

SENIOR DANCE TROOP practices for the recital to be held on Mother's Day at the high school auditorium. Pictured left to right, Lexi Hilt, Kayla Reed, Emily Elfers, Laura Brunk, Tilyn Bell and Clarice Neitzel. Herald photo by Teresa Porter

Legislative News

The Veto Session, which we are currently in, is scheduled to go until May 11. Veto Session is traditionally dedicated to addressing bills approved or vetoed by the governor and to finish the state budget.

The redistricting of the Senate map has caused the process to slow down. Tuesday, May 1, the Senate finally approved a map that I can't vote for. If the Senate map would pass, we would lose another Senate seat from Western Kansas.

The same day we finished the Omnibus Bill in Appropriations. I cannot tell you how much I learned by being on this committee. It was exciting and frustrating to be on the committee that passes out a \$14 billion all-fund budget.

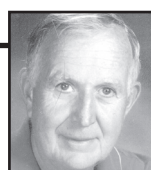
There were many items on this bill that I opposed, but the majority won out. There were several instances where my input helped Western Kansas. I do feel that we are in much better fiscal shape than we were just two years ago, and I appreciate having a statutory required ending balance.

Most of my constituent contacts the past week have dealt with the Governor's tax proposals. I cannot support the current proposals because of the extreme gamble that we can grow the economy enough to make up for the income tax cut. We were shown projections that it would take thousands of new jobs to make up for the shortfall and that in 2014 we could have a \$14 million deficit.

Most of my letters want lower sales tax, less property tax, and a break for small business. Like many bill proposals that we see, you have to look at the whole picture and not just one piece that looks good.

I received many e-mails about the Obama Administration and their proposal regarding family farm child labor laws. Specifically, the rule would have changed the extent to which children could work on farms owned by family members - including driving most power-driven equipment. Although this was a federal issue, I forwarded these e-mails to Senator Moran. Last week, the Obama administration withdrew

By
Ward
Cassidy



120th State Representative

the attempt. The ability for Kansas families to continue passing down long-standing traditions from generation to generation is part of our state's culture and I am glad that our children will still have the opportunity to help on the farm.

A major issue this year is KanCare. The Governor's office has been afraid of how the Federal cuts to Medicaid would affect our state's budget and has attempted to set up a program that would provide services more effectively. I feel that we moved too quickly and that there are problems with the entire KanCare package. I voted in Appropriations to carve out the Developmentally Disabled section and postpone implementation until Jan. 1, 2014.



Braxton Allen Rhea

Introducing

Keith and Ashlee Rhea of Topeka announce the birth of their son, Braxton Allen. He was born on March 21, 2012, and weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces. He has a big sister, Kaylee, who is very proud of her new brother.

Braxton's grandparents are Dale and Pat Crabtree of St. Francis, and Kurt and Cheri Rhea of Sharon Springs.

Entertainment needed for fair

When the Cheyenne County Fair Board met on Thursday, one of the board's main concerns was the lack of grandstand entertainment on Thursday night of the fair.

The board was open to having any club or group of individuals organize some sort of entertainment. Jennie Cravens, board member, suggested the Sweet Adeline's singing group might be interested in coming but on Tuesday, they said they were unable to come.

At prior meetings, the board had discussed having motorcycle races but they had not been able to get a set of Kansas rules. It was also noted that most rules state that the participants needed two hours for practice. If the event was set for 7 p.m., it wouldn't give time

for the practice. Also, many of the participants would be coming from Colorado and the time change could pose even more problems.

The board agreed that they needed to find another entertainment.

Because of the unavailability of sheep, there could be no Mutton Bustin' which has been a fun entertainment in the past. They talked about barrel racing, lawnmower races, cattle sorting and the Ranch Rodeo activities but no decision was made.

Anyone wanting to help organize a Thursday night event should contact board president, Dick Bursch, 785-332-2737 or 785-821-0492, or any fair board member.



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Sainty Sharks Swim Team

Sign-up and organizational meeting

Thursday, May 17

3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Grade School Cafeteria

Call or text 785-772-7374



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St. Francis Senior Center Annual Pancake Day

Saturday, May 12

7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Pancakes
Biscuits & Gravy
Ham
Scrambled Eggs
Milk, Orange Juice
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