Chairman decides fate of bills

Turn around is here. Friday was the halfway mark in this year's legislative session, the time when bills must be passed out of their house of origin – or die.

The first two days of the week were filled with long committee meetings, trying to get all the bills worked before the deadlines. The last three days featured extended days of floor debate on all the House bills that had passed out of committees. The bills that pass out of the House this week will be sent to the Senate for consideration, and the Senate bills will now come to the House.

After "turn around," the process begins anew. Many bills that stirred the most controversy will not be discussed again this year. The bills that passed the House or Senate, however, now have more statewide attention because they are still alive. Bills will be assigned to committees; if they pass out of committee, the bills will be worked on the floor. And when a bill is passed by both houses, it still has to be signed by the governor.

I have been asked, "What is the importance of being a chairman?" Bills are assigned to my Education Budget Committee by the speaker of the House. Normally, they are related to education. I have had bills about school transportation, pharmacy loan forgiveness, the school finance formula, military pupil counts and many others. The chairman can decide whether or not the committee will hear a bill."Hearing a bill" means that the bill will be read



opponent may testify for or against it. The testimony has to be written, and copies are provided to each arduous task I have in the Legislamember of the committee.

"Working the bill" is the next step in the process. A committee budget is over \$3 billion, and I am chairman has the right to decide expected to know where all that whether or not a bill will be worked. If I decide I want to work a bill, the committee members can comment on their desire to pass it to the floor for a vote of the full House, or to vote it down. Committee members can also make amendments to the bill to make it a stronger piece of legislation. After all committee members have had a chance to fully vet the bill, then I can bring it to a vote. The chairman only votes when there is a tie. My vote is the tiebreaker-yes, the bill goes on, or no, the bill dies.

In Education Budget, we were assigned 17 budgets to "hear" and then to "work." For each budget, there is an agency request and a recommendation from the governor for what he plans to put in his budget. Our committee listens to the agency one day and the next day makes

mittee The most time-consuming and ture is presenting these budgets to Appropriations. The public schools money goes. I do have the help of a legislative aide who does any research I request and who knows the budget inside out. I can refer to her whenever a question comes up that I am unsure of

Two weeks ago, the six Regents colleges presented their budgets in my committee. It is so interesting to hear these college presidents discuss their budgets and their innovative programs.

Being a committee chair is a lot more work, but it gives me a better opportunity to discuss the issues important to northwest Kansas.

Ward Cassidy of St. Francis, a retired school principal and teacher, is the state representative for the 120th District, covering Decatur, Cheyenne, Rawlins, Wallace and Sherman counties and the northwest

Rachel Johnson For City Council April 2, 2013



Character Commitment Community

5A

Paid for By Rachel Johnson

12	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Rawlins County Health Center	% .	1 Nuclear Medicine Cardiac Rehab MRI's	2				
RAWLINS County Health Center	3	4 Dr. Rubinowitz Oncology Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	5	6 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	7	8 Cardiac Rehab MRI's	9
COMMUNITY CALENDAR	10	11	12	13 Dr. Frankum Surgery	14 Dr. Reeves Podiatry	15 Dr. Reeves Podiatry	16
707 Grant Atwood, KS 67730	17	Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	Mammograms 19 Dr. Frederick C.	Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic 20 High Plains	21 Kirsten Angel	Nuclear Medicine Cardiac Rehab MRI's 22	23
(785) 626-3211		Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	Miller Cardiology	Cardiologist Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	Dietitian	Cardiac Rehab MRI'S	
Bringing Specialized Healthcare To Your Community	24	25	26	27 Ultrasounds	28	29 Nuclear Medicine Cardiac Rehab	30
March 2013	31	Cardiac Rehab	P	with a LEASE Che	dule an a visiting CALL (7 eryl Banis	MRI'S Appointm physician '85) 626	, -3211

Senate to focus on House bills

Turnaround – Halfway Point

A real snowstorm and a blizzard of bills made the past two weeks very busy for the Senate. At least 32 pieces of legislation had been debated and voted on by Thursday evening, twice the usual amount.

Monday and Tuesday were to be devoted to clerical staff shifting legislation from one chamber to the other. Beginning today, the Senate will focus primarily on bills that have passed the House. The focus will continue on cutting the income tax and balancing the budget.

Major Pieces of Legislation SB199 established the Midwest Stem Cell Therapy Center. Here are some highlights: research on cord blood, stem cell clinical trials, facilitate delivery of therapies, education training for physicians and keeping public informed of therapeutic options regarding stem cell advances. New money will attract federal grants, private money, gifts and other dollars covering the cost of the new facility, which will be governed by a 13-member board advised by the director of the facil-



success, and Temporary Assistance tion. I supported this bill. for Needy Families money will be used.

Aid meant for children will be provided for through drug-free third parties. With reasonable suspicion, through the Department of Administration, Division of Personnel Services, members of the Kansas Senate and the House of Representatives also may be required to rates for utility companies, and to submit to drug testing. I supported this bill

Sub for SB 57. The major parts of the bill involve a new law regarding penalties and tests for chronic wasting disease, and makes it ildomesticated deer without a permit,

SB 82 amends the state's renewable energy portfolio standard. Designated years could be used to meet a certain percentage of renewable energy as part of the requirement. Through an amendment, the Kansas Corporation Commission is instructed to initiate a study to determine the impact of projected retail examine electric rates of neighboring states, and the impact federal regulations and taxes have on utility rates. I voted against this bill.

The Town Hall Meetings in St. Francis, Atwood, Oberlin, Norton legal for any person to "possess" and Logan, scheduled for Feb. 23, were canceled due to weather. I plan

recommendations or amendments. part of Thomas, including Colby. After we pass them out, the budgets Send e-mails to ward.cassidy@ in committee and any proponent or go to the full Appropriations Com- house.ks.gov.

ity, who will report to the Executive and allows the animal health com- to reschedule these as soon as Reps, Vice Chancellor of the KU Medical Center. I supported this bill.

SB149 requiring drug testing of welfare and unemployment recipients if there is reasonable suspicion. Individuals who fail a drug test will have to complete treatment and job-skills training before their benefits will be reinstated. There are

missioner to adopt regulations for Cassidy and Lovelady and I can find permits; also makes the Kansas De- a date that will work for us all. partment of Agriculture the official state agency for chronic wasting disease testing.

It also amends existing law on the state Poultry Improvement Plan, giving responsibility to the Depart- His e-mail address is ostmeyer@ ment of Agriculture rather than the senate.state.ks.us. various steps in place to promote state Poultry Improvement Associa-

To reach Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, write him at State Capitol, 300 SW 10th Street, Room 136-E, Topeka, Kan.66612 or call (785) 296-7399.

Uncertainty hurts businesses

When the Obama Administration admitted earlier this year that the American economy actually shrank late last year, it was described on Wall Street as "unexpected."

Really? No one saw this coming?

The sources of an economic slowdown have been evident to even the most casual observer. As Main Street seeks to get back on its feet after the worst recession and the worst economic recovery since the Great Depression, it faces a trifecta of challenges from Washington: higher taxes, ObamaCare and overregulation.

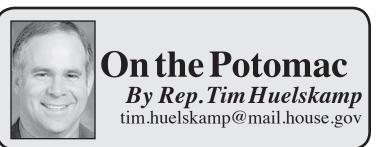
This trifecta was crystallized for me when Ed Marin, owner of Lampe Hardware in St. Francis, and I had a one-on-one conversation after a "town hall" meeting last week.

The store has three employees. Mr. Marin said he wants to hire another, but he has no idea what to expect in terms of business expenses.

He said he recently asked his accountant what it is going to cost to comply with ObamaCare, and the accountant was at a loss to tell him. There is simply no way to know or plan.

Keep in mind that Mr. Marin's business is not required (yet) to provide health insurance under ObamaCare with so few employees. But with premiums going through the roof (despite promises otherwise from President Obama), his costs will go up as well.

Beyond complying with Obama-Care, a convoluted tax code and



regulatory structure leaves him that Washington lives up to all the fearful of what will happen if he unintentionally fails to "cross a 't' or dot an 'i." He pointed out to me economy, and all American workthat top-ranking officials in Washington can violate their own tax laws but bureaucrats need to hear from (Former Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner comes to mind), but one minor mistake on Mr. Marin's part, and penalties could come his way.

much more than minimum wage and more than meets all the labor and workplace laws. Doing so is just good business practice, he argues.

Still, he asks: "As a small business owner, how am I supposed to about regulations that will affect prepare for whatever comes out of Main Street. Washington?"

Great question.

Main Street – and all of America -needs some certainty. Certain and common-sense regulations. Real spending reductions so the economy can grow.

Real tax relief so Mr. Marin can hire another employee. Instead, we see higher spending, more debt, more regulations, more mandates from Fowler, and a former state and less freedom. That's not what Main Street wants or needs.

It is my hope – and demand –

campaign rhetoric about protecting small business, the engine of our ers. I will work hard in the House, regular, hard-working, tax-paying, job-creating folks on the ground, too.

As a member of the House Small He said he pays his employees Business Committee, I am pleased to point out the launch of the committee's "Small Biz Reg Watch." Through its website, the committee is educating and collecting comments from folks across the nation

I encourage all Kansans to review these proposed rules and submit their feedback to the president and his agencies. Just go to smallbusiness.house.gov/regwatch.

At this stage, small businesses and consumers can handle no more bad news - unexpected or not.

Tim Huelskamp, a Republican senator, is the congressman for the 1st District of Kansas.

160 (+/-) Acres of Choice Sheridan Co., KS

Real Estate Auction

Cropland

Wed., March 13, 2013 - 11 a.m.

Land Location: From the old townsite of Lucerne, KS - 1 mile East and 1/2 mile South

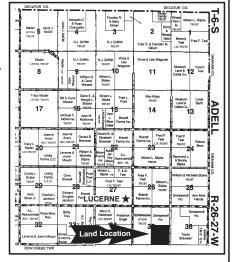
Sale Location: Bowen Scout House, 1 Block East of Main Street on Sheridar Avenue in Hoxie, Kansa

Legal Description and General Information: SE1/4 of Section 35-6-26, Sheri dan County, Kansas

78 Acres are planted to wheat

78 Acres are idle cropland that was corn in 2012

Terms: Ten percent (10%) down day of sale, balance on approval of marketable title on or before 30 days from day of sale. Bidding is not contingent upon financing. Financing, if necessary, must have been arranged and approved prior to the auction so that Buyer(s) are capable of paying cash at closing



FSA and Tax Information												
Auction Acres	Farmland Acres	Cropland Acres	Wheat Base	Wheat Yield	Grain Sorghum Base	Grain Sorghum Yield	Barley Base	Barley Yield	2012 Taxes			
160	155.9	155.9	71.9	37	37.5	50	11.2	37	\$427.66			

Taxes: Seller will pay all 2012 and prior taxes with the taxes for 2013 and subsequent years to be the responsibility of the Buyer(s).

Possession: Day of Auction on the idle cropland. Possession on the 78 acres of growing wheat land will be after the 2013 wheat harvest; Buyer(s) will receive the 2013 cash lease on the wheat land of \$2,600.00

Title Insurance: Title insurance shall be used to prove clear and merchantable title with the Buyer(s) and Seller sharing equally the owner's policy expense. The mortgagee's policy, if required, will be the expense of the buyer.

FSA Payments: Buyer(s) will receive all of the 2013 Feed Grain payment.

Acreages: All acreages are based on U.S. Government measurements and are considered approximate. The statements, while not guaranteed, are from reliable sources. Any costs incurred in establishing boundaries shall be the responsibility of the Buyer(s). Sale is subject to easements, rights-of-way, reservation and/or restrictions of record. Seller and Realtor make no war ranties, either expressed or implied. Broker represents the Seller only and will not be considered an agent for the Purchaser(s). Announcements made day of sale shall take precedence over all printed material. For more information contact the broker

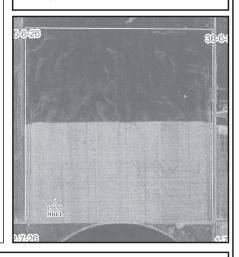
Mineral Rights: One half (1/2) of the Mineral Rights will go to the Buyer(s).

Closing: Date of closing will be on or before April 13, 2013.

Agency: Pratt Real Estate is the Exclusive Agent of the Sellers.

Sellers: Heirs of William Ray Horton, **Rosa D. Horton** and Ben R. Horton

Auctioneer's Note: This is your chance to buy, at auction, some very high, productive Sheridan Co., KS Cropland, This land was homesteaded by the family and like land in this area is not offered for sale very often. See you at the auction. – Les



Pratt Real Estate In Charge of Sale Les Pratt - Broker - Auctioneer 724 Main • Box 583 • Hoxie, KS 67740 Phone: 785-675-3011 · Cell: 785-675-8531 E-mail: lpratt@ruraltel.net · FAX: 785-675-3220 Web Site: www.midwestauction.com