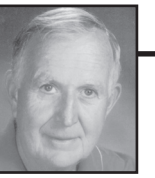




BRIANNA COOKS, former St. Francis student, set a new school record at McPherson Middle School with a throw of 38-10 in the shot put on Thursday in Clay Center.

Legislative News

By
Ward
Cassidy



We are supposed to be finished with the legislature this year on Wednesday, May 11. The House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Ways and Means Committee continue to work on the omnibus budget. As more information becomes available to them from the fiscal notes of bills that were approved by the Governor, the committees will take action incorporating necessary language into the budget measure.

So far additions to the final bills have been small and non-controversial. However, as the House Appropriations Committee discussed the omnibus bill there was a very controversial bill proposed by a Shawnee legislator. It would have essentially gutted three months of work by the committee. It would have reduced the budget by another \$138 million. The vote in committee only received four votes but it had the e-mails for all of the representatives buzzing. Education, which has already been hit hard, would have had another \$168 per pupil cut.

The goal of the House is to have the largest ending balance possible so they can have a strong negotiation for the Senate proposal. There are many speculations as to what that final number will be ranging from \$10 million to \$80 million. In a perfect world, the legislature would like to have a larger ending balance but not at the expense of cutting any more funds to schools and the other necessary programs to run the state.

As things sit right now, the Senate made an offer that includes eight package deals and several individual items. The House now has to take the time to review their proposal and either agree or come up with a counter proposal. The conference committees will keep meeting until we have a final budget to vote on.

An example of policy that is now going on between the House and the Senate is the Community Defense Act. It will be interesting to see what the final conference agreement becomes or if it ever comes back from the Senate. Just before finishing this article I found out that the Senate rejected the bill and it is now essentially dead for this year. This is what makes the work so frustrating. We spent many hours on this and

it ends up going nowhere.

Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERS) continues to be a major discussion topic and it will be until this session is over. If I had to guess I bet there will be a commission created to study it further. I had a friend ask the questions – was KPERS ever not funded properly and was there ever money borrowed that was not paid back? The answer I have received is that in the 1990s there was a period of five years where it was not funded at the 4 percent that was required by law. In 1995, KPERS was over funded when the multiplier was raised and the 85 window was created. All borrowed money was paid back.

The Senate approved a measure that requires state inspection and licensing of facilities where abortions are performed. The measure also puts in place new requirements for physicians who perform abortions. The bill is on its way to the governor to be considered.

We had a lengthy debate on the casino being built in Sumner County. The casino is expected to generate 3,000 jobs. The question was whether our attorney general, Derek Schmidt, should bring legal action challenging the legality of a contract with Peninsula Gaming,

who is building the casino. It was voted down 59-62. I did vote for the bill because I felt the rights of the individuals in the area were not being considered. It was a hard vote as I know how badly we need new jobs created.

The House this week sent a bill to the Senate that would allow schools to use specialized funds for general education purposes. They are hoping that it will help them get through next year with all the cuts currently given to them.

The Senate passed Wednesday afternoon and sent to the Governor the measure that allows the Kansas Supreme Court to continue levying about \$11 million in docket fees, which was approved last year on a one year basis. The money from the docket fees collected

by district courts across the state is key to financing the budget of the Kansas Judiciary for the fiscal year which starts July 1.

The Speaker of the House appointed me to the legislative group for the National Legislative Effectiveness Committee. This will give me an opportunity to learn more about the legislative process.

We will adjourn Friday, May 6, for Mother's Day and return Monday to finalize the budget. As I send this off we have been notified that the House and Senate leaders have agreed that there must be at least a positive \$50 million ending balance in the budget this year.

Bowling News

Wednesday Night Men 5-4

Team standing: Haigler 1, Wright and Wrong, Krien Steel, 2001 Electronics, Haigler 2, Bonanza Ford, Idalia JV, Cheyenne Bowl

High game (scratch): 2001 Electronics 675, Haigler 1 668, Krien Steel 664; (handicap): Haigler 1 863, Haigler 2 844, Krien Steel 843.

High game men (scratch): Ted Mosier 213, Tyler Chamberlain 207, Wayne Mahon 193; (handicap): Chamberlain 253, Mosier 247, Dave Wright 236.

High series men (scratch): Mahon 543, Spencer Schlepp 509, Mike Blecha 505; (handicap): Wright 658, Mahon 654, Schlepp 638.

Book Review

Book review from the St. Francis Public Library

Deadly Deal

By Fern Michaels

It's an unseasonably cold Thanksgiving at the mountaintop retreat where the Sisterhood has gathered. But surrounded by the warmth of their significant others, close friends and the culinary delights of their mentor Charles's delicious holiday feast, the Ladies of Pinewood are ready to face their next challenge...dismantling a highly successful illegal baby selling ring...

After years of trying to become pregnant without success, Rachel Damson and her husband Thomas felt their dreams had finally come true the day they brought home their newly adopted twin babies. Though the lawyer Baron Bell who

arranged for the surrogate mother charged a hefty six-figure fee, one glance into the eyes of their precious children told them it was all worth it. Until the birth mother reappeared, first demanding more money, then the twins themselves. Suddenly Baron Bell was nowhere to be found and the Dawsons were once again childless, heartbroken and nearly destitute.

When the case finds its way to the offices of high-profile attorney Lizzie Fox, she can't wait to take down the so-called "Mr. Wonderful." And she knows she'll have all the help she needs as it's just the kind of crime that really gets the Sisterhood's adrenaline flowing. Once they get their hands on the perpetrators there will be hell to pay, and it will cost a lot more than cold, hard cash...

arranged for the surrogate mother charged a hefty six-figure fee, one glance into the eyes of their precious children told them it was all worth it. Until the birth mother reappeared, first demanding more money, then the twins themselves. Suddenly Baron Bell was nowhere to be found and the Dawsons were once again childless, heartbroken and nearly destitute.

When the case finds its way to the offices of high-profile attorney Lizzie Fox, she can't wait to take down the so-called "Mr. Wonderful." And she knows she'll have all the help she needs as it's just the kind of crime that really gets the Sisterhood's adrenaline flowing. Once they get their hands on the perpetrators there will be hell to pay, and it will cost a lot more than cold, hard cash...

Cancer pinochle players end season at salad supper

The potluck/salad suppers which ended the Pinochle Card-O-Rama season were held on May 2 and May 3 at the Cheyenne Manor.

The winners for the mixed couples were Eddy and Sherry Schultz, high, and Fred and Janet Mahlberg with low score.

The ladies couple with high score were Nola Burrus and Laura Pugh, low was Nancy Vernon and Kathy Vandike.

In the ladies afternoon group the high scorer was Laura Pugh and Arlene Walz had the low score.

Carol Rogers, team captain for the groups of card players, reported that all had a fun year of playing pinochle and will play

again starting in the fall.

Members of the mixed couples, group three included Billy and Gerri Lampe, Kenneth and DeEtta Knorr, Tim and Margaret Poling, Dale and Mary Rath, Eddy and Sherry Schultz, Gilbert and Shirley Ochsner, Bert and Nancy Follett, Dolores Kincheloe, Betty Jean Winston, Pete Davis, Rose Mary Bierig, Fred and Janet Mahlberg and Fred and Shelly Klie.

The ladies couples, group two, was composed of Esther Confer and Carol Rogers, Gerri Lampe and Rose Mary Bierig, Dolores Wiley and Mildred Barnhart, Helen Burnham and Gladys Cook, Pat Confer and Lois Leydig, Nola

Burrus and Laura Pugh, Kathy Vandike and Nancy Vernon, Janice Krien and Bernice Zwegardt, Betty Jean Winston and Arlene Walz.

The ladies afternoon players, group one, were Nola Burrus, Dorothy Carpenter, Pam Christian, Pat Confer, Helen Burnham, Hattie Terry, Darlene Feikert, Shelly Klie, DeEtta Knorr, Eilene Nolan, Ilene O'Leary, Laura Pugh, Carol Rogers, Arlene Walz, Judy Gienger and Jo Hagney.

Substitutes included Bonnie Armknecht, Marie Holzwarth, Ilone Keller, Gerri Lampe, Nancy Vernon and Bernice Bandel.

Why Not Travel to Denver for Your Dentistry?

*Epecially when we'll pay for your hotel! **



As a mature adult, your dental needs are more complex. If you have a healthy smile but want to enhance it, Dr. Barotz is known for his exquisite cosmetic dentistry including **perfection in porcelain veneers** and **Invisalign** clear orthodontics. If you have serious concerns about the health of your mouth, or have loose or missing teeth, Dr. Barotz, with his 30 years experience, can provide **Total Dental Solutions** which will eliminate the need to be referred from doctor to doctor to doctor if you want to save your teeth, beautify them, or replace missing teeth with bionic dental implants. Call us today for a complimentary consultation.

Barotz Dental provides:

- **Laser Gum Therapy**, which eliminates the need for cut and stitch gum surgery for patients with gum disease who want to save their teeth.
- Custom **Drop Dead Gorgeous Dentures** which provide denture wearers the same exquisite cosmetics provided for people with natural teeth.
- **Dental Implants** to lock down or eliminate dentures or replace one or more missing teeth.
- **No Fear Sleep Dentistry** if fear has been keeping you away from the dentist.

Your care can be completed much faster since it is all done by one doctor in one location.

Immediate appointments available.

Call today for your complimentary consultation!



Charles Barotz, DDS
303 16th Street Mall, Suite 250
Denver, Colorado 80202

Visit DenverDentist.com or call us at (303) 532-1151

**Hotel stay included for patients with extensive treatment.*

Upcoming Promotions

For more information contact Anita Schmid at:

The Saint Francis Herald
P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, KS 67756 • 785-332-3162

MAY IS BEEF MONTH

We Believe Farming & Beef Production is the Main Stay of Community Prosperity!

Join us in Saluting the Area Beef Producers!



Flag Day

Featuring those famous flags for you to display in your window showing your patriotism



Harvest Countdown
Coming this June!

Guess the date and time of the first load of wheat brought into one of the local elevators!