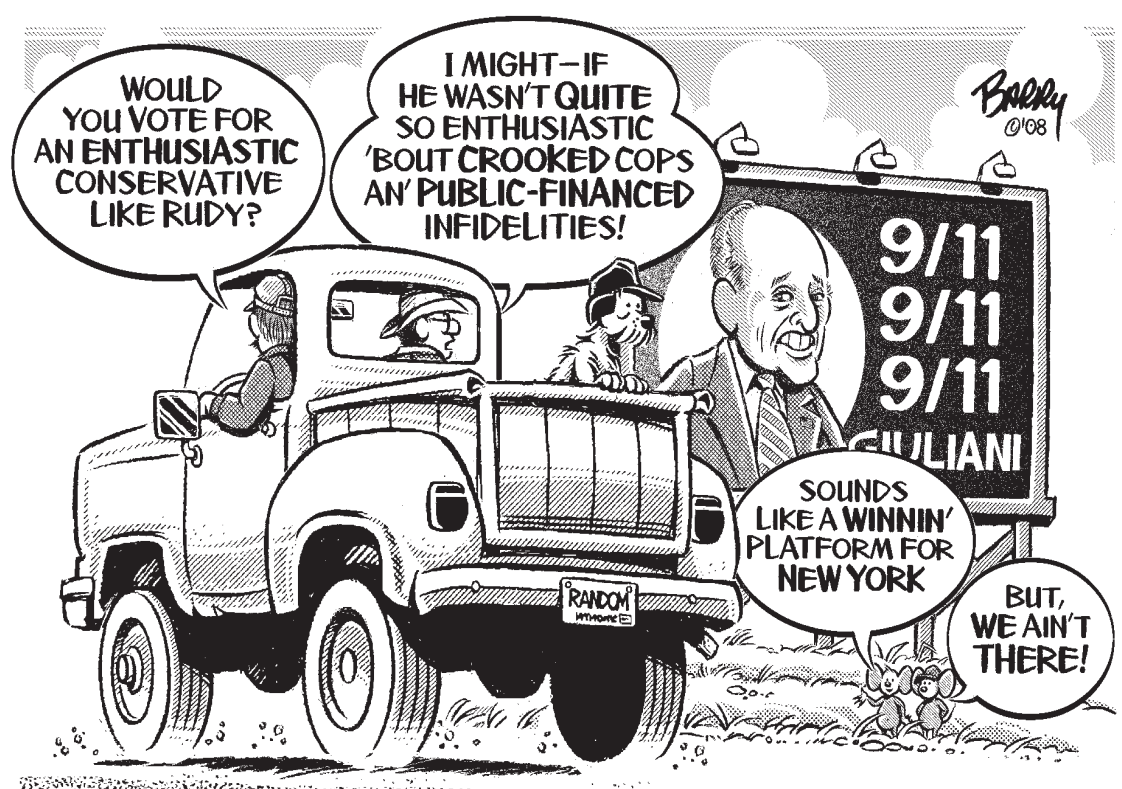
These standards have nearly put an end to voting in many small towns and made living in rural areas, once less expensive than city life, increasingly unaffordable. It'd be nice to have uranium-free drinking water, for instance, but there are few people in a small Kansas town to pay for a \$4 million water treatment plant.

Anyone who worries about uranium, or fluoride, for that matter, in their water can buy a \$200 filter system for the kitchen sink to remove it. That's not an option to those who know what's best, however.

So, get ready to pay for more expensive ambulance service. Add the bill to those for voting machines, unneeded water and sewer plants, emergency management, new addresses and a hundred other so-called "mandates."

And if you can afford it, pay up.

Hey, if we wanted city life, we'd move to the city. — Steve Haynes



RURAL KANSAS TAKES IT'S VALUES TO HEART—AND TO THE POLLS...

## Reader writes in honor of brother

### Letters to the Editor

It was June 1944, D Day in Europe, when far out in the Philippine sea, the U.S. Fourth Marine Division was waiting to go ashore on Saipan. Art Whipple was on board, waiting to drive his Amtrack, the landing craft used to take troops to the beach and return for more until all troops were ashore. Twelve to 14 troops were the number of troops being carried. Of the troops involved in Saipan, air and ground, I have the impression that approximately 10 thousand were U.S. troops killed. The Americans were headed for the Philippines. U.S. air, ship and ground power was now supreme. This was the huge turn around in the Pacific War!

With Fourth Marine troops on shore, my brother Art was on perimeter guard duty, midnight to sun-up.

As he carefully surveyed the perimeter he became aware of an individual moving in his direction, loudly and clearly he challenged; the movement stopped momen-

arily, then again moved forward. Art again challenged, and again he movement stopped, then again began to move forward. Art fired once and killed the person. Later, as he sun was beginning to rise, the replacement guard arrived, they went out and checked the body! It was an unarmed native boy judged to be perhaps 8 or 9 years old!

I joined the Whipple family Sept. 1, 1917. My brother Art arrived May 18, 1919. Being less than two years apart in age, we grew up on the Kansas, farm/ranch being quite closely associated. Along with long hours of hard work together, we greatly enjoyed ranch life as we grew up.

After the war we were not as closely associated. After several years it began to dawn on me, he did not seem to be the same person, the war appeared to have changed him in ways I had not realized —

More negative in his habits and thinking. Actions which got him in a considerable amount of trouble over the years, and worried me and our families.

During the down and dirty process of taking probably three Japanese occupied islands, not an enemy product had touched him — Not even one visible scar, but what he told me one day after a couple of drinks (The death of the native boy) impressed me with the fact, scars do not have to be visible.

I found out later that I am the only family member he ever told (about the boy).

Historically, I want it known he was a kind and gently person.

Delvin Whipple  
Rapid City, S.D.

P.S. Along with thousands of military comrades I believe our society owed him a huge debt of gratitude for his years of suffering.

## Casey's Comment

By Casey McCormick



Every chance that I get I use this column to touch on history. It's my way of bringing the subject to life. I also think history isn't in books alone.

Maybe I had too many teachers in school who failed to make it exciting for me and my fellow students, but history is alive and well, and all around us.

So here's today's lesson. Part of our holidays were spent in Denver visiting family. Last Sunday Lezlie, our two youngest kids, Lexi and Joey, and I joined my twin brother, Kelly, his wife, Jenny, and my mother at the Museum of Natural History.

Our party trooped across the parking lot through inches of ice and slush to join many others to see artifacts recovered from the depths of the North Atlantic and the Titanic.

Now for the history lecture. The Titanic, as its name suggests, was a huge ocean liner that was built at the height of the Industrial Age in Europe and America. She was constructed at the Harland and Wolff Ship Yards in Belfast, Ireland and made her maiden voyage from Southampton, England on April 10, 1912. After picking up passengers at Cherbourg, France and Queenstown, Ireland, Titanic began what was supposed to be a five-day trip

across the Atlantic. Although she had a sister ship, Olympic, that was similar, the Titanic was one of a kind. No other passenger liner was her size and had her luxury.

She attracted the riches people of the time to travel on her. Millionaires like John Jacob Astor, Benjamin Guggenheim and Denver's own Molly Brown paid the equivalent of over \$70,000 today for their opulent, first class suites.

The Titanic was arrogantly described as "unsinkable" before she embarked for New York City. But at 11:40 p.m. on April 14, the proud ship struck an iceberg and sank in less than three hours.

Estimates vary but approximately 1,520 perished in one of the worst, peacetime disasters recorded. Today there is only one living passenger from the tragic event.

As we passed through the exhibit we traveled back to that fateful night. Seeing the objects and photographs of the people whose lives ended or were transformed in the frigid black waters that night was very sobering. Being there brought the past into the present.

In our modern history there have been several terrible events such as the Titanic's. The bombing of Pearl Harbor (1941), the assassination of President John F. Kennedy (1962) and the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, to name a few.

Each shook our world and caused us to pause in disbelief. And each historical event brought us together as one.

And thus endeth the lesson for today. Happy New Year!

## Jewelry sales were a big success

Dear friends in Cheyenne County, I am writing to recognize everyone who helped make the sale of jewelry at Peace Lutheran Church on Dec. 5 a success. The jewelry

was designed and crafted by some special young ladies in Bangkok, Thailand, who were rescued from the sex trade by Christian missionaries, and are learning other skills

to support themselves and their families.

An article on this work was featured in the January 2007 issue of "Christianity Today," and more can be learned from visiting the following websites: www.girls33.com and www.servantworks.org.

This would not be possible if it were not for all the volunteers whose efforts made this project possible, to Eagle Communications for the advertising and all the customers who helped create a market for the products that are making it possible for these girls to get off the streets and find redemption in Christ. A Happy New Year to you all!

Sincerely,  
Karen Hart

## Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Robert Klie, St. Francis; Good Samaritan Village, St. Francis; Laura Pugh, St. Francis; Dan Sowers, Bird City; Alice Raile, Oxford, Neb.; Jim Wiseman, Fremont, Neb.; Keith Schlepp, Broomfield, Colo.; Paul Krien, St. Francis;

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GOD SAYS  
A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.  
Proverbs 22:1

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**Church of Christ**  
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424  
502 W. Spencer  
Norman Morrow - Minister  
Bible Class 11 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10 a.m.  
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

**St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church**  
625 S. River • 332-2680  
Fr. Roger Meitl  
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.  
Weekday Mass 8 a.m.  
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

**First Baptist Church**  
2nd & Scott • 332-3921  
J.W. Gildewell, Pastor  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.,  
Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.  
St. Francis Community Church  
332-3150  
204 N. Quincy Street  
www.sfccfamily.com  
Pastor: David Butler  
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
Potluck & Communion - Every 2nd Sunday  
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

**Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC**  
202 N. College  
Pastor Ken Hart  
332-2928 Pars. 332-2312  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday eve Bible Study 7 p.m.

**United Methodist Church**  
Church Office 332-2292,  
Church 332-2254,  
512 S. Scott  
Pastor Morita Truman  
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Salem Lutheran Church**  
332-3002  
Pastor Chris Farmer  
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

**Solid Rock Baptist Church**  
412 S. Denison  
Welcomes You!  
Pastor Allen Coon  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30  
Prayer Meeting, Wed 7:30 p.m.

**First Christian Church**  
Pastor Jeff Landers  
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster  
Bible Fellowship 9:20 a.m.  
Church Service 10:30 a.m.

**Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
332-2888 • 3rd & Adams  
Pastor Mike Larson  
Sabbath School 9:30  
Morning Worship 10:45

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