

200 people support bill

On Friday, the Kansas Chamber and Kansas Building and Construction Trades Councils organized a rally of nearly 200 concerned citizens, including senators, representatives and other key leaders to demonstrate their support for a comprehensive energy bill. This bill will stimulate Kansas' economy, restore confidence in its regulatory environment, enhance energy independence, pump millions of dollars into the local and state economies and create thousands of new jobs.

Last month, the Comprehensive Energy Bill (House Substitute for HB2014) easily passed the Kansas State House and State Senate with bi-partisan support, but was vetoed by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

"An overwhelming and bi-partisan majority of Kansas Legislators cast their vote in favor of a clear and consistent regulatory environment," said Amy Blankenbiller, president of the Kansas Chamber. "Kansans can take pride in the effective leadership demonstrated by the Kansas Legislature in making our state a

better place to work, live and do business."

House substitute for HB2014 implements energy efficiency provisions, promotes renewable and alternative sources of energy and establishes regulatory standards to help businesses, communities and other stakeholders make sound investment decisions to restore financial strength.

There are nearly 100,000 Kansans without a job, up from 62,000 a year ago. The state has not seen this high of an unemployment rate since 1983.

"It's critical to focus on economic development and to grow our economy. Policymakers from Topeka to Washington recognize the importance investments in our infrastructure have on our economy," said Senator Sam Brownback. "The Kansas Legislature's decisive action on this energy bill is a great step forward that won't unfairly burden taxpayers or be passed on to future generations."

Contrary to statements from critics, House Substitute for HB2014 does preserve the emergency authority of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment when there is an imminent threat to the health and safety of Kansans.

The Kansas Legislature is expected to vote to override the governor's veto of House Substitute for HB2014 by May 13.

STEPS

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No decision was made.

The final bid for replacing the steps and other related work came in at \$135,900, which was \$139,061 lower than the other bid submitted by Schamber Historic Preservation, Damar.

The original cost of the project was estimated to be \$97,980, with a Heritage Trust Fund grant for \$78,384 to cover the majority of the costs. The county would pick up the remaining \$19,596.

With the higher bid, now, the county is faced with paying \$41,520.

This time, said Andy Beikman, commissioner, we want it done right!

Greg Kite, Wichita, a former resident of St. Francis and president of the Wichita Historic Preservation Alliance of Wichita and Sedgwick County, had originally written for the grant. Following the progress of the commissioners and clerk, he wrote the Kansas State Historical Society asking that the society consider giving an additional \$11,758 to help with the cost.

As you can see, said Mr. Kite in his letter to the Society, this has been a long and tedious effort by the county clerk, commissioners, as well as the architect. They have opted, not for a quick fix or to cut corners, but to have this project achieve a result that is as close as possible to the original plans.

The steps to the courthouse have been closed for over two years after the insurance company deemed them unsafe. The new steps are expected to be ready for use by July 1, if not sooner.



ESTATE PLANNING workshop was held at the Good Samaritan Village Monday evening. Three lawyers, Kari Gilliland, Mike Day and Jim Milliken, talked about Medicare, Medicaid, wills and trusts to around 25 people.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

FLU

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initiated their Hospital Incident Command System. This is an incident management system based on the Incident Command System that assists hospitals in improving their emergency management planning, response and recovery capabilities for unplanned and planned events. The hospital incident command system will strengthen hospital disaster preparedness activities in conjunction with community response agencies and allow hospitals to understand and assist in implementing certain guidelines.

This system involves an incident commander, public information officer, safety officer, liaison officer, operations section chief, planning section chief, logistics section chief and finance section chief. The number of supplies (masks, gowns, gloves), number of employees that are available or those down sick, the number of beds available are all things that are kept track of and reported at the briefings, along with what is taking place outside our area. Those that are traveling to Mexico or coming back from that area or states that have confirmed cases are all being monitored as well.

Presumptively confirmed

The term "presumptively confirmed" means that while tests performed at the state public health laboratory have indicated the presence of the epidemic strain, the results have not yet been verified by the center of disease control. There have been reports of some more of these in Kansas this week.

The Cheyenne County Health Department officials went into the grade school and high school at St. Francis and Bird City last week. They talked to the kids about how important hand washing is to staying healthy.

Symptoms

The symptoms of H1N1 flu virus in humans are similar to the symptoms of seasonal flu and include:

- Fever greater than 100 degrees.
- Body aches.
- Coughing.
- Sore throat.
- Respiratory congestion.
- In some cases, diarrhea and

vomiting.

As with the normal flu, doctors encourage everyone to take the following steps to reduce the chance of spread:

- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and warm water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer to get rid of most germs and avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Stay home when sick to avoid spreading illness to co-workers and friends.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue and properly dispose of used tissues.
- Stay healthy by eating a balanced diet, drinking plenty of water and getting adequate rest

and exercise.

"The state and local public health professionals, together with Kansas health care providers, have been preparing and training for the arrival of a new flu virus in our communities for years," said Mrs. Blanka.

Working with colleagues at the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, they will monitor the activity of this new infectious agent and take all the necessary steps to curtail its spread.

"Your role in this is critical: to remain informed, to consult your health care provider if you become ill, and to follow the advice you receive on ways to protect your community," she concluded.

Farmers may enroll in crop revenue plan

Angie Berens, County Executive Director of the county Farm Service Agency has announced that producers can elect and enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election program now. This program is a provision of the 2008 Farm Bill.

"The Average Crop Revenue Election program is an innovative alternative to the traditional farm safety," she said. "This new option presents an opportunity for producers to review both programs and decide which one will work best for their operation."

Producers have until Aug. 14 to make their decision for the 2009 crop. The Agriculture Department will not accept any late-filed applications.

Producers who elect this program for a farm agree to:

- forgo counter-cyclical payments;
- accept a 20-percent reduction of the direct payments; and
- accept a 30-percent reduction in loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm.

The program was created in the 2008 Farm Bill to give producers an option in lieu of traditional counter-cyclical payments.

"The Average Crop Revenue

Election program pays out if both the farmer and the state have a loss on a particular crop" said Mrs. Berens.

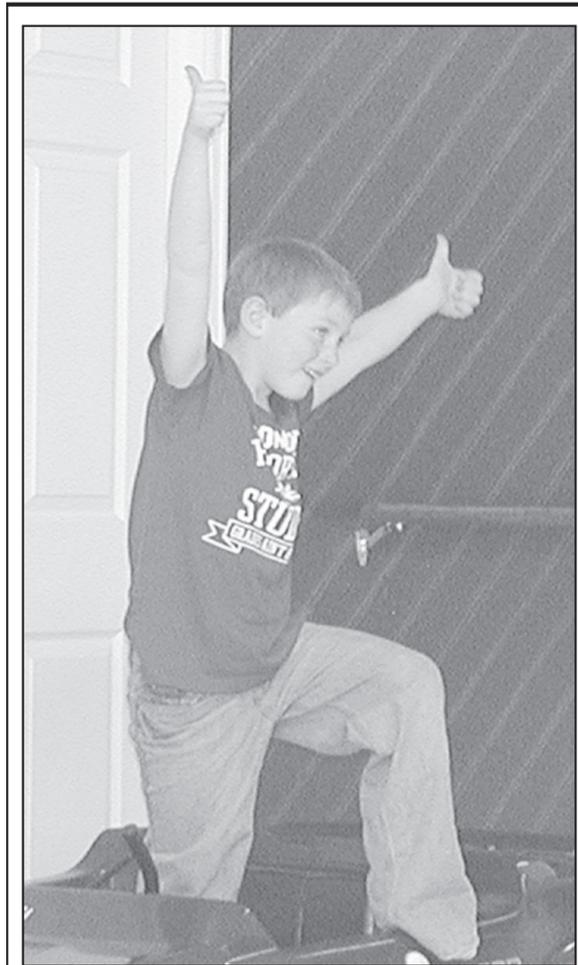
Producers may elect and enroll in this program for the 2009 crop year even if they have already accepted advance direct payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

Commodities eligible for Average Crop Revenue Election payments are wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, soybeans, sunflower seed, flaxseed, dry peas, lentils, and small and large chickpeas.

To elect this program for a farm, producers must complete Form CCC-509 ACRE, which irrevocably elects this program for the farm through crop year 2012. Form CCC-509, the contract to participate in the program, must then be completed each year the producer intends to participate and receive benefits.

For more information about the Average Crop Revenue Election program please visit the local Farm Service Agency county office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Call the office at 785-332-2183 for an appointment to sign up.



BRADY DINKEL will be one of the performers at the Dance Ranch Recital starting at 2 p.m. at the St. Francis High School.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

SHOW

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Games

Games will be held from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the basketball court and park across the street at the grade school. There will be games for the young to adults.

Games include: Plinko, beanbag toss, nuts and bolts, basketball, and the tire and alternator throw.

People can purchase a score card for \$5 and be eligible to win \$100. Cards need to be turned in to the registration table by 2:30 p.m.

Registration for Chicken Bingo begins at 2:45 and the entertainment begins at 3 p.m. in the band shell.

Sales

There will be a flea market at the 300 block of South Benton on both Friday and Saturday. They open at 8 a.m. and close at 4 p.m.

both days.

G.A.M. Antiques and Collectibles, in conjunction with the car show, will be taking 10 percent off storewide both Friday and Saturday. The store is located on U.S. 36, St. Francis.

The people mover will also be available to take people to the flea market.

Only a few rules

The Cruiser members are asking that no one ride skate boards or bikes near the show vehicles. People have invested a lot of time and money in the vintage vehicles and do not want them scratched nor dented.

Members also ask that there be no alcohol in the Sawhill Park area.

"Join us for a day of fun in the park," said Scott Schultz, coordinator.

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