

Legislative News By Ward Cassidy, 120th State Representative

I had a major accomplishment in Topeka this week. My work with the fire marshal office will save several million dollars in needless spending for nursing homes, schools, and older buildings in the state.

The previous fire marshal administration overlooked the exception to the law and "over enforced" the new fire codes. They were issuing numerous citations that were unwarranted.

The acting fire marshal, Doug Jorgenson, has agreed to have his office review all citations issued to school districts during the last 18 months. The unfunded mandates were not necessary because the buildings were not dangerous.

The continued big news in Topeka is the census results. No surprise that Johnson County recorded the largest growth in the state. They already have 20 more representatives than all of western Kansas. Fifty Kansas counties have lost double-digit population numbers in the last 10 years. We can only hope that the Governor's Rural Opportunity Zone program will develop some growth for Northwest Kansas. Fifty Kansas counties qualify for the program and all of the 120th is included.

Here is the decline of population in the 120th District the last 10 years: Cheyenne lost 439 people, Rawlins lost 447, Decatur lost 511, Norton lost 282, and Phillips lost 359. My website has all of the Kansas census data.

A bill that again exemplifies the Governor's desire to rid the state of wasteful spending is SB 193. This bill would require a valid social security number to be given to qualify for the state food sales tax rebate. The Department of Revenue has been accepting 9,000 plus rebate forms without a social security number. The bill will save \$2.4 million. (Another example of wasteful spending). Hopefully, we can find

many more areas to save the state money.

A lingering problem is this current year's budget. Discussions to reconcile the Governor's rescission bill have come to a halt as the House and Senate conferees cannot find common ground on the maintenance of effort issue concerning special education. The deadlock could result in the Governor's office making allotments or cuts in order to achieve a balanced budget this year.

The voter identification bill needs clarification and the way I understand it now is that all voters will have to show photo identification at the polls. Documentation includes college identification cards, current driver's licenses and expired driver licenses for voters over 65 years of age. I am in favor of this bill.

A bill coming forward that has a great deal of interest to any Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERs) employee is HB 2333. There were many ideas that had many people wondering where this bill was headed. Here is the synopsis: couple KPERs normal retirement age to social security full retirement age beginning July 1, 2016. 1) Eliminate the 85 point

rule, while early retirement remains unchanged. Correction workers, police, and firemen are not affected. 2) Increase the cap on employer contributions from .6 percent a year to .8 percent starting in fiscal year 2013. 3) Change the multiplier for future service from 1.75 to 1.4 beginning in fiscal year 2013 and beyond; 4) Direct the net proceeds from the sale of any state property to the KPERs unfunded liability, starting fiscal year 2013.

I would again remind people that anything you hear about being proposed still has to get 63 votes in the House, 21 votes in the Senate, and the Governor's signature.

The most talked about vote in the legislature this week was the Community Defense Act, HB 2107. It passed 91-28. The bill regulates sexually oriented businesses (SOBs) - interesting acronym. I voted for the bill.

I would again encourage people to call if they want to see me in Topeka. My secretary is Dana (785 296-7696). My e-mail is "mailto:ward.cassidy@house.ks.gov" ward.cassidy@house.ks.gov. I would also encourage you to check on my political website and questionnaire at www.wardcassidy.com.



CODY BEESON talks to the Go-Getters 4-H Club members about repairing and cleaning plane crash monument.

4-H'ers discuss project

Cheyenne County Sheriff Cody Beeson presented the Go-Getters 4-H Club members an opportunity for some community service after the March 3 meeting adjourned.

Sheriff Beeson asked if they

would be interested in repairing and cleaning up the monument about the airplane that crashed just north of Bird City nearly 50 years ago. The plane was a jet from Schilling Air Force Base near Salina in route to Lowry Air

Force Base outside of Denver. There was one survivor, who had parachuted to safety, but the pilot and the navigator did not survive.

Sheriff Beeson offered to help the 4-H'ers in anyway he could.

Weather observer honored

The National Weather Service in Goodland, presented a 15-year Length of Service Award to Kathy Woodcox, St. Francis, on Feb. 22.

There are approximately 11,000 cooperative weather observers in the United States. Each year, the National Weather Service presents Length of Service awards to selected cooperative weather observers. These service awards

are presented after 10 years of service and then every five years thereafter.

Mrs. Woodcox has been observing temperature and precipitation since February 1996, which amounts to over 5,400 weather observations.

The temperature and precipitation data are found monthly in Climatological data, which is published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Climatological records are compiled using information from weather observing sites supervised by the National Weather Service and received at the National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C.

The award was presented by Michael Lammers, Observing Program Leader.

Public Notices

Notice published for general election

Published in The Saint Francis Herald, St. Francis, Kansas, and the Bird City Times, Bird City, Kansas, Thursday, March 17, 2011. (11)

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION April 5th, 2011

In compliance with K. S. A. 25-2018 (d), notice is hereby given that a general election will be held in USD #103 on April 7th, 2011. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The candidates are: District #1 Position #5, David Frisbie, Nick Ketzner; District #2 Position #2, Belinda Serrano; District #2 Position #4, no candidates filed.

Said election shall be held at the Legion Hall in the City of Bird City.

NOTICE is further given that there will be a general election in USD #297 and the candidates are: District #1 Position #1, Mary Beth Miller; District #2 Position #2, Norman E. Morrow, Cory D. Busse, Jerry Lee White; District #3 Position #3, Mila Bandel; Member At Large, Sherry L. Weeks.

Said election shall be held at Peace Lutheran Church in the City of St. Francis.

NOTICE is further given that there will be a general election in the City of Bird City for three (3) council members. The candidates Shannon Ambrosier, Frank Serrano, Dennis Wright.

Said election shall be held at the Legion Hall in the City of Bird City.

NOTICE is further given that there will be a general election in the City of St. Francis for Mayor and two (2) council members. The candidates are: Mayor, Scott Schultz, Larry B. Wilson; Council Members: Roger Jensen, Dale E. Weeks, and Robert (Bud) L. Erskin.

NOTICE is further given that there will be a general election in Cheyenne County for two (2) Board Members for Sunflower Extension District Number 6. The candidates are: Justin Lohr, Jeter A.F. Isely.

Said election shall be held at the Peace Lutheran Church in City of St. Francis.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and official seal this 3rd day of March, 2011.

Terry Miller
County Election Officer

Petition filed in court in the Connett estate

Published in The Saint Francis Herald, St. Francis, Kansas, Thursdays, March 10, March 17 and March 24, 2011. (10-12)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CHEYENNE COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of

Case No. 11-PR-05

HAROLD L. CONNETT, a/k/a
LEE CONNETT, Deceased.

(Petition Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59)

NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on March 3, 2011, a petition was filed in this Court by Carol Connett, an heir, devisee and legatee, and executor named in the "Last Will and Testament of Harold L. Connett a/k/a Lee Connett," deceased, dated July 26, 1996, praying the will filed with the Court be admitted to probate and record; petitioner be appointed as executor, without bond; and petitioner be granted Letters Testamentary.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before April 5, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. in the District Court, St. Francis, Cheyenne County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.

All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the Estate within the latter of four months from the date of first publication of notice under K.S.A. 59-2236 and amendments thereto, or if the identity of the creditor is known or reasonably ascertainable, 30 days after actual notice was given as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

Carol Connett, Petitioner

JAMES M. MILLIKEN, CHARTERED
James M. Milliken, #7001
101 W WASHINGTON
ST. FRANCIS, KS 67756
(785) 332-2101
Attorneys for Petitioner

Closing of books will be on March 21

Published in The Saint Francis Herald, St. Francis, Kansas, and the Bird City Times, Bird City, Kansas, Thursday, March 17, 2011. (11)

ORDER FOR CLOSING BOOKS

and
NOTICE OF PLACES AND DATES OF REGISTRATION BEFORE
CITY/SCHOOL ELECTION

April 5, 2011

Pursuant to K.S.A. 25-2311(c), notice is hereby given that on the 21st day of March, 2011, all registration books for the City/School Election will close at the end of regular business hours. Registration books will remain closed until the 6th day of April, 2011.

In compliance with the provisions of K.S.A. 25-2310 notice is hereby given that the books for registration of voters will be open during regular business hours at the offices of the County Clerk in St. Francis and at the City Clerk in Bird City.

A citizen of the United States who is eighteen (18) years of age and upwards, or will have attained the age of eighteen (18) years at the next election may register to vote. When a voter has been registered according to law his or her registration shall continue to be valid until the voter changes their name by marriage, divorce or legal proceedings or changes their residence. Any person may apply in person or by mail to the Election Officer to be registered. Application forms shall be provided by the County Election Officer upon request in person or in writing by an individual applicant. Such applications shall be signed by the applicant under penalty of perjury.

WITNESS MY HAND and seal of my office this 25th day of February, A.D., 2011.

Terry Miller
County Election Officer



JEFF CANARE plays in the 3-on-3 basketball fundraiser held in McDonald.

Basketball tourney held in McDonald

On Feb. 26, the Cheylin FFA hosted a 3-on-3 basketball fundraiser in McDonald.

Friends and families came out for the day to watch second grade and under through eighth grade teams from Bird City, St. Francis, Atwood and North Platte, Neb.

The first age group to play were the second grade and under. The team winning for the boy's division was the St. Francis WildCats with players Shadryon Blanka, Adam Krien, Colton Neitzel, and Kobe Tice. Winning in the girl's division was the Bird City McGa Boom team with players Makenzie Barnett, Mikaela Barnett, Gabriela Gutierrez, and Brianna Vandike.

In the third and fourth grades division, the boy's and girl's teams

combined; the winning team was the St. Francis Warriors with players Draven Henderson, KC Krien, and Tierman Poling.

The girl's division of the fifth and sixth grades was won by the Atwood Hoopettes team with players Sofia Hampton, Maura Hemel, Gracy Higly, and Lauren Terry.

The final age groups were the boy's and girl's seventh and eighth grades. The winning boy's team was North Platte with players Bryce Bern, Cory Clinch, Matt Ferguson, and Gabe Vyzourek. The winning girl's team was the Bird City Twisters, ElsaCraig Burr, Diana Garcia, and Elizabeth Keltz.

Medals were given out to first, second and third place teams.

Fire marshal's office applauded for work

Kansas House of Representative Ward Cassidy, Republican from St. Francis, applauded the Kansas State Fire Marshall's Office for its willingness to work with him in resolving issues surrounding enforcement of new fire codes on existing buildings.

At issue was Kansas State Fire Marshall's Office enforcement of fire codes on older buildings. Kansas statute provides older buildings not in strict compliance could remain in service so long as the buildings were not determined to be "a distinct hazard to life and property (KSA 31-133 c.)"

Rep. Cassidy said the previous Kansas State Fire Marshall's Office administration overlooked that exception to the law and "over enforced" the new fire codes issuing numerous citations to schools, nursing homes and other businesses located in older buildings.

"This was an important fix. We have schools and local businesses already struggling to make ends meet, and these interpretations make that difficult," Rep. Cassidy said. "Trying to retrofit an older building to meet the new codes

was costing them thousands of dollars. These are not dangerous buildings and we shouldn't be forcing an unfunded mandate on them to update."

Rep. Cassidy joined with other lawmakers to meet with Acting Fire Marshall Doug Jorgensen regarding these concerns and was pleased with his willingness to assist.

"Acting Fire Marshall Jorgensen listened to our concerns and has agreed to have his office review all citations issued to school districts during the last 18 months. We truly appreciate his common-sense approach, one that is reflected throughout Governor Brownback's administration," Rep. Cassidy said.

House leaders praised Rep. Cassidy's leadership on the issue and noted his immediate impact on the legislature.

"Representative Cassidy is a stand-out leader. That's been clear since he arrived in Topeka," said House Majority Leader Arlen Siegfried (R-Olathe). "He saw a problem here, and fixed it immediately. That's the kind of leadership we need, and he's done an excellent job this session."

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