

Students essays chosen by Kansas board of directors

Two freshman students of Lisa Holzwarth's English class have had essays chosen by the Kansas Native Sons and Daughters board of directors.

The Kansas Historical Foundation held their annual writing essay contest, "Kansas! Say it Above a Whisper." This contest is sponsored by the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas. It focuses on the pride in Kansas and is open to all Kansas students in grades eight-12.

Zack White, honorable mention winner, and Hannah Wolff, second place winner, and a guest are invited to attend as special guests at the Native Sons and Daughters Banquet on Friday, Jan. 25. A social hour begins at 5:30 followed by dinner in the Sunflower Ballroom of the Manner Conference Center in Topeka. Both of the students will be recognized at the banquet and their essay will be reproduced as part of the evening's program.

The contest title was coined by the early-day Kansas newspaper-woman Mamie Boyd, whose fam-

ily continues to provide the cash award for the winner.

A panel from the Kansas Historical Society and the Foundation judged the entries. The judges look for originality, creativity, and sincerity in expressing pride in the state of Kansas.

Wow, said Mrs. Holzwarth, this is so exciting to have two students from northwest Kansas recognized for their writing abilities in expressing pride in the state they live in. I'm very proud of these two freshmen!

The essays are printed below:

Kansas! Say It Above

A Whisper

By Hannah Wolff

The reek of cardboard and the popping of bubble wrap were all around me. At the mere age of eight, I was uprooted from my life in Massachusetts and forced to move to Kansas. As I look back on my life now, I realize I was wrong about everything. Moving to Kansas wasn't the worst event of my life, but instead it has been the best.

At times, it seemed as though I was being taken to another world. I assumed the little town my mother was raised in would be a dusty ghost town. Tumbleweeds, shoot-outs at high noon, and horse-drawn carriages are what I expected. Keep in mind; I was only eight years old. To my surprise, my guess was exceedingly off.

Adapting to life in Kansas has been the hardest thing I've ever done. Instead of the stench of fish and saltwater, I had to endure the pungent smells of the feedlots' manure. Rather than being surrounded by companions, I had to attempt to make new friends. I didn't really believe I could ever be a part of Kansas. It took me awhile before I realized what Kansas was all about.

It's not about having endless plains of rolling golden grain, it's not about the cows grazing softly on the grass, and it's not about being far away from my past life. It's about the farmers working day in and day out, breaking their backs to put food on the world's tables.

Our friends and families toiling and struggling to make a living is what Kansas is about.

Living in Kansas has taught me two incredible life lessons; hard work and dedication. At first, I didn't know if I would ever consider myself a Kansan, but I know now that being named a Kansan is an honor. When I go places, I will be proud to say I'm from Kansas. Kansas! Say it proudly above a whisper.

Kansas! Say It Above

a Whisper

By Zach White

Even by watching Kansans work from every direction, you see the pride into what they're doing. We Kansans take pride in the crops we grow for everyone. If you ever get a chance to drive by a farm, you should talk to the farmers. Talk to them about how much dedication it takes to farm.

Even if you are driving through Kansas, you can still see how much time and dedication farmers put into the work. On some days you can see the farmers working with their cattle or crops. You may see other cars driving along the dirt roads admiring the wonderful golden wheat fields. Even though Kansas may not look perfect to some people, if you decide to look at the golden wheat and other magnificent crops swaying in the breeze you would stare at them with awe for hours.

By just watching a Kansan work, you can see they take pride in what they're doing. Even if it takes a while in the end, you see all the effort, work, and pride put into a project. Cattle grown are watched constantly to make sure they don't get hurt or sick. The farmers make sure the cattle get fed enough and sometimes groomed.

You may be a stranger to the town, but you can still see everyone will still wave to you and smile. You are and always will be welcomed to Kansas with smiles. Even during the drought we Kansans still have a smile on our face and work hard. This is how we Kansans take and show our pride in what we do.



KEEPING THE CHEYENNE COUNTY MUSEUM in good shape takes constant tending, cleaning and sorting by volunteers. Pictured during a workday are Helene Landenberger, Joy Fisher, Sandy Smull and Marcia Hickert.

Photo courtesy of Janet Carman



Lobato — Owens

Couples announce upcoming wedding

Mellisa Lobato and Lance Owens, both of St. Francis, have announced the upcoming date of their marriage on June 15 in St. Francis.

Mellisa is a 2010 graduate of Golden Plains High School. She earned her associate's degree in business from Colby Community College in 2012. She is employed

by Rescare in Goodland. Mellisa is the daughter of Joe and Sandra Lobato, Selden.

Lance is a 2009 graduate of St. Francis Community High School. He is employed at Owens True Value, St. Francis. He is the son of Pat and Gladys Owens, St. Francis.

Emergency loans are now available

"Farmers in Cheyenne, Rawlins, Sherman, and Wallace counties, who suffered crop or livestock losses due to drought occurring Nov. 15 and continuing may now apply for Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency loans," said Patricia Eckhardt, Farm Loan Manager. Applications for assistance will be accepted by the agency until Sept. 9.

"Loans covering physical and/or production losses are scheduled for repayment as rapidly as feasible, consistent with the applicant's reasonable ability to pay," said Ms. Eckhardt. The current interest rate is 2.25 percent but is subject to monthly changes until the loan is approved.

Farm Service Agency's Farm Loan Programs staff is committed to new and existing customers, agency customer goals and our rural communities. Service extends beyond the typical loan, offering agency customers ongoing consultation, advice and creative ways to make your farm business thrive. At the Farm Service Agency, we want to be your lender of first opportunity to overcome these adverse weather conditions and rebuild your operation to get back on track. The loan staff can refer customers to other public and commercial fi-

nancing sources that can serve as a blend with agency's farm loan programs.

Farm Service Agency loans covering physical losses may be used to replace installations, equipment, livestock, or buildings (including homes), lost through this disaster.

Farm Service Agency loans covering production losses may be used to buy feed, seed, fertilizer, livestock, or to make payments on real estate and chattel debts. "Funds can also be used for other essential operating and living expenses," Ms. Eckhardt said.

To be eligible for an emergency disaster loan, an applicant must be operating a family size farm or ranch, must be unable to get credit elsewhere, and must have suffered a qualifying physical and/or production loss from the disaster.

Farmers who suffered at least a 30 percent reduction to at least one cropping enterprise, may have a qualifying production loss. Emergency disaster production loss loans cover 100 percent of qualifying losses.

Farmers and ranchers that think they may be eligible should contact the Farm Service Agency County office in Goodland or call 785-899-3070 for additional information and how to apply.

Student News

Seward County Community College/Area Technical School has named its fall 2012 semester President's Honor Roll, Dean's Honor Roll and Part-time Dean's Honor Roll.

Justin Lohr, St. Francis, was named to the part-time Dean's

Honor Roll which recognizes those students who complete no less than six nor more than 11 credit hours in courses numbered 100 and above. These students must maintain a grade point average of 3.5 or greater for honor roll eligibility.

Book Review

Cross Roads

By Fern Michaels

It's been a year and a half since the women of the Sisterhood received their presidential pardons, but the freedom they craved has come at a high price. The impossibly lucrative positions handed out to them by the mysterious Global Securities company have turned out to be golden handcuffs, scattering them around the world, cutting off communication, and leaving them in miserable isolation. They desperately miss the closeness and camaraderie they once shared, and the thrill of the missions they accomplished together. Suddenly, the only thing that matters is getting back to the States and reuniting the Sisterhood.

It's a deliriously happy homecoming at the old Virginia farmhouse as Myra and Annie welcome their precious flock one by

one. The last to return to the flock are Nikki and Kathryn, who joined up in London and are making the final leg of the trip back to Washington D.C. together. But the moment their private jet hits cruising altitude, it appears they've flown right into a trap. For their few fellow passengers are not ordinary travelers—they're an elite group of Interpol agents who urgently need the Sisterhood's help.


Now the ladies face a stark choice: resume their vigilante status for one of their most hazardous assignments yet, or try to outwit a group of powerful adversaries willing to use truly desperate measures. This time, everything is in the balance—their lives, their friendship, and the freedom they fought so hard to gain...

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