

Evaluate what we have before making judgments

There appears to be some hard feelings and misunderstandings concerning the emergency medical technician training which is unfortunate. In talking to some of the county's emergency medical technicians, this county has some of the top technicians and the service is run well and economically compared to other counties.

Emergency medical technicians think nothing of getting out of bed in the middle of the night, making a run to Denver and get back in just enough time to get to work. How many people can survive on only a few hours of sleep and work the entire day? Better yet, how many people will sacrifice to do it?

Anyone who has needed the ambulance and the emergency medical technicians know just how valuable they are. In a serious crisis, there is nothing like the sight of those flashing lights coming down the road just minutes after the 911 call is made and there is nothing like the sight of the technicians doing their thing — saving lives! Watching these technicians in action is reassuring to the patients and the anxious family.

While they work with the patient, they occasionally say a calming word to those watching. The patient's life may not always be saved but those around know those technicians have done everything in their power to save that life.

These efficient technicians may not have been so efficient had it not been for the hours of training and those giving the training along with the updating that is done every year. This county has had the top of the line for instructors. One tech told about a student who was having trouble with some of the class and the instructor spent extra hours to help that trainee. Generally, there are 100 percent of the class passing the tests. When there was a 'political' conflict with a tester, the instructor, out of his pocket, paid the cost for the second testing.

So, what is the cost of a life???? You make the decision.

If you have concerns, ideas or support, talk to the commissioners and also to the emergency medical technicians and instructors. Don't just gripe about it in the coffee shops. —Karen Krien



Cookies — opening doors

To the editor:

Do you have any idea what cookies have to do with college, career planning and creativity? When it's Girl Scout cookies we're talking about, the answer is, everything! Most people know about Girl Scout cookies because they feed their love of legendary favorites like Thin Mints, but the real magic behind the tradition is that it helps girls open the door to a world of terrific possibilities.

Here's a Girl Scout fact you're probably unaware of: If you tap a successful woman on the shoulder and asked her, the chances are very good that she was a Girl Scout. What's more, if you ask her, she'll likely say that participating in the annual cookie sale helped plant her feet toward her career. Katie Couric, Rebecca Lobo, Sandra Day O'Connor, Jackie Joyner-Kersey and Madeline Albright - you guessed it. They were all Girl Scouts.

When you see Girl Scouts taking cookie orders in the community from Jan. 24 through Feb. 7, you should know that what they're participating in is an annual event that helps millions of girls find their way

Letters to the Editor

in today's world. The Sunflower Council Girl Scout Cookie Sale is a program activity that helps girls between the ages of 6 and 17 develop a wide range of skills like entrepreneurship, money management, decision-making, goal-setting, teamwork and much more.

Selling cookies makes girls the CEOs of their own mini-businesses. Every year, cookie activities give girls a fun way to develop money and management skills - and

we all know that math and business are areas we need to actively encourage girls to pursue.

This annual event is much more than just a cookie sale. It's a recipe for success! So remember, buying Girl Scout cookies does more than feed your cookie craving, it helps "smart cookies" become strong confident young women.

Linda Mills, executive director
Girl Scouts of Sunflower Council

Director commends Knights organization

To the editor:

Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas would like to recognize all the Knights of Columbus organizations in northwest Kansas for contributing a portion of their proceeds to our medical fund. For many years, this fund has assisted individuals with developmental disabilities with the cost of

medical items and care that are not covered by Medicaid such as dental expenses and adaptive equipment.

Now, the need for this medical fund is greater than ever. With the recent severe budget cuts by the state of Kansas, our most vulnerable citizens are being taxed with an even greater burden. Vision and audiology services have been eliminated which will have a significant impact on aging adults, as well as major cuts were made in emergency and acute care services.

Developmental Services appreciated the Knights for making the medical needs of people with developmental disabilities one of your top priorities. You are making a great difference in people lives.

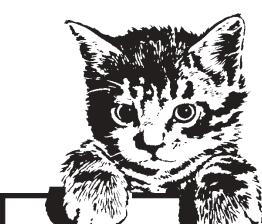
Steve Keil
Director of Development
Developmental Services of
Northwest Kansas

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GOD SAYS
And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.
Galatians 6:9



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Happy Birthday Kansas

By John Sehlegeck,
Kansas Farm Bureau

On Jan. 29, our state will be 142 years old. Kansas was admitted to the Union two and one half months before the beginning of the Civil War - one of our nation's most terrible times.

It is important to recall our heritage, our roots and a bit of our state's history, especially in celebration of another Kansas birthday.

The war between the northern and southern states officially began on April 12, 1861, after the shelling of Fort Sumter. The Kansas Territory had been at war for years before it was officially admitted on Jan. 29, 1861, one year after Abraham Lincoln was elected president.

As a result of the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, the Missouri Compromise was overturned. That meant Kansas did not have to enter the Union as a slave state or a free state. The people of the Kansas territory were free to answer the slavery question on their own. This was called, self-determination, and once a state, Kansas could decide its own destiny.

This was a period of bloody battles and fighting as both pro slavery forces and abolitionists flocked into the Kansas Territory. Both sides were determined to tip the balance of Congress in their favor. The term, Bleeding Kansas, aptly described the tension and bloodshed of that period.

Sixty-six years later, during a much better period in our state's history, state legislators adopted our flag. This flag de-

picts a history of peaceful coexistence between the natives of the land and the newly arrived settlers.

Like so many other states, the flag is the state seal set on a field of dark blue. In the foreground of the seal is a farmer plowing his field. A little further up is a wagon train with oxen-drawn schooners headed westward. Beyond these pioneers are Native Americans hunting bison.

The pioneers in the Kansas flag represent Manifest Destiny. This was the prevailing attitude of the United States government starting in the 1840's. The farmer and his field represent Kansas's rich agricultural heritage. The seal also includes a steamboat churning its way down the Kansas River and was meant to represent commerce. Today, agriculture, manufacturing and service industries play an integral part of the Kansas economy.

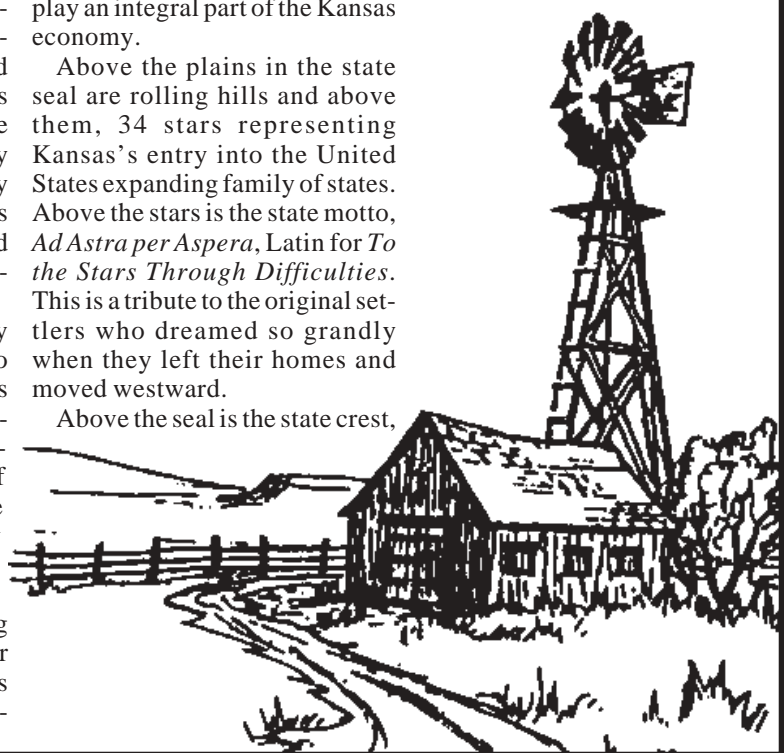
Above the plains in the state seal are rolling hills and above them, 34 stars representing Kansas's entry into the United States expanding family of states. Above the stars is the state motto, *Ad Astra per Aspera*, Latin for *To the Stars Through Difficulties*. This is a tribute to the original settlers who dreamed so grandly when they left their homes and moved westward.

Above the seal is the state crest,

a sunflower above a bar of blue and gold. The sunflowers is the state flower, and the blue and gold represent the Louisiana Purchase, which made the lands of Kansas a part of the United States. Beneath the state seal is Kansas in large, yellow block letters.

Kansas has several nicknames including the Sunflower State, Jayhawk State and the Wheat State. Our state is located in the Heartland, in fact Lebanon is the town situated closest to the geographical center of the continental United States.

Kansas agriculture is proud to be part of this rich rural heritage of putting food on people's plates and helping feed the world. This state's farmers and ranchers wish our *Wheat State* a happy birthday on Jan. 29.



Worship Warms the Heart

Peace Lutheran Church
202 N. College
332-2928 Pars. 332-2308
Pastor David Rossbach
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

First Christian Church
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Pastor Richard Garcia
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Church Service 10:30 a.m.
Wed. night Bible Study 7 p.m.

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

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

United Methodist
Church Office 332-2922,
Church 332-2254,
Pars. 332-3170
512 S. Scott
Pastor Nel Holmes
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

First Baptist Church
2nd & Scott • 332-3921
J.W. Glidewell, Pastor
Sunday School 9:30
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening
Service 6:30 p.m.,
Wednesday prayer
service, 6:00 p.m.
Wed. AWANA Club
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Clough Valley Baptist Church
Pastor Al Davis D. Min.
12 m. west, 6 m. north of SF
332-2506
Sunday School 9:00 a.m. CT
Worship 10:00 a.m. CT

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