

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.



jim morrison
• capitol review

stringent than required by the federal act or rules and regulations authorized in that act. Legislators are hopeful 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 million from K-12 funding. I hope

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.



Jeremy Busby

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.

ITER is a joint international research and development project that aims to demonstrate the scientific and technical feasibility of fusion power.

The science and technology awards recognize staff who have 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, development of technology, engineering, or invention.

Contributions worthy of recognition include research or engineering accomplishments that

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 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 Gary Wickwar of Goodland and Doug and Trish Busby of Louisburg; and the grandson of Willard and Bonnie Busby and Charles and Dixie Curry, both of St. Francis.

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,



jamie morphew
• business tips

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

your target audience.

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

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 e-mail wkbc@wbsnet.org. Sponsored in part by Sherman County.

you will hold a strong position.

- **Be Well-Informed** — The more you know, the better able you are to adapt to the changing market. Don't just research your industry, but also research the industries of your customers.
- **Form Strategic Partnerships** —

markets.

• **Keep In Touch** — E-mails and newsletters are the simplest, most effective way of staying in contact with your customers. Don't just send ads, but include topics and tips that are meaningful and helpful to

How is your garden drainage?

The drainage in our garden sites sometimes can become questionable because of the lay of the land or our gardening practices of tilling 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 not drain properly.

Moisture and snow melt can help identify areas that drain poorly or slowly. Such areas often harm plant roots due to poor oxygen levels in



dana belshe
• ag notebook

roots do not like to cross distinct barriers caused by one type of soil sitting on top of another.

Internal drainage can be improved by adding organic matter such as peat moss or compost. This can be done by adding a two-inch layer of organic matter to the surface of the soil and tilling or spading in as deeply as possible.

the soil.

To help correct these areas, consider adding good topsoil so water doesn't sit. Be sure to till or spade the area to mix the new topsoil and underlying existing soil. Plant

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,

Brighton, Colo., \$126 for driving with expired registration.

Dec. 25: Gary D. Rudnik, 46, Fort 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 booked into the Sherman County Bastille:

Jan. 17 — 7:20 p.m., Leon F. Jackson, 28, of Arkansas City, Kan., arrested by Cheyenne 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 jurisdiction. Referred to thomas county.

Jan. 21 — 5:33, Karen M. Raevsky, 45, Thornton, Colo. arrested by state trooper for driving while suspended, 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 proceeds will go to the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter for medical needs, food, and other expenses for the animals!



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- 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.

Application forms must be completed and returned by March 14 to:

Aquila External Affairs Dept.
110 E. 9th St.
Lawrence, KS 66044.

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.



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