

The House

Veteran has experience

By VERONICA MONIER
The Norton Telegram

Rep. John Faber says he thinks he does what's right for the 120th District in the state's House of Representatives.

So far, voters must agree, since he's held the seat for 10 years now and is finishing his fifth two-year term.

"I represent the constituency," he said. "I bring as much back from the eastern part of the state that I can."

Rep. Faber is vice chairman of the Transportation Committee and the joint Information Technology Committee and serves on the Education, Agriculture, Insurance and joint Legislative Educational Planning committees.

He said he's been on the Agriculture Committee for 10 years and Education Committee for eight.

Rep. Faber said if re-elected, he plans to focus on the same issues that he has been, those that deal with keeping western Kansas populated and functioning.

For him, he said, school finance is a fairness issue. Rural schools need support just like those in the cities.

"We need to make sure schools are properly funded out here in western Kansas," he said.

He said it's important to keep low-enrollment weighting, which gives extra money to small schools, in the state finance formula. It's also important to not put a lot of burden on local property taxes, he said.

"The state needs to fund every district equitably," he said.

He said state parks are important, but the Department of Wildlife and Parks needs to work within its budget. Secretary Mike

Hayden has asked for a \$5-a-year tax on all vehicle registrations to boost the park fund.

The department should be focusing on the land they have, rather than trying to buy more, Mr. Faber said.

"They need to take care of what they have," he said.

Tax cuts, he added, are something he always looks for.

"We need to attract more business so we can put more people to work," he said. "Western Kansas has abundant water and a

very good work force, which is a good draw for new business."

Rep. Faber said tax breaks might be a way to get the people raised in western Kansas to come back and raise their families, boosting the enrollment base for schools.

A Rawlins County farmer and rancher, Rep. Faber and his wife Renee live on their farm in the southwest corner of the county. Their address is out of Brewster, and he's a former member of the Brewster School Board.

The district covers Norton, Decatur, Phillips, Cheyenne and Rawlins counties.

Rep. Faber will be facing Democrat Bob Strevey of Norcatour for the third time in six years in the November general election, but was unopposed in the Aug. 1 primary. The last two times, he's whipped the same Republican opponent.

"I've always been a common-sense conservative," he said. "I think I reflect the district I live in."

"When people vote for me, they're voting for experience. I know the ropes and can get the job done for us out here."



John Faber

Challenger thinks third time worth it

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

A Norcatour man wants another rematch for the 120th District seat in the state House of Representatives.

Democrat Bob Strevey ran against the incumbent, Rep. John Faber of Brewster, two years ago and four years ago, losing both races to the Republican. He said he tried to get some other Democrat to run this time, but no one was interested.

There are lots of capable people who hold this position, Mr. Strevey said, and he isn't saying Mr. Faber isn't one of them, but having two candidates for an office is supposed to be part of the democratic process.

The party system works better, he said, when there is someone from both main parties running. If there is only one person running, he said, then the process doesn't work. Besides, this race might be different.

"The third time's a charm," said Mr. Strevey, a Norcatour farmer, former teacher and retired Army Reserve officer, with a smile.

He said he visited with his opponent recently and they are friendly and open with each other. Mr. Strevey said they can debate each other in a friendly way.

He said there are five issues he feels passionate about, in no particular order.

- The state needs to support state lakes and parks, he said. The lake in Norton, with its state park and state wildlife area, is short on money and it doesn't seem that the facility has legislative support at all.

- Rep. Faber, said Mr. Strevey, voted for the private prisons bill. A former employee at the state prison in Norton, Mr. Strevey said he opposes the bill, despite a provision providing stricter rules for sex offenders. There are a lot of jobs connected with the prison in Norton, he said, and if the state

goes to private prisons, then those jobs could go away.

- On school finance, said Mr. Strevey, the state Supreme Court should only serve as a referee.

The court overstepped its bounds when it said how much money should be spent on the schools, he said. The legislators responded with more money and now the court needs to back off, he added.

The court needs to give the process some time to work, Mr. Strevey said, but he doesn't favor punishing the court in any way.

- Mr. Strevey said he is unhappy that the state is borrowing huge sums of money, piling up the state debt. The Republican party continues to push for tax cuts, he said, and that is putting a tremendous burden on our grandkids. This needs to stop.

The last tax cuts were for businesses buying machinery or buildings. Part of the reason this wasn't in the best interest of the state, he said, is that most of that money was then going to urban areas.

He said he has talked with the county commissioners in his district, and they have said that the counties are constantly losing money because of something the state does. The counties are being squeezed, he said. This is just a precursor to the state government saying that counties aren't doing the job and so they need to consolidate, he said, and that isn't a good idea.

- Economic development, said Mr. Strevey, is important. Progress is being made across the district, but things could be better. As the representative for this area,

Mr. Strevey said, he can help with economic development, especially when a prospect needs a multi-county approach.

A good representative, he said, could be a good facilitator for economic development.

Mr. Strevey was born on a farm near Norcatour and has lived south of Norcatour all his life. He taught fifth through eighth grades for 31 years.

He and his wife Kay have three daughters: Trudi, who is married to John McCollum, lives in Missouri and has a daughter Elyssa. Wendy, married to Lauren Tien, lives in Andover and has a daughter Ivalea. Hollie is married to Justen Ricke, and they have a son Jared.

Mr. Strevey now has a farm and grows corn, wheat, milo and cattle.

He is a director of the U.S. 36 Highway Association, president of the Norcatour Citizens Alliance, and a member of the Norcatour United Methodist Church and the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp. board.

Although he and Rep. Faber differ on economic issues, he said, they usually agree on social issues. Both are pro-life, said Mr. Strevey, and both are against gay marriage.

Mr. Strevey said he thinks it will be a close race this time, though it has been a long time since a Democrat has held the seat. The candidate said he gained 900 votes between 2002 and 2004, and if he gains 900 again, the outcome could be different.



PUTTING SOME FINISHING TOUCHES on a mural on hometown history at the Decatur Good Samaritan Center, artist Jeanette Diederich chatted with Administrator Janice Shobe. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Artist paints history on center walls

Anyone who has been in the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center recently has seen the handiwork of a local artist on the walls in the front room.

Jeanette Diederich has been working for weeks on a mural of hometown history in the Town Square dining area, which also serves as a place for residents to take part in activities during the day.

The mural includes a country church and grain elevator, plus memorable landmarks around the county.

Jan Badsy, who works at the center, said people are welcome to stop in and see the progress on the mural and to visit with the residents.

In July, *The Oberlin Herald's* Progress section inadvertently missed the center. One of the latest changes at the time was Administrator Janice Shobe.

"It has been a pleasure to return to the community where I grew up," said Mrs. Shobe, "and to work in the center where several of my relatives have lived. My role as an administrator started in 2004, following eight years prior service within the Good Samaritan Society."

Through the years, she said, she

has seen rapid changes in the care of elders and continued improvement in the quality their lives.

Mrs. Shobe also is administrator at the Good Samaritan Center in Atwood.

* Harvest stalls in wet ground

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So far, he said, at all locations, the co-op has taken 100,000 bushels of corn, 10,000 bushels of milo, 8,000 bushels of soybeans and 12,000 bushels of sunflowers.

With the wheat planting done in the area, he said, if there is some dry weather, farmers can get out and cut the fall crops.

So far, said Mr. Evans, the yields haven't been good, but it is still too

early to tell. The quality has been good, though, he said.

The rain, which isn't normal for this time of year, may keep farmers out of the field again this week. Sarah Johnson, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Goodland, said the area has a good chance of getting moisture again this week.

This kind of weather isn't normal for this time of year, she added. In McCook, about 30 miles north of

Oberlin, they get on average 1.3 inches of precipitation in October. So far in October, that area received 1.4 inches and there is still half a month to go, she said.

She said a "pretty intense" low pressure system came through the area with a cold front. Another cold front is expected this week, along with a forecast for half an inch of rain.

* Building should get started soon

(Continued from Page 1A)

County Fair Foundation.

Why, said Mr. Badsy? That is a foundation decision, she said.

The check will have to, he said, but the color doesn't. Current buildings at the fairgrounds are colonial blue on the sides and ivory on the roof. Mr. Badsy made a motion to approve those colors, with Mr. Long

seconding.

The final decision, said Mrs. Gillespie, will have to go through the foundation, and the board changed the color decision to a recommendation.

Byron Hale, county extension agent, who acts as a liaison between the board and the 4-H clubs, said Mr. Brown, will have to meet with the

foundation.

Mr. Brown said it is hard to design something off of a "he said, she said" plan. He said whatever happens, he has to have the check in the mail by the end of the month.

The foundation has a meeting set up for 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 23 at the extension office.

New coaches to lead basketball squads

Oberlin has a new boys' basketball coach and a new assistant.

Former Decatur Community High basketball player and junior high coach Rusty Montgomery will take over as head basketball coach

for the Red Devils. This is his first high school coaching job.

He is the son of Bob and Anita Montgomery of Oberlin.

Former Cheylin High School player Greg Olson, Oberlin, will be

the assistant coach.

He is the son of Alden and Macalene Olson, McDonald.

Neither coach will teach at the school.



THE OBERLIN HERALD

and the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce welcome The 180 House to the business community

The Chamber Board welcomed Wendi Wacker and Cathy Rieken, employees at King's Alcohol/Drug Treatment Center, at the 180 House on North Elk Avenue. The

name was chosen by the residents, who are working to make a 180 degree turnaround in their lives.

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