



NOTES FROM THE RANGE

July 30, 2014



Helping Kansas children learn to read

- About 120 Wyandotte County children participate in the KidzLit program at their local Boys & Girls Club.
- The program helps children improve both reading and social skills.
- KidzLit is part of the Kansas Reading Roadmap, a whole-school approach to promoting third-grade reading.
- The Boys and Girls Clubs implement KidzLit, an out-of-school reading program funded through and supported by the Department for Children and Families.

Education bill brings property tax relief to Kansans

As parents and children begin their preparations for the upcoming school year, local school boards are crafting their budgets and examining the impact of the \$129 million school finance bill on their districts.

The legislation included \$84 million in property tax relief for homeowners and businesses across Kansas — the largest property tax reduction in more than 15 years.

Over the next 30 days, local school boards in Olathe, Topeka, Wichita, Fort Scott, Newton, Pittsburg, and many other communities, are expected to approve significant mill levy decreases in their districts.

We expect that the majority of our 286 Kansas public school districts will realize mill levy reductions.

These local mill levy reductions will provide welcome relief for many Kansans after the average statewide local mill levy rose sharply from 2008 to 2010.

When I was sworn in as Governor in 2011, my highest priority was to help the hardworking men and women of Kansas keep more of their hard-earned money and this legislation does just that.

On July 29, I met with business owners and residents in Olathe and Topeka to hear direct from them how they are benefiting from this property tax relief.

The owners of Canyon Stone, Inc. in Olathe noted that in addition to the direct property tax relief, their business will see additional benefit as other businesses recognize savings and demand for their construction product increases.

In Topeka, business owners and retirees emphasized the importance of property tax relief to them as many are on a fixed income. They said they were grateful the legislature passed HB2506 and that it was signed into law.

Sam Brownback

U.S. Soccer training center coming to Kansas City area

Project will bring \$1 billion economic impact

Governor Sam Brownback joined Sporting Club, the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and representatives from Schlitterbahn Water Park and EPR Properties in announcing the development of a U.S. Soccer National Training Center complex in Kansas City, Kan.

The \$75-plus million facility will house the National Training and Coaching Development Center, an elite athlete training and performance analytics campus and national youth soccer development programs. It will provide a world-class environment to develop players, coaches and referees of all ages.

The complex will also feature a 125-room full-service hotel.

“The state’s strong economy and Kansas City’s reputation as a tremendous soccer city helped attract this state-of-the-art facility. As a result, our state will benefit from new jobs, investment and an economic impact that is projected to exceed \$1 billion.”

Governor Sam Brownback

The facility also will include a climate-controlled indoor pavilion and specialized facilities tailored toward strength and nutrition, hydration, sports science and health and wellness.

The goal of the National Training and Coaching Development Center is to harness every resource available in order to execute U.S. Soccer’s vision and aid in an aggressive pursuit of success on the international stage.

“This is a great opportunity for us to continue to grow soccer in Kansas City and further establish being the soccer capital of America,” Sporting Club CEO Robb Heineman said. “To us, this is equivalent to bringing another sports franchise here, with the ultimate goal of helping the United States win the World Cup through youth soccer development, coaching training, advanced sports science and world-class facilities.”

Heineman thanked Governor Brownback, Secretary of Commerce Pat George, KCK Mayor Holland and the rest of the Unified Government for their efforts in a long and complex process, saying they are excited for the vision of the project that will help bring substantial economic development to the area.”

During the next 30 years, the National Training and Coaching Development Center is anticipated to have a total economic impact of more than \$1 billion for Kansas and Wyandotte County.



Governor Brownback talks with ESPN about the new training center, prior to the start of the Sporting KC and Manchester City match



Hostess Expansion — Congratulations to Hostess in Emporia, celebrating a major expansion of its facility, growing and creating more jobs.



Rewarding Readers — First Lady Mary Brownback fulfilled the Governor's promise to reward Leavenworth's Summer Boost campers with ice cream if they read through the summer.



The Kansas Guard — Always an honor to meet with members of the Kansas National Guard. Visiting just before the Dodge City Days parade.



Ribbon Cutting — Cutting the ribbon to officially open the 60th annual 3I Show in Dodge. A great event.



U. S. Soccer National Training Center announcement — Governor Brownback, second from left, was joined by Sporting Club CEO Robb Heineman (left) Kansas City Kansas Mayor Mark Holland, CEO of EPR Properties David Brain and Gary Henry, representing the owners of Schlitterbahn, in announcing the decision by U.S. Soccer to locate its National Training Center in the KCK area.