

Students celebrate Kansas Day

To commemorate the 85 Kansas Day at the American Legion hall on Jan. 29, the Cheylin fourth, fifth and sixth grade students participated by singing "Home On The Range," and "There Are Many Flags." Under the direction of Rose Hengen, they wrote the middle verse for "There Are Many Flags." The fourth and fifth grade students told the history of the great seal of the state of Kansas, with the assistance of Tammi Carmichael and Amy Moree. They put a lot of work into putting this together, Mrs. Hengen said, and they needed special recognition of their work.

The presentation began with Sarah Mellinger, who said, "The great seal of the state of Kansas tells the history of Kansas! The seal was adopted by the Kansas Legislature May 25, 1861. It contains many items that are symbolic of the difficult, but exciting times that make Kansas what it is today."

Kimberly Velazquez: "The seal contains a beautiful landscape with a rising sun: It represents the eastern United States where most settlers were coming from."

Loren Mellinger: "A beautiful river with a steamboat on it is also on the seal. It represents the commerce that was present in the newly developed state. Nearly 75 miles of the state's northeastern border is defined by the Missouri River. Kansas is the 15th biggest and the 34 most populated of the 50 United States."

Colton McCarty: "The settler's cabin and a man plowing a field represent agriculture, which has grown to be the number one industry in Kansas. After the Civil War, the population of Kansas grew rapidly. The new settlers began turning the vast prairie into farmland. Today, Kansas is one of the most productive agricultural states. Our main crops are wheat, sorghum, and sunflowers."

Gracie Wright: "The wagon train heading west represents the growth of America and pioneer life. Kansas was first settled by European Americans in the 1830s, but the settling of Kansas grew in the 1850s, in the midst of political wars over the slavery issue."

Brooke Porubsky: "The Indians on the seal are chasing bison. This represents the strong presence of the Indians in Kansas during the

time settlers were traveling to Kansas from the East. For thousands of years, what is now Kansas was home to many Native American tribes."

Vivian Yanez: "The cluster of 34 stars near the top of the seal identifies Kansas as the 34th state to be accepted into the union of the United States."

Alex Dart: "And the motto "Ad Astra per Aspera" is our state motto. It is Latin for "To the stars through difficulties" which describes the growth of Kansas over the years."

Nellie Hesper: "The sunflower, located just above the seal, is the Kansas state flower. It is one of the main crops of Kansas. In the early fall, there is nothing more beautiful than a field of sunflowers in full bloom."

Gus Hesper: "There are several historical sites in Kansas that might have been included in the state seal. Here are 11 of our favorite historical sites."

Schuyler Lennox: "We chose Fort Scott. Fort Scott was established in 1842. It was to provide protection to the rapidly increasing number of settlers who were migrating from the eastern United States, to the west. It was named after Winfield Scott. Fort Scott is located in Fort Scott between Fort Gibson and Fort Leavenworth. Fort Scott became one of a chain of forts to protect settlers' from the Plains Indians, as well as to protect the Indians from the growing number of settlers."

Alondra Perez: "Constitution Hall is what we chose for our seal! During 1857, Constitution Hall was one of the busiest in Kansas. It was built in LeCompton. It was one of the most important buildings in the Kansas Territory. Thousands of settlers filed claims in the United States land office on the first floor. In January 1857, the second territorial legislative assembly met on the upper floor."

Briana Vandike: "The Keeper of the Plains is what we chose to put on our state seal. The Keeper of the Plains in Wichita was created in 1974, and placed where the Arkansas and the Little Arkansas Rivers meet. The Keeper of the Plains was designed by a Native American artist Blackbear Bison, but the sculpture was done by Tom Washburn."

Andrew Schields: "We chose



CHEYLIN STUDENTS hold the Kansas Flag as they perform for Kansas Day.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez.

the Nicodemus National Historic Site. Nicodemus preserves the only remaining western town that was established by African Americans during the American Civil War. The town of Nicodemus is symbolic of the pioneer spirit of the African Americans who dared to leave the only region they knew to seek personal freedom."

Audrey Moore: "The Battle of Black Jack is the historical event we chose for our seal. In 1854, the U.S. Congress passed the Kansas-Nebraska Act which stated that the residents of these territories would decide whether they would enter the union as a slave state or a free state. On June 2, 1856, anti-slavery forces attacked the encampment of Henry C. Pate. The battle is cited as one incident of Bleeding Kansas, and was a contributing factor leading to the American Civil War which began in 1861."

Kaylynn Hendricks: "El Quartejeo Ruins is the name given to the archeological remains of the northern most Indian pueblo in Kansas. The remains are located in Lake Scott State Park; the remains of the stone and adobe pueblo are on Ladder Creek, north of Scott City. The Spanish called the settlement El Quartejeo and the region around it was called the San Luis Providence."

Joseph Augusta: "The Santa Fe Trail Rut Site is what we chose for our state seal. The Santa Fe Trail

Rut served as the pioneer highway from 1821 to 1871. Settlers traveled along the Santa Fe Trail from the eastern United States to Santa Fe New Mexico. The trail allowed traders to move across the country safely and easily. Nine miles west of Dodge City, you can see the most clearly defined rut trails in Kansas. They are still visible after almost 150 years."

Gaby Gutierrez: "We chose the Hollenberg Pony Express Station for our state seal. The Hollenberg Pony Express Station, also known as Cottonwood Pony Express Station, is located in Hollenberg Ranch State Park. The cabin was built by Dell Hollenberg in 1858. Mr. Hollenberg not only delivered the mail, but he also traded with settlers who traveled along the Oregon and California Trails."

Soledad Bermudez: "The Sumner Elementary School is located in Topeka. It was built in 1936. It was the focus of Brown vs. Board of Education. In 1954, Linda Brown attempted to enroll in the Sumner School. It was closer to her house than the all black Monroe School she was attending. Her enrollment was rejected, but Oliver Brown, Linda's father, joined a class action lawsuit against the Topeka Board of Education that was eventually heard before the Supreme Court."

Jayden Boyson: "Fort Larned was established in 1859 to protect traffic along the Santa Fe Trail. Fort

Larned has nine historical buildings. It is one of the best preserved forts in our nation."

Keigan Taylor: "The Kansas Veterans' Home is located in Winfield. In 1865, the National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers was established. It was established to provide care for soldiers who had been disabled or injured during service in the Union forces in the Civil War."

Nora Castillo: "There are many interesting facts about Kansas. Here are just a few that we liked."

Mitchel Howard: "Kansas has many nicknames. Here are a few of the most popular: America's Bread Basket, Sunflower State, Wheat State (previously used on license plates), Home of Beautiful Women, Central State, and Jayhawker State."

Karol Garcia: "The capitol of Kansas is Topeka. The largest city in Kansas is Wichita."

Dylan Ketzner: "The total population of the state of Kansas is

2,893,957."

Joe Melton: "The highest point in Kansas is Mount Sunflower. It has an elevation of 4041 feet."

Jennifer Grenados: "The lowest point is the Verdigris River, on the Oklahoma Border. It has an elevation of 679 feet."

Christian Gabaldon: "The Governor of Kansas is Sam Brownback. He is the 46th Governor of Kansas."

Nora Castillo: "Our last song is "There Are Many Flags". Listen closely to the middle verse. We wrote this verse just about the Kansas Flag and the greatest things about our state. Here is the verse."

Oh, the Kansas Flag is deep dark blue. Has a seal in the middle too! There's a cluster of stars near the top of the seal. It reminds us of this Great Kansas Land! Then hurrah for the Jayhawks, the Wildcats too! There are 50 flags, one for every state. But the Kansas flag is very great! For goodness sake.



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