

Meet the Candidates

By Karen Krien

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Ward Cassidy of St. Francis is running as a Republican for state representative of the 120th District, which includes Cheyenne, Rawlins, Decatur, Norton and Phillips counties.



Cassidy

We need to have a strong voice in Topeka, he says, stronger than in the past. "If we don't all stand up to protect our northwest Kansas way of life," Mr. Cassidy said, "we will have to take what is dished out."

"Everyone needs to work together to solve problems. We need to preserve our lifestyle."

He uses the acronym "CAVE," which he said stands for communication, availability, visibility and energy, to describe his approach to the job.

He said he wants to communicate with all groups in the district and he is asking people for ideas on how issues and proposed bills would affect them.

"I have many farmer, business and medical friends that have great knowledge and are always willing to help," he said. "The key is input from northwest Kansas people — not lobbyists and special interest groups."

He plans to be available anywhere he goes, whether it is at school activities or just out and about, visiting in the five counties. He thinks being "visible" is important.

"I'm going to be visible in the counties as well as the four months I am at the capital," he said, adding that he has lots of energy which he plans to put to work for the people of the district.

Mr. Cassidy said he doesn't believe in raising taxes but wants to make sure the people in the district get their fair share of services provided by the state. Kansas has 33 taxes, he said.

"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 citizens services. We need to make sure we keep as many services as we can in northwest Kansas."

In this part of the state, he said, agriculture is our biggest industry. "We need to do everything possible to maintain Ag communities without raising taxes," he said. "We provide the food — the government needs to provide the services!"

Mr. Cassidy said he doesn't believe in gay marriages and doesn't think gun control is necessary.

He said he has been in education for 40 years, working six years as a teacher, 16 years as a counselor and 20 years as a principal, much of that time in St. Francis. He and his wife Gloria, also a teacher, have two daughters, Penny and Jenny, and six grandchildren.

"Being in education, I can think of several ways we can cut state costs," Mr. Cassidy said.

"There are so many restrictions that the state makes on schools," he said. "They send out people to check the schools. Today, these checks can be done online, which will save the state money."

"Besides," he said, "schools can take care of themselves."

The state spends 52 percent of the budget on public education and 11 percent on higher education. Mr. Cassidy pointed out that he has a specialist degree in education finance from Fort Hays State University.

"I know education finance," he said.

He is asking the people to come to the polls in August and November.

"I want to see the largest turnout in the history of our five counties," he said. "Then, maybe the Legislature will take notice."

"We have the best people and a lifestyle that we have worked hard for. Let's fight to keep it that way."

For more information, go to the web at www.wardcassidy.com.

By Steve Haynes

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After seven terms in the Kansas House, Rep.



Faber

John Faber says he's moved into a key position as chair of the Agriculture Budget subcommittee in the House Appropriations Committee, drawing up the budget for agriculture programs vital to his district.

It hasn't been all that much fun the last couple of years, however, having to cut programs across the board as the state's revenues sank lower and still lower during the deepest recession in more than half a century.

"I thought long and hard about whether I wanted to run again," said Mr. Faber, who farms north of Brewster, on a farm southern Rawlins County. "We've been through a few years that were horrendous. I guess we'll see what (state) revenue does at the end of the month."

"I don't think this new sales tax will do the job. I fear people who shop across the state line, are taking their tax dollars with them."

He said one area grocery told him a sales-tax increase was the worst thing the state could do to raise money.

"He said he's always supported education, but if we raise that sales tax, it'll just be another nail in his coffin."

Mr. Faber said he voted against the governor's proposal to raise the sales tax 1 percent to restore cuts in education and social programs this spring, but did vote for a .4 of 1 percent increase he said could have done the same thing.

Some Kansas counties will have sales tax rates of 9 to 10 percent, he noted, and that could drive many shoppers out of state.

Rep. Faber said he'd been chair

of the Agriculture Committee until last year, when the speaker and leadership asked him to take on the budget job. Agriculture has taken cuts, he said, but this year, he was "a little more successful" at getting more money back.

He said he found a way for the attorney general to issue \$19 million in bonds to pay for water lawsuits, with the bonds to be repaid later. Water issues will be important as the focus switches to the Missouri River, he said.

As for education, he said, as a former member of the Brewster School Board, he understands the needs.

"We shored that budget up," he said, adding that he also understands and supports the need for state aid to the disabled.

What state revenues do in July may signal what's ahead, he said, especially if they don't meet projections.

"July isn't a very good month to look at," he said, "but at least it'll give us an idea of what's coming down the road. Another deficit will mean another tough session. We will be looking for what tax to increase."

He said he thinks his experience means something, especially with redistricting next year after the results of the federal census are in. A freshman representative, he said, won't be able to hold onto a good position for western Kansas.

"As I listen to the people I talk to," he said, "it sounds like I've got a lot of support. I'm hearing some pretty good things."

Asked about reports that he lives mostly in Topeka now, Mr. Faber, who'd just finished wheat harvest, answered firmly.

"I've been in Topeka one time since the session," he said. "It was three days for rules and regulations. I farm here. I shop here. I do everything in northwest Kansas. That's how I make my living."

"I'm home weekends every two or three weeks during the session. It costs the state \$450 in mileage to have me travel back and forth."

Bob Strevey, a wheat and milo farmer and stockman from the Norcat area, wants to give people a choice, so he is running once again as a Democrat for the 120th District seat in the state House of Representatives.



Strevey

This will be Mr. Strevey's sixth try at the seat, held by John Faber of Brewster.

Mr. Strevey, 67, a retired teacher, lives on the family farm south of Norcat, and except for a short stint in the Army during the Vietnam War, has always lived in Decatur County. He and Kay, his wife of 39 years, have three grown daughters, Trudi McCollum of Liberty, Mo., and Wendy Tien and Hollie Richie of Andover, and seven grandchildren.

After being drafted in 1966, he served a tour of duty in Vietnam, Mr. Strevey said, then served in the Army Reserve for 20 years until finally retiring as a lieutenant colonel.

He has been on the boards of the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp., the Norcat United Methodist Church and the U.S. Highway 36 Association, president of the Norcat Citizens Alliance and a member of the Hunger Task Force for the Kansas West Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Mr. Strevey said that he feels that people need a choice and, while there are two Republicans running in the primary, there also needs to be at least two names on the ballot in the general election in November.

"It's hard to have a good, functioning democratic process if there's only one name on the ballot," he said.

If elected, Mr. Strevey said, he understands that his would only be one voice out of 125 in the House. However, he said, he thought that

the state needs to get back to some fiscal responsibility.

For years, he said, the state has cut taxes. Now that there is no money, and instead of raising those taxes again, the state is borrowing money.

"We should try to get our fiscal house in order," he said. "You should have to pay as you go."

"Both of my opponents are against raising any taxes, but most businessmen will tell you that if you have a financial shortfall you need to work from both ends. You have to cut expenses and raise revenues."

Mr. Strevey said that he was once an Eisenhower Republican and pay as you go was his philosophy. But the Republican party has dumped those principles, he said.

Mr. Strevey also said that he thinks the state should help Decatur County repair three bridges that are in great disrepair before someone gets hurt.



Brethower

Card Shower requested

Leon Brethower will celebrate his 80th birthday on July 31. His family would like to request a card shower to help him celebrate. His address is 3115 Road Q, Bird City, KS 67731.

Candidate forum set for Saturday

A candidate forum for county, state and federal offices will start at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Jayhawk Theater in Atwood.

The Rawlins County Republican Central Committee has invited all three candidates for 120th District state representative, three candidates for Rawlins County commissioner and the seven running for the 1st Congressional

District seat. Peggy Cabrinha, one of the organizers, said that she has sent out e-mails and personal invitations, but as of Monday night didn't know who was planning to attend.

The forum will take place right after the parade which marks the end of the Rawlins County Fair.

Come & Go Celebration
for
Roger Jensen's 60th Birthday!
Saturday, July 24th
7-10 p.m.
412 E. Spencer Street

Open House
Thursday, Aug. 5
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
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Anna from Germany, 16 yrs.
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Jean from France, 17 yrs.
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2nd Beginnings Thrift Store
Will be close Aug. 1 thru Aug. 24
for remodeling.
Large Sack Sale
July 28th, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.; July 30th,
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; July 31st 9 a.m. - noon
Clothing racks will be full of new items for sale.
Includes everything but consignment items.
Please no drop offs from July 28 thru Aug. 25th.
Thanks!!!
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Has your 11 to 18 year-old had his or her recommended vaccines?
Take advantage of our
"Summer Vaccination Event"
July 28 - 30, 2010
Cheyenne County Health Department
8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
No appointment necessary

For more information and to see which vaccines your child needs contact the
Cheyenne County Health Department
at
785-332-2381
Mila Bandel, RN - County Health Nurse

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