

Congressional candidates pay visit to the county fair

(Continued From Page 1)
 nity better government and sincerity." Cobb said. "I believe in Win-Win solutions, best results and best solutions, are the only answer to problems."
 "I have been involved in leadership positions with the American Red Cross Sunflower Chapter in McPherson, the International Chess Institute of the Midwest in Lindsborg, McPherson Museum and Arts Foundation, McPherson Chamber of Commerce and McPherson County Bar Association."

Ward Cassidy
 "If we don't all stand up to protect our northwest Kansas way of life," Cassidy said, "we will have to take what is dished out."
 "We need to find a way to eliminate some of those taxes and help businesses," he said, "We are going to have less services, which include the cuts in education, medical and senior services."
 "I intend to be a strong voice in the House."

LYLE NEWS

Last Tuesday, June Jolly came to Lyle to sew and nobody was there to help, and there was nothing to 'sew up.' The rest of us had decided it was too muddy to drive and had called it off. We thought we didn't have her new phone number, but found later that I did. Her wheat was up to 80 percent hauled out, but thanks to hail insurance, she will be all right. She played cards at McCook on Friday.

Margaret "Toots" Magers' daughter, Jane, took her to Denver on Wednesday to the home of Pam and Mike Hornungs, who took them to the airport the next day. They flew to Minneapolis, Minn., to visit Kevin and Catherine Engelhardt. She got to visit Red Wing, Minn., where they make Red Wing Crockery, and the largest Mall (Is it in the world or just the United States?). She said she never saw more beautiful scenery, etc. They got home Tuesday.

Kathy Van Meter is a great-grandmother again, twice. Lydia Grace Van Meter arrived March 10 to Julia and Nathan Van Meter

of Venice, Neb. Grandparents are Steve and Julie Van Meter of Gibbon, Neb. Greyson Aaron Westerbeck was born April 11 to Brad and Mandy Westerbeck of Rome, Ga. Grandparents are Steve and Julia Van Meter. These babies are the great-grandchildren of the late Dale Van Meter.

Kathy reported 3 1/2 inches of rain with hail. The siding on her home at Lyle was damaged but no windows were broken.

Sheryl Patterson took Carol Moye and I to Atwood on Saturday, June 26, to a memorial service for our sister, Bonnie Klein, who had lived there several years before moving to Cocoa, Fla., to be with her daughter, Shelley Van Gundy. Family members from Florida were Shelley; her daughters, Marcie and Sara, their husbands and children; Dena Klein; Lori and Gene Gallentine from California; Leland and Twila Vernon of Arvada, Colo., and Larry Vernon of Denver. The members and friends of the Kingdom Hall in Atwood served a wonderful lunch for us, giving us a lovely, cool place to

relax and visit. After lunch, most of the young people went to the Lyle Cemetery, and then to "Pondstock," a music concert where their cousin, Dwight Wood had a part. Dwight was happy to see them and introduced them to the crowd. Teresa and Denny said the "Prairie Dogs" were very good. Actually, they said 'great,' but I hate to brag too much.

Twila is really doing well, but didn't want to get too tired, so went back to Denver. She is to have eye surgery, not cataract, but the doctors feel it should help her to see better. We hope and pray it will be very successful.

Gene Gallentine is the son of Pete Gallentine, who used to have a pool hall in Norcat. I remember Gene's mother had the reddest hair I ever saw, and Lori said she still does, and she is over 90. Lori and he met in California. It was a case of "Where are you from?"

"A little place in Kansas. Have you ever heard of....."
 It is a small world!

Long Island News

By WILMA VAHLE

Long Island Library Board Chairman, Patricia Hammond called the meeting to order. Members present were Charlene Ross, Pauline Kaiser, Jeniece Schemper, Wilma Vahle and Librarian, Beth Ponstein.

The treasurer's report was given and approved. Expenses for the summer reading program were paid. The minutes of June were read and approved.

Several items were discussed under old business. The tables for the Community Center still need to be purchased. Beth reported that Better World Books will be taking some of the books she has culled.

Six people attended the last scrap booking session which was held July 16 and 17. The August session will be held on the 20th and 21st. If you are interested in these informative and entertaining sessions, please contact Pat Hammond.

Beth Ponstein advised that yellow stickers have been placed on the large print books which have been integrated into the general book population. Be sure and look for these on your next visit.

There were 15 children present for the final session of the summer reading program. They enjoyed water games and treats.

Central Kansas Library System now has a license which will enable our library to show videos to the public without having to pay a fee. A DVD player will be purchased and the library will look for opportune times to have an evening "movie" presentation. An

after school movie for the children may also be a possibility.

The library is still interested in displaying interesting collections. At present Pauline Kaiser's collection of bells is being shown. If anyone would like to share their craft or collection, please contact Beth Ponstein or any board member.

Long Island United Methodist Church United Methodist Women Sunday was held July 11. President Connie K. Cox opened the service with the greeting and announcements, the call to worship and opening prayer.

Our guest speaker was a former pastor of our church, Rev. Shelly Cox Petz. We were blessed to have Roxanne Cox as our pianist and have Michelle Tharman sing a beautiful vocal solo.

The United Methodist Women Woman of the Year was Charlene Ross. Wilma Vahle gave a history of Charlene's service to the church and community and presented her pin.

Charlene was confirmed as a believer in Christ and became a member at age 11. She first joined United Methodist Women in 1968 and in the time since has held most of the offices in the organization from committee chairperson to President. She has been Children's Sunday school superintendent and taught all age groups except junior high. Charlene has been a Vacation Bible School coordinator, director of the Christmas program, Worship Committee chairman, served on the Scholarship committee and was Lay Leader for three years. When Doris Stump

retired, Charlene graciously consented to become our pianist and organist. She has also been active in many community organizations and has been a mentor to children at Northern Valley elementary school where she serves as a paraprofessional.

The highlight of the July 18 worship service was the baptismal service for Brogan McClain, son of Josh and Melissa.

Pastor Dean was in the hospital in Hays on July 25 so Craig Gebhard opened the service with the announcements, the call to worship and the opening prayer. Connie K. Cox gave an interesting message about Camp Lakeside and two programs which were held the week of July 19. Sports camp has grown from a few participants and counselors to about 60 eager young men and women. They were on site with the Rap N Rhythm camp which Connie and Becky Sadler have held for a number of years. Connie shared some of the music the kids learned for the program. She also related some touching stories of the spiritual growth that happen in the camp setting. Charlene Ross was our organist for the day.

There will be no church dinner following the August 1st worship service.

Family Reunion
 The descendents of Henry Casper and Minnie Vahle will meet at the Long Island Community Center on August 1, for a carry-in dinner at noon. Friends of the family are invited to drop by and visit after dinner.

Governor proud of Kansas budget solutions

By Mark Parkinson
 Governor

"I'm proud of how we have handled the budget crisis in Kansas. While many other states are just now making the tough decisions to balance their next year's budget, in Kansas we have already done so.

"I'm reluctant to write about the challenge that State government has faced in the recession, because I know it is nothing compared to what Kansas families and businesses have had to endure. Lost jobs, lost savings, lost businesses and sometimes, lost hope, are found all too often across the state. I'm very aware of this and praying for those who are facing difficult economic times.

"But the job of the Governor is to balance the budget and my goal was to develop a plan that would work for the next five years. Provided that we have normal economic growth, we've been successful in meeting that goal.

The Triple Whammy That Created Our Budget Challenge

"Our budget problem was the result of three factors, all of which converged on this fiscal year. Most people realize that the first is the recession. It resulted in much lower revenue for the state. To put this in perspective the state had never had more than one year in a row where we had declining revenue. We have now gone through three years of less revenue than the year before. This created an unprecedented challenge.

"The second factor is that we dramatically lowered State taxes during the 1990's and 2000's. You may be asking yourself what I'm talking about because you haven't noticed your taxes going down - and you'd be right. We lowered or eliminated taxes that most people don't pay. For example we eliminated the estate tax, we eliminated the franchise tax, and we eliminated the property tax on machinery used in manufacturing. These actions and others resulted in a loss of over \$1 billion to our revenue.

The third factor is that we were spending more money than we were taking in, even before the recession. This was principally because the legislature responded to a court ruling that required it to adequately fund Kansas schools, but failed to find the additional revenue to meet this requirement. So, for two years right before the recession we were spending \$500 million more than we were taking in.

"The bottom line is that we

would have had major budget problems even without the recession. With it, we had a real challenge on our hands.

How We Fixed It

"I want to avoid a long discussion of numbers because I realize it's hard to follow. But some general things will help. Our State General Fund budget was around \$6.4 billion. We had a \$1.3 billion shortfall. We filled the \$1.3 billion shortfall by making \$1 billion in cuts and raising \$300 million in revenue from a sales tax increase that will last three years.

"Obviously, my preference would have been to solve the entire shortfall with cuts. No one wants to raise taxes. But, after the fifth round of cuts, I became convinced that to cut any further would hurt our public schools, universities, public safety system, roads and safety net.

"Fortunately, 64 members of the Kansas House and 23 members of the Kansas Senate agreed with me. The result is that we balanced our budget for 2010 and now have a balanced budget heading into 2011. I view this as a significant competitive advantage over many states. While they are still in gridlock, or cutting, we protected what we have built up and are moving forward to the future.

The Tough Decisions Avoided a Financial Catastrophe

"There are some who argue that our \$1 billion in budget cuts went too far and others who believe that our \$300 million one-cent sales tax was unnecessary. What those critics fail to realize is that the cost of doing nothing, of delaying the tough decisions into the future, would be much worse.

"Many other states in the country have delayed these painful decisions and are just now starting to pay the price. Illinois is just one example. A July 2, 2010 New York Times article explains:

"Even by the standards of this deficit-ridden state, Illinois's comptroller, Daniel W. Hynes, faces an ugly balance sheet. Precisely how ugly becomes clear when he beckons you into his office to examine his daily briefing memo. He picks the papers off his desk and points to a figure in red: \$5.01 billion.

This is what the state owes right now to schools, rehabilitation centers, child care, the state university and it's getting worse every single day. This is not some esoteric budget issue; we are not paying bills for absolutely essential services. That is obscene."

"Unfortunately, Illinois is not alone. Last week I spent time

with the Governors from New York, Michigan, Washington, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. The stories were all the same - their budgets are out of balance and essential services of state government like schools and public safety will likely be cut severely.

When you look at the devastation these states will face and what Kansas could have faced, our decision to make deep cuts early and then modest revenue enhancements, appear to be good decisions.

What Can Derail This?

"There are two factors that could un-balance the budget. One would be dismal performance by the economy. We continue to do what we can to create economic growth in Kansas, but at some point we simply need the national economy to turn up. The second risk is the failure of Congress to provide us some additional aid that is known as the Federal Medicaid Assistance Program. Congress provided this aid to the states as part of the Recovery Act and it looked like it would provide additional aid this year. We reluctantly counted on getting this money, about \$130 million, in our 2011 budget. We only counted it after it had passed both the US House and US Senate. Unfortunately, it passed in different bills that now need to be reconciled. More unfortunate is that this issue has become political, delaying its ultimate passage. I'm continuing to lobby Congress to set politics aside and get this done for states.

Biggest Jobs Bill That I Can Remember

"In addition to how we handled the budget situation, what makes me most proud of the legislature is that we not only protected what our ancestors had built, but we passed legislation that moves us into the future. The most significant was the passage of a transportation plan that will build roads, maintain existing roads, work on railroad lines and airports all over the state. Not only will this create tens of thousands of jobs during the construction phases, it will create enduring economic development once the projects are complete.

"And just to top it off we also passed legislation that created a statewide public smoking ban, passed a bill that takes the first step in expanding insurance coverage to include autism, and ended a dispute that will result in nursing homes across the state receiving additional federal funding.

"It was a great session. As you learn about the incredible strug-

gles that most other states are having, I hope you take pride that in Kansas we have solved our budget challenge. The solution, however, is fragile. Under any scenario we need the economy to grow. Without growth even the best laid plans simply won't work.

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JOHN FABER

120th District Representative

It is an honor to represent you in Topeka. Our state is going through some challenging times but we are Kansans. We stick together, help each other out in times of need, and work to overcome the challenges we face. I look forward to continuing to put my years of experience to work on behalf of the voters of the 120th District.

John



About John Faber:

- Fifth generation farmer and rancher; lifelong resident of Rawlins County.
- Served in Viet Nam as a helicopter Crew Chief and earned a Bronze Star for heroism.
- He and Renee, his wife of 37 years, have three sons and seven grandchildren.

John Faber Believes in:

- Limited Government
- Individual Liberty
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Free Enterprise
- Traditional Family Values

Paid for by The Campaign to Elect John Faber to Topeka
 Ed Carson, Treasurer.