

# \* House race

## \* Candidate offers choice

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 "It's hard to have a good, functioning democratic process if there's only one name on the ballot," he said.  
 If elected, Mr. Strevey said, he understands that his would only be one voice out of 125 in the House. However, he said, he thought that the state needs to get back to some fiscal responsibility.  
 For years, he said, the state has cut taxes. Now that there is no money, and instead of raising those taxes again, the state is borrowing money.  
 "We should try to get our fis-

cal house in order," he said. "You should have to pay as you go."  
 "Both of my opponents are against raising any taxes, but most businessmen will tell you that if you have a financial shortfall, you need to work from both ends. You have to cut expenses and raise revenues."  
 Mr. Strevey said that he was once an Eisenhower Republican and pay as you go was his philosophy. But the Republican party has dumped those principles, he said.  
 Mr. Strevey also said that he thinks the state should help Decatur County repair three bridges that are in great disrepair.

## \* Newcomer seeking seat

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 about, visiting in the five counties. He thinks being "visible" is important.  
 "I'm going to be visible in the counties as well as the four months I am at the capital," he said, adding that he has lots of energy which he plans to put to work for the people of the district.  
 Mr. Cassidy said he doesn't believe in raising taxes but wants to make sure the people in the district get their fair share of services provided by the state. Kansas has 33 taxes, he said.  
 "We need to find a way to eliminate some of those taxes and help businesses," he said. "We are going to have less services, which include the cuts in education, medical and senior citizens services. We need to make sure we keep as many services as we can in northwest Kansas."  
 In this part of the state, he said, agriculture is our biggest industry.  
 "We need to do everything possible to maintain ag communities without raising taxes," he said. "We

provide the food – the government needs to provide the services!"  
 Mr. Cassidy said he doesn't believe in gay marriages and doesn't think gun control is necessary.  
 He said he has been in education for 40 years, working six years as a teacher, 16 years as a counselor and 20 years as a principal. He and his wife Gloria, also a teacher, have two daughters and six grandchildren.  
 "Being in education, I can think of several ways we can cut state costs," Mr. Cassidy said.  
 "There are so many restrictions that the state makes on schools," he said. "They send out people to check the schools. Today, these checks can be done online, which will save the state money."  
 Besides, he said, schools can take care of themselves.  
 The state spends 52 percent of the budget on schools and 11 percent on higher education. Mr. Cassidy pointed out that he has a specialist degree in education finance from Fort Hays State University.

## \* School dates, times change

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 3:30 p.m.  
 While most of the fees will remain the same, the cost for industrial arts will go from \$5 to \$10.  
 The only other major change in the schedule, Mrs. Simonsson said, is that school board meetings will start at 7:30 p.m. in April through October and then at 6:30 p.m. in No-

vember through March. This means that the September and October meetings will start at the old time, 7:30 p.m., but starting in November, when it gets dark early, the meetings will start one hour earlier until April, when they will return to their old time of 7:30 p.m.  
 Anyone with a question can call the district office at 475-3805.



WATCHING AS THE FLAMES die down on the remains of two abandoned houses on Thursday, Roger Wilson (left) and his son Dave were preparing to clean up the property which Roger owns across Maple Street from the county ball

# Burning debris lights fire under council

By CYNTHIA HAYNES  
 c.haynes@nwkans.com

## Council Roundup

At its meeting Thursday, the Oberlin City Council:  
 • Decided to go ahead and build a wall around the new part of the cemetery if money was available. Story on Page 1A.  
 • Learned that some abandoned

buildings near the ball fields had been demolished and burned. Story at left.  
 • Received a bid for oil and gas leases under city-owned property east of town. Story to come.

destroyed, Police Chief Wade Lockhart said that he believed Fire Chief Bill Cathcart had OK'd the fire.  
 "Since when did it become legal to burn a house in the city limits?" Mr. Castle asked.  
 Chief Lockhart said that no building had been burned. The houses had been torn down and a pile of

debris formed.  
 He said that he felt that was important because, while it isn't legal to burn a house, he thought burning rubbish piles is legal at certain times or with approval of the fire chief.  
 Mr. Castle said that he didn't think it was right because the pile probably contained shingles and

asbestos.  
 Mayor Joe Stanley said that the council had looked into burning some of the condemned properties in town but had been told it couldn't do that without removing a lot of stuff.  
 The police chief said that all he knew is that the county dispatcher called him in the morning to tell him that the fire chief had given permission to burn those piles.  
 City Attorney Steve Hirsch said that Mr. Castle could call the Kansas Department of Health and Environment if he thought there was an air-pollution problem with the burn.  
 In the meantime, he said, he would check the city ordinances to see if this sort of burning is legal. However, he noted it would take him

## \* Wall will be built if there is enough money

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 ing some in that fund for trees and other needs, and the rest from the Community Development Fund to build the entire wall if there was enough money, but to only build the north-south section if not.  
 In other business, the council:  
 • Was asked by Jim Wesch whether the Airport Advisory Board should get directions from the council or come up with some ideas on its own and bring them to the council.  
 • Approved the appointment of Councilman Ray Ward to the Arts and Humanities Commission.  
 • Heard a short presentation by James Foster, a representative of the Office of Rural Opportunity with the Kansas Department of Commerce.

His office helps communities under 5,000, find grants.  
 • Signed a contract with the Kansas League of Municipalities to help find a new city administrator for a base fee of \$3,497 plus expenses.  
 "I'm not enthused with the idea," Ms. May said, "but what are the alternatives? Someone would have to sit down with resumes and figure them out, and it's a lot of work."  
 • Directed Code Enforcement Officer Jan Ackerman, who was not at the meeting, to handle only those properties that have been reported to her by citizens as being hazardous and unsightly and not look for any herself.  
 • Learned that the Board of Zoning appeals will meet Thursday to

discuss zoning changes for the new bowling alley and for a photography shop in a building on South East Avenue that had been used by the Seventh-Day Adventist Church.  
 • Was told that work is moving on the new computer system and that the July utility bills are expected to be printed on time.  
 • Was asked by the mayor to volunteer to help at a free hamburger

feed the city and Hansen Mueller Grain will be providing on Saturday night of the fair. The crowd is expected to be close to 2,000.  
 "We're going to need some help," he told the council, "probably lots of help."  
 • Set a work session for Thursday with budget discussions as the main agenda item.

## \* Family rejoices at return of pet dog

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 the Decatur County Hospital. Later, she was flown to Good Samaritan in Kearney, where she was in intensive care.  
 Kip could not be found. By Thursday, however, Mrs. Marcuson was moved from intensive care to a "progressive care" floor of the hospital and was up and walking.  
 "She's got a long way to go," Mr. Marcuson said, adding that she is in good spirits and working hard at recovery.  
 Meanwhile, Kip had been spotted several times by people who called the Marcusons, but the dog was too scared and shy to be caught.  
 It appeared, Mr. Marcuson said, that Kip had been sleeping at the Spresser Oil Co. station in Dresden at night and then heading over to the Jennings area during the day.  
 The workers at Spresser were putting out food for him, but he wouldn't be caught.  
 Finally, he was spotted near the Decatur County shop in Jennings

and Sarah passed over there.  
 "I went out there because someone told me that's where he was," she said, "but I didn't see him when I got there. I was about to drive through Jennings looking when he ran up to the car. I opened the door and he jumped in."  
 Kip had suffered no broken bones and while dirty and covered with ticks, he appeared not too much the worse for his adventures. Nevertheless, he got a trip to the vet's.  
 In Kearney, Brad said, there were tears of joy when the Marcusons got the news Kip had been found safe.  
 "The nurses came running to see what was wrong," Mr. Marcuson said. "We told them, and they understood since they had seen the paper."  
 Mrs. Marcuson still has a long road to recovery, he said, but friends and neighbors have been in to clean house and leave food, cut the rest of the wheat and help out anyway they could.  
 And now, Kip is home, too.

## \* Seniority provides edge

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 tax, it'll just be another nail in his coffin."  
 Mr. Faber said he voted against the governor's proposal to raise the sale tax 1 percent to restore cuts in education and social programs, but did vote for a .4 of 1 percent increase he said could have done the same thing.  
 Rep. Faber said he'd been chair of the Agriculture Committee until last year, when the speaker and leadership asked him to take on the budget job. Agriculture has taken cuts, he said, but this year, he was "a little more successful" at getting more money back.  
 As for education, he said, as a former member of the Brewster School Board, he understands the needs.  
 "We shored that budget up," he

said, adding that he also understands and supports the need for state aid to the disabled.  
 What state revenues do in July may signal what's ahead, he said.  
 "July isn't a very good month to look at," he said, "but at least it'll give us an idea of what's coming down the road."  
 Asked about reports that he lives mostly in Topeka now, Mr. Faber, who'd just finished wheat harvest, answered firmly.  
 "I've been in Topeka one time since the session," he said. "It was three days for rules and regulations. I farm here. I shop here. I do everything in northwest Kansas. That's how I make my living."  
 "I'm home weekends every two or three weeks during the session."

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**Tina Meitl, Agent**  
**122 E. Commercial St.**  
**Oberlin, Kansas 67749**  
**Office: 785-475-2238**  
**Fax: 785-475-2554**  
**Cell: 785-678-7254**  
**tina.meitl@fbfs.com**



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