



Redistricting meeting set in Colby

By Kevin Bottrell
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A committee redrawing the Kansas political landscape will hold a public meeting for northwest Kansas on Thursday at Colby Community College.

The Kansas Legislature's Special Committee on Redistricting will meet with the public from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday at the college Cultural Arts Center.

The Legislature is required to go through the redistricting process after each census to make sure House and Senate districts are equal in population across the state.

The population in northwest Kansas has gone down over the past 10 years, while Kansas as a

whole grew by 6 percent, mainly in urban areas. This likely means western Kansas districts will pick up more territory, or one or more districts will be broken up and divided among the others.

The state Legislative Research Department has released adjusted population numbers for Kansas counties, along with information on how far above or below target population each district is.

"Ideal size" for a Senate district is 70,986 people. The 40th District, represented by Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer of Grinnell, comprises 18 counties in northwest Kansas with 62,105 people — about 88 percent of its ideal size, or 8,881 below the target.

See MEETING on Page 7



MILO WAS BEING HARVESTED along U.S. 36 west of Bird City on the land farmed by the Hendricks brothers. This looks like a good field of milo.

Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

Couple joins law firm

By Karen Krien
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Karan and Joni Thadani have joined the firm of Jim Milliken Law in St. Francis.

The lawyers come from Lawrence where they were partners at the Law Office of Johnson and Thadani along with Joni's father, John Johnson. However, they wanted to come to a small town to live and raise a family.

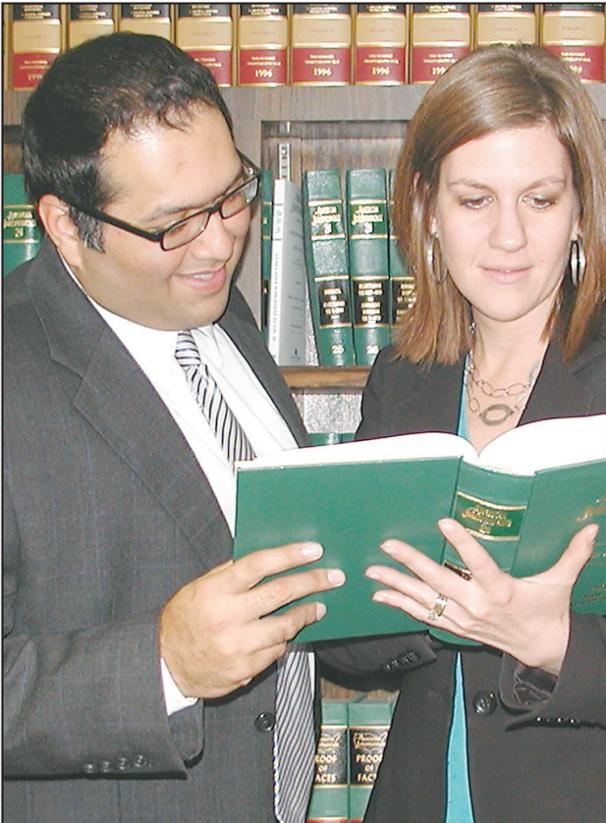
Mrs. Thadani had applied at Milliken's and Mr. Thadani had planned to hang his own "shingle." However, they talked with the Millikens and were both offered jobs in the practice.

On Friday, Mr. Thadani was officially sworn in as the assistant county attorney and will help Kari Gilliland, county attorney.

Mrs. Thadani was raised in Hillsboro. Following high school graduation, she went on to Bethel College in Newton where she earned her undergraduate degree in Social Science with an emphasis in criminal justice.

I knew I wanted to be involved in the criminal system, she said, but at that time I didn't want to be a lawyer.

She began working for the Kansas Department of Revenue in Kansas City, and also attended the University of Kansas City in Missouri where she worked on her master's in Criminal Justice.



KARAN AND JONI THADANI have joined Jim Milliken Law office.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Before I was finished with my master's, she said, I realized I really did want to go into law.

Mr. Thadani graduated from high school in McAllen, Texas, then went on to the University of Texas in Austin where he earned a bachelor's degree in History.

Mr. Thadani always knew that he wanted to be a lawyer.

I wanted to help people, he said, noting that he found the work to be rewarding.

Both entered Washburn University School of Law in Topeka, where they met. They graduated in 2006, and were later married in 2007.

Mr. Thadani's mother remains in McAllen, Texas. He has a younger brother who lives in Dallas.

Mrs. Thadani's parents have retired and are living in Lawrence. She has an older brother who lives in Boston with his family.

See JOINS on Page 7

It's festival time in Haigler

The fourth Fall Haigler Tumbleweed Festival will be held Saturday at the Haigler Museum grounds south of Highway 34 and Porter Avenue. The tents and tables, hay bales and scarecrows will be out. Everyone is invited to bring their lawn chairs and attend this fun day of celebration. There are no admission fees just free will donations that will go toward the Haigler Cornerstone Museum project.

Schedule of events

Schedule of events include neighborhood garage sales from 9 a.m. to noon. Maps will be avail-

able at "the station" on the highway. Chocolate, jewelry, Party Lite and decorator sales will be held in the Senior Center.

A barbeque begins at 1 p.m. with hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, baked beans and drinks. Homemade pies and ice cream will be served at the Golden Inn Senior Center. Live music performed by LaVoine Smith and the Garage Bunch from Burlington, Colo. will fill the air throughout the afternoon.

Other activities include treasure hunts, horseshoe pitching, carousel merry-go-round rides, ticket draw-

ings for many prizes and Maypole Awards.

Tumbleweed - spook parade

Everyone is urged to bring decorated tumbleweeds to be displayed. Cash prizes will be awarded.

At 3:30 p.m., the Tumbleweed/Spook Parade for kids of all ages (including adults) will begin in front of the Country School House Museum. No motorized vehicles but bicycles, tricycles, wagons, walkers and pull floats can be entered. Prizes will be awarded.

See more about the museum on Page 3.

Representative comes to Sainty

The Kansas staff of Congressman Tim Huelskamp will be in St. Francis from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on Nov. 18 at the Cheyenne County Courthouse.

The staff routinely host office hours in satellite locations throughout the First District of Kansas. During these satellite office hours, a constituent services representative will be available to hear constituents' opinions, ideas and concerns about issues being debated in Washington.

A representative will also be available to help constituents who need assistance with federal agencies and programs, including Social Security, Medicare, Veterans' Affairs, and Visas. Constituents with questions should contact Congressman Huelskamp's Salina office at 785-309-0572 or visit <http://huelskamp.house.gov/events>.

Congressman Huelskamp is a freshman representing the First District of Kansas. He serves on the House Budget, Agriculture, and Veterans' Affairs Committees, and he is a member of the House Republican Study Committee.

Foundation gives money

The St. Francis Community Foundation's New Generation Fund has \$1,400 which board members will be dispensing this year. The Foundation was established for the betterment of the community. The funds being distributed are from interest earnings on money which has been donated. The last distribution was in 2007.

The purpose of the foundation is to encourage individuals to make tax deductible charitable donations to be used along with possible grants, government programs, government loans and other funds. These combined funds can then be utilized to improve the quality of life in St. Francis and Cheyenne County.

Organizations are urged to go to the internet, www.sfcommunityfoundation.org, New Generation Fund and click on the link for an application. Through the years, the Foundation has distributed money to PrairieLand Foods, the museum and scouts, just to name some.

It should be noted that the money being distributed is not money donated for the long-term care fund.

Fire burns around 2,000 acres grassland over weekend

By Karen Krien
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Firemen from 10 departments and three states battled a fire in The Breaks approximately 22 miles north of St. Francis on Saturday and Sunday.

The fire started around 3 p.m. when a combine, driven by Doug Renzelman, caught fire while cutting a field of sunflowers. There was little wind that day but the pastures were dry and the fire, as it burned, seemed produce it's own breeze. The yucca plants were fuel to the fire.

The country is rough terrain and it was difficult to get to the fires which jumped from place to place. Fire trucks were coming through fields from every direction, trying to get ahead of the fire. In that area, said George Harper, St. Francis fire chief, there are few roads that run east and west. The ravines also hampered the trucks from getting to the fire.

They fought the flames until

well after dark. At 1:30 a.m., firemen were called back and this time, they were there until 5:30. On Sunday about 3 p.m., the fire flamed up again but, this time, instead of heading north and east, it went south onto land owned by Gary Zuege.

On Saturday, the Haigler Fire Department reached the fire first. St. Francis firemen were called a little later and a call for help went out to other departments. The sheriff's departments were called and K-27 was closed at U.S. 36 and 34 because of the smoke.

Neighbors and other volunteers were there to help wherever they could. Water and other soft drinks, along with sandwiches and snacks were donated.

Water tanks showed up for refilling the fire trucks.

Chief Harper said around 2,000 acres pasture land were burned. Only a corner of the sunflower field was destroyed. The pastureland was owned by Dale and Dwight Faylor,



FIRE BURNED CLOSE to the Faylor farm Saturday and Sunday. 'It could have been worse,' Dwight Faylor said.

Doug Renzelman and Gary Zuege.

Dwight said the cattle seemed to smell the danger and came running where they were moved to a small pasture. The fire, while just

across the draw, didn't reach the Faylor homes.

However, there will be miles of fences to fix and the fall pasture for the cattle is gone.

Like the old saying goes,

Dwight said, good comes out of bad. He said he has had several people offering to let him put the cattle on cornstalk and sunflower stalk to help with the fall feeding.

We are fortunate, Dwight said.

No one was hurt, the cattle were safe and our houses were not destroyed.

On Monday, there was .10-inch rain which helped stamp out any other sparks that might linger.