

# Happy 146th birthday Kansas!

The 146th birthday of Kansas is Kansas Day Monday. Happy Birthday Kansas!

## New Fiction

Brad Sneed is a Kansas illustrator. Brad conducted a workshop last year with the Colby Public School students. Students had the opportunity to learn about Brad, his life as an illustrator, and the interesting but perhaps less than glamorous side of publishing books.

Brad is a well-known illustrator both in Kansas and beyond. His illustrations are amazing and the story lines entertaining. The most recent work that Brad Sneed both wrote and illustrated is titled "Deputy Harvey and the Ant Cow Caper."

This story is a symbolic representation of the relationships between insects - ladybugs eat aphids and ants eat the honeydew that aphids produce.

As the story goes, things get a little bit testy when the ladybugs are accused of stealing ant cows (aka aphids) by the ants. But an undercover plot by Deputy Harvey turns up the real villains.

The punishment? - shoveling "ant cow-doo."

## New Non-fiction

Kansas is (or was) the home to a number of famous Americans. Unfortunately, our state is forced to take credit for the bad as well as the good Kansas citizens.

One of our most recent and notorious Kansans is Dennis Rader aka - the BTK serial killer. In 2006, right on the heels of the BTK's capture, Wichita native Robert Beattie released the book "Nightmare in Wichita: The Hunt for the BTK Strangler."

This book details the serial killings by the BTK that took place between 1974 and 1991. Beattie was closely connected to the case as a lawyer working with the police



## Jeff Friesen, library link

### • Pioneer Memorial Library director

from the 1970s all the way up to the point that Dennis Rader was arrested in 2005. As an insider on the BTK case, Beattie was given plenty of leeway and access to the families and Wichita citizens that were affected by the BTK. Read all about the BTK - in chilling detail.

## Before I die I should read...

On a positive note, Kansas can also claim famous American Gordon Parks as one of our own. Gordon Parks, who is most famous for his photography, spent the first 15 years of his life in Fort Scott.

Gordon was an African-American activist, photographer, and intellectual that lived his life according to the wisdom of his mother who would not allow Gordon to use his skin color as an excuse. Growing up in a pre-Civil Rights environment, Gordon lived his life aware of his identity but chose to use it as an inspiration rather than a shortcoming. In the 1960s he wrote an autobiography about his life and experience growing up in rural America. This widely read and influential piece of work by Gordon Parks is titled "Learning Tree."

## Tip of the week

Since 1861 people have been searching for information pertaining to Kansas. Today, more than 2.5 million people later, we have far more Kansas-related information than in 1861.

Fortunately, the state of Kansas has put together a web site with tons of Kansas-only information, government, living, education, busi-

ness, travel and tourism, and facts and history are the main headings on the state of Kansas web site.

Do you need to know the contact

information of a local legislator? Are you looking for a weekend destination? Find this and much more at [www.accesskansas.org](http://www.accesskansas.org)

Pioneer Memorial Library is located at 375 W. Fourth and open seven days a week. Winter hours are as follows: Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. For more information contact the Library at 460-4470 or visit our web site at [www.colbylibrary.com](http://www.colbylibrary.com). As always, we are here to serve you.

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## Orphan train speaker to be in Bird City

### From St. Francis Herald

The Kansas Day celebration held in Bird City each year will be held on Jan. 29 with a guest speaker talking about the "Orphan Trains In Kansas." The day will begin at 9 a.m. and the program will start at 12:30 p.m.

Marilyn J. Holt, Abilene, works as a historical and editorial consultant. She has written books on the orphan trains, on rural women, Kansas teenagers, Indian orphanages and on children in the American west.

Ms. Holt earned her master's in history from the University of Illinois, in Springfield. Her research interests and publications center on child, teenager and women's experiences in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The program is provided by the Kansas Humanities Council, a non-profit organization with 30 years of experience promoting the understanding of the history, traditions and ideas that shape lives and build community.

Anyone wanting to set up a display in the hall need to do so at 9 a.m. Registration will begin at 10 a.m. This will give people time to look over the displays and enjoy coffee and rolls made by the Cheylin school cafeteria staff.

A potluck lunch with music provided by the Swinging Seniors will begin at 11:30. The program will start at 12:30 p.m.

Cheylin fourth and fifth grade students will present a short program followed by the third grade class from St. Francis.

Ms. Holt will then present her program which will be followed by special music from the Kansas Girls and group singing.

There will be a short business meeting and special recognitions made.

Rev. Mortia Truman, St. Francis Methodist Church pastor, will end the day with a memorial tribute and benediction.

This will be the 146th birthday for the state of Kansas. Everyone is urged join the celebration.

## Kansas senator could lead resolution

WASHINGTON (AP) — Kansas Sen. Sam Brownback said Thursday he would not support a resolution drafted by Democrats opposing President Bush's Iraq plan, but he could back a rival proposal that contains less partisan language.

Brownback, among the first Republican lawmakers to publicly break with the president over a troop increase in Iraq, said the resolution approved this week by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is too divisive.

"I think what we ought to be discussing now as these resolutions move forward is what we should support, not what we're opposed to, and what we can pull together on, not what we're divided on," Brownback said during a conference call with reporters.

The Senate panel on Wednesday passed a resolution that rejects Bush's plans to send 21,500 more troops to Iraq as "not in the national interest." The vote on the nonbinding measure was largely along party lines, though Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., joined Democrats in offering this support.

Brownback, who is running for the 2008 GOP presidential nomination, said he prefers a milder resolution drafted by Sen. John Warner,

R-Va., that leaves open the possibility of Bush sending in a much smaller number of troops.

"I believe we've got to get to a political solution. We cannot impose a military solution," Brownback said. "I also believe we have to be united here to win over there. You can't have a war with one party supporting it and one party opposing it."

Several GOP Senators, including Susan Collins, R-Maine, Norm Coleman, R-Minn., and Ben Nelson, D-Neb., have backed Warner's resolution and other Republicans, like Brownback, say they might be willing to sign on as well.

Despite his opposition to the resolution, Brownback he remains against the idea of sending more troops to Iraq.

"The Iraqis need to do the patrolling in Iraq and we should be fighting terrorists and not becoming targets for terrorists," Brownback said. "I think sending more troops delays some of those requirements that we need to have."

Asked if he would vote against funding an increase in troops, Brownback said, "I'm not at that point."

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