



# Opinion

## No matter her flaws, our republic still the best

The fireworks are over, the picnic eaten, the boat put away. America is back to work today.

Our country is another year older, marking its 235th birthday on Monday.

Back at the office, the field, the highway, the Legislature, we face the same old problems: not enough money, too many needs, too many demands, too much poverty, schools that do only part of what we want them to do, roads with too many potholes and not enough lanes.

The list is endless.

Are we right to celebrate our country?

It was, and is, a grand experiment. When the Founding Fathers wrote the Declaration of Independence, no nation on the face of the Earth held out the ideals of democracy and self-government, of freedom and liberty, they proclaimed.

Men were ruled by kings and despots. Brief flirtations with self-rule by Greeks and Romans were but footnotes to history.

Yet, English noblemen and European thinkers had begun to articulate a higher standard. The English, still subject to the will of the king, had won certain rights. Philosophers wrote about the "natural" rights of man.

But our forbears, led by the pen of Thomas Jefferson, took this a step or two further. They declared the "inalienable" rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" granted to men by "Nature and Nature's God."

Having declared Independence from the English king, fought for and won it, they set about creating a nation founded on those principles. It was not easy, nor did it come quickly.

Even the Constitutional Convention, which gave us a framework for government, did not

address our rights as humans. That was left to a group of Virginians concerned that the new governments would become so strong they would oppress us, even as the king had.

They gave us the example of a Bill of Rights, later adopted into the federal Constitution, to limit the authority of our government. That was a key concept. The Bill guaranteed our liberty, from the right to bear arms to the right to a speedy trial when accused by the government.

The First Amendment alone is a marvel of spare and efficient language. In just 45 words, it gave us the rights to free speech, a free press, to worship, to assemble and protest, and to petition our government.

And so we began our grand experiment under a system like no other.

Perfect? Far from it.

The Declaration, with its high ideals of freedom, came from the pen of Jefferson, who owned slaves. The Constitution, as the Founders understood it, granted rights only to free white men.

We'd have to fight a Civil War to settle the issues of slavery and secession. It'd be another century before we began to address the second-class status of blacks and other minorities, of women and others.

We've come a long ways since then. We're a better country now than 50 years ago, but still not perfect. So many problems to solve; so many things not even our government can fix.

And yet, our ideals remain so much higher. If you made the argument we have the best system on Earth, who would disagree? We just need to keep making it better.

Happy Birthday, America.

- Steve Haynes



## News From the Past

### 100 years ago - 1911

Kemp and Lockard have added the finest express wagon ever seen at St. Francis to their dray line equipment.

The board of county commissioners ordered the county health officer to fumigate all school houses in the county that had school during the past year.

The post office department has ordered the establishment of rural route No. 3 out of St. Francis on June 1. The total length of this route is about 34 miles and it ought to serve and accommodate a large number of families.

### 60 years ago - 1951

Among the 1,200 delegates who spent a memorable week

at Kansas State College attending 4-H Roundup last week were 10 Cheyenne County club members. Those attending were Jane Mills, Donna Follett, Beverly Follett, Gary Neilan, Larry Lampe, Jim Schlittendardt, Jerdene Barnhart, Anna Marie Bandel, Carol Stinehagen and Jenelle Hendricks.

## The Gardener

Kay Melia

vkmelia@yahoo.com

As long as I live, I shall always view the common garden onion with amazement, wonder, surprise, astonishment, admiration, and curiosity. And if I could think of another synonym, I would use it to describe the uncommon growth and production of the plain old slicing garden onion.

Oh yeah...I like to eat 'em too! It goes without saying that I love to grow them. Nothing in my garden gets as much TLC as the six rows of onions, amounting to about 180 foot of row that I plant each year. In past years, the resulting crop amounts to many pounds more than my family can absorb, even with winter storage, so we share them with others and offer a few at the Farmer's Market. This year's crop will be a little short because of light hail and heavy wind-driven rain that broke off some of the very large leaves.

There are some very definite "do's and don'ts" that must be observed when growing prize-winning onions. First, do not plant the little bulbs or sets if you expect to harvest big slicing onions. Bulbs and sets are to be planted if you wish to harvest green onions, sometimes called scallions. You must plant the little onion plant that is usually available in bunches of 60 to 75 onions in twine-tied

or rubber-banded bunches. This is the most serious misunderstanding a gardener can have when trying to grow the big slicers, probably because the little bulbs look like they should mature into bigger bulbs, while the green plants resemble scallions. Ah the mysteries of a backyard garden!

Another serious oversight by onion growers is failing to get their plants into the ground early enough. The earlier the better should be the rallying cry of all those who plant onions. Onion plants are very hardy, ignoring temperatures as low as 22 degrees, and generally thrive on the coolness of early spring. March 20 is a good planting date in Northwest Kansas. Wait until May 15 and the crop just won't produce the big ones in the heat of summer.

After the onion plants are in the ground, every effort should be made to keep them weed free. If onions have serious competition from weeds, you'll likely be disappointed with undersized onions.

Because of the short distance between plants, (generally between 4 and 5 inches) you must lay the hoe aside and utilize the thumb and forefinger to rid the row of weeds.

But the absolutely most important aspect of growing 15 to 20 ounce onions is to never let them get dry. Never! Water them the day after you plant them, and be sure the soil around them is always damp. In the heat of summer, an everyday drink would be appreciated!

For every leaf on the onion plant, there will be a ring of onion in the bulb. The larger the leaf, the thicker the ring, the larger the onion. There will be a ring form for every leaf! When they are mature, the top will fall over, of it's own accord. Don't force it. It will do the job without your help.

Plant the plants instead of the bulbs or sets. Plant early. Remove the weeds. Water incessantly. Harvest the big sweet ones. Be amazed!!

## Casey's Comments

By

Casey McCormick



mccormickcasey@rocketmail.com

Hope you had a memorable Independence Day. Did you enjoy fireworks, friends and food? And did you hear any music? How about "The Stars and Stripes Forever?"

I can't imagine July Fourth without that particular tune. Did you know that it is the official march of the United States? It says so under U.S. Code, Title 36, Section 304 in our laws.

John Philip Sousa wrote it, and some 135 other marches. Born

in 1854 in Washington, D.C., he lived, and entertained up until his death in 1932.

Sousa had early ties to military music, as his father was a musician with the Marine Corps Band. When the younger Sousa tried to run away and join a circus band his father enlisted him as an apprentice with the Marines. The boy was 13 years old.

With time Sousa served his country and left the service, later returning to conduct the

U.S. Marine Band. In 1892 he organized his own civilian band which began 40 years of touring. The Sousa Band was considered the most famous musical act in the world in the first third of the 20th Century.

A more complete definition of an American would be hard to find. Just listen to his music.

## Local volunteers commended

Editor:

Yesterday's Independence Day celebration in St. Francis was great: a full day of activities followed by a fine fireworks display, all managed and accomplished by local volunteers. It is the combined civic effort that I think precisely exemplifies the

## Letter to the Editor

spirit of the Founding Fathers when they sent their wonderfully audacious letter to King George exactly 235 years ago.

My compliments and thanks to everyone who helped with the

event, from the organizers to the people at the booths to those who gave money: very nicely done.

Robert Grace  
St. Francis

**GOD SAYS**

**Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God: and knoweth God.**

**I John 4:7**

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**STAFF**

Karen Krien ..... Editor/Publisher  
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**Praise the Lord**

**Church of Christ**  
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424  
502 W. Spencer  
Norman Morrow - Minister  
Bible Class 11 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10 a.m.  
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

**United Methodist**  
Church Office 332-2292,  
Church 332-2254,  
512 S. Scott  
Pastor Morita Truman  
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
785-890-5718 • 3rd & Adams  
Pastor Jerry Nowack  
Sabbath School 9:30  
Morning Worship 10:45

**St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church**  
625 S. River • 332-2680  
Fr. Roger Meitl  
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.  
Weekday Mass 8:00 a.m.  
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

**Salem Lutheran Church**  
332-3002  
Pastor Chris Farmer  
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Communion Sunday

**Solid Rock Baptist Church**  
412 S. Denison  
Welcomes You!  
Pastor Allen Coon  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30  
Prayer Meeting, Wed 7:30 p.m.

**First Christian Church**  
Pastor Jeff Landers  
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster  
Bible Fellowship 9:15 a.m.  
Church Service 10:15 a.m.

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

**St. Francis Community Church**  
332-3150  
204 N. Quincy Street  
www.sfccfamily.com  
Pastor: David Butler  
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
Potluck & Communion -  
Every 2nd Sunday  
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

**Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC**  
202 N. College  
Pastor Glenn Isernhagen, Interim  
332-2928  
Worship 9:30 a.m.  
Communion 1st Sunday of the Month

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