

Time to bring clarity back into the regulations picture

The old saying the only thing certain in life is death and taxes could be expanded in today's world. This saying should include government regulations. For farmers and ranchers, the very nature of working with land, water and livestock means there's a certain amount of government oversight. It comes with the territory.

That said, farmers and ranchers believe such government regulation must be clear, stable and transparent. Something they can count on. Something as reliable as the Kansas wind.

When it comes to environmental regulations on the farm or in the workplace, farmers, ranchers and businesses believe such stipulations should be managed within a proven, structural framework with public input.

That's why agriculture has thrown its support behind a comprehensive energy plan being worked in the Kansas legislature.

Triathlon

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line with her. In that moment, she realized, "I may have been the one to use my arms and legs for the race, but this was his race in the battle against ALS."

For Megan, this triathlon "is our small way to show Professor Gey how inspiring he is to all of us and to show him how thankful we are to have met him." All money raised will go towards ALS research so that generations to come will never have to go through the pain of losing a loved one to ALS, Julia said.

With the economic climate as it is, fund raising is a little more difficult, and that's where Norton enters the picture. Megan could use some financial help from back home. Her website is: <http://www.active.com/donate/Tri-For-Gey-III/mmenagh>. If readers have any questions for Megan, they can also contact her directly at Mmenagh@foley.com.

This year, the 60 members of the Tri-for-Gey III team aim to bring the total to \$150,000. And with just weeks left until the April 4 triathlon, they are still \$30,000 short of their goal, but they hold out hope that they will succeed.

In the spring of 2007, a small group of students initially set out to raise a couple thousand dollars towards ALS research by competing in the Red Hills Triathlon in Tallahassee, where Professor Gey still resides. This modest goal snowballed into a three-year philanthropic endeavor. More than \$40,000 was raised in 2007; the following year, the team doubled in size and raised another \$60,000.

This group of rowdy devotees

City council

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to be and Whitney Law Office is, has been given to the Norton Community Foundation and said the building's cleaning will continue this Saturday.

• Councilman Jeff Otter said he would like to talk to the Personnel Committee about changes to the city's Family Medical Leave Act policies.

• Mrs. Foley reminded everyone there is a Public Works Committee Meeting Monday at 6 p.m.

• Mr. Kuhn set a Public Safety Committee meeting for March 30

Insight John Schlageck

This plan would include regulatory stability.

There are plenty of reasons to support such legislation. Most importantly, it will provide stability to the regulatory environment. Kansas businesses, including agriculture, should not be unfairly burdened with more stringent rules and regulations than the federal government demands.

After last year's decision by Kansas Department of Health & Environment to deny construction permits for a pair of coal-fired power plants in southwestern Kansas, it's time to bring clarity back to the way our state does business. To deny construction permits for this pair of electricity generating plants because of potential carbon-dioxide emissions would be wrong. In this instance, nei-

ther state nor federal regulations list CO2 as a pollutant.

"Denial of those permits was uncalled for and should not be allowed to stand," Kansas Farm Bureau lobbyist Brad Harrelson says. "When you have action taken by a state agency that exceeds its authority, then we become a state where our laws no longer apply."

Last year's Kansas Department of Health & Environment decision to deny the air permit not only denies our state the expansion of much needed electricity generation and increased revenues, it sets a terrible precedent for economic development in Kansas.

Kansas Department of Health & Environment exceeded its authority and Kansans are concerned about what arbitrary decisions could be next. Such decisions could very well impact agriculture.

Farmers and ranchers could benefit tremendously from this new energy source, Harrelson

says. They could fire their irrigation engines and run their operations more economically.

Construction of such a plant would also lead to economic development in a part of the state desperate for jobs, income and business.

"Kansas is in the throes of a very deep recession like the rest of our country," says Steve Morris, Senate District 39, Hugoton. "For our state to ignore nearly \$4-billion in economic development and 2,400 jobs during the seven-year construction period is beyond me."

Morris believes the Kansas legislature will support a balanced, comprehensive energy plan.

"It's important to move forward with clean-coal technology, nuclear, gas, geo-thermal, solar and wind energy," the Kansas Senate president says. "Our country has the coal resources to last for several hundred years."

In addition to an economic shot in the arm, regulatory certainty is key to help attracting new jobs to our state. Concerns about the un-

certainty of our state's regulatory environment have been echoed by independent businesses, manufacturers, agriculture producers and other stake holders from Scammon to Saint Francis, from Rolla to Reserve and all points in between. Not to mention those outside our state's borders who ever thought of doing business in Kansas.

All Kansans should continue to seek clarification on this issue and support an energy policy that is environmentally responsible and

promotes a viable economic solution to Kansas' needs. To do so will invite new businesses to Kansas, and allow current businesses to expand by giving employers the stability of regulation that is uniform and consistently applied.

(John Schlageck is a leading commentator on agriculture and rural Kansas. Born and raised on a diversified farm in northwest Kansas, his writing reflects a lifetime of experience, knowledge and passion.)

About Megan and family

• 1999 graduate of Norton Community High School.

• Dad, Lynn Menagh, was the Chief of Police in Norton until he retired in the last couple of years. Mom, Pam Menagh, Curriculum Coordinator and Wellness Coordinator for the Norton schools.

• Her older brother also lives in Norton with his family — Corey Menagh, owner of Carquest; her other brother Chad Menagh lives in Crete, Neb., with his family.

• She went to college at Kansas State University, majored in Sociology/Criminology, with minors in Leadership Studies and Spanish. Graduated from KSU in May 2003

• She was born in Crete, Neb., but moved to Norton when she was five — so she grew up most of her life in Norton

• In high school, she was involved in cheerleading, volleyball, track, Kansas Association for Youth, FCCLA, SADD, band, lifeguard at the pool for about 5-6 years, Methodist Church youth group.

• She and Julia Breslin went to law school together (where she was Editor-in-Chief of law review) and they remain close friends. Julia is also competing in the Tri-for-Gey, although she said she may need Megan's life guarding skills by the end of the swim section. Julia decided to take on the press junket to raise a little bit more money. This week alone, the group raised \$5000, and they hope the Norton community, of which Megan speaks so fondly of so often, rallies behind her in these last couple of weeks.

eventually, death.

Despite the toll the disease is taking on Professor Gey, he remains upbeat. Even now, after losing control over his limbs and lungs, the kinetic fire in his eyes continues to burn mischievously. His abilities to motivate and influence those around him — the same characteristics that make him a powerful professor — have inspired a fund raising effort of monumental proportions, according to Julia.

In a recent letter to the team, he expressed regret that "I will never be able to repay any of you for what you've done.

"But please understand that if you could cash out gratitude, you would all be rich beyond belief."

are back together again this year to continue raising money on behalf of their favorite law school professor. This is a story of love for a great man, dedication to a cause, and hope for the future.

Knowing that every cent raised brings happiness and meaning to their hero's final years keeps this team swimming, biking, and running to the finish line, according to Julia.

It was in December 2006 that colleagues, students and friends received devastating news of Professor Gey's illness. He had developed a particularly aggressive form of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). Except in very few cases, the victims of this disease endure slow paralysis and,

at 5:30 p.m.

• The council approved an application for water service to the new Emergency Medical Services building.

• The council approved the curb replacement for the Norton Christian Church.

• Tim Bashford, who is running for Norton City Council, Ward 3, said the Boy Scouts would like to help the elderly paint the outside of their houses. He asked how long it would take to get the paint. Mr. Lawson said it usually takes about a day.

Mr. Bashford asked how much paint he can get. Mr. Lawson said about 8 to 10 gallons. Mr. Bashford asked if there are color requirements. Mr. Lawson said no, as long as it's within the standards of the neighborhood.

Mr. Bashford then asked who the contact person was for the Heaton building. Mrs. Mann said he should talk to Diane Becker before having any of the Boy Scouts do work there, for safety reasons.

No other business was brought before the council.

UPCOMING EVENTS in Kansas

Brought to you in part by Kansas Department of Commerce Travel & Tourism Division

Morris County Annual Business Expo
March 21, Council Grove
Visit booths of local businesses. Giveaways, drawings and prizes!
9 AM - 4 PM, Council Grove High School Gym
www.councilgrove.com

Mid America Farm Expo
March 24-26, Salina
Spring Ag Show!
Hundreds of exhibitors, displays, food vendors, seminars, craft show and more.
(877) 725-4625, www.salinakansas.org

NASA Driven to Explore Exhibit
April 4-5, Hutchinson
NASA Astronaut, Steven Bowen, visits during NASA Exhibit on Constellation, NASA's newest space exploration program.
(800) 397-0330, www.cosmo.org

Prairie Fire Festival
April 6-11, Cottonwood Falls
Homage to Prairie Fires in the Flint Hills with speakers or entertainment each day. See a full schedule of events online
www.prairiefirefestival.com, (620) 273-6020

28th Annual William Inge Theatre Festival
April 22-25, Independence
Where Broadway and Hollywood meet the plains. Honors writers of the musical, *The Fantasticks*. William Inge Theatre, Independence Community College
(800) 842-6063, X 5835, www.ingecenter.org

Wagon Trips
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GENERAL NOTICE TO CONTROL NOXIOUS WEEDS

The Kansas Noxious Weed Law K.S.A. 2-1314 et seq requires all persons who own or supervise land in Kansas to control and eradicate all weeds declared noxious by legislative action. The weeds declared noxious are: field bindweed, musk thistle, sericea lespedeza, Johnson grass, bur ragweed, Canada thistle, leafy spurge, hoary cress, quack grass, Russian, knapweed, kudzu and pignut. Notice is hereby given pursuant to the Kansas Noxious Weed Law to every person who owns or supervises land in Norton County that noxious weeds growing or found on such land shall be controlled and eradicated. Control is defined as preventing the production of viable seed and the vegetative spread of the plant.

Failure to observe this notice may result in the County:
(1.) Serving a legal notice requiring control of the noxious weeds within a minimum of five days. Failure to control the noxious weeds within the time period allowed may result in the county treating the noxious weeds at the landowners expense and placing a lien on the property if the bill is not paid within 30 days or,
(2.) Filing criminal charges for non-compliance. Conviction for non-compliance may result in a fine of \$100 per day of non-compliance with a maximum fine of \$1500.

The public is also hereby notified that it is a violation of the Kansas Noxious Weed Law to barter, sell or give away infested nursery stock or livestock feed unless the feed is fed on the farm where grown or sold to a commercial processor that will destroy the viability of the noxious weed seed. Custom harvesting machines must be labeled with a label provided by the Kansas Dept. of Agriculture and must be free of all weed seed and litter when entering the State and when leaving a field infested with noxious weeds.

Additional information may be obtained from the Norton County Noxious Weed Department or by contacting the Kansas Dept. of Agriculture, 901 S. Kansas, Topeka, KS 66612.

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Forty Creek, fifth \$20.37	Weller Spec. Reserve, 1/2 gal. \$31.11	J&B Scotch, 1L \$18.19
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Lord Calvert, 1/2 gal \$19.21	Wild Turkey 101, 1L \$28.98	Smirnoff Vodka 80P, 1/2gal \$23.06
Lord Calvert, 1L \$13.66	Seagram's 7, 1/2 gal. \$23.61	Smirnoff Vodka 80P, Traveler \$14.12
Lord Calvert Traveler \$9.72	Old Charter 8 Yr., 1/2 gal. \$23.38	Tvariski Cherry Vodka, fifth \$7.55
Canadian Club, 1/2 gal \$25.05	Jim Beam 7 Yr., fifth \$13.89	Capt Morgan Spice, 1/2 gal \$28.47
Pendleton, 1/2 gal \$32.41	Jim Beam, 4 Yr, 1/2 gal \$26.48	Admiral Nelson Rum, 1/2 gal \$17.59
Seagram's VO, 1/2 gal \$32.78	Jim Beam 4 Yr, fifth \$15.05	Admiral Nelson Rum, Traveler \$9.26
Black Velvet, 1/2 gal \$16.24	Evan Williams, 1/2 gal. \$20.60	Ron Rio Rum, 1/2 gal \$14.63
Black Velvet Traveler \$8.10	Evan Williams, 1L \$13.50	McCormick Vodka, 1/2 gal. \$14.07
Canadian Hunter, 1/2 gal. \$16.30	Ancient Age, 1/2 gal. \$18.24	McCormick Vodka Traveler \$7.04
Canadian Springs, 1/2 gal. \$14.58	Ancient Age, 1L \$13.00	St Brendan 1r Cm Liq, 1/2 gal \$27.40
Windsor Canadian, 1/2 gal \$17.04	Ancient Age fifth \$10.75	Dek Peachtree, 1/2 gal \$20.60
Windsor Traveler \$9.49	Bourbon Supreme, 1/2 gal. \$16.11	Cuervo Marg Mix, 1/2 gal \$7.18
Canadian LTD, 1/2 gal. \$14.07	Kentucky Deluxe, 1/2 gal. \$14.12	
Northern Light, 1/2 gal. \$14.07	Ten High, 1L \$8.61	

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1734	\$9.67	B7039	P550371	LF3630	HPH3786	N/A
3097	\$6.25	BF7809	P550126	FF5097	G3802	VG3169
4071	\$7.00	BW5071	CFP170018	WF2012	PR3304	1112370
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