

## Need for budget control big problem

Written by Elizabeth Barrett  
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Col. Tom Brewer stumping for Third District congressional seat.

If the nation's spending is not controlled, Col. Tom Brewer thinks the system will collapse.

"In the last seven years, the debt has skyrocketed and the future for our children is very bleak," he said.

Brewer, who seeks the Third District congressional seat occupied by Rep. Adrian Smith, was in Gothenburg Feb. 19.

To deal with overspending, the Republican said a debt ceiling is needed as well as forcing the government to live within its means.

"You have to think about our state and nation and accept the fact that it won't be popular," he said. "Maybe you shouldn't approach the office (Third District) as a career and walk the fence to stay there."

An Army Ranger, the Gordon native served six tours in Afghanistan and was wounded twice. He also was in charge of the Nebraska National Guard on a mission to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005.

Because of medical complications, the 55-year-old retired from the military after 36 years.

While recuperating from his wounds in 2011, he said he focused on government issues and wished there was some way to make a difference, especially when Congress failed to pass a budget and the government shut down.

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War memorials and national parks became inaccessible to veterans and their benefits were reduced.

“They paid the price years ago,” he said.

Brewer said his military and Guard background would be helpful as a representative.

For example, he’s had experifighting wars and fires and with blizzards and floods and other natural disasters.

Following Katrina, Brewer said he saw how government responded correctly and how it failed horribly.

And, after seven years of Smith, Brewer said many people are unhappy with the lack of forward motion.

Brewer’s greatest strength is his focus and determination, he said.

“I don’t let up,” he said, noting that he’s a consensus builder and a natural leader.

Brewer’s mother was a member of the Oglala Sioux tribe.

He is married to Kelli Young and the couple has two grown children.

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