

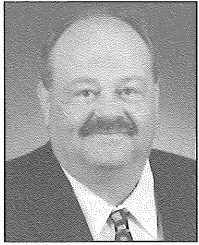
Former teacher returns

Dauids is happy to be back after hiatus

By **SUSAN HEGARTY**

When is a freshman legislator not really a freshman?

Ask Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston), who was elected to his ninth term in 2008 after a two-year hiatus. He lost the previous election by less than 60 votes, but prior to that, he served eight consecutive terms.



Rep. Greg Davids

“It’s kind of like riding a bike. You get knocked off the bike; you get back on the bike and start to peddle again. Little did I know that I’d be peddling into a \$7 billion budget shortfall,” said Davids.

Even as a true freshman in 1991, he missed orientation because he was seated in February after a special election. With eight years each as a majority and minority legislator, he’s still

acclimating to the changes in today’s House.

“I haven’t served with over 50 of the members,” he said.

One thing that hasn’t changed is his reason for returning to public service. As a retirement financial planner, he’s accustomed to helping people plan for their futures. The same is true in public office.

“Being the elected official, you can do so much more to help people. For me, that’s what it’s all about,” he said.

Of the six committees/divisions he is assigned to, serving as the Republican lead for the House Cultural and Outdoor Resources Finance Division has gained him the most popularity. He’ll be deciding how to spend millions in dedicated tax receipts for the outdoor heritage funds. Oddly, he worked diligently against the constitutional amendment that authorized the tax increase, but now that it’s passed, he said he’ll do

DISTRICT 31B

Population: (2007 est.) 36,538

Largest City: La Crescent

Counties: Fillmore, Houston

Top Concern: Equity in school district funding

his best to get voters the best bang for their money.

Though he isn’t a member of any education committees, the former teacher said equality between rural and metropolitan area schools is his biggest concern. He’s also sensitive to cuts in education. In 1982, “I became a budget cut of a downturn in the economy because of budget deficits, so when someone says, ‘We’re concerned about our jobs,’ I understand it,” said Davids.

He and his wife, Bonnie, have been married for 30 years and have three daughters, one of whom is also a teacher.