

Moran introduces legislation to preserve tall grass

Congressman Jerry Moran introduced legislation this week, H.R. 5118, the Flint Hills Preservation Act, to protect the ability of landowners in the Flint Hills to use prescribed fire as a tool to preserve the tallgrass prairie ecosystem.

The Flint Hills region of Kansas and Oklahoma contains the world's largest share of remaining tallgrass prairie and is the only place where that habitat exists in landscape proportions. Only 4 percent of North America's

presettlement tallgrass prairie survives to this day, and 80 percent is located in Kansas.

Each year, ranchers, landowners and conservation groups use prescribed fires to mimic the seasonal fires that have shaped the tallgrass prairie for thousands of years. Prescribed burning is an essential management practice for protecting the ecosystem, enhancing grazing land and reducing the chances of destructive wildfires such as those in California and other states. Prescribed burning

is also an important component in ranchland management. It helps ranchers keep pastures free from invasive species, like eastern red cedars, and leads to higher quality grass that increases weight gain in their cattle. Last year, a condensed timeframe for grassland burning caused heightened air quality readings in Kansas City and Wichita. As a result, the Environmental Protection Agency is seeking to regulate how and when landowners can burn in the Flint Hills region by asking

the state of Kansas to develop a smoke management plan. H.R. 5118 recognizes that prescribed fires are a necessary and natural phenomena. It exempts landowners and local governments from Environmental Protection Agency enforcement of Clean Air Act standards, if the enforcement action is attributed to smoke from prescribed fires in the Flint Hills region.

"The Flint Hills region is one of the last contiguous stretches of the tallgrass prairie in the United

States. It is disappointing that the Environmental Protection Agency would try to disrupt a vital management tool like prescribed fires," said Moran. "This legislation will allow landowners to preserve a unique ecosystem and manage prescribed burning around the forces of weather and other factors impacting safe conditions, without worrying about a schedule dictated by some Environmental Protection Agency bureaucrat in Washington."

Moran's initiative to correct a flaw in the Clean Air Act with this legislation," said Kansas Livestock Association President Mark Smith. "Prescribed burning in the Flint Hills is a proven, economical tool that protects and enhances the tallgrass prairie. Smoke that results from this practice should not cause regulatory compliance problems for our urban neighbors."

Moran is a senior member of the House Agriculture Committee.

Council

(Continued from Page 1) tion, lasting from April through October. Lawson said the position would replace one temporary summer employee

The council asked Lawson if the position had been budgeted. He said it hadn't, but there would be one less summer employee.

"I think we can make it work," he said.

Lawson said there were three applications turned in. A motion was made to approve the recommendation of Ted Hull. Vote taken, motion passed.

• Lawson said the water clarifier is down at the water treatment plant. He said plant employees have done some repair work to it.

Lawson also reported that Carol Griffey retired from the power plant. He said the plant can't keep up with 24/7 shifts and asked the council to make a motion to get rid of the night shifts and transfer the crews to the day shift. He said the employees would work on securing the building, with access at night being eliminated except by power plant employees.

"We're not closing the plant down," he said.

A motion was made to transfer the night crews to the day shift. Vote taken, motion passed.

• Donna Foley reported on the last safety committee meeting. She said they met with Judge Hawks to discuss records and court costs. Foley made a motion

to have all court cases entered into the computer by August and eliminate hand written forms. Vote taken, motion passed.

Foley made a motion to have court costs increased to \$1 to offset state costs. The council discussed the issue and whether costs should increase by \$1 or \$5.

"I would go to \$5," Snyder said.

Toby Kuhn said crime will not be deterred by increased fines.

"The costs have increased dramatically since 1995," he said.

Foley said she wanted to keep up with costs from the state, not fall behind.

Vote taken, motion passed to increase court costs by \$1. Foley also discussed the house

arrest system. She said the city has two house arrest bracelets, which are an option for people sentenced to serve jail time. The bracelets require payment up front, and Foley said a payment plan would make them more accessible.

A motion was made to offer a payment plan for the house arrest bracelets. Vote taken, motion passed.

Foley said many people choose jail time over being under house arrest because it is free. She said she wanted to offset the difference by charging \$52 a day to people incarcerated in the county jail. City Attorney Karen Griffiths said she would have to research that before it could be voted on.

• Snyder made a motion to approve the purchase of a building from KowPoke for the water treatment plant. Lawson said it would be similar to a carport. The cost was estimated at \$3,900. Vote taken, motion passed.

• Corina Cox, Northwest Kansas Planning and Development, was present to hold the public hearing for the CDBG grant.

The grant will fund a new fire truck, a project that is estimated to cost \$331,700. There were no public comments.

• A motion was made to approve a \$500 donation to the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce's July 4 fireworks display. Vote taken, motion passed.

• A motion was made to go into executive session for 15 minutes to include the mayor, city attorney, city administrator and city clerk. Vote taken, motion passed. The council returned to open meeting with no action taken.

The next Norton City Council meeting will be held June 16 in the city office.

County

(Continued from Page 1) we can pick and choose. We have not enjoyed what the state has done to our funding. This is not going to get easier," Miller said.

The commissioners said the four day week was a trial, and they want to know what does and does not work.

Railsback said it has impacted his personal life because he has to be at work by 7 and can't take his kids to daycare that early.

He presented the commission with a petition signed by several employees to reinstate the five day work week.

The commission discussed the issue before Applegate made a motion to discontinue the four day work week. Vote taken, mo-

tion passed.

In other commission business:

• Norton County Treasurer Cynthia Linner reported on county taxes.

• Tom Brannan, Road and Bridge supervisor, gave his weekly report. He said the sign machine is up and running.

• Norton County Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald gave his weekly report.

• Gina Frack, Norton County Health Department administrator, said the Kansas Department of Health and Environment is redistributing H1N1 funds that were not used. She said \$6,000 is up for grabs.

The next Norton County Commissioners meeting will be held

June 14 at 9 a.m. on the second floor of the Norton County Court-

house. The meeting is open to the public.

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NCF

(Continued from Page 1) They can hold up to six people.

The Department of Wildlife and Parks has the contract for the cabins, which cost an estimated \$30,000 in materials per cabin, he said.

Prairie Dog State Park Manager Toby Kuhn said the park currently has two primitive cabins, and the two modern cabins will be installed on the road going towards the public fishing dock. The first cabin was installed several weeks ago, but it has not been hooked up with utilities.

Kuhn said a contractor will finish the utility work. Each cabin will have a water line, he said.

"We'll have a total of four cab-

ins. They'll be open year-round," Kuhn said.

Kuhn said he wasn't sure when the cabins would be open. The contractor has to finish their work before Wildlife and Parks can pour concrete for patios and do other maintenance.

Prairie Dog's four cabins, primitive and modern, will be open year-round.

"They're going to be very popular based on the number of calls we've received," Kuhn said.

Jansonius said there are currently two more cabins under construction. One will go to Webster, and the next two will go to Jamestown.

JENNINGS NEWS

By LOUISE CRESSLER
Keli Kleidosty, Kehaha, Hawaii, is visiting a week with her parents, Doyle and Kay Brown.

Because of Bible School being held the week of June 1, the United Methodist Women will be going to visit Cedar Living Center on Tuesday, June 8, instead of June 2.

Refreshments will be furnished by Kay Brown and Lila Jennings.

Matt Hall, Brighton, Colo., visited Sunday and Monday with his mother, Pat Hall and grandmother, Violet Foster.

The Alumni Banquet was enjoyed by many former graduates. A delicious meal was catered by Leanna Sloan and crew from Hoxie.

Adance was held in the Community Hall following the banquet. The band "Clueless" played.

We had beautiful weather over the weekend for the Memorial

services at the Big Timber and at the Jennings cemetery.

A light breeze blowing the American flags was very impressive.

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Coins Sell at 9:00 a.m.

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Tobacco Twist Small Table Baby Bed
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Sellers Kitchen Cabinet with Flour Bin
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DISHES:
Several Tea Pots 6 Cookie Jars
Amber Sal & Pepper Amber Salt Cellars
Bird Figurines 12 Salt & Pepper Sets
Frankoma Platter Mexican Chip & Dip Set
Miniature Chicken On Nest Amber Cake Plate
14 Amber Madrid Plates Pressed Glass Bowls
Dish Set made in Italy 10" Open Lace Bowl
Amber Hobnail Butter Dish Royal Copley Bird
9 Pieces Amber Moon & Stars Items
12 Clear Tierra Assorted Sizes
12 Amber Madrid Cup & Saucers
10 Pieces Green Dishes
3 Viking Red Glass Pieces
2 Forrest Green Cups
Amber Refrigerator Dish
4 Pink Fostoria Glasses
2 Pink Sandwich Glasses
Several Milk Glass Pieces
Modern Carnival Water Pitcher
Clear Daisy, Sandwich & Oyster Shell Bowls
Knowles Utility Ware Casserole, & 2 Bowls

LISLE SPECIALTY TOOLS:
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AUTOMOTIVE TOOLS, SPECIALTY TOOLS & CHEMICALS:
Auctioneer notes: I have allotted about 2 1/2 hours to sell the following items. We will sell these while another ring is selling the dishes and household. I estimate these items will begin to sell about 11:00 A.M.

From Peterson Manufacturing:
2 Stop Turn & Tail Lights #26KR, 2 Stop and Turn Lights #426R, 2 Stop Turn & Tail Light #V440L, 2 Clearance Marker Lights #136A, 2 Clearance Lenses #134 15A, 2 Replacement Lenses #108 15R, 2 Replacement Lenses #107 15R, 2 Clearance Marker Lights #V135A, 2 Replacement Lenses #V440-5, 2 License Plate Light #V435, 2 Clearance Lights #150A, 2 3" Reflector #V472R, Universal Stop & Turn #V306R, 2 2 1/2" Marker Lights #142A, Tail Light Plugs #431-491, Stop Tail and Turn Lights #V445, Universal Trailer Lighting Kit #V540, 4 Cans Tar Sap & Bug Remover, 6-BH410T Rescue Cables, 37 Asst. Nylon Electrical Wire Ties 1/2" & 3/4" Split Loom, 2-3 Wire Trailer Wiring, 1- 4 Wire Trailer Wiring, Assortment of 18Ga to 10 Ga Primary Wire, Assortment of Toggle Switches, Assortment of Automotive Light Sockets, Assortment of Wire Terminals, 4 Cans starting Fluid, 2 Tire Sealer, 1 Quick Flat Fix Inflator, 3 Power Steering Fluids, 2 Transmission Fluids, Automatic Transmission Fluid Modifier, Valvoline Lubricant, Cooling system Cleaner, 4 Cooling System Seal Minute, 2 #7 Cooling System Sealer, 2 Zecol Cooling System Conditioner, 6 Engine Restorer 4,6,8 Cylinder, 2 Foaming engine Degreaser, 2 Wasp & Hornet Killer, 3 Marvel Mystery Oils, 4 Luberplate Tubes #105, Luberplate Tubes 90 Gear Oil, Luberplate Tubes Automotive Grease, Lava Heavy Duty Hand Cleaner, 1 Case Luberplate Gun Grease, 2 CFL Oils, 2 AP 80, AP 75 Gear Lubes, 4 Silco Diesel Fuel, 2 Diesel Fuel Water Removers, Permatex Hydraulic Jack Oil, Luberplate Hydraulic Jack Oil, Lubguard Biotex Engine Protection, Lubguard Automatic Transmission Protection, Lubguard Power Steering Fluid Protection, Gasoline Antifreeze, WD40 Bonus Pack, 4 Spray Cans WD40, 3 Bumper Hitches, Gallon Go Jo Cleaner, 4 Rislone Oil Additives, Fast Orange Wipes, 2 Xtremem Tapes, 2 Air Condition Stop Leak, 25Ft. Trouble Light, Body soap Brush, 3 Fram Sure Drain Oil Plugs, 3 Permatex Blue Silicone Gas-kets, 2 Permatex Tack & Seal Sealant, Right Stuff Installer Gasket System, 6 - 15" Tie Down Straps, 4 - 31" Tie Down Straps, 6 Thread Lockers, 2 Blue RTV Sealants, 2 Black Sealants, 3 Cans Die Brake Quiet, 2 Muffler Cement, 2 Brake Fluid Cleaner, 2 Gasket Removers, 2 Right Stuff Gasket Makers, Diesel Engine Starting Fluid, 5 Multi Purpose Super Lubes, 2 Quick Gels, 2 Thread Locks, 4 Gasoline Antifreezes, 1 - 10 Piece T-Handle Hex Key Wrenches.

HOUSEHOLD ACCESSORIES:
Indian Scene Touch Lamp Water Cooler
20 Picture Frames Air Conditioner

KITCHEN ITEMS:
Stovetop Popcorn Popper Utensils
Cherry Pitter Meat Grinder Clear Jars
Blue Jars with snap on Glass Tops
Flatware White Rock BMS Solid Plume
Pyrex & Fireking Measuring Cups

LINENS:
6 Round Small rag rugs, Pillows, 2 Bambino Gunny Sacks

GAMES & PAPER PRODUCTS:
Poker Chips
Hard Back Books
Well Used Tonka Toys
Tinker Toys
Cast Iron Tractor with Lug Wheels
Johnny Lighting Diecast 9-23 Toy
Large Collection (new) Die Cast Toys
Dolls including Indian
Road Master Red Wagon
Large Collection Valentines

FARM ITEMS:
2 Anderson Box Chicken Waters
Chicken Feeders

TOOLS:
Tool Chest Extension Ladder
18 Drawer Bolt Bin Small Table Saw
2 Cross Cut Saws Shucking Hooks
Extension Cords Hand Saws

YARD ITEMS:
Hudson Trombone Tree Sprayer
Hand Grass Seeder Weed Whips




There will be something for Everyone!

SPECIAL CONSIGNMENT BY BOBBY ANNON
For Sale Around 2:30 p.m.:
Auctioneer Notes: These are sure nice items that Bobby has consigned. There are sought after brands! 2 Pocket Watches, 2 Leather Small Bags, 19 Bullet Pencils & Small Ball Point Pens, 2 Shells, Stamps, 10 Advertising Knives & Cutters, 9 Razor Boxes, 15 Straight Edge Razors (Name Brands), 32 Knives (Name Brands) Wire Rim Glasses in Mason Of Norton Case, 3 Arrow Heads, 14 Hunting Knives in Cases, Large Assortment of Kitchen and Other Knives.

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AUCTIONEER NOTES. This is the sale to attend if you are needing any repairs, chemicals, specialty tools, regular tools or just want to add to the "what if" car necessities. The coins are worth your while to see what is offered. The Annon consignment is one that you will not want to overlook and the balance of the sale finds some very nice collectible, antique and useful items. We will run two rings following the coins to keep everyone satisfied so come early and go home happy!

1-5 6-4-10 Front.indd 2

6/4/10 8:47:18 AM