

Newspapers reporters continue rich history

A couple of years ago, I took a leadership development class from northwest Kansas on a tour of the Kansas Press Association office, followed by a discussion of the newspaper industry and how it had changed in the past decade.

I posed a series of questions to the group. First, I asked for a show of hands of how many in the room subscribed to at least one print newspaper. More than half the class answered in the affirmative.

Of those remaining, I then asked how many regularly got their news from one or more newspaper websites. All but one held up their hands.

OK, I continued, for that one remaining holdout: Do you consume your news at a non-newspaper Internet site? That last guy held out for a moment, then nodded his head in agreement.

My point was simple: while some think they aren't a "newspaper reader" if they don't receive a printed copy on their doorstep or in the mail or pick it up at the local convenience store, the source of most "authoritative news" in our country is still - you guessed it - the newspaper.

What is "authoritative" news? It's news written by journalists, those

who are trained to ask questions, write objectively and strive every day to get all sides of a story.

When you read "news" online or on your mobile phone - especially local news - you're more likely than not reading a story written by a newspaper journalist.

How is that, you ask? Because much of what is available on the Internet uses as its basis information first assembled by a newspaper reporter. In other words, the facts of the story that lead to those interesting discussions at the coffee shop and online originated with a writer, in most cases one who works for a newspaper.

Oct. 6 through 12 is National Newspaper Week, a time set aside each year to recognize the role of newspapers in our daily lives.

As you probably know, our industry is in the midst of major change. Technological advancements have put pressure on newspaper editors and publishers because they require them to collect the news and deliver it through a variety of avenues: print, online and, more often these days, through a mobile device.

Even with these challenges, newspaper staff members continue to perform their two primary functions in American society: to keep

the public informed and to be a watchdog on government.

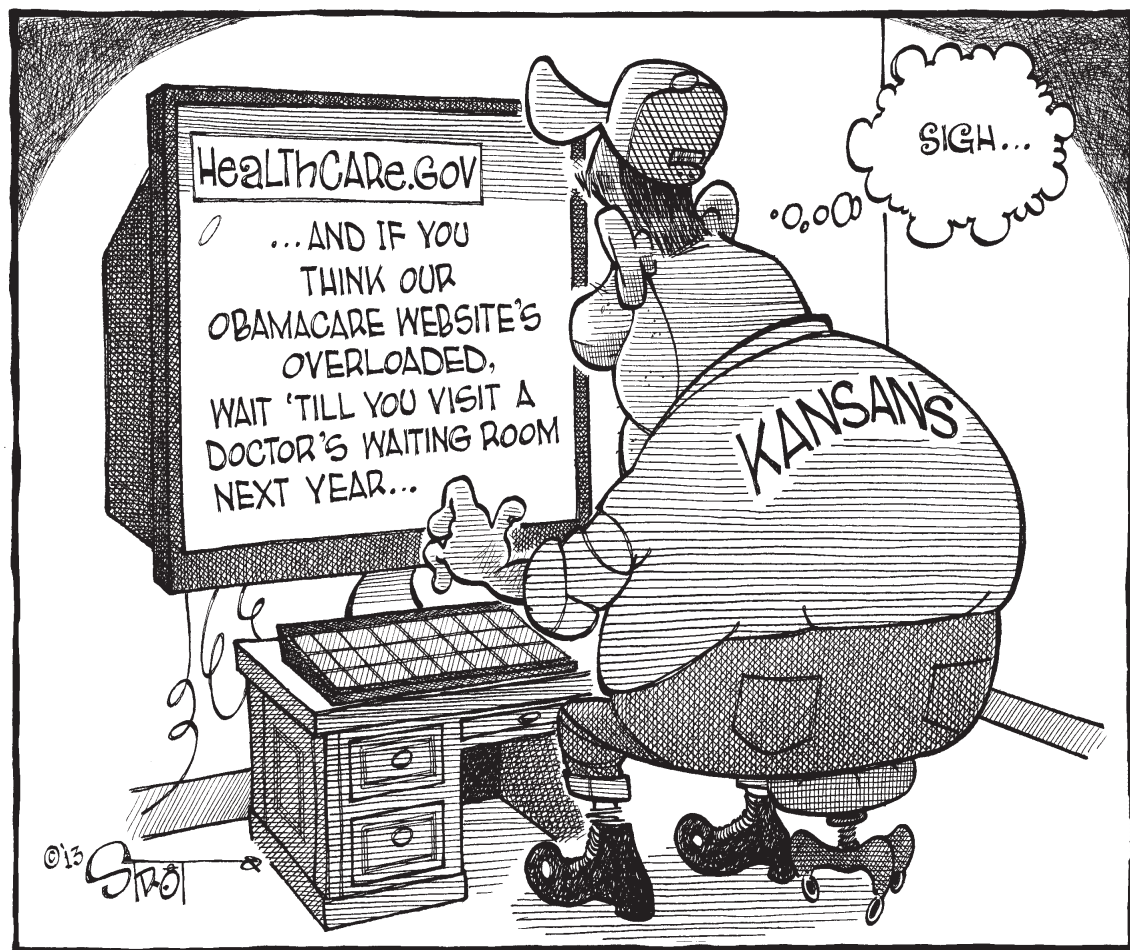
James Madison, our nation's fourth president, said: "A popular government without popular information or the means of acquiring it is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy, or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance: And a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives."

Newspaper reporters from all corners of the state believe their watchdog role and the public's right to know go hand in hand and that knowledge, especially of what our elected leaders are doing, is essential to our system of self-governance.

I'm not asking you to take a newspaper reporter to dinner or to even pat him or her on the back. However, you might ponder for at least a moment how you would learn about the actions of government without them.

And remember to read your local newspaper.

Doug Anstaett, executive director of the Kansas Press Association in Topeka, is a former Kansas publisher and an award-winning editorialist.



Reader says there is misinformation

Letter to the Editor

After reading the article regarding the Budget Reduction I feel that I must speak to the community regarding some information that was incorrectly stated at the county commissioner's budget meeting. I firmly agree with Dale Patton regarding his statement that we all must be good stewards of what we have. I feel that the hospital works collaboratively together with the County Commissioners, and the hospital has been very successful in this working relationship.

With that being said, I have to say that Rawlins County Hospital last year received 13 mills not \$100,000 as stated by Dr. Poling at the meeting. My guess is that the information that he was reporting was a quarterly payment and not a yearly budget.

Running a hospital is becoming increasingly difficult as money is extremely tight and the hospital

is getting hit from all angles. Reimbursements from insurances are down; and sequestration has made its mark on the monies that we receive for the hospital. Making it tougher was Kancare that was initiated last year and Kansas decided that Medicaid should not be expanded.

I agree with Mr. Patton that the Affordable Care Act is uncertain and not sure what the future holds. Also, adding to the burden is the number of individuals in the county who are not insured thus having a direct correlation with charity care. Basically, the cost of health care is going up with decreasing payment for the service rendered.

After meeting with the commissioners regarding our budget I left that meeting knowing that we would be getting a reduction in our budget but had no idea the cut would be so drastic.

The Office of the Inspector General in the Department of Health and Human Service report came out two weeks ago and stated that 72 out of the 83 Critical Access Hospitals in the State of Kansas would be affected and could possibly be shut down. Cheyenne County Hospital is a critical access hospital. Health care for our people and the hospital is vital to this community. I would really hate to have the community going down this path. The hospital will struggle next year and I can tell you that it won't be easy and hard decisions may have to be made along the way with reevaluation of the services we provide.

Accountability is another issue that I would like to address for clarification. Each month the hospital sends a board report to the Commissioners with the agenda for the upcoming meeting, minutes of the last board meeting, updates from the hospital, statistics of the previous month and also an in depth financial report. It is my understanding that they are to review the information monthly. As such, accountability does exist between the commissioners and the hospital and the hospital board.

Also, at that budget meeting, a discussion was held regarding having one of the commissioners sit on the hospital board. The board and I welcomed that suggestion but I have not seen that come to fruition. If they would like to have the hospital come to the meetings the hospital would be more than happy to sit at the table with them.

In closing, the hospital executive team and I are very concerned with the cut of monies to the hospital and wanted to clarify some of the statements that were made in the paper summarizing the commissioners meeting. The mission, vision and goals of the hospital and clinics are here to serve everyone whether they can afford it or not and the ultimate goal is to provide the very best health care through our services to our community.

Judy Rockwood
Cheyenne County Hospital
Administrator

Casey's Comments

Afghanistan War Continues

By Casey McCormick
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Oct. 7 marked a sad anniversary that major media won't focus on. The Afghanistan War entered its 13th year as Americans continue to serve and die so far from home.

The U.S. launched Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001 following the 911 attacks. Using mostly special forces, troops

were sent to Afghanistan after the Taliban who harbored Osama Bin Laden and members al-Qaida.

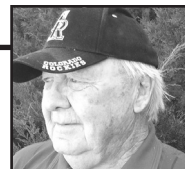
Today part of the initial goal has been reached with the death of Bin Laden in Pakistan as well as many of the enemy group's members. However the Taliban and al-Qaida still have a strong presence in the region.

Currently the number of American soldiers on the ground is over 54,000. Although the ball is being handed over more and more from the U.S.-led international coalition to the Afghan security forces, our soldiers are still becoming casualties in a largely forgotten war.

The Gardener

Fall perfect time for planting bulbs

By Kay Melia



It must have been at least 20 years ago when someone handed me some kind of nice looking flower bulb, and when I inquired as to what kind of bulb it was, the answer was something like "just plant it in your perennial garden, and expect a surprise next summer."

I don't have a perennial garden as such, but I dutifully planted the bulb about this time of the year over on the other side of the peonies, less than a foot or so from the iris. I watched with interest next spring and soon saw that I had a very healthy plant with very nice light green foliage. And then, without so much as a peep and without producing so much as a bud, the foliage completely died back, and I forgot about the nice healthy looking bulb that someone had so kindly given to me.

But wait! Late in July or early in Aug., something magically occurred. One stalk, then two stalks, and finally three stalks of gorgeous, aromatic, pink blooms appeared where the bulb had been planted in the spring and given up for dead. The blooms were 4- or 5-inches across and were borne on tall stems. The same thing happened for 10

or 12 years until drought and heat finally convinced it to retire. It was always a surprise, thus the name "Surprise Lily" was assigned. I will plant three of them very soon now.

It is correctly designated as "Lycoris" although some seed catalogs still refer to it as a surprise lily. The species is a real wonder in the world of plant life. The J.W. Jung Seed Company sells them for \$5.95 each, or three for \$15.95, plus postage.

Indeed, it is bulb planting time in the High Plains. Spring flowering bulbs...tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, and others can now be planted. Personally, I prefer to wait until about Nov. 1 when soil temperatures

are cooler to insure that the bulbs stay cool and make no attempt to come out of dormancy. But that's a minor point.

If you have not yet purchased your spring blooming bulbs, always buy the largest ones you can find. Larger bulbs planted this fall means larger blooms next spring. Small bulbs planted this fall will result in smaller blooms next spring. As those small bulbs grow larger the following years, blooms will also be bigger.

And while you're involved in this bulb planting thing, go down to the grocery store and buy the largest bulb of garlic you can find. Remove the cloves individually and plant

yourself a row of nature's favorite flavoring agent for next summer's enjoyment. Garlic must be planted in the fall, not the spring, to expect a good crop. Actually, it is best to plant garlic that is sold as seed, but it is sometimes hard to find, and rather expensive. Plant the cloves about 3 inches deep in damp soil just about anytime now, and the green tip of the growing plant will absolutely be the first sighting of green in your garden next spring!

Hey...don't file away the garden tools just yet. Get out there and plant a few bulbs now, and be well paid early next year!

GOD SAYS
And he said unto them, Take heed,
and beware of covetousness:
for a man's life consisteth not in the
abundance of the things which he
posseseth. Luke 12:15

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

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

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.

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.

Salem Lutheran Church 332-3002 Pastor Chris Farmer Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Communion 3rd Sunday

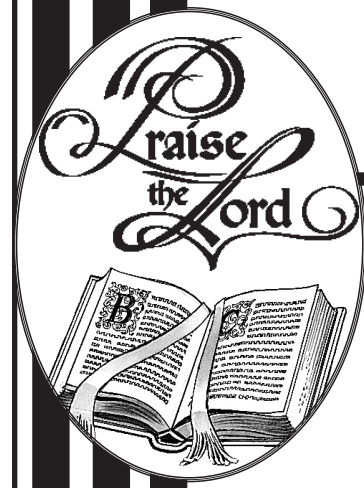
Solid Rock Baptist Church 412 S. Denison Welcomes You! Pastor Allen Coon Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 Prayer Meeting, Wed 7:30 p.m.

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

First Christian Church Pastor Jeff Landers 332-2956 • 118 E. Webster Bible Fellowship 9:15 a.m. Church Service 10:15 a.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. Bible Study 7 p.m. Communion 1st Sunday



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