

Happy Birthday Kansas!

By John Schlageck,
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 depicts 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 agri-

cultural 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.

THIS HOUSE, LOCATED ON West Fourth Street, in Bird City, became a wall of thistles.

Letter to the Editor

Letter to the editor:

On Thursday morning, Jan. 16, some people woke up to a most unwelcome sight. Most had bushes and/or trees with thistles stuck in them. One area that was really full was on West Fourth.

My mother put up the snow fence to protect her house and yard from the thistles. Because of this, they were bunched up on the fence and out into the street. I heard the com-

ment that the situation was all Mom's fault because she had the fence. We believe it was better in the street than piled up next to the house because of the fire hazard.

I'm not certain whose idea it was to use a bush hog on the pile of thistles, but whoever, sure didn't think of the consequences, or else they didn't care. Shame on the city crew for not even cleaning up the mess! Whatever happened to "Do

unto others as you would have them do unto you?" I'm certain that none of the council members would have liked to have had that mess in front of their house — not to mention the tremendous fire hazard.

I don't understand why the thistles couldn't have been piled on the street east of Mother's house and burned, or if they didn't want to take the time to burn, why weren't they loaded on a truck and hauled away? On that intersection, there are two households with elderly people. Who was supposed to clean this mess for them?

I certainly hope that should an instance like this happen again that whoever is involved will think of the consequences or whatever action they take. I feel we need to start putting pride back in Bird City and to work together to do it. It is not only certain people's responsibility, it is everyone's.

We know every year this is one thing we have to look forward to, but if everyone would burn what thistles are in their yard, it would help everyone.

Don and Carol Gamblin
Bird City

Dance company performs Sunday

Dancetime is a living, breathing, pulsating, time-travel of the San Francisco-based theatrical dance company, Dance Through Time. It transports the audience on a fantasy journey through 500 years of dance punctuated with dialogue, song and music of the times. *Dancetime* travels from the 15th Century to the 1990s and covers the globe from Italy, France and England to America. With nearly 500 authentic costumes to choose from, *Dancetime* is a full theatrical show of life seen through the eyes of dance.

Carol Teten is the founder of Dance Through Time. As a noted dance historian with a contempo-

rary vision, Ms. Teten used her research and personal collection of over 700 volumes of rare dance manuscripts, journals, books and film clips to create the company's repertoire of five full-act productions and over 25 one-act shows. She received her bachelor of arts in dance from Sarah Lawrence College and her master of arts in dance from UCLA. Her film credits include a Hallmark Hall of Fame presentation in which she choreographed dance sequences for the CBA movie *Shadow of a Doubt* and featured dancers from Dance Through Time.

Dance Through Time will appear at 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26 at the Colby Community College Cultural Arts Center. Admission at the door or by Western Plains Arts Association season passes.

Funding for this performance has been contributed by the City of Colby Special Law Enforcement Fund at the Thomas County Community Foundation, and also by the Thomas County Community Foundation KHF Fund. This program is also presented in part by the Kansas Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

New books on display at library

New books at the McDonald Library include: *True Blue* by Lauanne Rice; *Leadership* by Rudolph W. Givloni; *Answered Prayers* by Danelle Steele; *West of Dodge* by Louis L'Amour; *The Great Divide* by T. Davis Bunn; *Rachel* by Mary Christner Bortrager; *Ellie* by Mary Christner Bortrager; *Reap the Wind* by Iris Johansen; *Just Over the Mountain* by Robyn Carr; *Standing in the Rainbow* by Fannie Flagg; *Jinxed* by Carol Higgins Clark; *Assassins* by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins; *Pennsylvania* by Kay Cornelius; *Mission Compromised* by Oliver North; *Shakedown* by Kenneth R. Timmerman; *With Heart* by Dorothy Garlock; *Montana Skies* by Ann Bell; *Distant Shores*, Kristin Harrah; *No place Like Home* by Fern Michaels; *A Texas Sky* by Lori Wick; *City Girl* by Lori Wick; *Every Little Thing* by Lori Wick; *Kentucky Sunrise* by Fern Michaels; *Quentin* by Maeve Binchy and *Four Blind Mice* by James Patterson.

Years Ago

5 years ago - 1998

The Beardsley 4-H Club met in December to Christmas carol and deliver fruit baskets. Mary Ann Holub is the club president, Levi Pochop, the vice president and Cristi Antholz, the secretary.

Water rates began a serious topic of discussion at the Monday night Bird City Council meeting. It has been a year and a half since the last rate increase and production costs have risen.

On Dec. 19 and 20, Cheylin Student Council members, Drew Flemming and members of McDonald Area Development Committee were very busy packing and delivering boxes from the Ministerial Alliance for the Christmas Pantry Project. There were 39 baskets delivered.

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Cost-Share Funds Available

The Cheyenne Co. Conservation District announces sign up for the Water Resources Cost-Share Program and the Non-Point Source Pollution Cost-Share Program. Applications will be taken at the Conservation Office, January 21 - 31.

The following practices are eligible for cost-share assistance: Diversions, Cross-Fencing, Field and Feedlot Windbreaks, Irrigation Water Conveyance Pipeline, Livestock Pipelines, Wells and Tanks, Spring Developments, Terraces, Range Seeding, Sprinkler Irrigation Systems Upgrades, Livestock Waste Control Facilities, Abandoned Well Plugging and Septic System Upgrades.

Cost-share assistance rate is 50-70%. All applications will be reviewed and ranked by the District Board of Supervisors and funded according to priorities recommended by the Kansas Water Plan. Work may not be started until notified by the Conservation District Board. Deadline to complete work is May 31.

If you are interested, please contact our office on West Highway 36 in St. Francis or call 785-332-2341.

Club Clip

Bird City Community Club

The Bird City Community Club met Jan. 13, at 7:30 p.m. at the LeBow Manor. There were 18 present at the meeting.

Gary Brubaker and Janelle Bowers presented a program for the emergency medical technicians. Using Gary Leach as a volunteer, they demonstrated what would happen after they were called to an accident scene. They showed how they would stabilize a patient and take care of injuries, especially if that patient were experiencing neck or back injuries. This was a very informative les-

son. They also answered questions that the community club members had regarding their work as Emergency Medical Technicians.

The Community Club decided to help pay for the books and supplies for those Bird City residents who will be taking the classes to become emergency medical technical's. There will be a check made payable to the Emergency Medical Service to help pay these costs.

The next meeting will be on Feb. 10, at 7:00 p.m. at the LeBow Manor.

South of McDonald

By Sandy Binning
Kathy and George Banister and family attended the Western Kansas Liberty League Basketball Tournament Monday and Tuesday in Brewster and Saturday in Goodland.
Lynn and Rita Officer attended the open house and dinner for Heartland Christian School Sunday in Colby.
Lynn and Rita Officer visited Albert and Agnes Reeh in Atwood Sunday afternoon. Lynn and Rita

were supper and evening guests of John and Linda Allacher.

Lavern and Bethel Goltl attended the annual meeting and potluck dinner at St. John Lutheran Church in Bird City.

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Bird City Times Editor

Looking for an energetic person, living in the Bird City or McDonald area, with new ideas to fill the editor position of the Bird City Times. The applicant must have some computer and writing skills, get along well with customers, be able to cover meetings, school activities and other happenings within the communities of Bird City and McDonald.

To apply or for more information, contact the St. Francis Herald, 785-332-3162 or stop by the office at 310 W. Washington, St. Francis.