

Opinion

New governor will act just as he always has

Even before he takes office next week, new Gov. Sam Brownback is getting a lot of advice from groups and papers that didn't support him.

The gist of all this is that to succeed, what the incoming governor has to do is drop his long standing beliefs and become "more like them," that is, the liberals and so-called moderate Republicans who held sway in Topeka for so long.

But Sen. Brownback won election by a huge majority, 2-1 over his Democratic opponent, state Sen. Tom Holland. He won the Republican primary with 82 percent of the vote after other prominent candidates backed out, recognizing that they had little chance to win.

So in a very real sense, the people have spoken. Now, what does that mean?

First, we think, it means what it says. People liked the governor-elect's message of smaller government, a stronger economy and a better, more livable state. They bought into his "Road Map for Kansas."

In short, the people of Kansas apparently wanted Sam Brownback to be their governor, and since he got 63 percent of the vote, that includes most Republicans, a whole lot of independents and, yes, even a bunch Democrats.

Second, Mr. Brownback is what he is: a principled conservative. He's never pretended to be anything else, not when he ran for Congress, not when he ran for the Senate, not when he ran for President.

He's a guy who believes in smaller government, a more efficient bureaucracy, a leader state and a less intrusive approach. He'll sign laws making abortions harder to get and requiring voters to show a photo ID at the polls.

Not all of us will agree with him, but he'll be the one with the pen.

The new governor also is a smart and successful politician. He's won all his recent races, emerged from his battles mostly unscathed, his popularity intact. He promised to step down from the Senate after two full terms (and after serving out the final two years of Sen. Bob Dole's last term), and he's done so.

Not many in American politics have built their popularity and strength by giving up one powerful office to take one with more perceived risk. Sam Brownback has done so. People seem to like him.

It may also be that being governor is a more certain path to the presidency. Between John Kennedy and Barack Obama, no senator has been elected president. Lots of governors have. Dick Nixon had to go serve time as governor of California before he got elected. Maybe people just prefer executive experience.

But a presidential race will have to wait. Today, Mr. Brownback faces a state budget deficit for the coming fiscal year approaching \$500 million. How he'll balance the budget without a tax increase remains to be seen. His term will be judged, in large part, by the answer to that question.

Meantime, he's been getting a lot of advice from once-unfriendly places, including the editorial page of *The Kansas City Star* (which endorsed his opponent, by the way). The gist of all this advice is that the governor-elect needs to become more liberal and buy into more taxes, more spending.

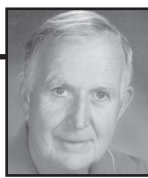
Anyone who believes that is going to happen needs to go back and read the election results again. Sam Brownback is about to be governor because he's Sam Brownback, and because people apparently like him just the way he is.

It's going to be an interesting four years.

—Steve Haynes

Legislative News

By Ward Cassidy



It has been a busy month preparing for the upcoming legislative session. Early in December we met in Topeka to choose the House Officials. Mike O'Neal will return as Speaker of the House, Arlen Siegfried will be the Majority Leader, Peggy Mast will be the Assistant Majority Leader, and Gene Vickery will be the Majority Whip. There will be at least 31 new freshmen this year on the House side. It has been awhile since I have been a freshman. This time around I am even more excited to learn and have been studying issues every chance I get.

While in Topeka we had a freshmen supper at the Kansas Historical Society. I would recommend anyone who is in Topeka to visit the site. They have great displays of our Kansas heritage. I had a very nice visit with Governor-Elect Brownback and was encouraged to hear him talk about helping to develop rural Kansas. We are all looking forward to his budget proposals for the upcoming year. Our current debt, at least \$500 million, presents the problem of cutting programs and finding new revenues. I know that it is going to be a tough year for everyone involved. My campaign promise is to let every agency know how their decisions are effecting Northwest Kansas.

I have been trying to meet as many state senators and representatives I can. I had a chance to meet some of them in Garden City. After a business meeting we were invited to a pheasant ranch to try our hand at hunting. The representatives that were there now introduce me as the man from Northwest Kansas that can shoot. It was a fun time and I also won a drawing for a Browning 20-gauge shot gun, that my grand-

sons quickly claimed when I arrived home.

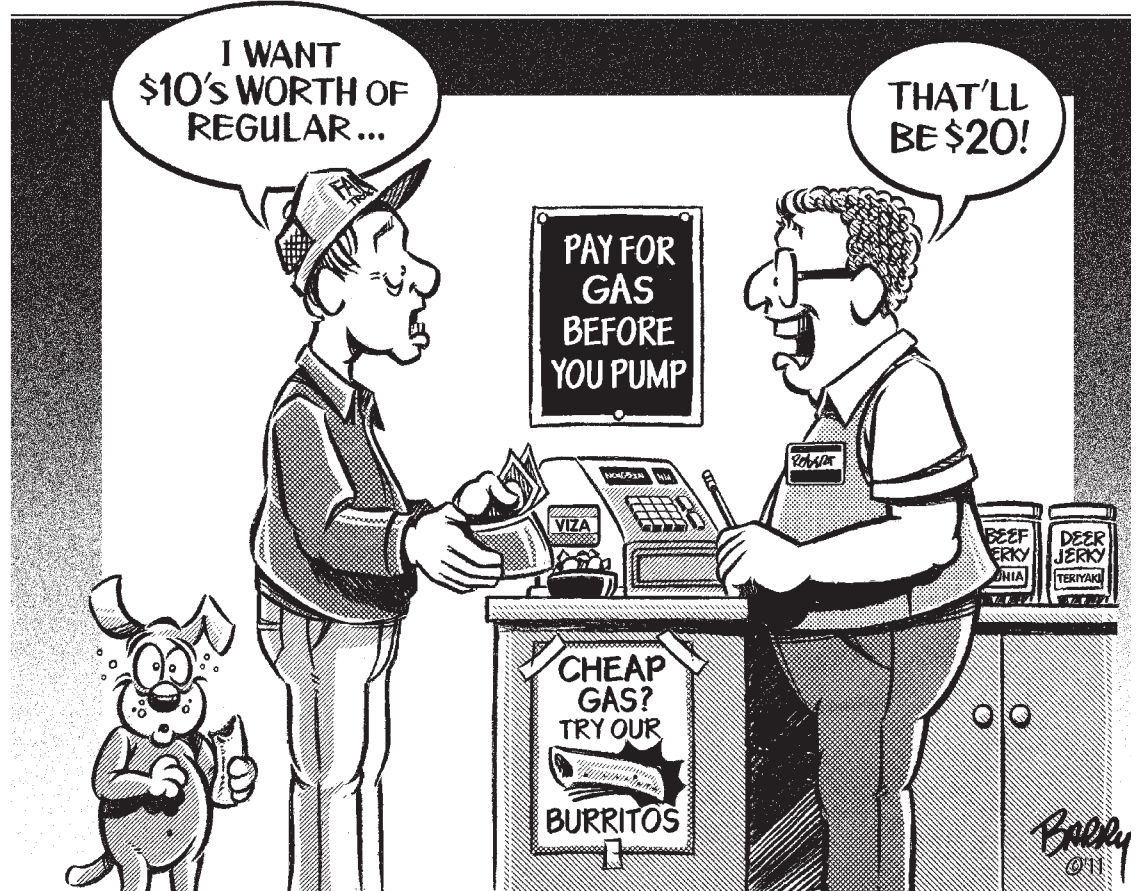
The week before Christmas, I attended a three-day workshop in Wichita sponsored by the Kansas Leadership Institute. It was very beneficial. The highlight for me was meeting four ex-state representatives that had over 100 years of experience between them. We could ask any questions we wanted and I had plenty to ask.

Last week I received my committee assignments from the Speaker. I have three committees that meet every day. At 9 a.m. I will be in the Education Policy meeting, at 1:30 p.m. I will be in the Public Safety meeting - this includes Correction and Facilities, Juvenile Justice, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, and the highway patrol, at 3:30 p.m. I will be on the Education Budget Committee. I was pleased to be put on a budget committee, especially the one that uses close to 70 percent of the budget. There were not very many freshmen put on budget committees, from what I understand. I had asked for Agriculture as well and I promise to keep an eye on what is going on and let my Farm Bureau and ag friends know.

I will do my best to keep people informed and would appreciate your prayers and input. My office is room L29b in the Docking Building. It is not much of an office, three of us share one secretary and there are only two chairs in the room. It really doesn't matter, as most of my time will be in committee meetings. I am staying at the Senate Suites. It is a four minute walk to the Docking Building. My web site and phone should be available in the next two weeks. You can google the Kansas legislature to get the information, if my next newsletter is not out yet.

Wednesday, Jan. 12, there is a joint session of the Kansas Legislature to hear Governor Brownback's State of the State address. The work then begins. I am officially sworn in at 2 p.m. on Jan. 10.

One last item. I am allowed 10 pages per session. I have two from Phillipsburg and, to be fair, I should have two from each county. If anyone is interested in being a page they should contact the Republican party head in their county or call my office direct.



GAS PRICES DOUBLE IN SOME AREAS SINCE 01/01/09...

News From the Past

100 years ago - 1911

J.E. Uplinger has a large force of busy men putting up ice this week. The ice is reported from 10 to 13 inches thick and of good quality.

The Ramblers met with Mrs. Read Wednesday afternoon. Exquisite refreshments were served by the hostess and a splendid meeting is reported by the members.

The school opened again with a full attendance in all departments. During the vacation the school board installed several new stoves to guard against sudden cold spells, and

otherwise fitted the building for more effective work.

W. F. Slagle of Wheeler ceased to be the commissioner from the first district, after four years of faithful service. W.H. Smith of Evergreen will succeed him. George Indorf is the chairman for the ensuing year. W.S. Booth is the county clerk. R.M. Roberts moved his barber shop to the Kincaid building this week to afford opportunity to remodel his own shop and install city water.

The corner stone of the new Methodist Church at Lawn Ridge was laid at 10:30 a.m. on

Tuesday with an imposing ceremony. The church which will be erected on the site of the old Lawn Ridge Church, will be constructed in the form of a great cross 36x38 feet with 14-foot studding and a truss roof.

J.A. Woodard has commenced the construction of a vault for the county at the south side of the courthouse. The vault is to be used in connection with the Register of Deeds office and will afford ample storage for the important records of Cheyenne County for years to come.

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



scmcormick@nwkans.com
So we survived the holidays and snuck into 2011.

Before moving on though, I need to take a minute to remember what just happened.

I vaguely remember a huge bowl of candy disappearing to goblins, princesses and football players in late October. Shortly after that we said grace around a large table as smells of turkey and

ham loaf wafted in from Grandma Margaret's kitchen.

The next thing I knew we were busy sending out Christmas cards and wrapping presents to place under our brightly-lit tree. Then our home was filled with more guests than normal and it got even busier as we raced from event to event.

This excitement level continued as we drove to Colorado for more of the same. I also recall

climbing into bed at about 9:30 on New Year's Eve, reading for a few minutes and waking up with a new date to remember when writing stuff.

Whew, did the last part of 2010 flash before my eyes. But I am holding some very special "snap shots" of this time in my memory. Such as a carol being sung in German in a small, candle-illuminated, country church on Christmas Eve. Also the smiling faces of loved ones soaking in each other's company in a warm room. And the joy of finding a card in the mailbox from a far away friend.

It is these tiny blessings that cause me to reflect on how good I have it. This next year sure holds a lot of promise for continued special times.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Kerry Hammeke, Topeka; Ernest Amsberry, Snyder, Colo.; Ruth Knodel, Burlington, Colo.; Willard Schlepp, Yuma, Ariz.; Tom Hnizdil, St. Francis; Travis Jensen, St. Francis; Lonnie Willis, Bird City; Carol Mears, McDonald; Robert Barret, War-

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GOD SAYS
He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth.
Psalms 104:14

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Praise the Lord

<p>Church of Christ 332-2380, Pars. 332-3424 502 W. Spencer Norman Morrow - Minister Bible Class 11 a.m. Morning Worship 10 a.m. Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.</p>	<p>St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church 625 S. River • 332-2680 Fr. Roger Meitl Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m. Weekday Mass 8:30 a.m. Confessions Sat. 4-4:30</p>	<p>First Baptist Church 2nd & Scott • 332-3921 J.W. Glidewell, Pastor Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m., Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.</p>
<p>United Methodist Church Church Office 332-2292, Church 332-2254, 512 S. Scott Pastor Morita Truman Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Salem Lutheran Church 332-3002 Pastor Chris Farmer Morning Worship 10:30 a.m. Communion 3rd Sunday</p>	<p>St. Francis Community Church 332-3150 204 N. Quincy Street www.sfccfamily.com Pastor: David Butler Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Potluck & Communion - Every 2nd Sunday Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.</p>
<p>Seventh-Day Adventist Church 785-890-5718 • 3rd & Adams Pastor Jerry Nowack Sabbath School 9:30 Morning Worship 10:45</p>	<p>Solid Rock Baptist Church 412 S. Denison Welcomes You! Pastor Allen Coon Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 Prayer Meeting, Wed 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC 202 N. College Pastor Ken Hart 332-2928 Pars. 332-2312 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Communion 1st Sunday of the Month</p>
<p>First Christian Church Pastor Jeff Landers 332-2956 • 118 E. Webster Bible Fellowship 9:15 a.m. Church Service 10:15 a.m.</p>	<p>St. Francis Equity</p>	<p>St. Francis Herald</p>