

# The spirit of the season!



The Northern Valley Grade School classes did a different kind of Christmas party this year. Instead of drawing names and giving classmates gifts, the students, kindergartners through fourth grade, decided to make this a season of giving. The students worked together to collect canned goods that were then delivered by Ms. Wilson's fourth grade class to God's Pantry in Norton. The students were very excited about this change and collected 18 boxes of food to donate!

-Photo courtesy of Monica Wilson

# Patrol receives fuel donation from Store Association of Kansas

For the 23rd consecutive year, the Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association of Kansas (PMCA) donated gasoline to the Kansas Highway Patrol to fill up patrol cars during the holidays. Through the Holiday Highways Safety Program, the PMCA donates fuel to the Patrol to fill up patrol cars from December 24 through January 1. The donation will be of great assistance at a time when budgets continue to be tight.

For many years now, PMCA's Holiday Highways Safety Program has worked to help motorists in Kansas make it safely to their holiday destinations," said Tom Palace, Executive Director of PMCA of Kansas. "Through their participation in this one-of-a-kind program, fuel distributors and convenience stores are voluntarily partnering with the Kansas Highway Patrol to ensure the safety of their customers, their families, and the many visitors traveling to and through Kansas over the holidays."

"Each year the PMCA of Kansas and their members generously provide tanks of fuel for the Patrol to use while working the highways during the Christmas and New Year's holidays," said Colonel Ernest E. Garcia. "This allows us to focus our mission on helping keep Kansas roadways safe, and helping our motorists who need assistance on the highways. We want our travelers to be able to spend time with their loved ones, and the Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association of Kansas (PMCA) allows us to assist in that effort."

The PMCA of Kansas is a nonprofit organization for independent petroleum distributors, gasoline retailers, and convenience store owners. This year, participating members of the PMCA graciously provided vouchers for 63 tanks of fuel for troopers to use as they patrol the highways this holiday season.

Last year, during the 2012 Christmas and 2013 New Year's reporting periods, the provided fuel allowed the Patrol to assist 2,457 motorists, remove 38 impaired drivers from the roadways, and issue 520 citations for occupant protection violations. The donation last year no doubt contributed to the Patrol's efforts to keep the roadways safe during the Christmas and New Year's holidays. This year, it will help further safety efforts during the holiday season.

To find out more about the PMCA of Kansas, visit them at [www.pmcaofkansas.org/assoc/](http://www.pmcaofkansas.org/assoc/).



# A prescription that makes for good medicine

By Ron Wilson  
Huck Boyd Institute

Let's go get a prescription. That would generally mean standing in line at the local pharmacy, but this is a different type of prescription. This is a prescription for the type of agricultural treatment needed for growing a crop in a field. It comes from a unique specialist who is taking agricultural technology to a whole new level.

Mike Frakes is owner and founder of a company named PACLeader in Morland, Kan. Mike grew up in southwest Nebraska and his wife Billie is from Morland. Mike was a mechanic at Hoxie Implement, a large farm equipment dealership, and then moved up to become service manager there.

The early 2000s saw an influx of Global Positioning Satellite technology into agriculture. Farmers and agribusinesses were beginning to use GPS systems in agricultural operations.

As service manager, Mike worked with lots of farmers who were exploring this technology. "Some people wanted to do more with technology, but there was no place to send them," he said. After 17 years

with Hoxie Implement, Mike decided to create such a business of his own.

He bought a former auto shop building in his wife's hometown of Morland and converted it for his use. He named his new business PACLeader, with PAC standing for Precision Ag Consultants.

Mike is now assisting his clients with this remarkable technology. By taking soil samples, placing the results onto a field map, and using GPS technology, Mike is able to identify the precise type of soil treatment - called a prescription - which is needed in each area of the field. Computer-controlled equipment then automatically adjusts applications of plant nutrients to fit.

"We used to make these management decisions at the farm level," Mike said: For example, each farm would get a certain number of units of nitrogen. "Then we started to make these decisions at the field level. Now we are getting down to the inch level."

Mike helps producers with their data and also sells tractor auto-steer and precision planting systems. Auto-steer systems

can control the tractor's path across a field.

"(While at Hoxie Implement) we installed the first auto-steer system out here," Mike said. "The look in that farmer's eyes when he could take his hands off the steering wheel for the first time was really rewarding." Interest in such technology grew significantly. After the first auto-steer system was installed, Mike installed five the second year, 20 the third year, and hundreds the year after that.

Automatic, computer-controlled, variable rate sprayer booms and planters mean that nutrients or seeds are applied in the exact amount and location needed. This avoids over-application of chemicals, for example, which saves money and is good for the environment.

"By saving on input costs, some farmers find these precision ag systems pay for themselves in the first year," Mike said. "Some new planters have electric drive motors on each row so that each row can be planted with a specific amount of seed independent from the other rows." They also have sensors and accelerometers to automatically adjust each row

for the speed of the planter as it turns, for example.

"The next thing that's coming is variable rate irrigation," Mike said. "We can identify what areas of a field can hold moisture and which need more of it. Then the sprinkler nozzles can be individually controlled." This saves runoff and gets the precise amount of water directly where it is needed.

"We're doing a much better job with the land than we used to," he said.

This type of ag technology consulting is a whole new world. When asked recently how many other people did this type of work in Kansas, he said, "I don't think there's anybody that does what we do."

That's very impressive for a business in the rural community of Morland, population 159 people. Now, that's rural.

Let's get a prescription - not for human medicine, but for a farmer's field. That's what we can get from PACLeader. We commend Mike Frakes for making a difference by applying technology to agriculture. That definitely makes for good medicine.

Call Mike with all your social news.  
877-3361  
mstephens@nwkansas.com

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# Accident Reports

Dec. 2-A 2003 Buick Park Avenue, driven by John L. Veh of Hill City, was traveling north bound on Highway 283 when a deer entered onto the roadway from the east ditch. Veh was unable to avoid the collision causing over \$1,000 damage to the vehicle. No injuries were reported and the accident was investigated by Norton County Sheriff Officer Bobby Annon.

Dec. 11-A blue 2012 Chrysler Town & Country, driven by Phillip Mark Gottsline of Logan, was traveling west bound on U.S. Highway 36 when a deer came from the ditch onto the roadway. Gottsline was unable to avoid the collision, causing over \$1,000 damage to the vehicle. No injuries were reported and the accident was investigated by Norton County Sheriff Officer Larry Land.

Dec. 9-A white 2006 Chevrolet Silverado, driven by Robert V. Norris of Oberlin, was traveling east bound on U.S. Highway 36 when a deer entered onto the roadway from the south ditch. Sarr struck the deer which caused over \$1,000 damage to the vehicle. No injuries were reported and the accident was investigated by Norton County Sheriff Officer Bobby Annon.

Dec. 11-A bronze 2011 Ford Edge, driven by Cynthia K. McMullen of Norton, was traveling north bound on Road E-1, when a deer came from the ditch onto the road. McMullen was unable to avoid the collision, causing over \$1,000 damage to the ve-

tered onto the roadway. Norris didn't see the animal standing in the road and struck the deer causing over \$1,000 damage to the vehicle. No injuries were reported and the accident was investigated by Norton County Sheriff Officer Bobby Annon.

Dec. 11-A silver 2005 Dodge Grand Caravan, driven by Sheila A Swisher of Norcat, was traveling south bound on Road W-14 when a deer entered onto the roadway from the ditch. Swisher was unable to avoid striking the deer, causing over \$1,000 damage to the vehicle. No injuries were reported and the accident was investigated by Norton County Sheriff Officer Bobby Annon.

Dec. 11-A bronze 2011 Ford Edge, driven by Cynthia K. McMullen of Norton, was traveling north bound on Road E-1, when a deer came from the ditch onto the road. McMullen was unable to avoid the collision, causing over \$1,000 damage to the ve-

hicle. No injuries were reported and the accident was investigated by Norton County Sheriff Officer Larry Land.

Dec. 12-A silver 2005 Dodge Grand Caravan, driven by Sheila A Swisher of Norcat, was traveling south bound on Road W-14 when a deer entered onto the roadway from the ditch. Swisher was unable to avoid striking the deer, causing over \$1,000 damage to the vehicle. No injuries were reported and the accident was investigated by Norton County Sheriff Officer Bobby Annon.

**LODGE NOTICES**

**American Legion Harmonson Redd**  
Post No. 63  
Second and Fourth Monday  
7:30 p.m.  
Gary Erlenbusch, Commander  
Curt Archibald, Adjutant

**Eagles Lodge FOE 3288**  
Second and Fourth  
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Larry Hawks, President  
Secretary, Ron Miller

**Veterans of Foreign Wars**  
Reg. 7:00 p.m.  
First Mon. of each Month  
Curt Archibald, Commander  
Joe Ballinger, Quartermaster

**I.O.O.F. No. 157**  
Meet at Eagles Club  
First and Third Thursday  
Each Month at 7:30 p.m.  
Geneva Tier, Noble Grand  
Randy Knoll, Secretary

**The American Legion Riders**  
Post 63  
Meet at 5:00 p.m. at the American Legion Building on the Second Sunday of Every Month  
website: [www.alr63.org](http://www.alr63.org)

# Sudoku Solution #3125-M

8	1	2	9	3	4	5	6	7
3	9	6	7	2	5	1	8	4
7	4	5	8	6	1	3	2	9
1	8	7	5	4	3	6	9	2
9	6	3	2	7	8	4	1	5
2	5	4	1	9	6	8	7	3
6	2	1	4	5	7	9	3	8
4	7	8	3	1	9	2	5	6
5	3	9	6	8	2	7	4	1

# "Ghood Ghrief!"

## Across

- 1 Billiards tactic
- 6 Smooth
- 11 Clothing chain, with "The"
- 14 Former Defense Secretary Les
- 15 Religion of Ramadan
- 16 Doctors' assn.
- 17 San Francisco square, or a brand of chocolate
- 19 Goddess of the dawn
- 20 "\_\_\_ the ramparts we watched..."
- 21 Blow it
- 22 Petrol amount
- 24 "Hold on!"
- 26 Faked, as in boxing
- 28 Five Norse kings
- 31 Japanese leader in WWII
- 32 "Yes, We're Open" and "Sorry, We're Closed"
- 35 Razor brand
- 37 German word for "one"
- 40 Reverberating sound
- 41 Evil spirit
- 42 Former Russian ruler
- 43 \_\_\_ and tear
- 44 "American \_\_\_" (singing show)
- 45 Parts of wineglasses
- 46 12 o'clock, if it's not midnight
- 48 Flood blocker
- 50 Shocks
- 53 Owing
- 57 Idaho's capital
- 58 Leisurely stroll

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15						16		
17					18						19		
20				21				22	23				
24			25				26	27					
			28			29	30		31				
32	33	34				35		36		37	38	39	
40					41					42			
43					44				45				
			46		47		48	49					
50	51					52		53			54	55	56
57						58	59	60				61	
62					63	64				65			
66					67					68			
69					70					71			

- 9 Kilmer of "Top Gun"
- 10 Estevez of "The Breakfast Club"
- 11 Restrict to a section of town
- 12 "That's \_\_\_" (Dean Martin hit)
- 13 Sat for the sculptor
- 18 Costa \_\_\_
- 23 Employed a syringe
- 25 Resonant
- 27 List-ending letters
- 29 Saudi king
- 30 Barfly's perch
- 32 Keep in stitches?
- 33 Cubes in the freezer
- 34 Residents of a certain African nation
- 36 Law
- 38 "Platoon" locale, for short
- 39 Some high school students: abbr.
- 41 Actress Lollobrigida
- 45 Ladies of La Paz
- 47 Alphas' opposites
- 49 Penthouse feature
- 50 Government issue
- 51 Casanova
- 52 Curling, say
- 54 Devoured
- 55 Mix
- 56 Fruit pastries
- 59 Regarding
- 60 "The Man" Musial
- 64 Gardener's tool
- 65 Lyricist Gershwin