

# Legislative News

By  
Ward  
Cassidy



120th District Representative

I now have four weeks under my belt as a state legislator. I thought it might be interesting to share some information to help you understand the process I have been learning. There are 29 different committees, in the House of Representatives, working toward the goal of setting a budget and making good policy. The senate has committees doing the same thing.

Committees in both houses have been holding hearings on bills to allow all of the parties involved an opportunity to share their perspectives, concerns and support. After holding a hearing on the bill, the committee is ready to "work the bill" or amend it before voting on whether to pass it out of committee. If a bill is voted out of committee, it

goes onto General Orders and it is printed in the House Journal "below the line." This indicates that it is ready to be brought "above the line" at which point it will be debated by the full house. After the debate there is a vote, if it passes it goes on to the senate, and then to the governor.

There are lots of things that can happen when a bill is debated on the floor. It can be changed dramatically by an amendment and can change drastically what the bill was originally intended for. I still find it hard to believe that, in a few weeks, we will be voting as many as 40 times a day. I will not be told how to vote. I will study as hard as I can and vote for what I feel is in the best interest of my districts and Kansas.

The governor has proposed a bill for the state budget for fiscal year (FY) 2011 to bring it into line with declining revenue. He calls it a freeze bill that combines fund transfers and \$52 million in the State General Fund cuts. This will turn the deficit into a \$35 million ending balance at the end of this fiscal year. The legislator refers to this process as the "rescission period." A point I did not think of about his proposal - for every dollar we save this year, it is actually two dollars - the one that we saved this year and the one we don't have to budget for next year.

The governor has also authorized the sale of 10 percent of state assets to help with this year's cuts. I did not realize that the state owns the property our six Board of Regents colleges sit on. There are many other properties as well. We will see a list of proposed land sales and then decide.

When I agreed to serve western Kansas as a legislator, I knew that I would try to promote and fight for our area with all of my heart. It is an uphill battle. There are very few western Kansas legislators. Due to population trends there are many legislators from the three biggest areas of the state. I have truly realized what a diverse state we are and how suitable for one is not necessarily suitable for all.

I do believe that western Kansas is deserving of the new catch word in the legislature, "suitable."

We deserve suitable in every aspect of our communities - hospitals, schools, courthouse services, nursing homes and cities. Instead of just writing our local legislators, we should start enlisting the help of the thousands of western Kansas people that have moved to the larger metropolitan areas of Kansas. Our high school graduates are playing an important role in their new communities and I wish they would voice, to their legislators, that growing up in our towns and cities made them the good workers and people they are today. Sending tax dollars to western Kansas is a great investment for the future of Kansas.



SYDNEY SUNDSTROM practices playing her instrument for the music program. Herald photo by Debbie Fiala

## Obituary

**Luther Fredrick Jensen**  
Aug. 14, 1944 - Feb. 1, 2011

Luther Fredrick Jensen died of cancer on Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2011, at his home in Aurora, Colo., where he lived with his companion, Kathy Skinner.

He was born Aug. 14, 1944, to Peter Alexander Jensen and Ruth (Betty) Elisabeth (Notz) Jensen, at his grandparents home in rural Sherman County, Kan.

Luther grew up on the family farm south of Kanorado. He attended kindergarten in a one-room schoolhouse, High Hope School, in rural Wallace County. He attended grade school and high school in Kanorado.

Luther enlisted and served in the Army from 1962 to 1965 and was stationed in Korea where he was wounded.

When President Kennedy was inaugurated, he attended the ceremony.

Luther made his living as a truck driver. He hauled livestock nationwide for various trucking companies including Montford, Short Livestock, West Coast Livestock, Coglazier Trucking, Corman Trucking and most recently his own company K&L Livestock out of St. Francis.

He was a member of the St. Francis Community Church in St. Francis.

He married Bonnie Lorain Patterson at the First Christian Church in Goodland the summer of 1965 and they later divorced.

He married Karen Irene Browning at the Kanorado

Methodist Church on April 5, 1968.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Karen Jensen on Dec. 11, 1999, his father, Peter Jensen on Dec. 11, 2008, and a nephew, Christopher Jensen on Aug. 12, 1995.

Survivors include his companion, Kathy Skinner; daughters, Cindy (John) Ethridge of Viola, Ark., Katrina (Carl) Koeller of Grand Island, Neb.; Shantel (Mike) Johnson of Lincoln, Neb.; and Jeri Jensen of Grand Island; son, Edward Schulz of St. Francis; mother, Ruth (Betty) Jensen of Goodland; step-children, Cassandra (Drew) Borders of LaFayette, Ind., Emily (Clifford) Squire of Kansas, Okla., and Betty Pelkey of St. Francis; brother, Pete (Kay) Jensen of St. Francis; sisters, Ruth (Dick) Stramel of Stratton, Colo.; Bonny Walt of Quinter, and Judi (Greg) Nemechek of Goodland; 10 grandchildren, one great-grandchild, three step-grandchildren; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 12, at the St. Francis Community Church, 204 N. Quincy Street, St. Francis, with Pastor David Butler officiating.

Inurnment will follow at a later date.

Memorial donations may be given to the VFW Post 1528, P.O. Box 281, St. Francis, KS 67756.

## Association to hold meeting on Friday

The Bird City Historical Association will meet at 2 p.m., on Friday at the Bird City Senior Center, weather permitting. Call 734-2750, 734-2441 or 734-2383 to confirm the meeting.

A part of the program will be the discussion regarding the stories needed from older citizens within the community and rural area. If you do not feel you can write your story, let us know and one of us will tape it for you. These tapes will be used only for historical research purposes unless requested

otherwise by the person being interviewed.

The other part of the program will be the working development of a mapping booklet of the first businesses, schools and churches of Bird City from the beginning date of 1885.

Another ongoing project is the development of a booklet entitled, "A Guide to the Early Bird City Newspapers."

You are welcome to attend the meeting and observe what they are doing.

## Club Clip

**United Methodist Women**

With temperatures not far from zero, 10 hardy United Methodist Women met at the United Methodist Church on Feb. 2, for the first meeting of 2011.

Following the business meeting, Carol Rogers, Donna Zimbelman and Lucille Price presented programs of mission outreaches combining the Prayer and Self-Denial with the annual Pledge Service. These offerings are used in ministry to disadvantaged women and children in areas of the United States as well as overseas.

Mrs. Price shared information on current and retired missionaries. She distributed cards with names and addresses of active and retired missionaries to members present. Members will correspond with these missionaries sending words of encouragement and remembering them on special days.

Following the program, refreshments were served by Mrs. Rogers and Mrs. Zimbelman.

The next meeting will be at 2 p.m., on April 6, at the church. Pastor Morita Truman will have the program. All ladies are welcome to attend.

## Kansas Honor Flight program planned

Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development will be holding a "Kansas Honor Flight" informational program in Colby at the Thomas County Office complex on today (Thursday). LaVeta Miller of Great Bend and Mark Rine of Tribune will be the presenters.

Kansas Honor Flight has transported to Washington D.C. more than 1,000 veterans of World War II to see the memorials built to honor their suffering and sacrifice to keep this great nation free and a world leader. This organization has been instrumental in transporting vets free of charge to the memorials.

The National Honor Flight Network program was conceived by Earl Morse, a physician assistant and Retired Air Force Captain. Mr. Morse wanted to honor the veterans he had taken care of for the past 27 years. After retiring from the Air Force in 1998, Mr. Morse was hired by the Department of Veterans Affairs to work in a small clinic in Springfield, Ohio. In May of 2004, the World War II Memorial was finally completed and dedicated in Washington, D.C. and quickly became the topic of discussion

among his World War II veteran patients.

Mr. Morse repeatedly asked these veterans if they would ever travel out to visit their memorial. Most felt that eventually, somehow, they would make it to D.C., perhaps with a family member or friend.

Mr. Morse could tell that the majority of the veterans had given up all hope of ever visiting the memorial that was specifically created to honor their services as well as the services of their fellow comrades who had paid the ultimate sacrifice. That's when he found a way to get these heroes to D.C. The National Honor Flight has transported over 36,000 veterans to see their memorial.

Attend the story of the Kansas Central Prairie Honor Flight today (Thursday) at the Thomas County Office Complex at 350 South Range at 7 p.m. Ms. Miller, chairman of the Central Prairie Honor Flight Committee and Mr. Rine will present this wonderful opportunity of honoring veterans. For more information call Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development Area office at (785) 462-7671 Ext. 5.

## Rec 4 U

By  
Penny  
Gienger



St. Francis Rec Director

Yeah! January began with successfully starting two new classes: Coed Volleyball and Country Swing Dance.

Volleyball continues on Sunday nights at 7 p.m. in the high school gym. Teams are organized weekly according to those present. It's not too late to join in the fun. Thanks to Dennon Flemming and Sarah Wilson for taking the time to set up and tear down equipment each week.

Swing dance classes finish in mid-February. Matt and Myla Bandel are doing an excellent job of teaching, willingly staying

afterwards for individualized attention.

Unfortunately, the Back-to-Basics cooking class and woodworking did not begin due to lack of participation. Hopefully, we can try these again at a later date. We need you to become involved.

February activities include a series of DVDs entitled *Alternative Answers* and facilitated by Kate Jenkins. The first two topics include: *The Path to High Level Health* and *Detoxify Your Home*. Classes are held on Wednesday evenings in the library meeting room.

Grade school age kids can look forward to the class, Decorate Your Own Valentine Cookies that Barb Holzwarth and Shirley Zwegardt are conducting for third through sixth graders on Saturday, Feb. 12. Each child will take their turn decorating several cookies to take home as well as tasting a few in class.

Be sure to mark your calendars for March's upcoming activities. On March 1, Conny Paulsen will be beginning Girls' Gymnastics for first through sixth graders. She will conduct classes on Tuesday nights from March through May in the high school wrestling room. Younger students will be from 6 to 7 p.m. and the older girls will start

three percussion ensembles, a woodwind quartet, saxophone quartet, trumpet trio, and the 37-member mixed chorus. The students are directed by Debbie Fiala, music instructor.

There is no admission charge for the recital and the public is encouraged to attend.

at 7 and end at 8 p.m. Conny has several years coaching experience in Wisconsin at a gymnastics center. Sign-up forms went out this week to all third-sixth grade girls. Make sure you look over the form and hand it in to the grade school office.

Allen Edgington will be starting ballroom dance classes and forming a Dance sport team with high school age kids in the area. He will start by using the school's facilities and move to his building in the fall.

Beginning photography classes will be conducted by Tammy Grice starting Monday night, March 7. The class will consist of three sessions focusing on topics for beginners. Watch for more information in the next few weeks.

Most of all, the Recreation Commission needs you to make these classes and activities successful. Why not try one in February or March. If you have a class in mind that is not offered, let me know. I would be glad to see if I can make it happen. Call Penny at 332-3949.

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**Tues., Feb. 8: Stormed out - no market report**  
**Tues., Feb. 15:**  
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