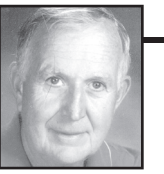


By  
Ward  
Cassidy



120th State Representative



CITY CREW has been busy taking down the Christmas lights on Main Street. Pictured are Earl Hankins and John Larson.  
Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

As you probably realize, the bulk of the work done so far in the legislature affects a limited number of Kansans but is still essential for those particular industries, communities, or individuals. That is because it takes longer to get any real consensus on the complex and sometimes divisive segments contained within these tougher issues. Items like tax policy, school finance, immigration policy, and Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERs) will all come soon enough. This week is what we call "Turnaround," when most bills must be advanced out of the House of Origin to the other House for consideration. That means long days in session, deliberating and voting for all members of both Chambers.

An issue that made headlines this week was the proposal by the Adjutant General to create a \$40 million disaster relief fund. The bill proposes to take \$10 million annually from the Kansas Universal Service Fund, which provides funding to telecommunications providers who serve rural areas, low-income Kansans, and provides equipment for people with disabilities. While well-meaning, this is another attack on rural Kansas and an attempt to move State General Fund expenses "off" budget to create the illusion the budget is being reduced.

Northwest Kansas has been very concerned about SB 356 that would negatively affect home-owned carnivals. The bill has still not been brought to committee, although it could still happen. All of the northwest Kansas representatives and our Senator are working hard to stop this legislation.

A program that has helped communities across the state is the Kansas Department of Commerce Small Communities Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). This year, there were two communities in the 120th district that were awarded grants. The city of Oberlin was awarded \$394,979 for street repairs, and the city of Phillipsburg was awarded \$209,250 for a fire truck. Anyone with questions about this program should contact your economic development director.

The Kansas Republican Caucus is scheduled for Saturday, March 10, at 99 sites. All Republican voters are urged to attend, and a photo ID is required. Voting will be at 1 pm at all sites. Watch our local papers for the site.

I really appreciate the good turnout last week for the coffee shop meetings in my five counties. Senator Ostmeyer and I had a

chance to answer many questions from concerned constituents. I continue to stress that we need to hear from northwest Kansas to be able to fight for their concerns.

The number of deer-car accidents was brought up at several of the town hall meetings. There are several pieces of legislation that are going to try to address a real problem, not only in the 120th district, but throughout the state. The most up-to-date information about these accidents on the department of wildlife website is for 2008. That year, there were 248 accidents in the 120th district that had over \$1,000 in damage reported. There have been more accidents each year. Be alert out there!

## Angus breeders get national recognition

Two Cheyenne County ranchers, members of the American Angus Association, have been recognized nationally by the association for having Angus cattle on the 2012 Pathfinder report.

Flying S Ranch, Ryan and Diane Shay, St. Francis, has been recognized for having one registered Angus bull and 17 registered Angus cows included in this year's Pathfinder report.

Also recognized is Crooked Creek Angus, St. Francis, Daniel and Karen Jones and Adam Jones, for having six registered Angus cows included in the Pathfinder report.

Only 2,027 of the nearly 30,000 American Angus Association members are represented in this year's report, said Bill Bowman, chief operating officer and director of performance programs of

the association with headquarters in Saint Joseph, Mo.

The Pathfinder Program identifies superior Angus cows based upon recorded performance traits that are economically important to efficient beef production. Over 1.9 million eligible dams and more than 6.5 million weaning records were examined to determine Pathfinder status.

In addition, bulls that have sired a minimum of five or more Pathfinder cows are recognized as Pathfinder sires.

All registered Angus cows and sires meeting the strict Pathfinder standards are listed, along with their owners, in the annual Pathfinder Report.

The 2012 Pathfinder report lists 8,791 individual cows and 231 Pathfinder sires.

## The Gardener

By  
Kay  
Melia



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Comes time now to gather up all the supplies that a dedicated gardener needs to prepare himself (or herself) for one of the most satisfying projects of the entire gardening season. It's a project that we must perform inside, several weeks before we dare venture into the great outdoors.

It's almost time to press a few of your favorite variety of seeds into a shallow tray of soilless planting mix, with the confident intention of growing a few of your own transplants. These will be the plants that you set out into the garden at the proper outdoor planting time.

There are several reasons why you should get yourself involved in this procedure that will give

you great satisfaction as you become a little more deeply involved in the gardening process.

Are you ready? Here we go!

Growing a few of your own transplants allows you to raise that special variety of tomatoes, peppers, cabbage, broccoli, petunia, salvia or any other bit of special plant life that might not be available elsewhere. Growing your own also gives you the opportunity to "jump start" a new garden season by allowing you to work with seeds and plants as much as a month and a half before you dare plant anything outside.

So, when do you actually begin this procedure? I thought you would never ask. In the case of tomatoes, as an example, we

simply get out the calendar.

We know we can't plant tomato transplants outside until all danger of frost has passed. Nobody knows when that is, but the average last frost date in our area is between May 5 and May 10.

So don't plan to transplant tomatoes outside until after May 10 unless you have a sure-fire way to protect them. It takes about six weeks to grow a nice-sized tomato plant inside, so you count back six weeks from May 10 on your trusty calendar and hopefully you see that the magic date is March 29!

Wait a minute. March 29 is a Thursday - Nobody wants to do this on a Thursday, so wait until Saturday or Sunday. Timing isn't that critical in this case, so

you might even decide to do it the week before, like on the 24 of March.

Follow the same schedule for pepper transplants. For cabbage and broccoli, start the seeds a week earlier if you wish. Those two can stand a light frost and can go outside earlier.

For petunias and most perennials, they are much slower germinating, so I will plant those tomorrow.

Here's what you need to start your own transplants. Obviously, you need the seed of your choice. Pick up a small bag of starting mix at the garden center.

Be sure it's starting mix and not potting soil. Do not use regular garden soil or your project will surely fail. Get a plastic tray, also at the garden center, to hold your starting mix, or use any type of plastic pan you have lying around the house or garage.

Wet the starting mix in the tray thoroughly. With the sharp end of your pencil, punch holes in the mix about a quarter of an inch deep. Drop a seed into each hole and cover with your fingers.

Place the seed tray on a plate or in a pan and set the pan in a warm room. Watch very closely for the emergence of the young plants and then put them into bright light, but not direct sunlight. Keep water in the plate or pan holding the seed tray so that the seeds and young plants can receive moisture from below.

Inquire, if you wish, about some grow lights for your project. Good light, all day, after emergence. Good luck! Questions? Email me at vkmelia@yahoo.com.

## Alliance strives to teach public how to use local foundation

The Western Kansas Alliance of Community Foundations met Thursday, Feb. 23, in Scott City to determine the best ways to strengthen their individual communities and the region as a whole. Fourteen community foundation directors and board members from 11 foundations in western Kansas were present.

The meeting, funded by the Kansas Association of Community Foundations, led to two main goals for the next few months. First, each individual foundation will be providing more extensive training for its board members. Board members are the first line of the foundation, often communicating ideas and plans to the public. The Alliance will work on giving board member the best tools possible to maximize the positive impact

on the community.

Second, the Western Kansas Alliance of Community Foundations will focus its efforts on educating the public.

"Everybody knows the United Way," said Tom Keller, president of the St. Francis Community Foundation. "But, not everyone knows what community foundations are or how to use them. We need to make them a household name."

### Other activities

The Western Kansas Alliance of Community Foundations also recently participated in the Cover Your Acres event for agriculture producers in Oberlin. Attorney Ken Wasserman informed over 160 farmers about estate planning and using their local community foundations. This participation of the Association


was made possible by a grant from the Kansas Association of Community Foundations for the western region of the state in Kansas.

For more information on the resources available from your local community foundation, visit [www.sfcommunityfoundation.org](http://www.sfcommunityfoundation.org) or call 785 332-3142

### More information

Founded in 2010, the Western Kansas Alliance of Community Foundations is an informal group of community foundations, both board and staff from western Kansas, that works to improve their communities both individually and as a region. The foundations promote endowment for western Kansas causes through joint events, publications and training opportunities.

**Tri-State Engine & Thresher Show**  
**59th ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Saturday, March 3**  
10 a.m.  
**Show Grounds Shop**  
This Year's Show Dates:  
July 26-28

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**Thank You**  
There are not words enough to express our gratitude for all the acts of kindness given to Michael and us during his illness and now. To the people who took care of his yard, house and dog. For the many cards, prayers, food, gifts sent. To the visitors who came by or called the hospitals to wish him well. To the doctors and nurses who cared for him. To the friends and family who traveled many miles to sit by his side and cheer him up or give a massage. To Norman, David and Talley for their part in the service. And to the Church of Christ ladies who prepared the delicious dinner after the service. To all of you, we give our thanks.  
The family of Michael Forsythe