

This will be my last article until we go back in session April 27. It has been nice to be back in Northwest Kansas. I have been traveling throughout the district answering questions about this year's legislature and budget. I wish I could talk to everyone, but if I have not seen you, please e-mail me at ward.cassidy@house.ks.gov.

April 2 was "Drop Dead Day." Legislation must have passed both chambers by "Drop Dead Day" in order to be sent to the governor. The exception to this is conference committee reports on bills in conference may still be considered after this date. Many important bills, including the budget, are in conference committees and when we return April 27 we will have our work cut out for us. Licensing of abortion clinics, KPERS, and voter ID are just a few conference bills we will have to work on.

A real problem, I am concerned with, is that sometimes conference committees use the practice of "bundling." The drawback to this is that when compromises are finished some legislation that had wide spread support can be "bundled" with a bill that had little support. This makes final voting a real nightmare. I have tracked every vote I have made and I know there will be a choice of having to vote for a bill that I had voted for one part and opposed the other part.

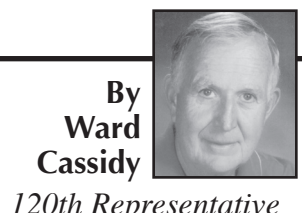
Here is an example of a bill that has been moved from many bills down to one: vehicle ID (VIN) inspection fee increase from \$10 to \$15 and then up to \$20 in 2013; signature requirements on vehicle renewal, that applicant has adequate insurance, (signature would be required on initial registration; the Dead Red rule- allow motorcycles to proceed through a red light after a reasonable amount of time because they are not heavy enough to change the light; drivers must pass a bicycle on the left no less than three feet away; increase the speed limit to 75 on selected multilane highways; and the seat belt law-no court costs are to be applied to seat belt violations. What I just finished describing is six bills moved into one. How would you vote on this one?

April 27 is the 76th day of session. The legislature will meet until the budget passes both chambers. The 90th day of the session is May 11. The last time the legislature went over the approved 90 days was 2006 when the session lasted 93 days. That was when they were trying to decide how to spend money, not cut budgets. I wish they would have been putting a "rainy day" fund in place.

In case you are wondering, the longest session ever was in 2002, when the session lasted 106 days. Legislators are not paid for more

than 90 days. I have been told that it costs the taxpayers over \$60,000 a day to be in session and I am hoping we can get out with a good budget, before the May 11 deadline, and save the state money.

I have stated that I have opposed the 7.5-percent pay cut to state employees and I voted for the budget amendment proposing to cut all State General Fund agencies 1.193 percent, except for the Judiciary, kindergarten through 12, social service caseloads, and debt service. The agencies would have the flexibility to decide how the reductions are made. I am worried about the court system and hope that there will be some changes made to help them. I also



By Ward Cassidy
120th Representative

know that we have to find some more money for the prison system when we return.

With the state's year-to-date sales tax revenue approximately \$25.8 million or .4-percent lower than expected, revenues would have to increase 15.6 percent in the next three months to reach the estimate that the Governor used to base his budget. The lower than expected revenues evaporated the less than \$8 million ending balance from the governor and senate's budget proposals leaving the house with the only proposed budget still in the black.

Relay committee to host meeting

Relay For Life of Cheyenne County Committee to host meeting

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Cheyenne County Committee is hosting a meeting on June 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Methodist church to share with residents the importance of Relay For Life in the fight against cancer.

Relay For Life is the signature event of the American Cancer society. It is a fun-filled, overnight event that mobilizes communities throughout the country to celebrate survivors, remember loved ones, and empower others to fight back against a disease that takes too much.

"The American Cancer Society Relay For Life raises awareness about the progress against cancer while also raising funds to fight the disease," said Pat Rose, event chair, for the American Cancer Society. "Individuals who are willing to give their time and energy to this exciting event, as a volunteer or participant, have made a commitment to fight back against cancer and let the community know that cancer can be beat."

Teams of eight to 15 members gather with tents and sleeping bags to participate in the largest fundraising walk in the nation. Relay For Life unites friends, families, businesses, hospitals, schools and churches...people from all walks of life. Teams seek sponsorship prior to the Relay, all with the goal of supporting a cure for cancer.

Volunteers are needed to organize and recruit teams, seek community support, coordinate logistics, find refreshments and prizes, plan entertainment and lend their support in any way.

For more information on the June 14 meeting, or if you would like to volunteer on the Relay for Life Committee, please contact Pat at (785) 332-5348.

For more information on cancer, call the American Cancer society's 24-hour help line at 1-800-227-2345 or visit cancer.org.

Students wanted

Area teachers of grades 1-4 are welcome to bring their classes out to this year's Prairie Fair, held on May 6 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Once again the Prairie Museum and Colby Community College are teaming up to present a day-long fun-filled and educational experience for kids. The event is free, but pre-registration is required.

The theme this year is "Community," and sessions will include archeology, art, nature, recycling, pet care, health care and other activities. There will also be a general store where kids and teachers can buy inexpensive items.

Contact the museum for more information or to register at (785) 460-4590 or museumed@st-el.net.



FOUR GENERATIONS— Back (l to r) Bailey Masias, Holly Bucholtz, Kurt Bucholtz, EllieAna Masias.

Obituary

Ervin Ruben Schlepp

May 12, 1921 - March 7, 2011

Ervin Ruben Schlepp of Loveland, Colo., died on March 7, 2011, in the Pathways Hospice wing at the McKee Medical Center. His family was by his side.



Schlepp

He was born May 12, 1921, in a sod home west of St. Francis, Kan. He spent his youth helping run the family farm with his father, Frederick, mother, Eva, brother, John and sisters, LaVera and Irene.

Ervin served in the Navy during World War II, spending his active duty aboard the USS Ranger in the North Atlantic Theatre. His military service was recognized in 2009 when he was chosen to travel with the Honor Flight of Northern Colorado to the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

During his military service, Ervin met the love of his life, Evelyn, at the Naval Air Station in Quonset Point, R.I. Married June 8, 1944, in West Warwick, R.I., they lived in St. Francis and Franklin, Neb., before settling in Colorado in the 1950s. They both loved Colorado and all the beauty it had to offer.

Ervin and Evelyn were active participants and members of the

Disabled American Veterans, Moose Lodge and Veterans of Foreign Wars. They owned their own business for many years, after which Ervin worked for the Rawhide Corporation in Fort Collins, Colo. After his retirement from Rawhide, they moved to Meadowlark Park in Loveland, finding a second family within this special community.

Evelyn preceded him in death in March of 2003.

Ervin is survived by his sisters, LaVera (Ernie) Mallett of Massachusetts and Irene (Perry) Whipple of Missouri; daughters, Barbara Schlepp-Dempsey of Northglenn, Colo., and Betty (Chris) Banister of Fort Collins; son, Tom (Nan) Schlepp of Aurora, Colo.; granddaughters, Sarah Dempsey and Caitlin Dempsey, both of Thornton, Colo.

A memorial service with military honors by the Fort Collins All Veterans Honor Guard was held Friday, March 11, at Bohlender Funeral Chapel in Fort Collins. Ervin will be laid to rest at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver at a later date.

Donations may be made to Pathways Hospice, the Honor Flight of Northern Colorado, or the Larimer County Humane Society, in care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive, Fort Collins, CO 80524.

Bowling News

Monday Night Mixed 4/4

Team standing: Merklin Construction, ABC-Z, Western State Bank, Earl's Mowing.

High game (scratch): Merklin Construction 583, ABC-Z 570, Earl' Mowing 550; (handicap): Merklin Construction 815, Earl's Mowing 804, ABC-Z 785.

High game men (scratch): Eddie Zuege 189, Brad Merklin 164, Earl Hankins 164; (handicap): Scott Wacker 240, Zuege 220, Hankins 218.

High series men (scratch): Zuege 481, Merklin 468, Arrie Cox 395; (handicap): Wacker 621, Merklin 603, Steve Morris 582.

High game women (scratch): Pat Rose 168, Amelia Zuege 146, Dorothy Hankins 121; (handicap): Rose 222, Zuege 198, Connie Wilger 189.

High series women (scratch): Rose 438, Zuege 383, D. Hankins 350; (handicap): Rose 600, Vicki Cox 548, D. Hankins 542.

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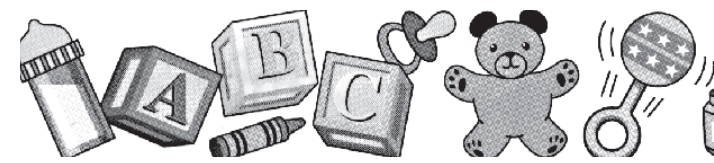
Casen James Todd

Casen James Dodd, son of Cody and Susanne Todd, was born at 7:37 a.m. on March 18, 2011, at the Cheyenne County Hospital in St. Francis, Kan. He weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces and was 19 1/4 inches long. He has two brothers, Caleb and Shane Todd, to welcome him home.

Grandparents are Richard and Connie Allaman of Goodland, Merton and Donna Todd of Lawton, Okla., and the late Julie Todd. Great grandparents are Helen Rohr of Goodland and the late Walt Rohr, the late Mert and Darlene Todd, the late Thelma and Toohey Allaman and the late Wayne and Doris Curry.



Todd



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Recap Of Tuesday, April 12, 2011

<p>Steers:</p> <p>300-400# — \$158.00 - \$167.00</p> <p>400-500# — \$158.00 - \$161.00</p>	<p>Heifers:</p> <p>400-500# — \$142.00 - \$155.00</p> <p>500-600# — \$136.00 - \$148.00</p> <p>600-700# — \$130.00 - \$140.25</p> <p>800-900# — \$115.00 - \$124.00</p>
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Baby Calves: \$175.00 - \$400.00 head
Stock cows: Young Blk \$1310.00 - \$1400.00
Young Blk pairs \$1375.00 - 1825.00 Pr.
Weigh cows: high yielding \$75.50 - \$81.00; low yielding \$65 - \$72.50

Tuesday, April 19: No Sale - (Every other week)
Tuesday, April 26: Regular Sale
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