Session has new voting boards

This week got off to a fast start on Monday with the House undertaking Final Action for the first time this session with the votes tallied on the new voting boards. It set the tone for the week that saw a new Attorney General sworn in, a bill introduced to facilitate a compromise on the Holcomb power plant, and an expanded gaming decision by the Shawnee County District Court. With the start of the session behind I am now preparing for the work ahead.

Energy Plan

Four members of the House and Senate utility committees have proposed a bipartisan bill that was introduced in both chambers. The bill, which will be debated simultaneously, works to set limits on carbon dioxide production and paves the way for a new coal powered plant to be built in southwest Kansas. Here is very brief overview of the measure:

• Requires increased energy efficiency in new state and public school buildings as well as in state vehicles.

 Prohibits construction or expansion of merchant, fossil-fuel burning electricity generating plants. A merchant power plant is defined as an electricity generating plant with a nameplate rating of at least 300 megawatts and which sells less than 50 percent of its output to retail customers or to "load serving



entities."

• Creates the Kansas Electric Generation, Transmission and Efficiency Study Commission to look at issues related to electric service in Kansas.

 Establishes CO2 emissions limitations for new electricity generation facilities using fossil fuels.

• Creates a mechanism for offsetting CO2 emissions that exceed the statutory limitation.

• Enacts the net metering and easy connection act.

This deals with solar powered units that are interconnected with a retail electricity supplier.

Customers will be billed for any electricity provided by the retail supplier in excess of the amount generated by the customer's solar generation.

 Enacts regulatory requirements

This would authorize the Secretary of Health and Environment to implement the federal Clean Air Act and would prohibit the Secretary, absent from statutory authority, from adopting rules and regulations under the Kansas Act that are more million from K-12 funding. I hope

by the federal act or rules and regulations authorized in that act. Legislators are hope-

ful the fine details of this bill will be worked out and that it will make it to the House floor for a vote in the next week or two.

Gaming

On Friday Shawnee County District Judge Charles Andrews, Jr. filed his decision declaring expanded gambling constitutional. This is a very big issue here at the Capitol. The Governor used assumed gambling revenues to fund part of her budget. That decision will be appealed to the Supreme Court. Many House members are refusing to leverage state financing on funding streams that don't exist yet.

Budget

As always, it is important for the budget to stay at the forefront of our minds. Even if the gambling revenue becomes a reality we will still have to keep a close eye on the bottom line.

There has been some confusion as to how the Governor was able to end with a 7.5% balance in her proposed budget. The short answer is that, up until the last four pages, the Governor's budget ends at 5 percent. She was able to meet the statutory requirements by removing \$147

stringent than required we can meet funding obligations to the educational system while keeping our promise to hold the line on spending.

> I will try to keep a running total and share it with you each week. It is important that everyone understands the fiscal pressure we are under this year. Currently, there hasn't been a bill with a significant fiscal note debated on the House floor.

Bills HB 2711 An act concerning the

environment; relating to conservation and electric generation, transmission and efficiency and air emissions.

HB 2712 An act concerning rural housing; relating to creating the housing development grant program; exempting certain cities from certain requirements for rural housing incentive district financing.

HB 2641 An act concerning income taxation; relating to property taxes paid by certain taxpayers.

Thank you very much for the honor of serving as your Representative in Topeka. I take my duties seriously and I am able to dedicate myself full-time to helping those who need assistance with several of the agencies or problems they have with state government. I really do enjoy helping and appreciate your continued prayers and help.

Rep. Jim Morrison State Capitol Building Rm. 242W, Topeka, Kan. 66612

St. Francis graduate wins career award

Former St. Francis resident, Jeremy Busby, recently received the Early Career Award for Engineering Accomplishment, given by UT-Battelle and Oak Ridge National Lab. He is a scientist in the Materials Science and Technology Division.

Busby was given the award for excellence in engineering materials research leading to timely identification of irradiation-induced segregation and phase instabilities in candidate structural refractory alloys for critical application to the Department of Energy Space Reactor Program, and to development of high-performance cast stainless steels for critical application in ITER.

research and development project that aims to demonstrate the scientific and technical feasibility of fusion power.

The science and technology provided critical leadership or made significant scientific, engineering, or technical contributions in support of UT-Battelle's programmatic goals.

Both individual and team contributions are recognized in this awards category.

Awards are given for pure scientific research, applied science, and Gary Wickwar of Goodland development of technology, engineering, or invention.

Contributions worthy of recognition include research or engineering accomplishments that St. Francis.

Let us work for you

899-2338



Jeremy Busby

ITER is a joint international make a significant contribution to a mainstream activity; an invention with realized or potential value to UT-Battelle, the government, or commercial clients; or significant impact as an author awards recognize staff who have of a key scientific publication, conference proceedings, or book. Awards are given for superlative accomplishments during the past year, over a number of years, or within the early years of a nominee's career.

Busby is a 1991 graduate of St. Francis Community High School. He is the son of Charlene and Doug and Trish Busby of Louisburg; and the grandson of Willard and Bonnie Busby and Charles and Dixie Curry, both of

There are many opportunities in slow times

Many businesses are struggling right now as the threat of recession looms in the distance. There are still many opportunities in slow times, but you need to think creatively and take a different approach.

• Market Effectively — When money is tight, many businesses cut costs by cutting back on marketing. This often makes things worse instead of better.

By effectively marketing during a recession, while your competition is cutting back, you can capture a larger piece of the shrinking market. When the economy turns around,



you will hold a strong position. • Be Well-Informed — The more markets.

you know, the better able you are to adapt to the changing market. newsletters are the simplest, most Don't just research your industry, effective way of staying in contact but also research the industries of your customers.

• Form Strategic Partnerships —

There are many benefits to banding together with other businesses. You can share marketing efforts and costs. You can share resources and networks.

You can buy as a group and access new

• Keep In Touch — E-mails and with your customers. Don't just send ads, but include topics and tips that are meaningful and helpful to

• Stay Positive — The economy is cyclical. It may be slow now, but it will rebound. Hang in there.

your target audience.

This tip was brought to you by Western Kansas Business Consulting. We offer free and confidential business consulting to Kearny, Scott, Sherman, and Wichita counties

For more information or to set up an appointment, contact Jamie Morphew at #620-874-0771 or emailwkbc@wbsnet.org.Sponsored in part by Sherman County.





Application

returned by

March 14 to:

Aquila External

Affairs Dept.

110 E. 9th St.

Lawrence, KS

66044.

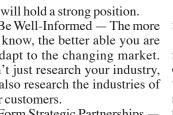
forms must be

completed and

How is your garden drainage?

sometimes can become questionable because of the lay of the land and raking which sometimes causes higher edges and lower areas within the plot.

Winter is often a good time to observe areas in the garden that do the soil. not drain properly. Moisture and snow melt can help sider adding good topsoil so water inch layer of organic matter to the identify areas that drain poorly or doesn't sit. Be sure to till or spade surface of the soil and tilling or slowly. Such areas often harm plant the area to mix the new topsoil roots due to poor oxygen levels in

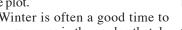


dana

belshe

ag notebook

The drainage in our garden sites or our gardening practices of tilling



To help correct these areas, conand underlying existing soil. Plant

ter such as peat moss or compost. This can be done by adding a twospading in as deeply as possible.

can be improved by

adding organic mat-

matters of record

District Traffic

The following fines have been paid in the Sherman County District Court (all ages are at the time they got the ticket).

Dec. 23: Linda Sheree Francis, 43, Adairsville, Ga., \$117 for being over weight limits on wheels and axles.

Darron Metcalf, 23, Houston, \$144 for speeding.

Dec. 24: Natalie J. Isaac, 36,



Ad Deadlines For Tuesday papers Friday Noon For Friday papers Wednesday Noon For Country Advocate Friday Noon You may call the ad in to (785) 899-2338 or stop by the Star-News at 1205 Main.

Brighton, Colo., \$126 for driving with expired registration. Dec. 25: Gary D. Rudnik, 46, Fort booked into the Sherman County Morgan, Colo., \$102 for speeding,

81/70. Dec. 28: Francis J. Wysocki, 54, Manassas, Va., \$183 for speeding, 93/70.

Dec. 30: Mark D. Johnson, 52, Katy, Texas, \$174 for speeding, 92/70

Benjamin P. Netherton, 20, Tucson, Ariz., \$201 for speeding, 95/70

Jan. 1: Joseph Blair Gilliland, 31, Goodland, \$126 for not having a child in safety seat or seat belt.

Jan. 6: Anthony S. Gaunt, 35, Lee Summit, Mo., \$120 for improper parking.

Sherman County Bastille The following people were Bastille:

Jan. 17 – 7:20 p.m., Leon F. Jackson, 28, of Arkansas City, Kan., arrested by Chevenne County sheriff deputy for failure to appear. Court pending.

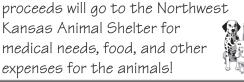
Jan. 20 – noon, Daxton Richard Navarro, 20, of Goodland, arrested by Goodland police on warrant arrest for other juristiction. Referred to thomas county.

Jan. 21 – 5:33, Karen M. Raevsky, 45, Thornton, Colo. arrested by state trooper for driving while suspened, first conviction, violating traffic control signals. Bond supplied.

Support the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter!

Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter has new 2008 calendars out! Come by the Goodland Star News office at 1205 Main Street, Goodland, KS, and pick up your calendar today! Calendars are only \$15, and all







Call for video or demo Fill in washouts **Quick & Economical Build Terraces** Dig irrigation ditches **Clean Feedlots Remove Snow Grade Roads Does Many More Jobs**



785-675-3961 (home)

Putting Our Energy Into Education. **Aquila Scholarships Available**

Aquila has a tradition of supporting education. If you are graduating from a Kansas high school in 2008, you may be eligible for a \$500 Aquila scholarship if you meet the following criteria:

- You rank in the top 25 percent of your class or you score 21 or higher on your ACT or 980 or higher on your SAT.
- Your parent or legal guardian is an Aquila customer.
- You plan to attend an accredited college or university as a full-time student for a bachelor's degree.
- You are not a relative of a current or retired Aquila employee.

For a scholarship application, contact your school office. The application also is available at www.aquila.com (Click "Find Programs & Services." Enter your ZIP Code in the field provided.) Or, call Aquila toll-free at 1-888-521-4059.



Aquila **Providing Energy** For Better Living

