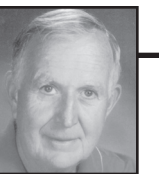


# Legislative News

What a year to start in the Kansas Legislature!

By  
Ward  
Cassidy



120th State Representative

We started this year with a \$550 million deficit and tremendous uncertainty of what cuts were going to have to be made. On the 90th day of the session at 6 a.m., I voted for the budget that transformed that deficit into a \$50 million ending balance. The budget passed the House 69-55. Some did not vote for the budget because the cuts were too severe and some voted against it because the cuts were not severe enough.

By statute we were to have a positive ending balance that is 7.5 percent of the \$6 billion State General Fund. We did not meet that statute and \$50 million is a pretty thin cushion. I am hoping that revenues continue to improve and that we are not faced with another deficit when we start the session next January.

A big concern in the state and Northwest Kansas is that each year when the legislature reconvenes and reviews the 2011 budget – the Rescission Budget – that more cuts will have to be made. If the revenues remain consistent there will not be any more cuts to the budget. This would allow us to work on streamlining government and still providing necessary services.

I am a strong supporter of Governor Brownback and I feel he did an extraordinary job in his first few months of office. He had many tough decisions to make and he made them. He heard what we all heard – “cut government, just not what affects my programs.” All cuts made by the governor and the legislature were an attempt to spread the pain as evenly as possible. Of course, there were some that were hit pretty hard. As I have stated before, “we can’t keep spending more money than we have or our children will never see the light of day.” Good news – the All Funds budget is the lowest since 1972.

There were many attempts to save the taxpayer money so the budget could be used to better serve our citizens. One of the most creative was eliminating the purchase of bottled water in the capitol, reducing office supplies, and eliminating some cell phone contracts. That alone saved \$2 million. There were over \$3 million in savings when welfare recipients were required to have a valid social security number. Hard to believe that would be allowed to happen and there are several employees in

that department now looking for jobs. Governor Brownback also cut 2,000 full-time positions. Most of those were positions not currently being filled but the agencies were using those numbers in their budget.

I feel the most significant legislation passed to help our state’s economy was the Worker’s Compensation Reform Bill. It was fair to both workers and employees. This legislation will increase the ability of Kansas to attract job-creating industries to the state while insuring injured workers receive the care and benefits they need. Promoting Employment Across Kansas (PEAK) and unemployment insurance reform were also passed to promote job growth, expand the Kansas economy, and shore up the unemployment insurance trust fund. The Governors Rural Opportunity Zone program was passed to help promote growth in rural communities.

Other significant legislation was the pay-go rule which limited political motivated spending amendments, there were four Pro-Life bills passed, flexibility in school finance was passed, Kansas Public Employee Retirement System (KPERs) reform was recognized as an urgent need and is being addressed, and voter identity will be enforced in the future.

There has been and will be many discussions on the accomplishments or failures of this year’s session. My main focus was to do what I promised – stand up for Northwest Kansas. I feel some of my best accomplishments were working

toward not allowing things to happen that would have affected us adversely.

I loved being our representative. When I have on my State Representative ID, I can get into see the head of any office in no time at all. There were quite a few people in the 120th that requested my help and I did my best to act quickly.

I am proud that I made a mark on this year’s legislative session. I was fortunate to have a bill that was passed into law and my investigation into the Fire Marshal’s office resulted in several million dollars of savings to schools, hospitals and nursing homes. I appreciate the phone calls and e-mails, and in most all cases I responded to them the day they were received. I also got a lot of compliments on my legislative updates as they were mine and not the canned variety.

Between now and next January, I plan to be throughout the 120th. I would like the Republican chairs to send me their rosters, e-mails and phone numbers. I want to get them all together with me for a meeting. We need to work together in all of our communities to fight for and promote Northwest Kansas.

I hope to be our representative for several terms and would appreciate your support. Please check my website [www.wardcassidy.com](http://www.wardcassidy.com). It has some new pictures and a way you can contribute to help with the thousands of miles I drive in our district.

## Installing ceiling fans cuts electricity bills

Installing ceiling fans is a familiar recommendation when it comes to cooling a home or other room, but the fans, themselves, are not cooling units, said Bruce Snead, K-State Research and Extension residential energy specialist.

In moving the air, the fans produce a cooling effect that can reduce reliance on an air conditioning unit and yield a savings on overall utility costs, he said. He encourages using the fans while rooms are occupied, but turning them off when the rooms are unoccupied

for additional savings on utility bills.

Reading the instructions for ceiling and other fans to adjust airflow is recommended, said Mr. Snead, who recently was appointed as director of extension energy programs at Kansas State University.

More energy efficient tips in cooling a home are available at K-State Research and Extension offices throughout the state and online, at the extension engineering website: [www.engext.ksu.edu/home.asp](http://www.engext.ksu.edu/home.asp).

## Memorial Day services held

By Karen Krien  
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Memorial Day services were held at the St. Francis Cemetery and Cheyenne Valley Cemetery which is south of Wheeler. The day before, services were held at Hope Valley Cemetery, northwest of St. Francis.

Memorial services at the St. Francis Cemetery were conducted by the VFW Post 1528 and the Auxiliary. Connie Rooney and Sam Miller welcomed the crowd. The flag was raised with the

Scouts standing at attention. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Kary Meyer gave the opening and closing prayers.

Mr. Miller thanked the Cheyenne County Cruisers Car Club for raising the money and, with the help of the VFW members, erected the new flag pole. The new flag, the light which shines on the flag, and the fence was also provided by the car club members.

Mr. Miller also recognized the club members for helping repair

other flag poles and ropes.

Mrs. Rooney talked about the U.S. flag, “A symbol of freedom held sacred.” Memorial Day, she said, is a day to remember our troops who have fought for our freedom.”

She read the winning Voice of Democracy essay written by Kelsey Woo from California.

“Taps” was played and part of those attending moved to the Rebekah Memorial where fallen veterans were honored.



HOPE VALLEY CEMETERY held their service on Sunday. Pictured are (l to r) Louanne Isernhagen, Rikki Rueb, Randy Rueb, Blake Feikert, Lois Lippert and Bill Lippert.

## People meet despite wind

By Karen Krien

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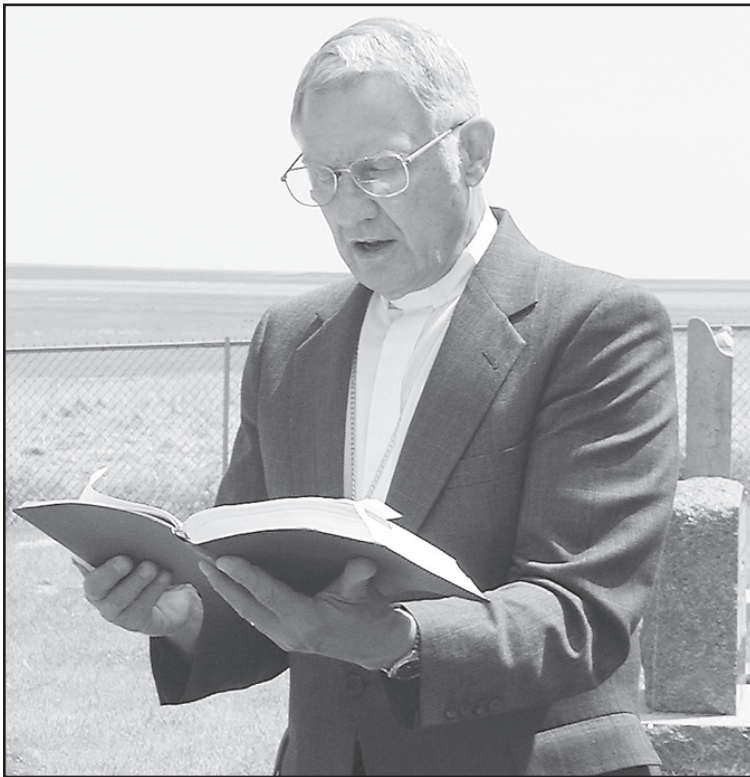
On Sunday, despite the wind, a group of people met at Hope Valley Cemetery northwest of St. Francis.

Althea Lebow and Art Klinzman led the singing of “Abide With Me.” Pastor Glenn Isernhagen gave the message, referring the book of Paul.

Many people, he said, think of the Memorial three-day weekend as a time to play, cookout and be with family and friends. However, it is an important time for remembering – remembering our family as well as our veterans. “Say goodbye to me but not the memory.”

It is then important to build memories for the future. What will they remember of us? he asked.

The service ended with the singing of “For the Beauty of the Earth” and prayer. Cookies and tea were enjoyed. Many took the opportunity to visit the graves of those who had gone before, remembering the memories they had built.



PASTOR GLENN ISERNHAGEN gives the invocation at Hope Valley Cemetery.



CHEYENNE VALLEY CEMETERY services were held on Monday. Pictured (l to r) Marsha Magley, Daryl Loyd, Keely Loyd and Pastor Jeff Landers who gave the invocations.

## Faithful people meet for service

By Karen Krien

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The sun was bright and the winds were strong as a small group of faithful people met at the Cheyenne Valley Cemetery. Many were the same people who have attended the service for years and they appeared to enjoy meeting again.

The service is organized by Marsha Magley with the help of the Cheyenne Valley officers and board members.

Daryl Loyd, president, gave the welcome and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Keely Loyd gave the invocation and Helene Landenberger presented her original patriotic poem about the flag, “Honor it.”

Pastor Jeff Landers, First Christian Church, reminded those attending of the First Amendment dealing with the freedom of religion. He noted that religious liberty is threatened for the American people as well as for the nation’s soldiers.

Pray to God for our nation’s leaders – to give wisdom to our government leaders, and, pray for our men and women in uniform, he concluded. Uphold the right of our precious liberty religion.

Mrs. Magley told about the Wiggins family, the spotlight family for the day. Some of the Wiggins are buried in the



HELENE LANDENBERGER recites a poem for those attending the Cheyenne Valley Cemetery.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

Cheyenne Valley Cemetery.

The election of officers was held with all the current officers being re-elected. Mr. Loyd will be president for another year; Mrs. Loyd, vice president; Mrs.

Magley, secretary and archivist; and Jean Loyd, treasurer. Board members are: Ms. Landenberger, three-year term; Jack Weinstein Jr., two year; Oscar Whitman, one year.

## A “Small” Hail Sale



2004 Ford Freestar, #T7020A  
Was..\$9,500 NOW..\$8,000



2006 Ford Freestar, #60770A  
Was..\$10,895 NOW..\$9,300



2006 Acura TL, #25830A  
Was..\$17,500 NOW..\$13,900



1999 Ford F-150 Ext. Cab, #T9479A  
Was..\$5,500 NOW..\$3,900

\*Cash price only no trade in’s\*

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