

Supreme Court Chief Justice Lawton Nuss addressed the Legislature on the State of the Judiciary in Kansas, stressing financial concerns, as with almost all Kansas agencies, but his talk included a request that could hurt our area.

Justice Nuss asked that the Legislature give the Judicial Branch the ability to assign and organize judges as its deems best. I personally like having one judge per county.

I know there are many outdoor enthusiasts in my district. I like the proposal that when we purchase our new car tags, there will be a check-off box to allow us to get a state Parks Pass for \$15. It is another step the Wildlife and Parks Commission has requested to help meet its goal of becoming self-sufficient.

The governor says he plans to repeal the "use it or lose it" law associated with groundwater rights in

areas closed to new water development.

The governor's income-tax plan has met with some controversy. Like many things this year, it is still a work in progress. Kansas has a long-standing reliance on the three-legs of income, sales, and property taxes to pay for government. Like many of this year's proposals, I will have to learn a lot more about the budget and how it will affect my district before I can support it.

The governor says he is planning to pay down the state's debt. Part of this is driven by reports from financial ratings services, Moody and Standard and Poor's, which say that since Kansas has not met our statutory ending-balance requirement, our bond rating might be downgraded.

Kansas has a large debt load that most folks are really not aware of. The next two paragraphs will try to tie this together.

The Expanded Lottery Act Reserve Fund of 2007 collects net gaming revenue from state-owned casinos and electronic gaming machines. These funds were earmarked for the reduction of state debt, infrastructure improvements and reduction of local property taxes.

The governor's budget will use these dollars to pay off "callable debt" (any secured debt in which the state has the right to redeem the debt at a specific price after a specific date). The callable debt he proposes to pay this year is almost \$70 million. Just a few examples: bonds for Statehouse improvements, almost \$7 million; Wildlife and Parks cabins, \$1.8 million; Kansas Public Employee Retirement System, \$36 million; and Kansas State Fair capital improvements, \$11 million.

I have addressed this is to show a little of the complexities of our state budget. I personally believe, if we don't take care of our debt, we will always be burdened with fiscal crisis.

Ward Cassidy of St. Francis, a retired school principal and teacher, is the state representative for the 120th District, covering Decatur, Cheyenne, Rawlins, Norton and Phillips counties. Send e-mails to ward.cassidy@house.ks.gov.



## Letter from Topeka By State Rep. Ward Cassidy

ward.cassidy@house.ks.gov

## Several water measures pending

By SEN. RALPH OSTMEYER  
Last summer, Gov. Sam Brownback had a Kansas Water Authority task force meeting at Colby to discuss conservation measures to protect the Ogallala Aquifer.

This stakeholder task force proposed several changes in Kansas water law:

- HB-2451 would amend the appropriation act to eliminate the "use it or lose it" rule in areas closed to new water rights development.

- SB-272 would amend provisions for multiyear flex accounts to expand water management to five-year periods.

- SB-310 provides for Local Enhancement Management Plans that would provide a process for proactive conservation plans with local decision making. These plans could provide corrective measures and mandatory water-use reductions.

A group called Uncork Kansas wants to allow grocery and convenience stores to give consumers the ability to choose where they purchase beer, wine and spirits.

I need to hear from all businesses involved, liquor stores and grocery stores. This issue does not seem to go away.

I have some grocery stores that are interested but very few liquor stores. Then there is some interest in allowing licenses for Class A, beer only, and Class B, wine and beer. The only way to have a Class C license, permitting sale of beer, wine, and spirits, would be to purchase a license from an existing liquor store between Jan. 1, 2013, and Jan. 1, 2016, after which the cap would be lifted, and the number of licenses available would be restricted.

Starting Jan. 1, existing liquor stores would be allowed to sell other goods or services, and 3 percent of the liquor enforcement tax revenues would be distributed to cities and counties that lose sales tax revenue due to reduced sales of beer.

Write Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer at 300 SW 10th, Rm 225-E, Topeka, Kan. 66612-150 or Box 97, Grinnell, Kan. 67738-0097. Call his office at (785) 296-7399 or home at (785) 824-3773, or e-mail him at ralph.ostmeyer@senate.ks.gov.

## STEVEN W. GRABER, P.A.

Steven W. Graber • Laine C. Rundus • Gabriel H. Hubbard • Brandy A. Porter, of counsel

ESTATE & BUSINESS PLANNING



"Providing quality, personal legal care for you and your family, generation after generation"

Life / Estate Planning

Agriculture & Business Planning

Elder & Long-Term Care Planning

Asset Preservation Planning

Trust Distribution / Probate

Real Property Transactions

Charitable Planning

Constitutional Law

International Issues

## 2012 ANNUAL MEETING

Estate and Business Law Update & Informational Meeting

February 13, 2012

Sleep Inn Hotel & Suites

201 E. Holme, Norton, KS 67654

6:30 - 8:00 P.M.

RSVP to naomi@swgrabers.com or call 877-565-0104 by February 10

\$75 per couple or \$50 for single (Hors d'Oeuvres Included)

No charge for clients currently enrolled in 3 Year Plan

Payment is due upon RSVP. The payment is non-refundable due to catering and event reservation commitments.

STEVEN W. GRABER, P.A.

714 Poyntz Ave., Ste. C  
Manhattan, KS 66502  
Toll Free: 877-565-0104  
Fax: 785-565-0294

# INCOME TAX SERVICES

Reasonable Prices  
Electronic Filing and Direct Deposit of Refund Available.

Hirsch & Mahoney, LLP

Steven W. Hirsch/Margaret P. Mahoney  
Attorneys-at-Law  
124 South Penn, Oberlin, Kansas

785-475-2296

## 16th Annual Cattleman's Choice Bull Sale February 29, 2012 • 1:00 p.m. CST Oakley Livestock Commission • Oakley, KS

**60 Balancer & Gelbvieh Bulls Sell:** Black & Red Polled Bulls. Sired by A.I. leading sires like Predestined, Astro, Krugerrand, Mainline, Sugar Ray, In Focus.

**10 Angus Bulls Sell:** Calving Ease & Performance bulls sired by Ultimate, Mainline, Net Worth, Predestined.

**35 Red Angus Bulls & 15 Red Angus Heifers:** Top Genetics for calving ease & performance. Sired by: Packer, Muleberry, High Capacity, Advancer.

**35 Balancer/Commercial Heifers sell:** Sired by great maternal & performance genetics.



Many Calving Ease Bulls Sell • Winter Feeding Program • Sight-Unseen Purchase Program • Check out our websites for updated pictures & videos of sale features • Buy your next bull from programs that have helped cattlemen top many feeder cattle auctions

**Grund Beef Genetics**  
Sharon Springs, KS  
785-891-3765 or  
785-821-1022

**Camp 1A Ranch**  
Oakley, KS  
785-672-2708 or  
785-672-4074

www.grundbeefgenetics.com  
www.camp1aranch.com

To request a catalog email: jcgrund@wbsnet.org

## The Stamps you can't wait to get our hands on

- Pre-inked (no stamp pad needed)
- Cleaner, easier to use
- 50,000 impressions before re-inking
- Dozens of models



**THE OBERLIN HERALD**  
170 S. Penn • Oberlin, Kansas 67749  
785-475-2206

www.trivalleyhealth.com  
800-732-5505

## Expanded Clinic Hours Coming Soon

Let's face it, life is hectic.  
At Tri Valley Health System we are committed to providing you the highest quality medical care with the best customer service and convenient hours.  
Stay tuned for the big announcement.

**ARAPAHOE MEDICAL CLINIC**  
305 Nebraska Avenue, Arapahoe  
308-962-8495

**CAMBRIDGE MEDICAL CLINIC**  
1305 Highway 6 & 34, Cambridge  
308-697-3317

**INDIANOLA MEDICAL CLINIC**  
119 South 4th Street, Indianola  
308-364-9290

Tri Valley Health System's Rural Health Clinics are staffed by a compassionate medical team serving southwest Nebraska and northwest Kansas.

Dr. Rachelle Kaspar-Cope, MD  
Family Practice/OB

Dr. Lennie Deaver, MD  
Family Practice/OB

Dr. Shiuvaun Jaeger, MD  
Family Practice/OB

Paul Shellabarger, PA-C  
Family Practice/OB

Kyleen Klinkebiel, PA-C  
Family Practice

Jim Allen, PA-C  
Family Practice

Brett Schmitz, PA-C  
Family Practice

1-800-732-5505  
www.trivalleyhealth.com

## Surgical Services

# Skilled Surgeons. Highly Trained Staff. State of the Art Facility.

Tri Valley Surgical Services is a full service surgery unit offering inpatient surgeries as well as a full line of outpatient procedures for residents of southwest Nebraska and northwest Kansas. Featuring the quality of care found in major medical centers combined with individual treatment and hospitality, you and your family can rest assured you'll be in trusted hands at Tri Valley.

## General Surgery Addition

**W. Thomas Sorrell, MD**  
of Kearney Clinic is available to see patients and conduct procedures at Tri Valley Health System. A Board Certified General Surgeon, Dr. Sorrell completed his undergraduate education at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln followed by his medical degree from the University of Nebraska College of Medicine in Omaha where he also completed his internship and residency. He is well known for his exceptional surgical talents and skills as well as for his excellent bedside manner.  
Call 308-697-1172 to schedule a consultation.

## Tri Valley Surgical Services

**Ear Nose & Throat**  
V. Richard Bowen, MD - 800-348-0368

**Endoscopy**  
Lennie Deaver, MD - 308-697-1172

**General Surgery**  
John Harrington, MD - 308-697-1172  
W. Thomas Sorrell, MD - 308-697-1172

**Gynecology**  
Michele A. Krieger, MD - 308-697-1172  
Walt Weaver, MD - 308-697-1172

**Ophthalmology** (Cataract Surgery)  
T.J. Clinch, MD - 308-865-2760

**Orthopedic Surgery/  
Total Joint Replacement**  
Chris Wilkinson, MD - 308-865-1448

**Orthopedic Surgery/Hand**  
Mark Buchman, MD - 308-865-1448

**Pain Management**  
Kevin Balter, MD - 308-236-0507  
(Provider Referral Required for Appointment)

**Podiatry**  
Greg Burns, DPM - 308-234-2596

**Urology**  
Scott Howe, MD - 308-697-1172