

Highway Patrol needs cars to be more visible

The Kansas Highway Patrol tapped into nostalgia for its last 20 full-sized cars, Ford Crown Victorias dressed in the traditional blue and grey from half a century ago.

They are only a drop in the bucket compared to the 400-some cars and sport utilities the agency fields, however, and your chances of seeing one driving down the road are slim. This area has one, posted in Oakley, among a sea of multihued patrol cars.

The patrol started buying cars in random colors years ago when someone figured out that the resale value of these vehicles was much higher than cars painted to look like a police car. Instead of driving the blue-and-greys until they were worn out, troopers started getting a new car every year or two. The used vehicles are sold while they still have good value.

Usually, only white cars get roof-mounted lights. Most of these are sold to city and county police agencies that don't mind the holes drilled in the roof. Colored cars get lights mounted inside or behind the grill, then are sold on the open market.

Because this program so reduces costs, it's not likely we'll ever see more grey-and-blue cars. However, another change may be putting troopers at risk on the road, especially at night.

Seems the cost of the huge "state trooper" screen print shot up this year, so the patrol decided to go without it. Some cars came out with only a small shield on the door and much

smaller reflective lettering. Lately, the patrol has gone to larger shields, still reflective, but the cars don't show up as well at night or look as good on the road.

The bigger decals turned the cars into beacons at night, ensuring that people would see a parked patrol car beside, or blocking, the road. For cars without roof-mounted lights, that could be vital. Their lights don't show much to the sides, but the stickers sure do.

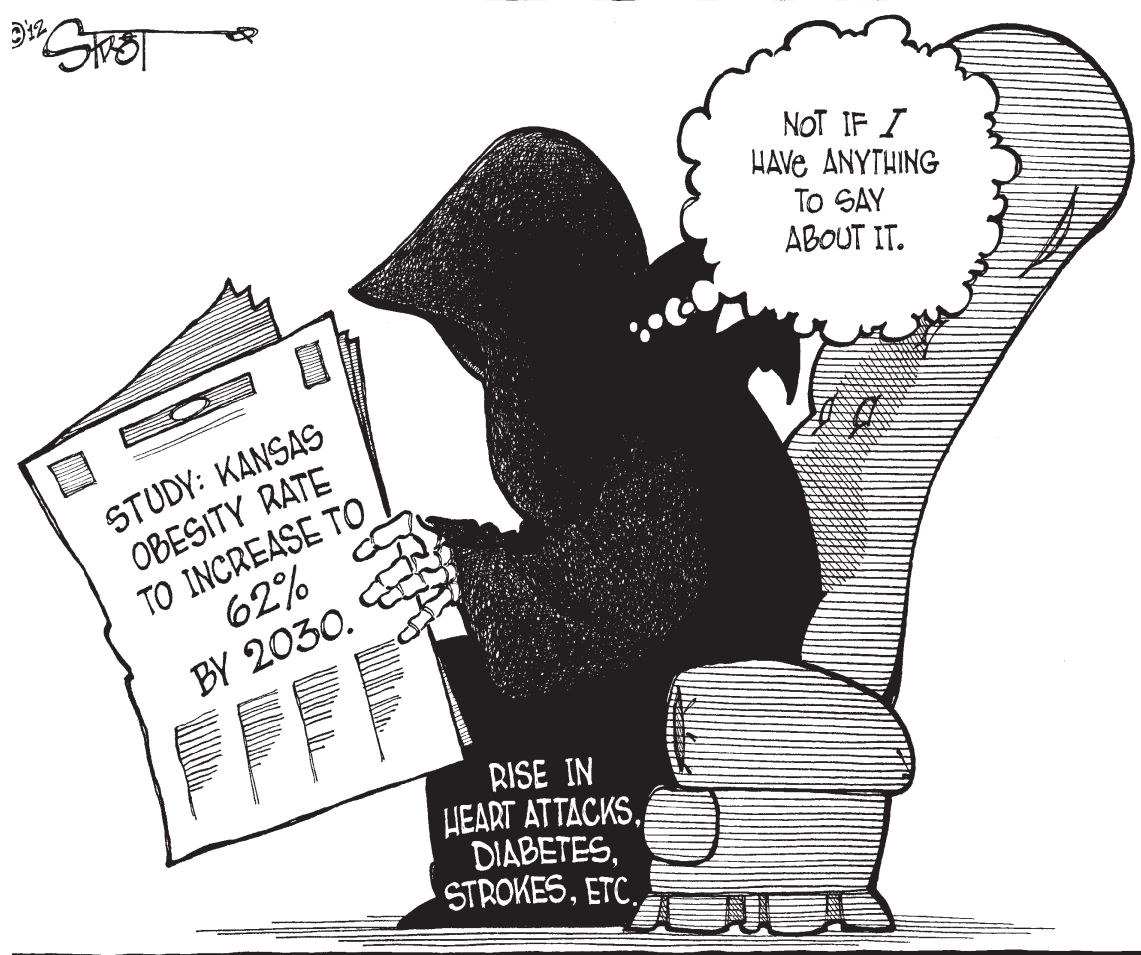
With the new, small lettering and just a reflective shield on the door, a car's visibility from the side might be as low as 10 percent of what it has been. It could make a lot of difference to a trooper out on the pavement at night.

If we had our way, and we suspect a lot of troopers would agree, we'd paint all the cars blue and grey. They look sharp. But we understand just duplicating the single-light red flasher of the old cars in electronic form costs upwards of \$1,000 each. Then there's the money saved by the early trade-in program, and in tight budget times, that counts.

However, we think the patrol should consider safety first and find a way to get more reflective material on the sides of the cars, either with a return to the big screen-print "state trooper" or something else.

The safety of the public, and the troopers themselves, is too important to compromise.

- Steve Haynes



Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



mccormickcasey@rocketmail.com

By Casey McCormick

mccormickcasey@rocketmail.com

It's funny how things you do as a kid can later sneak back into your memory. Here is an example.

Growing up in Denver our summers often were spent going to our grandparent's in Ohio for a visit. Mom's folks, Howard and Coral McIntyre, lived in a very old home near the woods outside of Canton.

On those trips there were two things we had to do. One was to visit the Pro Football Hall of Fame and the other was McKinley's Monument. The football part seems natural for my brothers and

me, but you might wonder why we had to see some ancient building for some dead president.

The reason is pretty simple. McKinley's monument had giant stone banisters that we would slide down. In fact Grandma would make sure we took some carpet pieces so we wouldn't wear holes in our knickers.

So back to today. In researching a recent story on the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Antietam I realized that in the Ohio 23rd Regiment there was not one, but two future U.S. presidents.

Colonel Rutherford B. Hayes

and a young Commissary Sergeant named McKinley both went on to also serve their country in its highest office.

The other interesting fact is that after McKinley was assassinated in 1901, early into his second term, a memorial was dedicated to him near the Burnside Bridge where his regiment had seen action in 1862.

After learning that, I had a serious flashback of skidding down granite as a youngster.

The Gardener

By Kay Melia



No matter whether we're ready for it or not, we are rapidly approaching the end of the garden season. After a season such as the one fading away, many of us have a tendency to shout "good riddance."

Those of us who are glad to see this season pass on are the same ones that will scream the loudest when the thermometer is reading 3 degrees above zero. It's an exciting place to live, isn't it? Methinks it must really be boring to live in Honolulu or Palmer Land, Antarctica where temperatures are basically the same the year around.

But here, as the growing season ends for another year, there is much work to do outside. It's almost time to plant our spring flowering bulbs, flower bulbs you plant now that will provide a bed of brilliant color early next spring.

In this area, designated as Zone 5 by the United States Department of Agriculture, we have a rather lengthy period of time in which to safely plant spring flowering

bulbs. We're talking tulips here, as well as daffodils, crocus, and hyacinth, as well as some others. We're not talking dahlias or gladiolas or other bulbs that are planted in the spring for summer enjoyment.

Spring flowering bulbs must be planted in the fall of the year before the ground freezes. In this area of the High Plains, we expect the ground to freeze every year between Dec. 15 and Christmas. The general guideline is that the bulbs must be planted while you can still get a shovel in the ground.

Spring flowering bulbs must be subjected to a lengthy period of cold soil in order to thrive next spring. But also keep this in mind. If you plant them too early while soil temperatures are still warm, chances are good that the bulbs will sprout and send up leaves before the ground freezes, and much of the energy stored in the bulb will be lost. When spring comes, the bulbs will probably re-start, but they will not flower as

well because of the lost energy.

So, if you shouldn't plant them too early, or you must not wait until cold days of December, when do you plant the darn things? I don't ever remember seeing a chart with "sure fire" dates on the subject, but if I were doing it, I'd wait until the soil temperature dropped below 50 degrees. I don't think we're there yet.

But right now is the time to buy those bulbs, so that you'll be ready. Always buy "top size" bulbs if you can find them. Those are the big ones. The larger the bulb planted this fall will result in a larger bloom next spring. Guaranteed!"

Work up the soil deeply and add some compost if you have some. Forget the bone meal that many gardeners apply at planting time. Bone meal attracts dogs, and other bad things.

Plant the bulbs, pointy end up. Plant the large bulbs 6- or 7-inches deep. If the bulbs are small, plant them 4- or 5-inches deep. Rather than plant them in rows, just toss a handful of bulbs on the ground and plant them where they fall!

Then forget about them. They are almost guaranteed to provide you with much early spring happiness...for several springs to come.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Ruben Feikert, St. Francis; Bruce Feikert, St. Francis; Charlene Piper, Parsons; Kacey Harper, Benkelman, Neb.; James Doggett, Rockport, Texas; Ward Wiley, Greeley, Colo.; Gerri McCurry, St. Francis; John Kite, Overland Park; Keith Reichert, Boise, Idaho; Scotland Cattle Co., Haigler, Neb.; Stephanie Nelson, Plymouth, Minn.; Randy Nelson, St. Francis; Chase Barnhart,

Curtis, Neb.; Jason Barnhart, Brighton, Colo.; Doug Barnhart, St. Francis; Lori Raile, St. Francis; RD Rohweder, St. Francis; Shawna Blanka, St. Francis.

GOD SAYS The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable; but the mouth of the wicked speaketh frowardness. Psalms 10:32

The Saint Francis Herald

(USPS 475-960)

A Century of Service to Cheyenne County

P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050

Published each Thursday by Haynes Publishing Co., 310 W. Washington, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050. Entered as periodicals matter at the post office at St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050, and at additional offices.

Official newspaper of Cheyenne County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Colorado Press Association and Inland Press Association.

Subscriptions: One year \$38 (tax included) in Cheyenne and adjacent counties; \$42 (tax included) elsewhere in Kansas; \$48 elsewhere in the U.S. Foreign subscriptions, \$28 extra per year (except APO/FPO). POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050



Nor'West Newspapers

8:30 a.m. - noon - 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Monday - Friday

(785) 332-3162 Fax - (785) 332-3001

E-mail - sf.herald@nwkansas.com

STAFF

Karen Krien Editor/Publisher
Nathan Fiala Sports Editor
Tim Burr Advertising Manager
Lezlie McCormick Production
Margaret Bucholtz Columnist

Hangin' With Marge

By Margaret Bucholtz



margeb@cityofstfrancis.net

How many times have we all heard the saying, "Pride goeth before a fall?" I can still see my grandmother telling me that, not so much directed to me as just a reminder to not be full of false pride.

Labor Day weekend Kurt and I, along with a couple of other campers went to Colorado Springs to celebrate. We stayed at a nice campground, but I must say they certainly knew to how to crowd in the campers. There really wasn't much space for each of us and our group likes to play games and the little men on the golf carts would go around and tell everyone that by 8 p.m. it was to start getting quiet.

Still we all had a great time with just visiting the children and grandchildren who met us there. Time goes by so quickly when you are having fun.

Monday came sooner than any

Pride

of us wanted but we begin getting the campers ready to travel and telling our loved ones good-bye.

As each of us began hooking our campers to the pickups and a gentleman came over to watch. He had a huge motor home and had never seen how a fifth-wheel hooked on. Of course I being the type of person that likes to have people ask questions, was so happy to be able to tell him how my husband does it.

After all of us were ready to go the men discussed which one of us would lead the way and which one would take up the tailend. Kurt and I got the middle spot so we waited for the first one to leave then we started to pull out.

It was a racing of the motor, the pickup leaped forward about a foot and then everything comes to a sudden stop with a big bang. All of the other campers, including the man that watched how to hook

up, were looking at us. I wanted to cry, hide or just disappear, but I couldn't understand what had happened.

Seems as though the ball of the hitch came undone and our camper was setting on the back sides of the pickup. They were flattened down in the middle and then the tailgate was in a v shape.

The good thing about it was that it was still where we could jack it up again and start over. The other thing that added insult to injury was that nobody wanted to drive behind us so we had to bring up the tail.

As for the man that wanted to see how they hook up-I am sure he is happy he has a motor home and I am also sure that plenty of other campers told about the sudden stop they saw.

Church of Christ
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424
502 W. Spencer
Norman Morrow - Minister
Bible Class 9 a.m.
Morning Worship 10 a.m.

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.

Seventh-Day
Adventist Church
423-650-5663 • 3rd & Adams
Pastor James McCurdy
Sabbath School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45

St. Francis of Assisi
Catholic Church
625 S. River • 332-2680
Fr. Carlos Ruiz Santos
1st Sunday of the month
Morning Mass 8:30 a.m.
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
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Communion 3rd Sunday

United Methodist
Church Office 332-2292,
Church 332-2254,
512 S. Scott
Pastor Warren Cico
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.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 Randy Nelson
Church 332-2928
Parsonage 332-2312
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Communion 1st Sunday

St. Francis
Equity

Saint Francis
Herald

Knodel
Funeral Home
202 S. Benton • St. Francis
785-332-3131

