

Candidate visits with Nortonites

By VERONICA MONIER

Gubernatorial candidate Jim Barnett feels he can help Kansas, if elected on Nov. 7. He is running against incumbent Kathleen Sebelius.

Mr. Barnett, who was in Norton last Thursday at the courthouse, said he has solid ideas that will help the state.

"The State of Kansas is at a crossroads," he said. "Kansans need someone who will be a leader — whether the issue is the economy, school finance or illegal immigration.

"I am offering credible plans for those areas."

For the economy, Mr. Barnett said they need to focus on getting business to come to Kansas and stay, encourage biofuels and wind energy, and fund research dealing with crops and water.

He said he has what he calls a "common-sense" tax relief plan, which includes reducing the Kansas income tax for all taxpayers by a minimum of 20 percent; increasing the tax deduction for dependents to \$2,750; providing a 10 percent tax credit for business investment to stimulate job growth; and eliminating the death tax.

The estate tax, or death tax, is more of a hindrance than a help, he said.

"A lot of people move elsewhere, so they don't have the cost of the death tax," he said. "Businesses pay hundreds or thousands of dollars for insurance to protect them from the estate tax. Rather than spending all that money on insurance, they should be able to put it back into their business."

Mr. Barnett said he was a big believer in giving tax credits to those who are doing something to help. In the Legislature, he said he helped push through tax credits for businesses who would start offering health insurance.

As for biofuels, he said the state is behind and needs to catch up. "There are many things out there that we can do to lower our dependence on foreign oil, including using corn and soy and wind energy. Hydrogen increasing the water supply is another thing he would like to see more research on in Kansas.

For school finance, he said the plan he proposed would cost \$495 million, which would fund a four-year plan without tax increases or using state-owned gambling.



Gubernatorial candidate Jim Barnett stopped by the courthouse in Norton last Thursday to make his pitch and let people know what he stands for. Mr. Barnett faces Gov. Kathleen Sebelius in the Nov. 7 election.

"The plan the Governor signed doesn't have the funding it needs," he said. "It puts us in debt and we've already dug a deep hole. Kansas needs someone to help economic growth so we can pay for our needs."

As a physician, he said he has treated too many patients with gambling addictions to endorse it. State-owned gambling will open the door to more political corruption.

"I don't think Kansans want car dealers and pit bosses on the state

payroll," he said. "I oppose it. We need to focus on the economy, not take our eyes away from it with something like this."

Mr. Barnett said he believes that Kansas can do more to discourage illegal immigrants from coming here. He said he doesn't support giving driver's licenses to illegal immigrants, nor does he support offering illegal immigrants taxpayer subsidized in-state tuition.

"I think we need English as our official language," he said. "And

that people should have proof of citizenship to vote."

He said the state needed to enter into a memorandum of understanding with federal agencies, so that local law enforcement can be trained in how to deal with illegal immigrants.

Lastly, he said businesses who knowingly hire illegal immigrants should be held accountable.

Mr. Barnett lives in Emporia with his wife, Yvonne. He practices internal medicine and she is a public school teacher.

He is serving his second term in the Kansas Senate and is chairman of the Public Health and Welfare Committee.

Kansas farmers eligible for disaster assistance

Farmers in 57 Kansas counties are now eligible to receive disaster assistance for losses suffered during this year's extreme weather.

Governor Kathleen Sebelius has announced the federal government has approved her Aug. 2 request for disaster relief.

"Kansas farmers have had a rough year, largely due to the drought and intense heat. That hurts crop yields, which is why I asked the federal government to provide this assistance to our farmers," Gov. Sebelius said.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture designated 57 Kansas counties primary natural disaster areas due to losses caused by the combined effects of various disasters that occurred during the past year, including a late spring freeze, drought, high winds and extreme temperatures. An additional 18 counties contiguous to the 57 counties are also eligible.

The declaration makes all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low interest emergency loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency, provided

eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses.

The counties eligible for assistance include: Barber, Barton, Cheyenne, Clark, Cloud, Comanche, Decatur, Edwards, Ellis, Ellsworth, Finney, Ford, Gove, Graham, Grant, Gray, Greeley, Hamilton, Harper, Haskell, Hodgeman, Jewell, Kearney, Kiowa, Lane, Lincoln, Logan, McPherson, Meade, Mitchell, Ness, Norton, Osborne, Ottawa, Pawnee, Phillips, Pratt, Rawlins, Republic, Rice, Rooks, Rush, Russell, Saline, Scott, Seward, Sheridan, Sherman, Smith, Stafford, Stanton, Stevens, Sumner, Thomas, Trego, Wallace, Woodson.

Counties also eligible because they are contiguous to these counties are: Allen, Anderson, Butler, Clay, Coffey, Cowley, Dickinson, Greenwood, Harvey, Kingman, Marion, Morton, Neosho, Reno, Sedgwick, Washington, Wichita, Wilson.

Bill highlights solutions to aid Kansas schools

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Jerry Moran has introduced legislation to provide sensible solutions to the challenges the No Child Left Behind Act has created. H.R. 6232, the Practicality in Education Act, will utilize common sense ideas to make NCLB more efficient and effective, he said.

"I continue to hear from Kansas taxpayers, parents and educators about the burdens of No Child Left Behind," Congressman Moran said. "This legislation takes a common sense approach to make this federal program more realistic and manageable."

In 2001, the congressman voted against No Child Left Behind for fear it would place unnecessary restrictions on Kansas schools and increase costs to Kansas taxpayers without a corresponding improvement in the quality of education children receive, he then said. Since its passage, he has had numerous discussions with students, teachers, administrators, state officials and Department of Education officials to determine what measures are needed to clean up some of the unintended consequences.

"It is important the No Child Left Behind legislation be updated to make it more equitable and fair

for all children and to reduce the paper shuffling for our teachers and administration," said Dale Dennis, Kansas Deputy Commissioner of Education.

The Practicality in Education Act places special emphasis on individual student progress and gives a more accurate picture of improvements and problem areas. It also allows schools identified as failing one additional year to improve before being labeled a failing school. Students are currently given the option to immediately transfer to a new school.

The legislation also provides states with the flexibility to consider special education and rural teachers who teach multiple academic subjects as "highly-qualified" in all subject areas if they meet certain requirements. This is particularly important in rural Kansas, where flexibility is needed in hiring school professionals who often teach several subjects and find it difficult to become certified in all areas, the congressman said.

This legislation also requires that limited English-speaking students must attend a U.S. school for two years before their scores count in the school's annual performance.

Childhood program gets health books

By ANGELA HAGER, Norton County Head Start teacher

The Head Start programs in the 12 Northwest Kansas counties have been chosen to participate in a grant program designed by the University of California/Las Angeles (UCLA) in conjunction with the Johnson and Johnson Company called The Health Care Institute.

Head Start is a federally-funded preschool program. The project is for Head Start families to promote the use of a health book called, "What To Do When Your Child Gets Sick." Each family involved

will receive the book at a fund training in October.

The hope is that the use of this resource book will aid parents in the care of their children's minor illnesses and injuries at home without having to make unnecessary trips to the clinic or emergency room. After the Head Start staff provides the training to parents, there will be a time for follow-up to see how the program has changed the way families react to their children's illnesses. Community members and businesses are invited to support this great opportunity by donating health care in-

formation, or products to their local Head Start program.

Anyone interested in supporting the Healthcare Institute or enrolling their child in the Head Start preschool program may call 785-877-2537 or call the center at 785-877-2730.

Other funding supporters of the program are: Centene Foundation for Quality Health Care; First Guard Health Plan; Kansas Division of Health Policy; Kansas Department of Health and Environment; Kansas Head Start Association; and Head Start Collaboration Office.

Norton Schools Staff Spotlight

Classified Employee



Donna Tanner

Mrs. Donna Tanner is a bus driver for USD 211 and is in her 20th year as a bus driver. She and her husband, Steve, have three grown sons Jason, Chris and Tim and three, soon to be four, grandchildren. Mrs. Tanner has many interests and not enough spare time to pursue them all; she likes to garden, and paint. She is an outdoor person who loves to work with animals. What she likes best about her job are the relationships she has developed with some of her bus students that continue even though some of them are now grown.

Certified Employee



Teresa Schulze

Mrs. Teresa Schulze is the 5th and 6th grade science teacher at EES. Mrs. Schulze has taught for nine years, seven of them in Norton. She is married to Brandon Schulze and earned her Bachelor's Degree from Kansas State University. She lists reading and cross stitching as her two most favorite hobbies. Getting to work with her students in "hands on" activities is what she likes best about teaching.

All Grown Up?

but, not too old for a booster seat!

Too Big for a Booster? Children ages 4 to 8 are generally too small for adult safety belts (which lay incorrectly on their necks and along their stomachs). These kids need a "boost" to ensure the safety belt will fit low and snug across their hips and securely across their chests —to help prevent internal injuries, neck, head and spinal injuries, and even ejection and death in the event of a crash. Sadly an estimated 80 to 90 percent of children who should use a booster seat do not.

It's the law! Kansas Legislation now requires that children use a booster seat unless they meet one of the following criteria: **8 years old, 80 pounds or 4'9" tall.** If your child doesn't meet one of these three criteria he or she must use a booster seat—it's the law!

For more information on booster seats and infant/toddler car seats contact the WCK Smart Start program at (785) 623-2400.



Booster Seats ~ Kids should never outgrow safety!

