



NOTES FROM THE RANGE

November 18, 2013



In the past 30 days...

Issued a call to action for the creation of a 50-year vision for water usage in Kansas.

Began a new program to help at-risk children develop reading skills

Celebrated the official opening of the new BNSF logistics facility in Edgerton.

Discussed opportunities at the Hispanic Business Forum and Women & Minority Business Conference

Communicating with Kansans

Welcome to the first issue of “Notes from the Range” a newsletter to help keep Kansans informed on issues important to all of us.

Kansas is moving forward and we are planning for a bright future. Most recently, I have issued a challenge for a 50-year water vision to protect one of our most vital resources – water. We have seen 44,800 new jobs created in Kansas in the past three years (Bureau of Labor Statistics) and begun a new “Reading Road Map” designed to help at risk children develop the reading skills vital to their success in school and in life.

We are working hard to make Kansas a better place for all Kansans.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter. I may share personal stories from time to time to provide some personal insight so you get to know me, not as Governor, but as the guy who grew up on the family farm and can’t think of a greater place to live than here in Kansas.

Introducing Brant Laue, Chief Counsel

On Nov. 4, 2013 Brant Laue became Chief Counsel to the Governor’s Office.

Laue is a native Kansan, born in Hanover where his family’s ranch is located. Laue Charolais Ranch is one of the Midwest’s oldest purebred Charolais cattle breeding establishments.

Laue is a 1986 graduate of the Cornell Law School in Ithaca, New York. After graduation he clerked for the

Honorable Roger L. Wollman, Circuit Judge in the Eighth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in South Dakota and served as Special Assistant to the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division, in the U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

Most recently he was partner with Armstrong Teasdale LLP, Kansas City.

Pictures From the Road



September 11 remembrance event in Ft. Scott.
Flags remind us of the lives lost that day.



Visiting Syracuse in Hamilton County to talk with residents.



Just a few of the many people who joined me in paddling the Kaw, a designated national water trail.



Lt. Governor Jeff Colyer, M.D., testifies in Washington DC on Sept. 18. See story below.

A Message From the Lt. Governor on Health Care

In September, I testified before a joint U.S. Congressional committee about how the Affordable Care Act, more commonly known as Obamacare, will cost Kansas businesses and families. More recently, I was asked to address the Oklahoma Health & Human services Committee to discuss challenges states are facing in dealing with Medicaid.

In the short time since the ACA became active, we have seen just some of the challenges facing states, and their citizens.

Millions of people are having insurance plans canceled because they do not meet the requirements set forth in the ACA and additionally they find they cannot keep their doctor as they were promised.

No matter how you feel about Obamacare, everyone expects their tax dollars to be spent honestly.

Medicaid spending is at the heart of state budget deficit issues and at the same time Medicaid recipients often have poor outcomes. States have not had strategic control of Medicaid and there has been little accountability.

In Kansas we are leveraging private sector experience and innovation while maintaining policy and hands-on oversight of the Kansas Medicaid program to ensure improved patient outcomes and a sustained growth rate.