

Campaign reports show differences

Mangan's money comes from cattle industry, Clark's from area

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Differences in the campaigns of the Republican incumbent and a Tribune farmer seeking the 40th District seat in the state Senate show up starkly in a review of their campaign finance reports.

Sen. Stan Clark, of Oakley, finishing his first full term, was a leader in forming a populist coalition of lawmakers that united last year to help family farmers by controlling big businesses. His campaign is being financed mostly from small contributions raised in the district, along with a few bundles from utility lobbyists and some personal money.

Major statewide farm groups opposed many of the coalition's proposals, saying they could only hurt farmers and ranchers. One of those has joined the state's largest teacher's union in endorsing Clark's opponent in the Republican primary. Members of the Kansas Livestock Association from across the state appear to have financed about two-thirds of the opponent's campaign.

Steve Mangan is a former president of the livestock group, and he has raised more than \$64,000, a huge sum for a state Senate race. Though Mangan says he is not running a "KLA campaign," more than 68 percent of the money appears to have come from the group, its members and associates. That doesn't include the so-called "soft money" being spent by the livestock group, the teachers and other statewide groups that oppose Clark. The groups are paying for mailings attacking Clark and supporting Mangan, though the candidate says he has no control over what they say.

Though the incumbent usually raises far more money than a challenger, Mangan reported raising \$64,010 this year, while Clark raised only \$19,443 this year. He also loaned his campaign \$10,000. Their total war chests are more comparable, with Clark showing \$51,992 including money held over from previous years.

Campaign finance records show that Mangan's campaign received at least \$43,595 from cattle producers, farmers, ranchers and others who are likely members of the Livestock Association, from addresses across the state. That's



Colorful signs covered lawns over the last few weeks. Doug Whitson running for sheriff, Harlan House and Jim Morrison for state representa-

tive, Stan Clark and Steve Mangan for state Senate, all had yard signs for advertisement. Photo illustration by Dana Sulsberger/The Goodland Daily News

68 percent of the total donations Mangan has brought in between Jan. 1 and July 20.

Finance reports were due to the state on Monday. State law requires candidates to report how much they have taken in for their campaign and what they have spent. The next report is due in October.

Clark got \$5,718 from farmers, ranchers and people who raise cattle, which was about 17 percent of the total amount Clark has raised in donations for his campaign. There were 11 donors from the industry, including ranchers, cattle feeders, the owner of Oakley Livestock, Kyle Hemmert, and the Hoxie Feed Yard.

While Mangan had 35 maximum donations of \$1,000, Clark only had three contributions of \$1,000. Most of his contributions were in the \$50-\$200 range.

Mangan said he had to have more

money because Clark is a six-year incumbent and he has to do more advertising because Clark already has name recognition.

By the end of last week, though, Mangan had spent most of the money that he gathered and had only about \$9,000 left at the time of the report.

Clark had spent only \$29,000, but has about \$23,000 left in his campaign, including the \$10,000 loan and \$9,000 of personal money from previous years.

He said he needs that last-minute money to refute attacks against him in the last few days of the campaign.

For example, the livestock association and the Kansas National Education Association mailed out fliers recently that compared Mangan and Clark, saying while Mangan supports schools and wants to help schools with declining enrollment get more money, Clark has a record of voting against increases in state money for rural districts.

Clark has said that's not true and spent Thursday morning calling reporters and putting messages on people's doors that rebutted the claims in the flier.

Clark said he spent thousands of dollars countering those claims, and said he had to be prepared to spend more.

The senator said he doesn't like to run a dirty campaign, but sometimes he has no choice but to fight back.

"I don't like mudslinging," he said, "but if it's slung toward me, I have to respond."

The contrast between populist maverick and organization player seems clear both in the content of mailings and in the financial reports. Mangan and his backers have sent out fliers and cards with endorsements from top Republicans ranging from former Gov. Mike Hayden and former Sen. Sheila Frahm to Lt. Gov. Gary Sherrer, who accused Clark of opposing the state's new transportation plan.

Frahm held the seat before Clark was elected at a special Republican caucus, and backed another candidate. Clark staged a surprise conservative coup, a fact that has rankled moderate Republicans in the area ever since.

While Mangan had \$6,300 from political action committees, Clark only had \$2,198. Most of Mangan's contributions were from outside the 40th District, while most of Clark's were from inside the district and were smaller donations from people he knows.

As a prominent member of the Utilities Committee, Clark has contribu-

tions from all of the telephone companies in the area and some around the state, and several from major power suppliers, while Mangan did not. Most were in the \$250 range, though.

Clark said that's because he is chairman of the information technology committee and vice chair of utilities. He said since the chairman of the utilities committee is retiring, he is the logical choice to move up.

"I don't read the mind of those contributing," he added. "They have decided they want to help me get re-elected."

"Admittedly, I don't have the people behind me that can write the big checks," Clark said, "but the small checks count a lot more in votes than the checks from big individuals."

Mangan has said he is supported by farm groups because they share the same philosophies, while they disagree with what Clark is doing.

Mangan said most of his contributions were from friends and maybe that would explain why they were from outside the district.

"I think it's just friendships you develop over the years," he said. "This is not a KLA campaign."

Board wants to protect frogs at Smoky Gardens

Bullfrogs and leopard frogs will be off limits if the Sherman Commissioners approve a request from the Smoky Gardens board at Monday's final meeting of the month.

Kenny Sanderson of the park board said they want to protect the frog population at the lake.

"This is part of the process of bringing the lake back into balance," Sanderson said. "There is a bullfrog season in Kansas, but currently there aren't enough frogs at Smoky Gardens."

"It takes two years for a frog to grow from tadpole to adult," he said, "and with the water low right now, if people keep taking frogs we will not have any left."

The request will be that the commissioners make it illegal to possess, catch, harass, molest or use frogs for bait. Sanderson said if the population grows, the board may open the lake for the normal frog season.

"Right now, we need to protect the frogs at the lake, and to let people know that it is illegal to catch them out of season," he said.

The commissioners will also consider the month-end claims vouchers, and a request from Curt Way, road and bridge supervisor, to purchase a computer and printer.

The commissioners meet at 8 a.m. in the commission room on the main floor of the county courthouse.

Whoops! It was a church collecting food, not a thief

It was members of the Sonrise Christian Church, not a young con artist, who have been knocking on doors asking people to donate food to the Genesis Emergency Help organization, Genesis coordinator Pat Jordan said Friday.

"I think the lesson is, if they are going to collect food for us in the future, we need to know about it," Jordan said, adding that the organization does appreciate the church's effort.

Jordan called the Goodland Daily News Thursday to say she wanted to warn the community about a young man who was collecting food for the Genesis food bank. The agency had no idea who he was.

"We always have a big food drive

around Christmas," Jordan said, "but we're not collecting for that now."

The organization called the police department about the matter, Jordan said, though Police Chief Ray Smee said he hadn't heard about it.

The Daily News printed a short article about the situation on the front page of Thursday's edition.

Jordan said Sonrise members saw the article and called her to say they were the ones collecting the food.

"We had no idea," she said, "they should have let us know, and told the community about it too."

But, she said, Genesis is grateful. "They collected 300 cans for us," she said.



A roll-over accident Thursday night on I-70 east of Exit 17 landed a couple from Illinois in the hospital. Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Roll-over accident injures Illinois couple

An Illinois couple rolled their car on I-70 Thursday, sending both to the hospital.

State Trooper Rich Hageman reported that the driver, Birute Simaitis, 59, and her husband, Vaidotas, of Urbana, Ill., were driving eastbound on I-70 about 7:30 p.m.

The report said the driver lost control of the 1998 Subaru station wagon, which slid into the south ditch and rolled at least one and a half times before coming to rest on its top.

The accident occurred a mile east of the K-27 exit, just south of Goodland. The couple was taken by ambulance to

the Goodland Regional Medical Center where they remain.

Brenda Cunningham, the director of nursing at the medical center, said they were in stable condition Friday.

Both were wearing seat belts at the time of the accident, Trooper Hageman reported.

weather report

79°

at noon

Today

• Sunset, 8:04 p.m.

Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 5:44 a.m.

• Sunset, 8:03 p.m.

Middy Conditions

• Soil Temperature 81 degrees

• Humidity 51 percent

• Sky clear

• Winds calm

• Barometer 30.11 inches and falling

• Record High 106° (1943)

• Record Low 52° (1958)

Last 24 Hours*

High 95°

Low 63°

Precipitation 0.17 inch

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Partly cloudy, 20 percent chance of thunderstorms, low 60-65, winds north 5-15 mph. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, cloudy late, 20 percent chance of thunderstorms, high 85-90, low 60-65, winds northwest 5-15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: dry, high mid 80s, low 60-65. Monday: high 85-90, low 60s. Tuesday: dry, high 90s, low 60-65.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.39 bushel

Posted county price — \$2.16

Loan deficiency payment — 29¢

Corn — \$1.50 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.48

Loan deficiency pmt. — 51¢

Milo — \$1.97 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$3.67 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.92

Loan deficiency payment — 98¢

Millet — \$5.00 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$5.65 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$4.04

Confection current — \$13/\$7 cwt.

Pinto beans — \$12 (new crop)

(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

House repeals security tax

WASHINGTON — House Republicans headed to their presidential convention with another tax cut in their pocket — the repeal of a 1993 measure that has meant higher taxes for millions of Social Security recipients.

The legislation, passed 265-159 Thursday with the help of 52 Democrats, was the last major bill the House finished before Congress adjourned for the summer and the two national presidential nominating conventions.

The Social Security tax break came on the heels of a series of GOP-led initiatives to cut inheritance taxes, taxes on some married couples, a phone tax and taxes affecting health care and business.

President Clinton said he would veto the Social Security measure because it undermines fiscal discipline and takes away resources needed for education.