



## Sainty man plans to run for office

By Karen Krien

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At a meeting following the town hall meeting held in Bird City Sunday morning, Ward Cassidy, St. Francis, announced that he plans to run for Representative of the 120th District on the Republican ticket. The position is presently held by John Faber, Brewster.

He said he had been approached by groups from Decatur, Norton and Phillips counties, asking him to consider running because he is recognized throughout the area and they thought he will do a good job representing Northwest Kansas.

"I am pleased that these people feel I could be a candidate for the 120th District," he said. "I have been told that someone who

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Candidate Ward Cassidy

## District meeting set for Tuesday

The annual Cheyenne County Conservation District meeting and supper will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday in the cafeteria in the St. Francis High School.

Honored this year will be the Jon Waters, Ron and Beth Maifeld, and Ron and Bonnie Zwegardt, who are the Bankers Conservation Award winners. The Windbreak Award winners are Marty and Tammy Church, St. Francis. Others recognized at the meeting will be the winners of the poster contests.

The meeting is held each year to honor the men and women of the county who nurture, tend and care

for our most priceless resources — the land, windbreaks and wildlife habitats.

During the business meeting, there will be a report of finances and activities from the supervisors of the county's conservation district. The term of board member, Lonnie Willis, will be expiring and an election will be held.

Check the special Cheyenne County Conservation issue inserted in this week's issue of *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times*. Take special notice of the advertisers who helped make the section possible.



FOLLOWING THE TOWN MEETING at Bird City, Rob Schiltz, superintendent of the St. Francis Schools, left, talked to Sen. Ralph Ostmyer. In the background, Jeff Paulsen, administrator of the Good Samaritan Village, waits to talk.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Meeting draws huge crowd

By Linda Schneider and Karen Krien

It was a wake-up call for district legislators early Saturday morning in Bird City. The Bird City American Legion hall was packed with people standing in the back as around 300 gathered to show their concern about school and health care financing budget cuts being made by the state.

At the same time, everyone realized that the state is over \$400 million in the hole and there is no money. One of the speakers said this deficit didn't happen overnight, however, there needed to be a solution and people were looking at their legislators and the government to solve the mess they are in.

Schools and health care administrators have been making cuts

in order to keep programs and services and it is rumored that the state will continue to make cuts. The people gathering at the Legion hall were concerned, if not a little angry.

Cheyenne County residents from both St. Francis and Bird City began arriving and filling up the Bird City American Legion Hall long before Senator Ralph Ostmyer and Representative

John Faber made their appearances.

Sen. Ostmyer opened the meeting by saying he knew folks had a lot of questions to ask; however, he wanted to keep the meeting within the time limit to be able to get to the next meeting. In the end, the meeting ran over 10 minutes of the hour allotted.

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## Sweetheart couples win Valentine contest

By Karen Krien

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For the last three weeks, a ballot has appeared in *The Saint Francis Herald* allowing people to vote for their favorite married couple. Last year, there were around 125 ballots by the last day but, this year, the number was fewer but there were still plenty and two couples were deemed winners.

There were two divisions: 1) those married 50 years or less; and 2) those married 51 years or more. Winners were Robert and Gertie Zwegardt in the second division; and Mark and Gwen Keller in the first division.

Mr. and Mrs. Zwegardt received a Valentine's bouquet from Goodell Greenhouse and Floral and the Kellers received a bouquet from Prairie Rose Floral. (See the advertisement in this issue for the winners with their bouquets.)

This is the second year for the Valentine contest. There were 10 businesses participating: Goodell Greenhouse and Floral, Prairie Rose Floral, Hilltop General Store/Uptown Market, Sainty Liquor, Owens True Value, Krien Pharmacy, Stuart's Jewelry, Donna's Gift Palace, Video Kingdom, and The Saint Francis Herald.

"I thought the contest generated a lot of interest and people had fun submitting the names of their favorite couple," said Casey McCormick, ad manager. "Having two divisions added a little more to the contest."

He added that the contest would not have been possible if it were not for the businesses who helped sponsor it.

Last year's winners were Gus and Martha Zwegardt and Jim and Ruth Milliken, both of St. Francis.



Mr. and Mrs. Mark Keller

**Mark and Gwen Keller**

Mark and Gwen Keller were married on July 26, 1980.

It was hot, Mrs. Keller said. They met through Mrs. Keller's brother, Max. Mark, she said, was always hanging around with her brother and was at their home a lot.

They had waited until Rev. Emery Petersen could officiate the ceremony at Peace Lutheran Church in St. Francis. The maid of honor was Gwen's friend, Sue Simmerman. Bridesmaids were sisters, Gail Dirks and Toby Cooper.

The best man was Max Dirks. Groomsmen were Daryl Loyd and Mark Cooper.

The bride wore a white polyester bridal satin gown and carried a bouquet of roses, daisies and wheat.

The flower girl was Trisha Douthit. The ring bearer was Chad

Zwegardt. Following the wedding, they headed to Colorado Springs for their honeymoon.

On their return home, they lived in St. Francis for about a year before moving to the farm north of St. Francis. Mrs. Keller worked for Dr. Douglas Fair and Mr. Keller attended vo-tech school in Goodland.

They recently retired from Keller NAPA Automotive and Mr. Keller is working on the family farm north of St. Francis. Mrs. Keller may have the title of housewife but is there to help wherever needed.

The couple have three children, John, Carl and Luke.

Gwen's advice for newly married couples is to put your spouse first and if he is putting you first, then everyone is being taken care of.

**Robert and Gertie Zwegardt**

Robert Zwegardt and Gertie Walz were married Oct. 7, 1951, at the Salem Lutheran Church northwest of St. Francis. They were neighbors and had gone to country school together but Gertie said she really didn't pay much attention to him. However, he must have been keeping an eye on her. He asked her out on a date and three years later, they were married.

Gertie wore a white, slipper satin floor-length gown and carried a Bible topped with red roses and white streamers. Her maid of honor was Sylvia Zwegardt Queen who wore an aqua-colored gown. Gertie's niece, Verna Mae, sang several songs.

Standing up with Robert was Ruben Landenberger.

Following a honeymoon to Colorado Springs, the couple lived in a sod house which belonged to Gertie's brother Albert Walz. When their first son was born, they moved to the Zimbelman farm, then to the home that Robert's parents had lived in which is northwest of St. Francis. There, they spent the next 46 years, before moving to town a year ago.

Throughout the years, Mr. Zwegardt farmed and worked at the sale barn. Mrs. Zwegardt worked for Dr. Frank Haberbosh, then went to work for Dr. Melvin Dunn. When they retired in 1995, they took up a different occupation which didn't pay — they began playing in the Swingin' Seniors Band which entertains for nursing home residents and staff. Besides playing in St. Francis, they travel to Goodland, Burlington and Wray. They also entertain at anniversaries and birthday gatherings.

Mrs. Zwegardt plays the piano, sometimes with music and other times, by ear. Mr. Zwegardt plays the guitar.



Mr. and Mrs. Robert Zwegardt

Music has been a part of their lives for many years. Mr. Zwegardt began playing the guitar with his father when he was still at home. Mrs. Zwegardt said she started taking piano lessons when she was 6 and continued until she was ready to enter high school. Her father, she said, bribed her to stay with it and, today, she is glad he did. She not only plays with the band but also plays at Salem Lutheran Church services and other occasions.

In the evenings, especially before they are going to be playing the next day, the Zwegardts will play their music together at

home. It is just nice, Mrs. Zwegardt said.

In fact, in her advice to young married couples, she says to find something they both enjoy doing together, like the Zwegardts have done with their music.

"If you go together, it will help keep you together," she said.

They have four children, Darrel, Donita, Kay and Keith. They have 14 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

When they are not playing with the Swingin' Seniors, going to church and other functions, they are following their grandchildren in school activities.