

Governor has the right to have his own beliefs

People protesting against religion in government have gone a bit too far this time, we think.

A group called Americans United for Separation of Church and State raised a howl when Gov. Sam Brownback appeared at a religious rally a couple of weeks ago.

"The governor is really overstepping his constitutional bounds," the group said in a release. "He was elected to serve as governor of our state, not our state pastor-in-chief."

So what exactly did the activist group object to?

According to press reports, the governor talked that day about how he turned to God after learning he had cancer in 1995.

"I finally reached up and said, 'God, this life's yours,'" the governor said. "It started a great adventure."

He ended his talk by praying for forgiveness of his sins and the sins of others.

Organizers of the ReignDown USA event denied that they wanted political leaders to enforce any kind of religious belief on the state. The event was designed to promote "humility, prayer and repentance," they said.

What really ticked Americans United off, however, apparently was a proclamation the governor issued beforehand declaring the day of the rally as "a day of restoration."

That amounted to the governor using his office to promote religion, the group said.

"The people of Kansas do not need politicians telling us when, how or whether to pray," Vickie Sandell Stangl, president of the Great

Plains Chapter, said in the statement. "If anybody needs to repent, it's Gov. Brownback. He needs to repent for violating the constitutional separation of church and state."

So was the governor promoting religion or just exercising his right to believe?

It's a fine line. American leaders have always proclaimed their piety, at least when it suits them. Most presidents have attended church. Most governors have led prayers and attended religious events. Our founding documents call upon the deity to guide and protect the Republic.

Perhaps Gov. Brownback stands out because he's made no bones about his Roman Catholic beliefs or his conservative approach to religion. He's an attractive target.

We're not here to argue for mixing church and state. School districts should not force students to pray, nor should the government support or promote the church, any church.

We're a free nation, though, and even the governor should be free to believe as he wishes. He shares the First Amendment with the anti-religionists.

But can our leaders pray in public or declare their faith in God? They have since the beginning of the Republic.

Our Constitution is an imperfect document, and its meaning has shifted with time. Where it once shielded slavery and denied women the vote, today it does neither. Public prayer? Our leaders are allowed, but no one is compelled to agree with them. That's part of what freedom means.

- Steve Haynes



Across the County

By Marty Fear



County Extension Agent

Beef cattle winter water needs

Many area ponds are low due to the short rainfall during 2012. As cold weather approaches and shallow ponds freeze, there may be concern about meeting the water needs of cattle. Therefore, many ranchers are already hauling water so it's a good idea to know how much water different classes of cattle need each day.

Water requirements vary depending on the cattle's size, lactating status, ration they are eating and ambient temperature. Growing heifers, steers and bulls weighing 600 pounds require 5.3 gallons of water a day when the average temperature is 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

As the temperature goes up to 50 degrees, water needs increase slightly to 5.8 gallons per head per day. Intake at temperatures below 40

degrees does not change much.

Pregnant cows need 6 to 6.5 gallons at 40 degrees. Following calving, water intake for those same cows jumps to roughly 11.5 gallons per day at 40 degrees and 12.6 gallons at 50 degrees. Mature bulls require around 8.5 gallons per day at 40 degrees and below needs increase to 9.4 gallons per head at 50 degrees.

The moisture level of an animal's diet varies and that can influence water intake.

A lot of high moisture haylage and silage will be fed in the coming months. The haylage may contain 50 percent moisture and an animal eating 25 pounds of it per day will consume about 12.5 pounds of moisture. This will reduce the water needs by about 1.5 gallons. Silage contains

about 65 to 70 percent moisture and intake by cows may run in the 40-50 pound per day range or even more. That adds up to over 30 pounds of moisture which amounts to nearly 4 gallons of water.

Also, keep in mind that cattle are sometimes given supplements that may contain 10 to 30 percent salt. Under these conditions cattle may drink 50 percent or more water so be certain ponds, streams or other water sources provide ample water to meet requirements.

For more information contact the extension office at 785-332-3171 or cfear@ksu.edu. Till next week - Marty

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



mccormickcasey@rocketmail.com

Why? Why would a man call his dead brother a liar?

Last year we said good bye to many people who lived lives that left a mark on us. One of those was Neil Armstrong.

History will remember him as the first human-being to stand on another planet. That moment in July of 1969, when a team from the United States won the "space race" against the Soviet Union

and fulfilled John F. Kennedy's goal, will last long past the time of those who were around then.

Also Armstrong's famous words of, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," will remain, too.

What won't be remembered is the brother, Dean Armstrong, who now claims that the astronaut shared a preview of the statement months before the landing during a game of Risk.

Why say your brother lied about what is thought to have been a spontaneous utterance? What does it have to do with the price of tea in China? I don't have a clue.

But years from now what difference will it make? None.

Book Review

Celebrity In Death

By J.D. Robb

Money, power and fame can't make you safe from danger. Sometimes, they're dangerous in themselves. No one knows that better than Eve Dallas.

Her career in homicide has taken her into the darkest depths of New York City's underground - and sometimes Lieutenant Eve Dallas feels more comfortable in those kids of places than in the high-rise, high-society world of her billionaire husband, Roarke.

But while she's no party girl,

she's managing to have a reasonably good time at the celebrity-packed bask celebrating the debut of *The Icovae Agenda*. This time, it's Eve, not Roarke, who's a guest of honor, since the film is based on one of her famous cases. Her partner, Peabody, is practically giddy over rubbing shoulders with Hollywood royalty.

Eve, on the other hand, is more likely to roll her eyes than have stars in them. But she has to admit it's a little spooky seeing the actress playing her, who looks

almost like her long-lost twin.

Not as unsettling, though, as seeing K.T. Harris, the actress who plays Peabody, drowned in the lap pool on the roof of the director's luxury building. Talented but rude, the widely disliked, K.T., had made an embarrassing scene during dinner. She clearly liked being the center of attention. Now, she's at the center of a crime scene - and Eve is more than ready to get out of her high heels and strap on her holster, to step into the role she was born to play: cop.

Honor Roll

Bruce and Dana Timmons, St. Francis; Jean Anne Confer, St. Francis; Donald Reichert, Boulder Colo; Mary Wickwar, Goodland; Kent Kechter, St. Francis; Travis Kechter, Meridian, Idaho; Luella Robben, Oakley

GOD SAYS

He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth.

Psalms 104:14

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Moments With Mila

By Mila Bandel



County Health Nurse

Make 2013 The Year to Quit Tobacco

Many Kansans have made resolutions to quit tobacco use in 2013 and the Cheyenne County Healthy Communities Coalition through the Cheyenne County Health Department is supporting this resolution. There is free help and support from the Kansas Tobacco Quitline online program at www.KSquit.org or by phone at 1-800-QUIT-NOW.

The Quitline is a service provided at no cost to Kansas residents. En-

rollment is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week (except major holidays) online or by phone.

A counselor works with participants during emails, live chats or one-on-one phone calls to prepare for a quit date and create a plan to fight cravings and face other challenges. Follow-up emails, live chats or phone calls are arranged around participants' schedules.

Studies have found that using

a tobacco Quitline can more than double a person's chances of successfully quitting tobacco.

The Cheyenne County Health Communities Coalition - Chronic Disease Risk Reduction program is a coalition based through the Cheyenne County Health Department that is working to reduce tobacco use and its deadly effects. For more information on how to help reduce tobacco use and help people who use tobacco quit call the Health Department at 785-332-2381.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment Tobacco Use Prevention Program provide resources and technical assistance to community coalitions for development of local tobacco prevention and cessation initiatives.

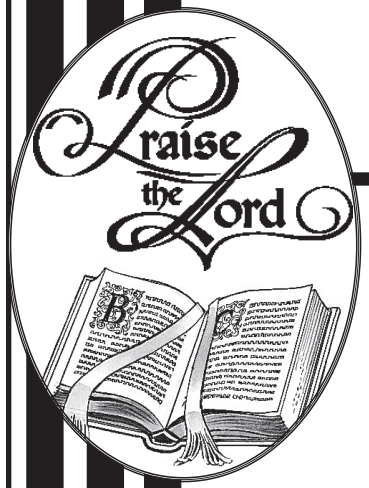
Choir music is enjoyed

To the Editor: The community choir with Neala Carmichael as director has truly blessed our community with beautiful music. They are to be commended for the giving of their

-Letter to the Editor-

time and talents to make a great production. It was very much appreciated.
Marie Holzworth
St. Francis

<p>Church of Christ 332-2380, Pars. 332-3424 502 W. Spencer Norman Morrow - Minister Bible Class 9 a.m. Morning Worship 10 a.m.</p>	<p>St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church 625 S. River • 332-2680 Fr. Carlos Ruiz Santos 1st Sunday of the month Morning Mass 8:30 am Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m. Weekday Mass 8:00 a.m. Confessions Sat. 4-4:30</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>United Methodist Church Office 332-2292, Church 332-2254, 512 S. Scott Pastor Warren Cico Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Salem Lutheran Church 332-3002 Pastor Chris Farmer Morning Worship 10:30 a.m. Communion 3rd Sunday</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Seventh-Day Adventist Church 423-650-5663 • 3rd & Adams Pastor James McCurdy Sabbath School 9:30 Morning Worship 10:45</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>First Christian Church Pastor Jeff Landers 332-2956 • 118 E. Webster Church Service 10 a.m.</p>	<p>St. Francis Equity</p>	<p>Saint Francis Herald</p>



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