

Students weave fun into paintings



WEAVING PAPER through paintings they had done, first graders Alex Eskew (left) and Tyler Nichols seemed to be having a good time in Terri Woolsey's art class last week at Oberlin Elementary School.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Ward Cassidy plans to run for legislature

By **KAREN KRIEN**
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After a legislative "town hall" meeting in Bird City last week, Ward Cassidy of St. Francis announced that he plans to run for state representative of the 120th District. The position has been held for the last 14 years by Brewster Republican John Faber.

At his meeting Saturday, Feb. 13, Mr. Cassidy said he had been approached by groups from Decatur, Norton and Phillips counties, asking him to consider running because he is known throughout the area and they thought he will do a good job representing northwest Kansas. He said he is registered as a Republican.

"I am pleased that these people feel I could be a candidate for the 120th District," he said. "I have been told that someone who spends their career in education would not be a good candidate because we are all about raising taxes."

"That is a long way from being accurate." Mr. Cassidy, who the counselor at the St. Francis schools, said he believes that everyone should do everything possible to maintain our rural communities without raising taxes.

At the town hall meeting on Saturday, Mr. Cassidy said, Les Lacy, administrator of the Cheyenne County Hospital, had done a great job of explaining how all the entities in a community are woven together. When one gets hurt, he said, they all get hurt.

Mr. Cassidy has been in education for 40 years, working six years as a teacher, 16 years as a counselor and 20 years as a principal.

"Being in education, I can think of several ways we can cut state costs," Mr. Cassidy said. "To me, that is the solution — everyone working together to solve problems."

"We need to preserve our life-

style, and after exhausting every other means, if it is necessary to raise taxes, then so be it."

If he's elected to the Legislature, Mr. Cassidy said, he would ask everyone living in the five-county district for ideas on how issues and new bills would affect them.

"If we don't all stand up to protect our northwest Kansas way of life, we will have to take what is dished out."

He said he is asking all voters to come to the polls in August and November.

"I want to see the largest turnout in the history of our five counties," he said. "Then, maybe the Legislature will take notice."

Mr. Cassidy said he earned a specialist degree in education finance from Fort Hays State University and a master's in administration and counseling from Northwest Oklahoma State University.

He has served on numerous boards including the Kansas State High School Activities Association (three years), the Secondary School Principals Association (eight years); state Access for Handicapped Students, St. Francis Fire Department and Riverside Recreation, the golf club in St. Francis.

He was named Area Principal of the Year in 1989. He has been a motivational speaker (1991-2000), Colby Community College outreach instructor in education (six years); Fort Hays State University outreach instructor, and taught school and community relations and current educational issues (six years).

Mr. Cassidy and his wife Gloria, the first grade teacher in St. Francis, have two daughters, Jenny (Cory) Busse, who farms, and Penny (Kody) Krien, who own a business on St. Francis' Main Street. They have six grandchildren, Tate, Cassidy and Ben Busse, and K.C., Adam and Ellie Krien.



Ward Cassidy

Lawyer runs for attorney general

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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Ralph DeZago, a Republican candidate running for Kansas Attorney General, was in northwest Kansas last week, making stops in Norton, Colby, St. Francis and Oberlin.

A Junction City prosecutor and former assistant attorney general, he says the attorney general's office should be filled by someone who has experience. It is about performing as an executive, rather than a platform for espousing a particular

philosophy.

He thinks four kinds of experience are necessary for filling the attorney general's position: a lawyer who has worked in the attorney general's office, handled criminal cases, run a large organization and run an office full of lawyers.

Mr. DeZago said, during his stop here last Monday, he has all of the above. He worked in the attorney general's office for more than three years and also served as the chief public defender for the 8th Judicial District for 16



R. DeZago

years.

As the city prosecutor for Junction City, he said he has handled hundreds of criminal cases in court. While stationed at Fort Riley, he was an officer, proving that he could run a large organization. He has also run an office of 10 lawyers with support staff.

He has no use for candidates using the office as a stepping stone to get to higher positions. He said he is willing to act and speak out on issues.

He noted that he doesn't have widespread name recognition but is running on a grassroots, issue-based campaign. He doesn't believe in

candidates who run solely on image and endorsements. He is against wasting dollars on campaigning and, instead, will be visiting towns, large and small, all over Kansas, talking to anyone who will listen to him.

Mr. DeZago earned a bachelor's degree from Fordham University, New York; a master's degree from Kansas State University; and a law degree from the University of Kansas. He has been practicing criminal law for 28 years and handled the first DNA case in Kansas and the fourth in the country in 1988. He and his wife live in Herington, where he has served on the city commission and as mayor.

Oberlin woman gives update on House of Hope orphanage

The Decatur Professional Women heard an update this month from an Oberlin woman who started the House of Hope orphanage and school with her family in Haiti.

Nanette Zander talked with the group during its meeting Feb. 10 at Coffee, Tea and Me.

Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere, said Mrs. Zander. Two-thirds of the people don't have formal jobs. Sixty percent live on \$1 a day or less.

Mrs. Zander said her ministry has 108 kids at its school in Haiti now. Recently, they opened a mountain school with 60 children.

In Williamson, she said, the group started a school offering seventh and eighth grades. To get into seventh grade in Haiti, students have to take a comprehensive test. Most of the people in those grades are in their 20s, she said, because they haven't had the opportunity before.

The school has 50 students in the seventh and eighth grades, she added.

Mrs. Zander said they want to offer computer programming and

English classes. Most people in Haiti speak Creole, a derivative of French.

She said the organization is in this effort for the long haul. With the earthquake last month, she said, a lot of aid flowing to the country was used to help the people just stay alive, but House of Hope wants to help raise the kids, educate them and help them be productive adults.

With the earthquake, she said, they would like to start another orphanage. Kids are living on mattresses in the school house, she said. They came to the orphanage with just the clothes on their back.

She added that people have probably seen in the news recently where some children have turned out to not really be orphans. Mrs. Zander said she can see how this happens, because some of the parents have told the kids to say they don't have parents so that they can get help. They are starving, she said.

Anyone can sponsor a child at the House of Hope for \$40 a month, which provides food, clothing, healthcare and a Christian educa-

tion, she said.

"Our goal is to change their lives completely," Mrs. Zander added.

She said with everything going on since the earthquake in Port au Prince, the capital city, and the hopes of building another orphanage for 50 kids, she plans to go back to the country in March.

She said she hopes to take clothing for the kids with her.

Normally, said Mrs. Zander, she and her husband go twice a year, but this year they will travel three times.

Another idea they have kicked around is an Internet cafe, which would provide a revenue source for workers and provide people in Haiti a way to communicate with family members.

Education is so important to these people, she said. A lot of Haitians would give their kids away if they thought the kids would then get an education.

"It's so broken, so very broken," said Mrs. Zander.

The club gave Mrs. Zander \$100 for the House of Hope.

Summer fun day planned for Sappa Park

The Decatur County Helping Hands group is planning for a fun day to be held this summer at Sappa Park, including a dinner and dance to help raise money for people who need help with medical costs.

Right now, the group has paper hearts for sale for \$1 at the ReLoad, Crossroads Express, Ampride, Raye's Grocery and Pizza Hut. People buying the hearts can write their names on them and then each

one will be displayed in the business where it was purchased.

All the money raised goes to help Decatur County residents with medical expenses.

Good Sam planning hoedown

The Decatur County Good Samaritan center wants to invite everyone to its hoedown in the middle of March.

The event will include a dinner, dance and auction, said Cindy Sauder, who is in charge of resource development. Tickets are \$25 each.

The center, said Ms. Sauder, is run by a nonprofit organization, and to do anything extra for the residents, they have to come up with the money to pay for it.

The doors will open at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 20, for the hoedown, with dinner at 7 p.m., she said.

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