



## Other Viewpoints

# Outdoor ventures help veterans cope

Wounded military veterans face plenty of challenges. The ugly fallout of war has left many vets dealing with extraordinary physical and emotional struggles as they return to civilian life at home and work.

So, it's easy to see how many could use a break from the difficulties of everyday life. Outdoor activities – hunting, fishing and the like – can deliver such an escape.

As part of a plan to expand a hunting opportunity for wounded veterans in the state, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism will ask the Kansas Legislature to allow a certain number of deer permits to be issued to service-connected disabled combat veterans.

Kansas, like many states, has various programs for disabled veterans and other military personnel who enjoy outdoor activities.

For example, free hunting and fishing licenses are available to honorably discharged resident veterans with certified service-related disabilities. And free park vehicle permits and hunting and fishing licenses are available to active members of the Kansas National Guard. Count an annual event in southwest Kansas as another thoughtful way to show appreciation and support for veterans who deserve as much.

Combat-wounded soldiers and their families from Fort Riley, Fort Sill and Fort Carson were invited to participate in the 2013 Heartland Heroes Hunt in and around Garden City, an opportunity made possible by an army of generous sponsors. The annual hunting excursion would be one of many good, heartfelt gestures so desperately needed at a time the nation is welcoming home many new veterans.

Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have left a staggering number of troops with physical and emotional scars. Americans have an obligation to see to it that they receive proper care and support.

When it comes to veterans' struggles, Kansas lawmakers have much to consider. One top priority has to be doing more to fund services for those vets dealing with serious mental-health issues.

Meanwhile, state lawmakers should view the latest proposal from the department as a simple way to thank veterans who fought for the many freedoms we too often take for granted, including opportunities to enjoy the state's great outdoors.

— *The Garden City Telegram, via the Associated Press*

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roberts.senate.gov/public/
- U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran**, 354 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 228-6966.  
Fax (202) 225-5124 moran.senate.gov/public/
- U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp**, 126 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715 or Fax (202) 225-5124. Web site: huelskamp.house.gov
- State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer**, State Capitol Building, 300 SW10th St., Room 136-E., Topeka, Kan. 66612, (785) 296-7399 ralph.ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us

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WHEN A SENATE PRESIDENT LACKS THE MORAL FIBER.

# Schools need to invest in maintenance

As superintendent, I would like to thank you for supporting Colby Public Schools. Twenty years ago our community supported building a new high school and passed a bond and interest levy to complete this project. We are excited to let you know the bond and interest levy for the high school will be paid in full on Sept. 1.



**Terrell Harrison**

• From the super's desk

In order to keep Colby Public School facilities in operating condition, the district will use the capital outlay fund. The Board of Education passed a capital outlay resolution on Jan. 21 authorizing the district to levy up to three additional mills for the next three budget years. The three-mills authorization would go into effect at the same time the bond and interest levy (5.846 mills) is dropped from the tax

roll for the 2013-14 budget. Working within the current laws and guidelines, the district's goal is to keep the total mill levy similar to its recent levies.

Colby Public Schools completed an engineering audit with 360 Energy Engineers this fall. Their audit confirmed the district's evaluation of specific problem areas, namely our

Colby Middle School facilities. Its roof and heating-air conditioning system are in desperate need of replacement. In order to complete this project and others, the district will need the additional three mills budget authority approved on Jan. 21. The district's capital outlay plan is to complete the engineering audit projects within three years.

Thank you for your continued support of Colby Public Schools. Please contact the Board of Education members or call me at 460-5000 if you have questions or concerns.

*Terrell Harrison is superintendent of the Colby Public Schools.*

# Kansas' birthday points to bright future

On Jan. 29, 1861, our state was founded on the ideals of personal freedom and individual liberty. The 152nd anniversary serves as a time to challenge all Kansans to carry on the enduring legacy of our founders.

In Washington, I often tell folks that Kansans live a special way of life. The pioneering spirit of those who settled our state more than 150 years ago and tamed the West lives on in us today. We fully embrace the words of our state's motto: "Ad astra per aspera," — "To the stars through difficulties."

Growing up in Kansas, we learn that our family's joys are increased and our sorrows diminished when they are shared with neighbors and friends. We teach our children that there is good in every person and that satisfaction in life comes from what you do for others rather than what you do for yourself.

Kansans work hard to make a difference in our communities, state and nation. Throughout the years, Kansas has raised many talented leaders — from Eisenhower to Earhart — who have helped shape our state and nation and overcome challenging obstacles. But the story of Kansas is also one about the farmers, factory workers, teachers, business owners, parents and all the unsung heroes whose hard work has built our state's economy and reputation around the globe. We have much in our history to be proud of, and even more to look forward to.

Today, Kansas continues to set itself apart as an industry leader in many fields, some well-established in our state like aviation, and some burgeoning like research and entrepreneurship.

Aviation contributes more than \$7 billion to our state's economy each year, and Kansas' reputation as the national leader in aviation manufacturing and job creation was recently



**U.S. Senator Jerry Moran**

• Moran's Memo

solidified when Airbus Americas announced it will continue its partnership with Kansas and double its investment over the next 10 years. I was proud to be co-host to the first-ever Air Capital Supplier Summit in August in Wichita, which gave more than 200 representatives from 115 companies the opportunity to meet one-on-one with representatives from Airbus with the goal of facilitating more business for Kansas companies. I look forward to a second successful summit elsewhere in Kansas this year.

Kansas has also become a leader in advancing biomedical and bioscience research. In fact, our bioscience industry has grown at a faster rate than the national sector since 2001. This growth opens the doors for new medical and technological advancements.

Last summer, the University of Kansas Cancer Center achieved designation as a National Cancer Institute Cancer Center. This exclusive designation will have a lasting impact on our state's economy and a life-changing impact on Kansans for generations to come.

And just last month, Kansas received good news from the Department of Homeland Security: the land transfer agreement has been signed, and the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in Manhattan is moving forward. This state-of-the-art biosecurity lab will replace our country's antiquated foreign ani-

mal research facility at Plum Island, N.Y., and protect us from foreign animal disease threats.

And at a time when national new business formation is near historic lows, Kansas had a record 15,008 new-business filings in 2012 according to the state's Annual Business Formation Report. These numbers suggest that entrepreneurs have discovered something I've known for a long time: Kansas is a great place to start a business.

This uptick in entrepreneurship bodes well for future job growth in our state. And with Southwest Airlines set to start operating five routes out of Mid-Continent Airport in Wichita starting on June 2, Kansas entrepreneurs will now have new options to connect them and their businesses to the rest of the country and the world.

Our state's leadership in these pioneering industries is forming a legacy of opportunity for the next generation. We want our children and grandchildren to have the chance to return home, put down roots and raise their own families in the communities we love.

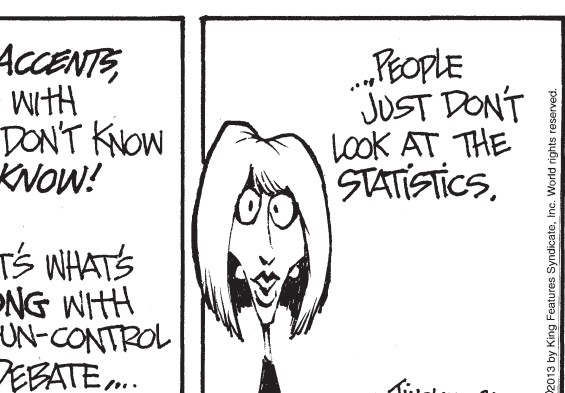
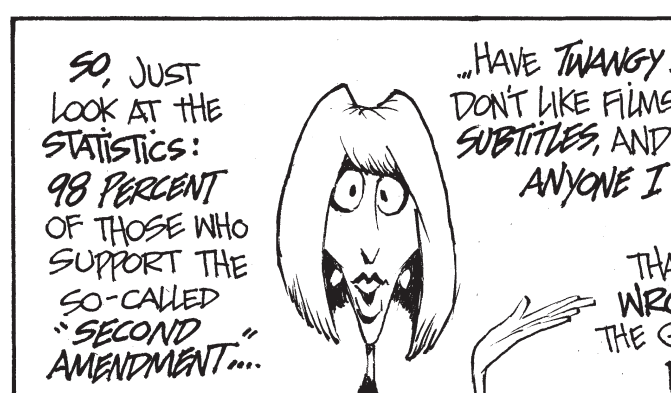
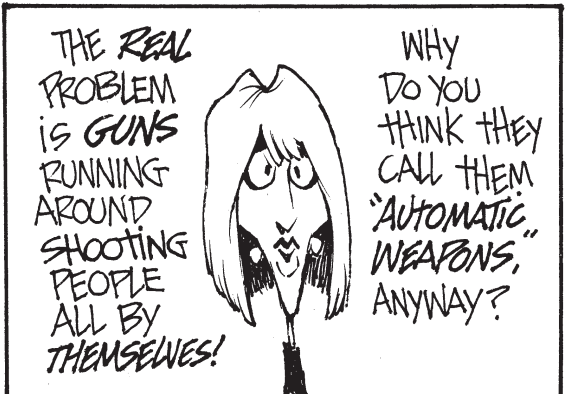
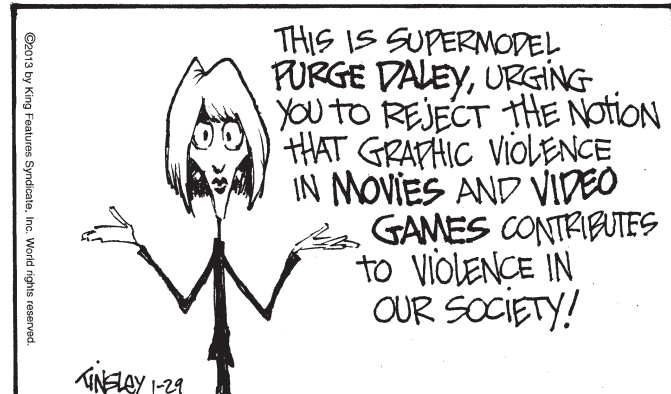
After 152 years, Kansas has much to celebrate — from our rich heritage to our diverse industries. Bright days lie ahead for our state and I will do all I can to make certain we leave behind a stronger, freer and more prosperous place to call home.

May God bless the great State of Kansas.

*Jerry Moran of Hays is the junior U.S. senator from Kansas. His committee appointments include Appropriations; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; Veterans Affairs; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and the Special Committee on Aging. To sign up for his weekly newsletter, go to moran.senate.gov.*

## Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley



Tinsley 1-30