

Final words: It's been a rough year for all Kansans

This is my final report on the 2009 Legislative Session. For the first time in my years in Topeka, I did not attend Sine-Die. I have committed instead to attend the 2009 Field Conference dealing with climate, energy, and water consumption issues in Southwest Kansas. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about issues facing our neighbors in Southwest Kansas.

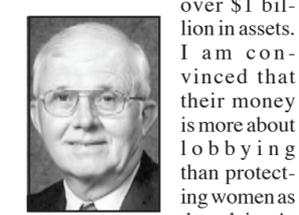
I was pleased to have Governor Parkinson and the Legislature work together on the bi-partisan Comprehensive Energy Plan, Senate Substitute for HB-2369. It allows an 897 megawatt plant, 179 megawatts of Wind Development, development of transmission lines, and will decommission two gas generated power plants in Garden City, to name just a few of the options of this bill. I'm pleased with the agreement and it should be a positive to our Western Kansas Economy.

The ending balance of \$17,500 on a thirteen billion dollar state budget is not good policy in my opinion. The governor will no doubt have to make additional cuts later in 2010 to keep the budget afloat. I believe that we should have made more cuts before adjourning this session. I am really concerned about the amount of private sector jobs being lost and additional pressure on businesses

as a result of the economy. The only positive result during the last two years has been growth of government jobs. I am pretty sure that next year's legislative session will set a record for fixing great mistakes made these past few years. In a nutshell, the biggest issues we will face next year will be continuing to re-work the Kansas Department of Transportation plan, funding public schools, careful consideration for health care including care for the disabled and the elderly.

I have served in Topeka for nine years now, and I am convinced that in order to achieve pro-life reform regarding abortions performed in Kansas, one thing that will have to happen is that we elect a pro-life governor. Senate bill 218 strengthens late term abortion reporting requirements and Kansas Law on partial-birth abortion. Pro-life legislators have only asked that we bring Kansas Law into alignment with federal statute when abortions perceived to be illegal continue to be performed. Any advances made with a "pro-life" outcome are faced with very pow-

erful and wealthy lobbying from Planned Parenthood. There are four Planned Parenthood clinics in Kansas, with only one of them performing abortions. They tout over \$1 billion in assets. I am convinced that their money is more about lobbying than protecting women as they claim. At a time when more people are Pro-Life than not, I am disappointed that we can not pass legislation in Kansas that will protect the unborn AND women.



Senate Doings
Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer

SB 178 Amusement Rides, exempts home-owned amusement rides from inspections and operator training required by the Kansas Department of Labor. The bill defines home-owned amusement companies as operated by a not-for-profit entity and operated in a single county by volunteers for 12 days or less per year. This was a major policy change to protect Northwest Kansas home-owned carnivals. There were many individuals that helped with passing SB-178, and I can't thank Brad Schick from Goodland enough for getting them organized. We had to get the Department of Labor to release Small Hometown

Carnivals from restrictive rules and regulations. I am always 100 percent in support of safety being highly considered when we are talking about our kids and grandkids enjoying these carnival rides, but common sense must also be taken into consideration when over-the-top regulation of these volunteer efforts would have been the result.

County treasurers are not able to take orders for the "In God We Trust" license plates until July 1, 2009. Those tags will begin production as soon after July 1 as 1,000 pre-paid request at \$40.00 each is reached. This was the concession required, due to budget issues, to get this legislation passed. However, with over 2,000 previously asked to be notified of this purchase date, we do not expect a long delay in reaching the required benchmark for production. We acknowledge and extend heartfelt appreciation to Francis and Geri Landry for all their time and hard work.

Again I was blessed with an excellent intern from my district, Jessica Bremer from Oberlin. She is a student at Washburn University. One of the most enjoyable things about serving in Topeka is watching young adults mature and learn the skills that will carry them into their future. Jessica was very helpful and I appreciate all she did for me. I was also privileged to have Gunnar Hays from Almena-

Northern Valley High School serve as my Shadow for a day. Gunnar's quiet observance of our activities hopefully gave him an idea of how our Legislature works. I enjoyed his company. I always enjoy the young kids who volunteer to serve as my Legislative Page for a day. I would like to commend the following students for taking time out of their busy schedules to spend a day working alongside me in Topeka. I also want to thank their parents and teachers for allowing them this opportunity.

Pages for 2009
Dayelle Waugh, Goodland, Benjamin Waugh, Goodland, Jacob Brull, Plainville, Justice Wiley, St. Francis, Mariah Beikman, St. Francis, Trista Jenner, Ransom, Hope Klitzke, Ransom, Kate Hagans, Utica, Brooke Ostmeyer, Grinnell, Pagie Ramey, Grinnell, Emily Vollbracht, Grinnell, Dustyna Sprigg, Norton,

Melinda Becker, Norton, Quenton Rucker, Hoxie, Tabor Rucker, Hoxie, James Henn, Dresden and Allie Henn, Dresden.

This was undoubtedly one of the toughest years of legislation in my nine years in Topeka. Many cuts had to be made, and the effects of that will force us to look closely at programs next year. Our handicapped and elderly population will likely be one of the first priorities as we set new goals next year. I appreciate all your contacts made this past year. It has been a tough year for all Kansans and we can only hope that next year will be a better year as we continue to strengthen our economy.

Any questions or concerns can reach me at PO Box 97, Grinnell, Kan. 67738 or email rostmey@ink.org.
Senator Ralph Ostmeyer
40th District

Prison

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And be Home," he said.

Mr. Hrabe said several programs have been cut in the last few months due to the budget. The sex offender treatment program was cut in March, the landscape designing program was cut in April and the construction skills program was also cut.

"We're faced with academic programs closing in July," Mr. Hrabe said.

The prison also has a vocational cabin building program, which has furnished the new cabins at Prairie Dog State Park. The cabin program will be reduced, but not cut, he said.

Mr. Hrabe said the prison has to rely on day-to-day crews, like the laundry and kitchen programs, to build skills and teach work ethic.

Laundry Manager Schukman has 34 inmates working for her, where they learn how to run the machines as well as do more basic things like folding and putting away clean laundry.

The laundry workers are staggered between three shifts, and the laundry manager will add 12 more inmates to the laundry team soon. Each person works a three hour shift every day.

The quilting project began in March when the inmates were originally started on mending clothes. The laundry manager also planned to use scrap material to make kitchen aprons and laundry bags for the prison.

Quilting began when the laundry crew was given the material and told to see what they could come up with.

The prison staff wanted to keep it simple by using old pieces of clothing from local thrift stores, Mr. Hrabe said.

Terry Wilson has been working on quilts since the program started.

"My bosses just let me go at it," Mr. Wilson said.

"Mainly, we're a laundry, so we're limited in what we can do," Manager Schukman said.

Security is an issue since the inmates have to be supervised while they are working.

"I don't know exactly where I'd apply it. I never thought I could do it, but I've been thinking a lot about how I can apply it when I get out," Mr. Wilson said.

Mr. Wilson has been incarcerated for five and a half years. He said he expects to get out in a few years, and he hopes to continue with his quilting work until his release.

"It's a program being developed and as it develops, we want it to become bigger," Mr. Hrabe said.

Mr. Hrabe said donations are needed to keep the program running. "Any kind of donation is greatly appreciated, but we will consider each donation as it comes in due to security concerns," he said.

Right now, the program's greatest need is knowledge, Manager Schukman said.

Manager Schukman and Laundry Supervisor Brown joked that they

have no experience with sewing. It is a learning process for everyone, they said.

"It's not a far stretch to imagine volunteers coming in to teach a class for the inmates," Mr. Hrabe said.

The laundry crew has limited supplies. They have a sewing machine, but they would like to get one that could work on heavier material, like denim. Donations such as design and sewing books, material and other sewing supplies are needed to keep the program running.

"We're faced with a challenge to keep the inmates busy in a productive fashion," Mr. Hrabe said.

Don't forget to attend
YOUR library's 100th anniversary celebration

Patty Gillman Memorial Race
Saturday and Sunday,
June 13 and 14
at the
Norton Motocross
1 Mile East and 1 Mile North of Norton
Practice at 9 a.m. - Races at 11:00 a.m.
\$5.00 at the Gate for a Day of Motocross Enjoyment and Remembrance

Library

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and will be performing Elvis songs from 4-5 p.m. and country songs from 5-6 p.m. Birthday cake will be served! Gifts of pens, and magnets will be handed out.

Norton Friends of the Library, Northwest Kansas Library System, Norton Historical Society, Norton Genealogy Society will have informational tables set up throughout the Library. Gary and Tim Adrian will also have a display of Paleo-Indian Artifacts from the Norton County area. These date back from 7700-8100 BC. The artifacts include scrapers, bone crushers and other tools.

Members of the Heritage Quilt Club accepted the challenge of designing a wall quilt for the library. Using fabrics designed by Mary Engelbreit and photos featuring buildings, books, children, and staff, a series of blocks tell the story. The quilt will hang on the wall behind the front desk. Also on this wall is a picture of the library building that is now

Almena

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Bond; Fourth Prize — Intarsia Wooden Pheasant. Donations will be accepted to win one of the prizes at a suggested \$1.00.

Admission to the entire show for both days is \$5.00 for adults and 12 and under free when accompanied by an adult.

For more information, one of the following may be contacted: President Lonnie Shearer (785) 669-2221; Vice President Norman Wendel (785) 669-2578; or Bob Underwood (785) 877-3817 or cell (785) 973-8026.

the home of the Norton County Museum. This print was matted and framed for the library by Jim Burns specifically for the birthday celebration.

Displays relating to the 100th Birthday of the Library are available for guests to view. The exhibit in the tall display case calls our attention to the Wizard of Oz. The "Wizard" is celebrating this year, too. The film version was produced in March 1939 so a 70th year celebration is marked this year. Check out the "Oz" memorabilia from the collections of Mary Beth Boyd and Dusty Ulmer.

In the center display case, there is a collection of photos depicting scenes and staff from the old and current Libraries.

In the south display case, the Norton County Museum prepared a display of items that represent

past historical events in Norton in the early 1900's close to the time the library first opened in Norton. This reminds us to visit the Norton County Museum, in the old library building, to see the many historical artifacts that are there.

In the Art Gallery, we have beautiful Batiks, Watercolors, and Pastels by Linda Fuller. We also have a collection of colorful Summer Reading shirts from past years.

The 100th Birthday celebration is sponsored by the City of Norton, the Norton Library Foundation, the Norton Friends of the Library, the Norton Public Library Board and staff, and many great volunteers.

Contact the library at: (785) 877-2481, nortonpl2@ruraltel.net, or visit our website at www.nortonpubliclibrary.org.

Trinity Episcopal Rummage and Bake Sale
Corner of State Street and Waverly
NORTON, KANSAS
FRIDAY, JUNE 12
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
SATURDAY, JUNE 13
8:00 a.m. - noon

Clothing, All Sizes, Lots of Miscellaneous and a Variety of Baked Goods

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Monday/Total Market Coverage	Thursday Noon
Tuesday	Friday Noon
Friday	Wednesday Noon
CLASSIFIED LINE ADS:		
Monday/Total Market Coverage	Thursday Noon
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