

Finding the common good

By Ron Wilson
Huck Boyd Institute
 "The Common Good." That's a desirable, if sometimes amorphous, concept. The common good is something that should be good for everyone. But in our modern, polarized society, how can we achieve the common good? The answer is, it will require leadership — not from an elite few, but from all of us. That's the concept of a new book by two authors who focus on redefining civic leadership.

David Chrislip and Ed O'Malley are co-authors of this new book titled *For the Common Good — Redefining Civic Leadership*. These two co-authors might be considered an odd couple. One is older, the other relatively young. One is a Democrat, the other a Republican. One grew up in a rural area, the other in the city. But both are definitely committed to the concept of civic leadership. Ed O'Malley is president of the Kansas Leadership Center which was created by the Kansas Health Foundation to enhance civic leadership so as to benefit the health of all Kansans. Ed, a proud Kansan, had been a state legislator and assistant to a Kansas governor.

His co-author is David Chrislip. David's work took him from the National Outdoor Leadership School and Outward Bound to the American Leadership Forum to the National Civic League. David has already written two books: *Collaborative Leadership* and *The Collaborative Leadership Fieldbook*. When the Kansas Leadership Center was first created, David served as its director of faculty development for five years. He

and Ed wanted to chronicle and share the center's work. After much research and writing, they produced *For the Common Good — Redefining Civic Leadership* in summer 2013. It's based on their belief that civic leadership can better respond to today's civic challenges. They wrote, "Civic leadership can become more purposeful, provocative and engaging, and thus enhance our collective capacity to address the complex adaptive challenges we face."

The book outlines leadership competencies and guiding principles such as the concept that leadership is an activity, not a position; that anyone can lead anytime, anywhere; that leading starts with one's self and then moves on to engaging others; that clarity of purpose is essential; and that leadership is risky. The book suggests four key leadership behaviors or competencies: Diagnose situation, manage self, intervene skillfully, and energize others. To explain those, the book tells the stories of five diverse individuals and the challenges they faced.

One was Doug Mays, former speaker of the Kansas House of Representatives. Another was Lance Carrithers, pastor of Dodge City's Methodist church in which he sought to include more of the Hispanic population. A third was David Toland, director of a health coalition called Thrive Allen County. Laura McConwell is the mayor of Mission, Kan., who dealt with challenges of financing upgrades to the city's infrastructure. The final example was pediatric physician Denise Dowd who sought to address the issues

of wellness and prevention in an urban hospital setting. Each one dealt with what appeared to be intractable issues. The book chronicles the lessons and applications of the leadership learning along their journeys.

While these examples are relevant to many states, all of these examples are drawn from Kansas. This is fitting because Ed O'Malley is a lifelong Kansan and David Chrislip grew up in rural Kansas, having come from Abbyville, population 127 people. Now, that's rural.

These authors call us to a high standard: To set aside complacency, to care deeply, to intervene personally and to engage others in working together toward the common good. For more information, go to www.kansasleadershipcenter.org/resources.

On March 11, 2014, the K-State Leadership Seminar will focus on the theme of Leadership for the Common Good. Ed O'Malley is the featured speaker. Every registered participant will receive a copy of the book. For information or to register, see www.k-state.edu/leadershipseminar.

The common good. In our modern times, finding the common good may be difficult, but this book describes processes and real world examples which can inform our journey. We commend David Chrislip and Ed O'Malley for making a difference by creating this book. Such examples of outstanding civic leadership may not be common, but they are definitely good.

37th annual art show



The Dane G. Hansen Museum's 37th Annual High School Art Show runs from Feb. 7 to March 9. On Sunday, Feb. 9 there was a preview for the exhibit. (Pictured) Vicki Robison, art teacher at Norton Community High School, addressed the crowd and gave out awards to the top student artist. Brandy Davis, Marisa Maddy, Jared Shelton, Sierra Griffith, Bailey Ambrosier, Ashley Hildebrand and Lindsay Addington were among the many students recognized for their art work.

-Courtesy photo

Incentives for conservation landowners

Kansas landowner/producers can receive sign-up incentives and payments for implementing grassland conservation practices that benefit lesser prairie-chickens. The application deadline to enroll land in the Lesser-prairie Chicken Conservation Program is Feb. 28, according to the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA). Landowner/producers with land in the lesser prairie-chicken range are eligible to apply, and those who are accepted will receive payments for implementing conservation practices such as mechanical brush removal, prescribed grazing, and establishment and management of planted native grass stands. Only producers not currently enrolled in federal farm bill programs are eligible to apply for five- and 10-year contract options.

Applications will be ranked by the Association based on their value to lesser prairie-chickens. Accepted landowner/

producers located in the high-priority locations can receive payments of up to 125 percent of the estimated cost of implementing the conservation plan. If the species becomes federally listed, participating producers will be exempt from the take prohibition of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) if the take occurs while implementing the practices prescribed in their conservation plan.

Interested landowner/producers should contact the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism's Region 1 office in Hays, 785-628-8614 for more information and enrollment application forms.

The Association consists of 23 state and provincial wildlife agencies that have primary responsibility and authority for protecting and managing fish and wildlife in the western United States and Canada. Member agencies in Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado worked through the Asso-

ciation over the last two years to produce the Lesser-prairie Chicken Range-wide Conservation Plan (RWP) as a means to preclude a federal listing of the species under the Endangered Species Act. On Oct. 23, 2013, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) endorsed the Conservation Plan as "a comprehensive conservation plan that reflects sound conservation design and strategy that, when implemented, will provide a net conservation benefit to the lesser prairie-chicken." To date, the Conservation Plan is the only plan that has been endorsed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is the only pathway that has the potential to lead to a not warranted final decision. The amount of voluntary enrollment in the Conservation Plan will likely weigh heavily into the final listing decision that must be announced by the end of March.

STUDENT NEWS

On Friday, Feb. 7, 38 students from kindergarten, first and second grade at Northern Valley Elementary School celebrated 100 Days of School. The days' festivities began with two friendship songs and a dance led by Mrs. Thompson and the second graders. Students brainstormed how important numbers are and what it would be like to live in a world without numbers. Mrs. Thompson read the book *Neil's Numberless World*. Students worked with partners from other classrooms and colored 100th

Day headbands. In physical education, Mr. Jim Cole led students in 100 exercises and some relay races. The first graders presented two reader's theaters about the 100th Day and Groundhog's Day. The students colored designs with 100 dots which were displayed in the cafeteria.

Mrs. Vincent conducted a science activity and experiment to explore gravity. After experimentation of dropping numerous objects of varying weights, students concluded the objects

fell at the same rate unless affected by the air. The heavier objects did hit harder when they landed.

Mr. Thompson assisted the pupils in making a necklace with 100 Fruit Loops and labels counting by tens. Needless to say, some cereal on most necklaces had disappeared before the end of the day.

Ms. Wuest led the children in singing some 100th day songs. Students concluded the celebration with a 100th day snack featuring milk and cookies.

On Saturday, Feb. 8, 2014, the Northern Valley Forensics team traveled to Norton for their annual tournament. Since we did not have to travel as far, the kids were able to sleep in a little. Those attending the meet were: Beatriz De La Fuente, Cole Bingham, Damian Wellman, Kristen Leibhart, Camden Cox, and Dakota Hilburn. Emily Lowry was able to help and sponsor during the day. A big thank you to her as well as Irma Laurin, Monica Bach, and the

Northern Valley Booster Club. The cookies and snacks were greatly appreciated.

There were three rounds, each one an hour and fifteen minutes long, and a final round. Those making it into the final round and their placings were: Beatriz — Informative Speaking (5th place), Kristen — Serious Solo Acting (7th place), Camden — Serious Solo Acting (5th place), Dakota and Damian — Improvised Duet Acting (5th place), Camden and Cole — Improvised

Duet Acting (6th place), and Cole — Poetry (6th place).

There were 14 teams that participated in the tournament. At the end of the day, our students hard work landed them in fifth place. What an accomplishment! Way to go Huskies! Until next time...keep your act together.

Call Mike with all your social news. 877-3361

COLLEGE NOTES

Tawni Griffey of Norton, was honored during the First-Year Scholars Reception on Thursday, Feb. 6 at Emporia State University. The event honored more than 200 first-year students at Emporia State who earned a 3.5 or higher grade point average in their first semester.

The Senior Citizens Community Center WILL BE HAVING A Potato Bar on Thurs., February 20 5-7 p.m. at the Community Center, 208 West Main

Regular and Sweet Potatoes —
 • FREE WILL DONATIONS •
 Open to the Public, Not Just Seniors
 Take Out Potatoes Available — \$5.00

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Family estate planning workshop scheduled

Planning for the future is vital for families who want to preserve assets for the next generation. K-State Research and Extension will offer the workshop "Preserving the Family with Estate Planning," to aid families in the process of transition from one generation to another. Topics will include estate planning basics, family communication,

transfer of non-titled assets, charitable estate planning and farm transition planning.

The workshop will be held in two locations: Thursday, March 13, at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Hoxie, and Friday, March 14, at Thirsty's Banquet Room in Hays. The cost for the all-day workshop is \$15 by March 7. The goal of the work-

shop is to help families use estate planning to preserve the most valuable asset of all: the family itself. Contact the Twin Creeks Extension - Hoxie Office, 785-675-3268, or go to www.twincreeks.ksu.edu under Events for a registration brochure and more information.

Norton County Health Promotion Blood Screening
 At the Norton County Health Department

Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2014
 Time: 7:00 a.m. - to Noon

Provided by a joint effort of the Norton County Health Department and the Norton County Hospital

Need to be fasting (no food or drink after midnight) before testing

Health Profile and CBC #1 - \$40.00
 Screens electrolytes, kidney function, alkaline phosphate, glucose, cholesterol (HDL, LDL, VLDL and triglycerides) and CBC

PSA - #2 - \$20.00
 Evaluates prostate condition

TSH - #3 - \$15.00
 Evaluates thyroid levels and function

HbA1C - #4 - \$35.00
 Measure average blood sugar levels - (diabetics only)

LOCATION: Norton County Health Department
 801 N. Norton, Norton, Kansas

Questions? Call the Norton County Health Department at 785-877-5745

NO APPOINTMENTS NECESSARY
 ACCEPT CASH AND CHECK ONLY! INSURANCE BILLING NOT AVAILABLE!