



## We need to save the rest of our scenic, rural areas

Two things that happened in the past week will have a big impact on the Flint Hills grasslands region of Kansas and Oklahoma, and those of us around the state should applaud.

First, Gov. Sam Brownback announced an agreement with energy companies that no more wind farms will be built or expanded in the Heart of the Flint Hills area.

The idea of wind farms in the scenic Flint Hills has been controversial from the start. The governor announced an agreement among the state, Flint Hills ranchers, preservationists, wind developers, power companies and government officials to expand an area of the tallgrass prairie to be free from new commercial wind farms.

While the pact exempts current wind farms with commercial contracts, it prohibits further development in the hills, the last large remnant of the tallgrass prairie that once covered much of the Midwest.

The move upset some local officials and wind promoters, who wanted to see more wind turbines added to existing farms, but it will not prevent new or beefed up transmission lines to move wind energy to urban areas.

Brownback noted that of 400,000 acres of tallgrass prairie, only about 4 percent remains, most of that in the Flint Hills. He said the area should be preserved for ranching and tourism, not energy development that would mar the vistas.

County officials and landowners in some counties have complained, especially in Cowley County, site of an existing wind farm. They cited property rights and landowners' rights to develop their land in opposition to the pact.

That said, we feel the governor did the right thing to protect this precious resource.

Then this week, Sen. Jerry Moran announced along with Sen. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma that they have introduced a bill to exempt Flint Hills ranchers from regulation by the federal Environmental Protection Agency when they burn off dead grass and other waste each spring.

The burning is considered a key to the health of the region's pastures, which have changed little since the days when buffalo roamed. However, a concentrated schedule of burning pushed by state and federal regulators has been blamed for high pollution readings in Wichita and Kansas City.

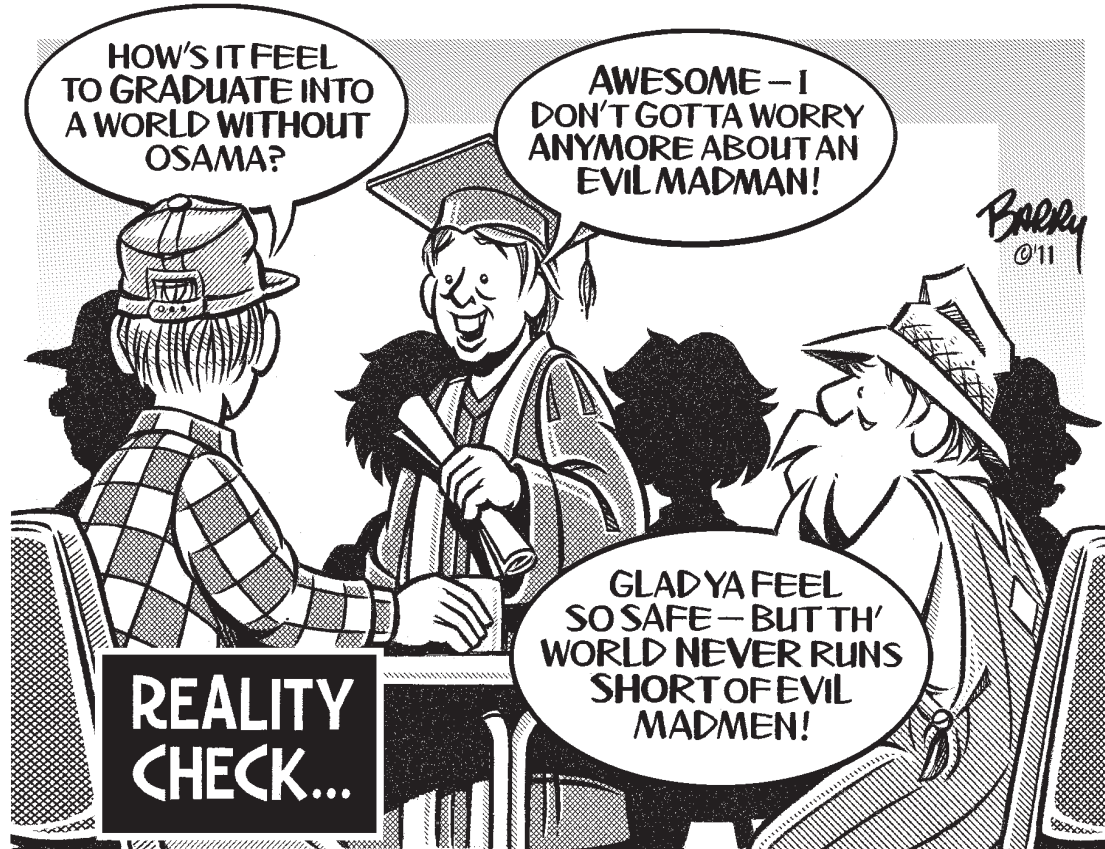
Sen. Moran's bill would exempt the ranchers from federal regulation, essentially taking the federal agency and the state Department of Health and Environment out of the equation. The agencies have been pushing a complicated schedule for burning which has not eliminated urban complaints.

These ranchers have been burning their pastures to preserve the land for more than a century, long before Wichita and Kansas City were big enough to have a pollution problem. The season lasts only a few weeks in the spring, and the smoke dissipates. It should be a non-issue.

We say Sen. Moran is right; the ranchers should be free to continue traditional practices.

While neither of these moves will much affect strong push to preserve a rural way of life and a scenic area important to the whole state.

Both deserve our praise. — Steve Haynes



## Story of two categories in need of meeting head on

By Tom Dreiling  
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Let's just call this a little story about two categories of need, meeting head on.

It's a true story. I happen to know that because I'm the character involved.

The two categories of need are (1) groceries, the stuff that keeps us alive, and (2) prescription medication, the stuff that, well, keeps us alive.

And both of these categories of need were purchased by this Man of the Plains in the very same building on the very same day just a few days ago.

The groceries, 32 items in all, totaled \$81.10.

The prescriptions, 2 only, totaled \$82.46.

You often hear people say, especially those who are on really fixed incomes, as am I, that they find themselves choosing between food and prescription medication.

I hadn't given that much thought until I came face to face with that realization. I had to cut my grocery bill in half to accommodate my prescription medication needs.

My only support, as I've mentioned before, is that thing called Social Security. Not many bucks but it's better than nothing. And I warn those politicians who think they are going to put their carving knives into Social Security, that I will personally hunt them down and use my carving knife on each of their fingers. I'll also whack off their thumbs to boot! It's no laughing matter but there are some crazies in the House of Representatives and in the United State Senate who have an eye on Social Security as one of their targets.

I am not alone in this fight for survival. I spent my life working for a noble, very noble cause - the right to know - newspapering, in other words. Many of those com-

munity newspapers I worked for were not so blessed as to be able to offer their employees a retirement plan. Of course it wasn't just newspaper employees faced with this negative, but employees of many other occupations as well. There was a time, it might be worth noting, that when you landed a job the package also included a vacation, but not always paid. Retirement compensation? What's that?

I loved working as a journalist for 44 years, and proof that I still love writing can be seen in my frequent columns that appear in your favorite newspaper(s). Yep, ink still runs through my veins, although retirement dollars don't. But that's just the way it is.

Yes, there are people who still count pennies as part of their survival plan. And they give thanks for that allotment, knowing there are people worse off who wish they had pennies to count!

## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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Where does the time go? It seems like just yesterday that our youngest son, Joey, was this cute little kid with a space between his front teeth.

He still has that space, but last Sunday he turned 16. How did this happen?

It doesn't seem all that long ago that my twin brother and I hit that momentous age. We were sharing

an early 1970's Jeep CJ-5, taking turns having it for a day. This worked out very well until three days after our birthday. That was the day I decided to roll the Jeep on a side street in Wheat Ridge, Colo.

My poor family. Mom cried, Dad shook his head and my "half-egg" didn't speak to me for a while. But I did learn a powerful

lesson from that experience: turn into a skid.

So today, I'm the one shaking my head in disbelief. How did this ever happen?

I'm gonna have to teach Joey how to turn into a skid.

## Lines from the Library

By Pat Leibbrandt

The library has the following new books: The Silver Boat, by Luanne Rice; Miles To Go, by Richard Paul Evans; Late Edition, by Fern Michaels; Night Road, by Kristin Hannah; Phantom Evil by Heather Graham; Chasing Fire by Nora Roberts; The Sixth Man by David Baldacci; Eve by Iris Johansen; A Turn In The Road by Debbie Macomber; Bel-Air Dead by Stuart Woods; 10th Anniversary by James Patterson; Sixkill by Robert Parker; Massachusetts Brides by Lisa Harris; A Creed Country Christmas by Linda Lael Miller; A Merry Heart by Wanda Brunstetter; Looking For A Miracle by Wanda Brunstetter;

Karen Kingsbury; Never Surrender by Jerry Boykin; White Christmas Pie by Wanda Brunstetter; One Perfect Day by Lauraine Snelling; 44 Charles Street by Danielle Steel; I'll Walk Alone by Mary Higgins Clark; Mobbed by Carol Higgins Clark

The following new Books-On-CD are available at the library: Ford County by John Grisham; I'll Walk Alone by Mary Higgins Clark; Shane by Jack Schaefer; Strategic Moves by Stuart Woods; To The Far Blue Mountains by Louis L'Amour; The Walking Drum by Louis L'Amour; I Beat The Odds by Michael Oher; Tick Tock by James Patterson; The Walk by Richard Paul Evans; White Satin by Iris Johansen.

The following new books have arrived in the children's department:

Annie And Snowball by Cynthia Rylant; Presidents' Day by Margaret McNamara; Creepy-Crawly Birthday by James Howe; The Berenstain Bears' Sick Days by Jan Berenstain; Chicken Said, "Cluck!" by Judyann Grant; Spectacular Spectacles by Jane O'Connor; Promise Me Always by Christine Lynxwiler; The Berenstain Bears' Computer by Jan Berenstain; Vidia Takes Charge by Melissa Lagonegro; Lone Star Christmas by Kathleen Y'Barbo; Welcome To Trucktown by Jon Scieszka; Olivia And The Haunted Hotel by Jodie Shepherd; You're Only Old Once by Dr. Seuss; Fairy Rescue Team by Kimberly Morris; The Great Truck Rescue by Jon Scieszka; Olivia And The School Carnival by Tina Gallo.

## Man warns of bad contractors

Contractors!

Cheyenne County has a good number of "contractors" doing home repair, construction, and remodeling. A few of them are excellent, some are good, and others should just go away. An "excellent" contractor, gives a definitive bid, shows up on schedule, does the work to spec, and bills within a reasonable range of the quote. I have had some excellent experiences with a couple of "contractors" and some horrible ones with others. I had a "contractor" recently who looked at my needs on a Wednesday, assured me they would be out

## Letter to the Editor

on the following Saturday to do the work. On FRIDAY afternoon I called to see if any additional material was needed, and was informed that they really couldn't get to it for a couple of weeks! Huh? Would they have bothered to let me know that if I hadn't called, or just not shown up? We'll never know. A couple of days later, they did call to let me know they wouldn't be doing the work at all. As my BS detector had redlined after the Friday call, I had already engaged another "contractor" who showed

up, did excellent work and is almost finished. Prior to this, I had a "contractor" who was supposed to do the job, but in 10 months, never got to it. I had one who started a job (barely) and never came back to finish it (lawsuit). I had several who said they would be out to quote work and never showed, never called. Anyone who has work to be done, should get recent references, a quote in writing with a firm start date, and not be asked for money "up front". Beware! Chuck Kribs, Bird City

GOD SAYS  
"It is mine to avenge: I will repay. In due time their foot will slip; their day of disaster is near and their doom rushes upon them."  
Deuteronomy 32:35

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**Church of Christ**  
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424  
502 W. Spencer  
Norman Morrow - Minister  
Bible Class 11 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10 a.m.  
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

**St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church**  
625 S. River • 332-2680  
Fr. Roger Meitl  
Sunday Mass 10:00 a.m.  
Weekday Mass 8:30 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.

**Salem Lutheran Church**  
332-3002  
Pastor Chris Farmer  
Sunday School 10 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11 a.m.  
Communion Sunday

**United Methodist Church**  
Church Office 332-2292,  
Church 332-2254,  
512 S. Scott  
Pastor Morita Truman  
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
785-890-5718 • 3rd & Adams  
Pastor Jerry Nowack  
Sabbath School 9:30  
Morning Worship 10:45

**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.

**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 Glenn Isernhagen, Interim 332-2928  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Communion 1st Sunday of the Month

**St. Francis Equity**

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**Knodel Funeral Home**  
202 S. Benton • St. Francis  
785-332-3131