

### Do these three strikes mean we're out?

Guest Editorial  
Tom Betz

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius made good on her opposition to coal-fired power plants in western Kansas with the third veto of a bill that was overwhelmingly passed by both the House and Senate. House Speaker Melvin Neufeld (R-Ingalls) said the legislature would not try to override the third veto.

The billions of dollars of investment in western Kansas will seep away and probably end up in Oklahoma or Texas. Western Kansas takes another hit in the stomach from Topeka.

Millions of dollars have been spent by lobbying groups on both sides of the power plant controversy to sway the emotions of Kansans. One side tells us how bad coal plants are, and that the answer is the development of wind power. The other side says the plants would be cleaner than any existing in the state, and that wind power and more transmission lines would be part of the development.

In March 2007 the Sierra Club and Kansas City Light and Power came to an agreement to allow the power company to proceed with building an 850 megawatt coal-fired power plant near Weston, Mo., which is 25 miles northwest of Kansas City.

This was a plant that had been held up for more than two years by the Sierra Club and a series of lawsuits. Kansas City Light and Power serves customers in both northwest Missouri and northeast Kansas including the greater Kansas City metropolitan area.

Bruce Nilles, attorney and official with the Sierra Club, called the settlement significant and predicted it would influence other utilities to react to global warming.

He said the Sierra Club hoped the agreement would create enough wind power and reduce demand for power enough to make additional coal-fired plants unnecessary.

This agreement was made six months before the Kansas Secretary of Health and Environment Roderick Bremby denied air permits for the proposed two 700 megawatt Sunflower Electric coal-fired plants at Holcomb.

The decision by Bremby sparked a huge controversy because he said the carbon dioxide levels of the plants would contribute to global warming. Controversy with the decision was because neither state nor federal regulations have specific limits for carbon dioxide emissions.

Seizing on this, the Legislature spent five months trying to pass bills to allow the Holcomb plants to be built, and to narrow the regulatory authority of the Secretary of Health and Environment to what was in the laws. Three bills were passed by large margins in both the Senate and House, but Gov. Sebelius vetoed each one and on two tries the House fell two votes short of overriding the veto.

Lt. Governor Mark Parkinson is fond of saying how wind power can be the next boom for Kansas, and that it is a better answer for the state than the coal-fired plants.

During a visit to Goodland and Colby, Parkinson said he felt the state should develop enough wind power to be able to export power to other states. However, he did not feel it was the same to sell coal generated power out of state and keep the jobs in state.

Sunflower Electric will have to find another way to generate the needed power over the next few years, and despite plans to develop wind power there will be a power gap causing Sunflower to seek power in the market where the price will be higher.

It is regrettable the legislature and governor could not reach a compromise that would allow economic development in western Kansas based on the expansion of the power grid, and the expanded interconnection with the states in the region.

Wind power is an important piece of the puzzle, but no one in the energy industry is saying wind will be more than about 20 to a maximum of 30 percent of the total power needs of the country.

The hot winds from Topeka should die down, and maybe an agreement between Sunflower and the governor can be reached to at least allow development of part of the Holcomb energy plan.

— Tom Betz is editor of *The Goodland Star-News*

### Your political connection

- ★ **Governor Kathleen Sebelius**, 300 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-3232
- ★ **U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774; fax (202) 224-3514
- ★ **U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback**, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6521
- ★ **U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran**, 2443 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715; fax (202) 225-5124
- ★ **State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer**, State Capitol Building, Room 262-E, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7399
- ★ **State Rep. John Faber**, 181 W. Capitol Building, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7500



### Dorothy was right: 'No place like home'

Dorothy from *The Wizard of Oz* was right; "There's no place like home. There's no place like home." Whether you came from a wealthy family with every convenience or from a poor family where the "convenience" was out back — every Memorial Day/Alumni Banquet brings people back home. I

It doesn't matter if someone else owns the house now or if the house is long gone. That place. That exact spot in the world is home. Perhaps that thought is what "grounds" us. It helps us remember where we came from.

My brother, Jim, and his wife, Linda, came for his fiftieth high school reunion this weekend. They thought they had a real good time. Even Linda, who is from eastern Kansas, and didn't know but a few people.

Jim is a retired school teacher from Lawrence. This is one of the few reunions he has ever made it to because, in the past,

Out Back  
Carolyn Plotts



"family" either. A wise man told me, "It takes people living in a house to make it a home."

-ob-

This morning Jim said, "I don't care if they call me a sissy. I'm turning the heat on."

What's up with this? It's the end of May. Usually, I'm battling with my inner self to resist kicking on the air conditioning. (I have a personal goal of "No AC before June 1.) But, it's really hard to accept the "Global Warming" theory when you're grabbing for covers on May 26.

Not that I do accept the theory (and, it is just a theory), coming from a man who claimed to have invented the Internet. However, I may not be the best person to discuss current events.

I haven't seen a single news broadcast in days. Is "SHE" still in the running or did that General Electric light bulb go off over her head and she finally get the idea that it's over?

he was always finishing up the school year and couldn't get away. The rest of the world does not always end their term as early as we do out here.

As many times as we have "bummed" a free night's stay, we were glad to finally be able to return the favor. Of course, we stayed up too late talking. But, one of the advantages of reaching our "golden years" is no one argues very much when someone finally suggests, "Why don't we call it a night." And, everyone understands when someone asks, "Is it okay if we leave the bathroom light on?"

Besides home, there's nothing like

### Honor Flight is a way to say 'Thanks!'

Guest  
Commentary  
Rep. Jerry Moran

In 2004, just a few days before its dedication, I walked outside the U.S. Capitol Building and beyond the Washington Monument to the newly constructed World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. It was inspiring.

At long last, nearly 60 years after the war ended, these veterans — who did so much to protect our country and liberate the world — were to receive recognition through a national monument.

I happened to have my cell phone with me and called my 90-year-old father back in Plainville. He is one of the thousands of Americans who left their family and lives behind in World War II to fight on foreign soil. My father fought in Northern Africa, Sicily and Italy.

Fortunately, when I called, I got the answering machine. It is often difficult for sons and daughters to tell their fathers the things we should tell them. My message was, "Dad, I love you, Dad, I'm proud of you and Dad, thank you for your service to our country."

I told my dad what I should have said a long time ago and what we all should say to our veterans. It was too bad that many veterans of this "Greatest Generation," now in their 80s and 90s, are unable physically or financially to visit our nation's

capital and see this beautiful tribute to their service and sacrifice.

A few months ago, Senator Bob Dole — himself a World War II veteran who led the charge to build the Memorial — told me about a grassroots, non-profit organization called Honor Flight.

Staffed by volunteers and funded by donations, Honor Flight enables World War II veterans to travel to our nation's capital to see the Memorial created in their honor.

Honor Flight operates across the country using commercial and chartered flights to send veterans on a one-day, expenses-paid trip to Washington.

I have had the honor of joining Senator Dole to greet these veterans at the World War II Memorial. The time we spend with these proud men and women is very moving.

As volunteers — often local high school students — help veterans off the

bus, you see the excitement in the veterans' eyes that has kept them up many nights beforehand in anticipation. As we walk past the fountains and to the granite pillar dedicated to Kansas, the student volunteers listen to veterans recount tales of their time in the service, of friends made and friends lost.

Tourists stop their sightseeing to shake the veterans' hands and express thanks. Many veterans are moved to tears. It is a special day for a very special generation of heroes.

With Memorial Day still fresh in our minds, I want to call attention to this worthy program and the work of the volunteers who make it possible. Of the 16 million veterans who served in World War II, only three million are alive today.

We are losing them at a rate of 1,200 each day. Honor Flight is working against time to say "thank you" to these veterans.

For more information or to donate to this program, call Pat Hageman, a Kansas coordinator, at (785) 737-6024 or visit [www.honorflight.org](http://www.honorflight.org).

Let us be grateful to the men and women who answered the call in service to our country, remembering their sacrifices and recognizing the debts we owe.

### Only you can prevent new roadside crosses

Your Turn

To the Editor,  
I am a Law Enforcement Liaison with the Kansas Department of Transportation's Bureau of Traffic Safety.

My job is to promote traffic safety programs and public information resources available to law enforcement agencies across Kansas. I take pride in my duties because, at the end of each day, I know what I'm doing contributes to saving lives.

I have attached a letter that I hope you will consider publishing, also in the hope of saving lives. I am asking for your assistance to get the word out to your readers that they, too, can become advocates of safe driving practices to prevent unnecessary deaths. I hope you will consider publishing my letter during the national "Click it. Or ticket." enforcement that runs through the end of the month — either as a published letter to the editor, stand-alone column or any other format you deem appropriate.

Thanks in advance for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call or email.

**SEE CROSSES**

Just a few months ago, Gov. Kathleen

Sebelius announced the Eight Wonders of Kansas. I'm a lucky person; I travel a lot of miles though this state and have had the great fortune to see or experience most of those Wonders. Those that I have not seen, I plan to see soon. This is truly a beautiful state and something Kansans should be proud of.

Unfortunately, I have seen something else that is lining our streets and highways: CROSSES. They are dotted in the wildflowers and in our prairie grasses. As I drive by them, I wonder what happened. Did someone hurt or suffer, did they experience fear or think of their loved ones in their final moments? We will never know.

One thing I do know is that someone who is alive today is hurting or thinking about that loved one. I'm sure that the hurt or loving never stops. You only have to take a close look at these crosses as you travel by them. They are often decorated with a person's favorite teddy bear, book, picture, or a baby bottle. That means there

is someone alive who cares.

I also wonder if this tragedy was preventable; sadly, in almost all instances the answer is YES. The difference between life and death could have been made by a slower speed, a designated driver, not talking or text messaging on the cell phone, or even something as simple as making the decision to buckle a seatbelt or restrain a child.

I ask you to do everything in your power to prevent the planting of any new crosses to dot our roadways. You can educate, you can change your habits, and law enforcement can aggressively enforce the laws. Speak up; you may be the squeaky wheel that changes attitudes and behaviors.

I leave you with this: as you travel through Kansas, enjoy the wonders of this beautiful state, but also be aware of the crosses that line our highways, and think how you can prevent new plantings.

Be Safe and Buckle Up — every trip, every time.

Sincerely,

Dave Corp  
Law Enforcement Liaison  
KDOT/Bureau of Traffic Safety  
316.250.9654

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

ISSN 1063-701X

215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, KS 67654

Published each Tuesday and Friday by Haynes Publishing Co., 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, Kan. 67654. Periodicals mail postage paid at Norton, Kan. 67654.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Norton Telegram, 215 S. Kansas, Norton, Kan. 67654

Official newspaper of Norton and Norton County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, and the Nebraska Press Association

Nor'West Newspapers  
Dick and Mary Beth Boyd  
Publishers, 1970-2002  
Incorporating the Norton County Champion  
Marion R. Krehbiel, editor



#### Office hours:

8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

Phone: (785) 877-3361

Fax: (785) 877-3732

E-mail:

[nortontelegram@nwkansas.com](mailto:nortontelegram@nwkansas.com)

#### STAFF

- Tom Dreiling ..... editor and publisher
- Christie Anderson ..... advertising director
- Dick Boyd ..... Blue Jay sports
- Carolyn Plotts ..... society editor
- Sherry Hickman ..... bookkeeping/circulation
- Vicki Henderson ..... computer production