



Drivers reminded to stop for those red signs

You see it all the time, but it's much worse in June and October when harvest is in full swing.

A vehicle runs up to the highway, slows a little while the driver glances each way, then flies right past the sign onto the pavement.

There's all kinds of ways to rationalize this dangerous behavior: there's no traffic on the highway, the driver looked both ways, it takes precious time to come to a full stop, a big, heavy semi of grain is hard to stop and harder to get going at a stop sign.

All that ignores the fact that it's illegal to run a stop sign and dangerous, too. Maybe if you're driving a semi, and you're really careful, you're pretty sure nothing will happen. Until the day you miss a motorcycle approaching from the left, a car full of kids on the right.

Running stop signs is wrong year around, but it's especially dangerous during harvest, where

you're pulling a massive vehicle in front of any oncoming traffic. Other drivers depend on you to stop and take the safe course, and that's what every driver should be doing.

Sure, you've gotten away with it so far. What about the day you miss something? Will the minute or two you saved be that valuable then?

That load of corn isn't going to spoil before you get to the elevator. The seconds gained aren't worth the risk.

And just in case not everyone is listening, we hope the Highway Patrol and area sheriff's officers are watching for this violation. Even if they give the driver only a warning, the time lost should be a lesson.

Safety is a lot more important than shaving a few minutes off every trip to the storage bin. We hope it doesn't take a tragedy to convince people of that.

- Steve Haynes



Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick
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be okay? Let me tell you about what I saw.

It was a person. A very tiny individual who just came onto this scary planet. Yep, a beautiful, healthy, sweet and innocent babe.

Carson Victor Ross was born around 5:30 a.m. at the Cheyenne County Hospital to Derek and All-ysse on Monday.

Now I know one new soul isn't about to change everything that is wrong around this place. But

By Casey McCormick
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thinking of who he might become and what differences he could bring about brings some positive thoughts to this guy.

So as long as we keep having new members joining the fight, we won't be done around these parts for quite a while. Perhaps the world isn't so crazy after all.

Legislative News

I traveled to Lawrence Thursday, Oct. 20, for a two-day meeting with the House Republicans to discuss the upcoming session. The session begins Monday, Jan. 9. It is nice to feel much more comfortable with my duties as a representative.

I have spent quite a bit of time since May traveling the district and visiting with people about their concerns. It is a bad time to be a politician as the general mood is that politicians are doing a bad job, especially the ones in Washington. It was quite a debacle this summer watching Congress and the President. Now we are treated to the open warfare of selecting a Republican nominee for president.

A politician I know who has the best interests of Western Kansas in mind is Senator Moran. We are about to lose three post offices in the 120th district. He has proposed the "Protecting Rural Post Offices Act," which would prohibit the U.S. Postal Service from closing a post office if there is not an alternative access point for postal service within 10 miles. Whether you agree or not, if it was your post office about to close, it would be nice to know someone is fighting for you.

A good friend of mine has asked for help against the Environmental Protection Acts' new regulation forcing farmers to have containment for any fuel tanks holding 1,300 or more gallons. I have talked to representatives in Arkansas and Missouri who are going to attempt legislation to fight this regulation. I brought it up this weekend and was told it is quite an uphill battle to fight the EPA or we would

have a power plant in Holcomb. I still will do everything I can to help a constituent.

I also plan to work with several legislators to change the laws so that parents will have to report missing children immediately.

The House of Representative members were given a brief heads-up as to what to look for from the Brownback administration this upcoming session while we were in Lawrence.

First, the super committee in Washington is saying that it could cut Medicaid from a half billion to a billion dollars per state. As it is, Medicaid and KPERs are main budget items that draw down the entire budget. Medicaid will change drastically this coming year.

I was told KPERs will not change for current members for 25 years but that new members will potentially have a new plan. After working all summer, the KPERs committee still does not have a solution. (KPERs pays out six percent of the fund and returns two percent.) That is not a statistic members like to hear.

The two major administrative actions that will have everyone talking are the governor's proposal for a flat tax rate and a

By Ward Cassidy
120th District Representative

new school finance formula. I'll write about the proposed changes as more information becomes available.

The State Board of Education has applied to drop out of the No Child Left Behind Act. We will have to follow four principal standards once we are out to receive federal funds. I am surprised that has not made big headlines, but I am sure it will in the weeks ahead.

We listened to top economists from all over the country telling us what should be done to grow our state so we can fund the necessary state responsibilities. All I can say is that what has been done in the past by Kansas government has not been effective; the can has been kicked down the road too often. Now that money is short, we are all going to see changes we might not agree with.

I will keep the 120th district informed to the best of my abilities. I will continue to have a weekly column during the session. ward.cassidy@house.ks.gov

Local Pharmacists are recognized

Dear Editor, Pharmacists in our community play a significant role in the hospice concept of care and often do not receive the recognition they deserve. Hospice Services Board of Directors, Staff, Volunteers and, most importantly, the patients and families we serve extend our heartfelt appreciation. We invite the community to join us in acknowledging National Pharmacists' Month in October.

Hospice care provides HOPE to help people live life to its fullest, offers DIGNITY when cure is not possible, and surrounds families with CARING at one of life's most challenging times. The vision of Hospice Services is a world where individuals and families facing serious illness, death, and grief will experience the best that humankind can offer. We join hospice professionals across the country to focus on one single purpose: to provide comfort and support at the end of life.

Patients served by hospice often experience a multitude of physical

Letters to the Editor

and psychological symptoms. Pharmacists use their knowledge and skill to address very complex needs of the persons hospice serves.

As new medications become available, the pharmacists help us understand the benefits and burdens of these medications. Pharmacists also assist in exploring delivery options to ensure the patient receives the medication as soon as possible.

Hospice Services has provided comfort, compassion and quality

end-of-life care for northwest and north-central Kansas since 1982.

Comfort, compassion and quality also characterize our local pharmacists. We see it with our work in hospice care and in the pharmacists' daily assistance to our communities.

Hospice Services is grateful to the local pharmacists for being vital partners in our efforts.

Sandy Kuhlman,
Executive Director
Hospice Services, Inc.

Concerned residents informed of meeting

Letter to the Editor: Concerned Cheyenne County residents, the next hospital board meeting will be this Thursday, Oct. 27, at 3 p.m. at the Cheyenne County Clinic in the basement

conference room. I do not know how informative it will be. I am just letting people know when and where. See you there.

Pam Bolin
St. Francis

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GOD SAYS
If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?
John 3:12

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