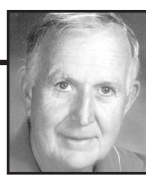


# Legislative News



By  
Ward  
Cassidy  
120th State Representative

Less than two weeks to the primary election. In my last article, I wanted to express the idea that everyone should vote and that everyone should take the time to study the issues. It is not always easy to find out just which candidate best meets your expectations for representation.

A Senate race for the 4th district is a great example of why people just hate election time. It should be against the law to have commercials that are misleading and not truthful. If you're a Republican, in Kansas, you should have to do more than just be critical of Obama Care.

Politics is a machine, and it is all about money. It is also about getting support from political groups to get that money. When I first ran for office, four years ago, most of the money I

received to campaign came from family, friends, my own pocket, and constituents of the 120th district. Newspaper ads, radio ads, signs, and postcards can add up quickly to several thousand dollars. I talked with a friend who is running a primary, in Johnson County, and they have spent over \$12,000 so far this year. In the last House election, there were candidates spending \$50,000 to get elected. That is a lot of money for an \$88 a day job. You also get a \$123 dollar a day stipend for food and lodging and that varies for how far you live from Topeka. I know it was not their own money they were spending.

I just read the Salina paper, and a group called Kansans for Liberty has decided that several House members are not fit for

re-election. They have taken it upon themselves to deliver fliers door to door describing the candidate faults. I have met the leader of this organization, as he was at the Capitol many days, trying to influence legislation. Why anyone gives them a thought is beyond me. They try to intimidate to get your vote. I always thought if they were against someone, I would vote for whom they were against! Also, I suspect that there are very few members of this so-called political action group. I have met a political action group that only has one member, and he is constantly in the Capitol trying to convince legislators to think like him.

If you're an incumbent legislator, you have access to mailing lists of everyone who

voted in your district—how many are registered Republicans, Democrats, and Independents and if they voted in the last election. In my first election, I had to pay to get some of that information, and it cost \$2,000 to send-out a small post card. You have to list on the post card who paid for the advertisement. I have seen three large postcards, sent out in a week, which were not paid-for by the candidate. They were paid-for by a group that either likes the candidate's philosophy, hopes to convince him to think like them, or really doesn't like the other candidate. The comments do not have to be truthful; the only requirement is that there is some group name who sent the post card. Senator Ostmeyer was the recipient of such dirty tactics in the last election.

An interesting thing to do is to go to the Kansas Ethics Commission website and check where the candidate's financial support has come from. I believe almost every organization has a lobbyist in Topeka. Many of them have become my trusted friends, who always supplied good information and were never forceful or intimidating. The people they represented provided thousands of dollars to legislators. If I trusted the lobbyist, and the check they sent was from a group I wanted to get accurate information from, I gladly accepted it. I also sent more than one check back.

Anyone who runs for any office or board or is a leader in an organization puts themselves out there for criticism. We have great leaders in all of our communities. We also have many coffee shop experts who have never put themselves out there. Identify people you know and whose judgment you trust; if you are not certain whom to vote for, ask them. Then take the time to vote. If you don't, you have no reason to complain.



A BICYCLE BUILT FOR TWO. Brothers Seth (front) and Wyatt Hilt enjoy a summer ride on their grandmother Judy Hilt's tandem bicycle. Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

## Fraternal organization helps diverse group of people in need

"Over the past years, I continually get asked what the Knights of Columbus do," said Mike Antholz, "so I wanted to let everyone know what the Knights of Columbus is and some of the things that we have done over the last year."

The Knights of Columbus was founded in March 1882, by the Venerable Father Michael McGivney, as a fraternal benefit organization to help the widow and children when their husband and father are deceased. Since its founding, the Knights of Columbus has grown to over 1.8 million members. Kansas has over 37 thousand members in 265 councils. The Cheyenne County Council currently has 69 members.

Over the past year, the Knights of Columbus have participated in many different programs, both on the state and local levels. In August, they have their annual barbecue and meat raffle during the Cheyenne County Fair. The money that was raised from the barbecue was used to give two \$250 scholarships, one to Keenan Rhea from Cheylin, and one to Laura Brunk from St. Francis. They also donated \$500 to a Seminarian studying for the Priesthood. They gave \$200 to the Lori Crable medical fund and \$200 to the

Charlene Fiedler medical fund.

We held our annual Tootsie Roll drive to help people with intellectual disabilities. On the local level, they gave \$430 to the Special Olympics to help put on the annual Special Olympics Basketball Tournament in Hays. They also gave \$859 to each of the special education programs at St. Francis and Cheylin schools. On the state level, the Knights of Columbus gave \$24,500 to the Special Olympics Basketball tournament that had 1,296 athletes on 132 teams participating.

During the year, The Knights collect loose change at each of their meetings that they call Pennies from Heaven fund. At the end of the year, we cash it in and send it to the state treasurer to be added to the State Emergency Disaster Aid program. They also sent \$200 that was included in the Disaster Relief that the state council used for the Philippine Hurricane relief. Through this program, they received \$296 that was given to a St. Francis resident to help pay for groceries when she had a fire in her house. On the state level, the State Council used this fund to send \$5,000 to the Nebraska State Council to be distributed to the families of Pilger, Neb., when their town was hit by a tornado. They

also sent money to both Illinois and Missouri to help with tornado relief, as well as to Colorado to help the people that had their homes damaged in the floods. The state council also helped the families of towns here in Kansas that were hit with tornadoes and floods.

In January, members hold their Council's free throw contest for boys and girls ages nine through 14. This year, three of the girls that won the state competition went on and won the international competition. Also in January, they hold their annual Pro-Life baby shower, where we collect donations consisting of money and items needed to raise a baby from birth to approximately 2 years old, and give them to the Mary Elizabeth Home for Unwed Mothers in Hays. This past year, they collected \$350 in cash and over \$900 in clothing, diapers and other items. On the state level, over the past few years, they have collected donations to put five 3-D Ultrasound machines in five different Crisis Pregnancy Centers around the state.

These are just a few of the programs that the Knights of Columbus members participate in throughout the year.

### -St. Francis News-

Jacque and John Hayes, new residents of Goodland, drove to St. Francis, on Saturday, July 27 for a nice visit with her mother Barbara Ewing, and her brother Ron Ewing. Good weather allowed pleasant conversation and strawberry shortcake on the patio.



### - Student News -

Shawn Warren from St. Francis received a Associate of Applied Science degree from Colby Community College on May 16. Congratulations Shawn!

## Dundy County Hospital's HEALTH FAIR

General Health Panel offered for a discounted price of \$40.00  
PSA is an extra \$10.00.  
Valued at more than \$400

PLEASE CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT  
308-423-2204

DCH personnel will be available in your community as follows:

- Benkelman, Aug. 5, Aug. 6 & Aug. 12 at DCH (Starting at 6 am MST)
- Stratton, Aug 13 at the Stratton Clinic (6-10 am CST)
- Haigler, Aug 7- Haigler Ambulance Barn (6-10 am MST)

All times listed are local times.

- Due to the new Electronic Medical Record system, we are requesting that you call 423-2204 at least two days prior for an appointment.
- Payment will be collected at the time you come in for your testing. This will not and may not be billed to your insurance.

For the accuracy of the test, you will need to be fasting (nothing to eat or drink except water) for 12 hours. Please call Dundy County Hospital at 308-423-2204 ext 229 if you have questions.

Dundy County Hospital  
"Caring For Our Community"  
1313 North Cheyenne Street, Benkelman, NE  
Quality Healthcare  
Website: [bwtelcom.net/dch](http://bwtelcom.net/dch)

# GoodlandCal.NET

Your Local Community...Online

## GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

- Pay with credit/debit card
- Avoid longer lines
- Get to your seat faster

Aug. 6<sup>th</sup> Goodland, KS  
**PBR Rodeo**

Baxter Black  
Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> St. Francis, KS

[www.GoodlandCal.net/Tickets](http://www.GoodlandCal.net/Tickets)  
or visit your local county fair's website

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### NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of **City of St. Francis** will meet on August 11, 2014 at 7:30 PM at City Hall for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at City Hall and will be available at this hearing.

#### BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2015 Expenditures and Amount of 2014 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2015 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

| FUND                       | Prior Year Actual for 2013 |                   | Current Year Estimate for 2014 |                   | Proposed Budget for 2015          |                               |                     |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
|                            | Expenditures               | Actual Tax Rate * | Expenditures                   | Actual Tax Rate * | Budget Authority for Expenditures | Amount of 2014 Ad Valorem Tax | Estimate Tax Rate * |
| General                    | 819,977                    | 38.771            | 797,701                        | 39.033            | 834,900                           | 266,907                       | 40.215              |
| Library                    | 31,705                     | 3.999             | 32,154                         | 3.940             | 32,506                            | 26,548                        | 4.000               |
| Special Highway            | 5,560                      |                   | 5,600                          |                   | 130,722                           |                               |                     |
| Special Parks & Recreation | 521                        |                   | 823                            |                   | 726                               |                               |                     |
| Electric & Water Utility   | 1,764,128                  |                   | 1,800,355                      |                   | 1,934,299                         |                               |                     |
| Sewer Utility              | 129,270                    |                   | 176,816                        |                   | 172,982                           |                               |                     |
| Refuse Utility             | 160,116                    |                   | 160,729                        |                   | 214,513                           |                               |                     |
| Theatre Enterprise         | 86,113                     |                   | 83,542                         |                   | 115,166                           |                               |                     |
| Tourism & Convention       | 14,505                     |                   | 3,000                          |                   | 10,029                            |                               |                     |
| EMS Building Maintenance   | 13,475                     |                   | 13,141                         |                   | 12,670                            |                               |                     |
| Non-Budgeted Funds-A       | 85,655                     |                   |                                |                   |                                   |                               |                     |
| Totals                     | 3,111,025                  | 42.770            | 3,073,860                      | 42.973            | 3,458,513                         | 293,455                       | 44.215              |
| Less: Transfers            | 490,000                    |                   | 490,000                        |                   | 509,000                           |                               |                     |
| Net Expenditure            | 2,683,025                  |                   | 2,583,860                      |                   | 2,949,513                         |                               |                     |
| Total Tax Levied           | 282,146                    |                   | 287,324                        |                   | xxxxxxx                           |                               |                     |
| Assessed Valuation         | 6,596,911                  |                   | 6,686,998                      |                   | 6,637,025                         |                               |                     |
| Outstanding Indebtedness,  |                            |                   |                                |                   |                                   |                               |                     |
| January 1,                 | 2012                       | 2013              | 2014                           |                   |                                   |                               |                     |
| G.O. Bonds                 | 0                          | 0                 | 0                              |                   |                                   |                               |                     |
| Revenue Bonds              | 0                          | 0                 | 0                              |                   |                                   |                               |                     |
| Other                      | 336,539                    | 314,898           | 292,623                        |                   |                                   |                               |                     |
| Lease Purchase Principal   | 43,500                     | 0                 | 0                              |                   |                                   |                               |                     |
| Total                      | 380,039                    | 314,898           | 292,623                        |                   |                                   |                               |                     |

\*Tax rates are expressed in mills

Scott Schultz  
City Official Title: Mayor