



# Opinion

## Spread-out district isn't good for any of us

Sen. Ralph Ostmeier is upset about the shape his district is in, or at least the shape it could be in if the latest map proposal for redistricting the state Senate becomes law.

The map, known as Ad Astra, would stretch the already huge 40th district into eastern Kansas and well into the southwest. It would be impossible to cover with a couple of days of town-hall meetings.

The 40th is already the largest in the state. Under the Ad Astra proposal, it would grow to 20 1/2 counties, adding Phillips, Smith and Jewell on the east, losing Trego and Ness and adding half of Hamilton.

But Jewell County is in the eastern half of the state; Hamilton is on the Arkansas River and two-thirds of the way to Oklahoma.

Sen. Ostmeier jokes that maybe the leadership is mad at him. More likely, someone is trying to draw a map that will satisfy the most people, including legislators who don't want to have to run against each other.

But whatever the reason, the result would be a district that would be tough to represent. Covering all or part of 20 counties, it would force the senator to keep in touch with fully one-fifth of the county commissioners in the state.

Today, from his home in Grainfield, near the

center of the 18-county district, Sen. Ostmeier can be in any town in the 40th in a couple of hours.

It'd be 325 miles from Syracuse in Hamilton County to St. Francis in Cheyenne to Mankato in Jewell, near three-fourths of the distance across the state. And it'd be a six-hour drive.

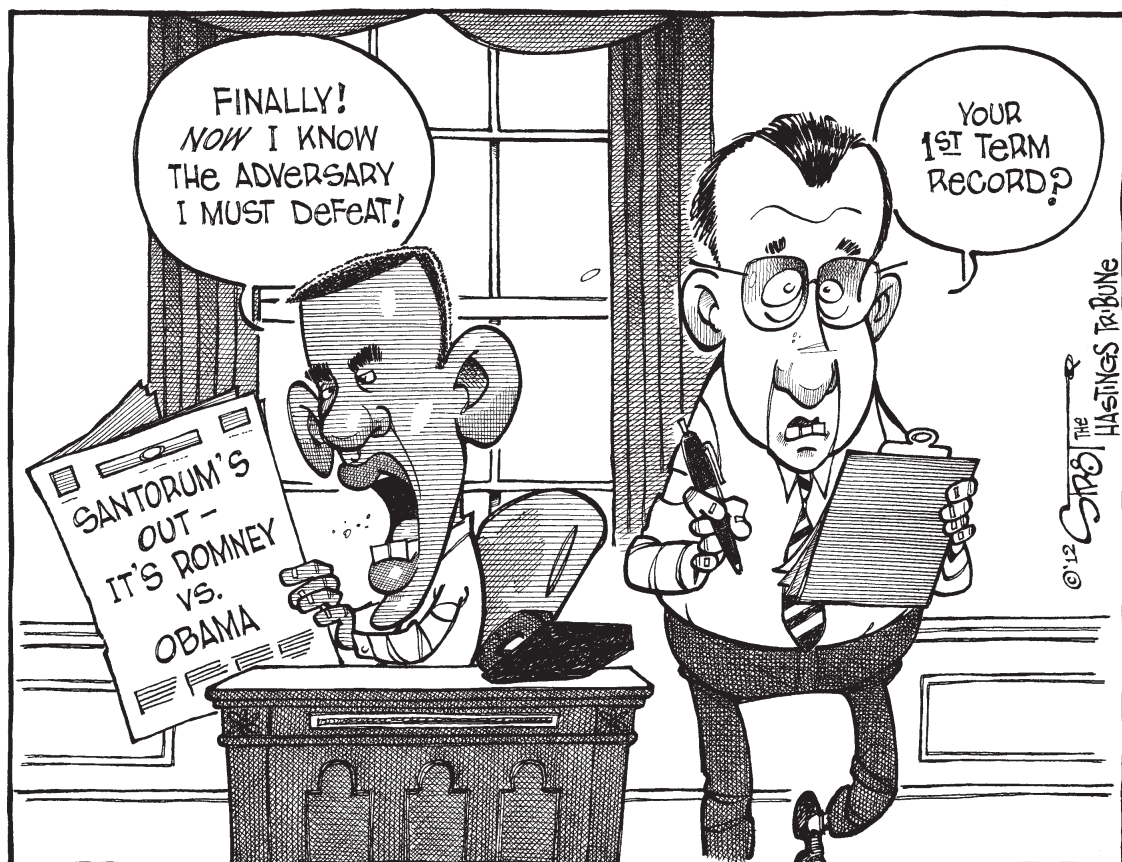
The district would be almost impossible to represent. It would be a burden for any candidate who wanted to run for the seat. In Johnson County, the "new" 37th District spans just a few miles.

The thing is, Sen. Ostmeier said, all his district needs to meet the guidelines laid down by federal courts is to add Phillips County. That would retain the basic square shape, he said, and keep the district as compact as it could be.

Our view: it's tough enough to represent the huge 40th District without making it impossible. The Senate leadership needs to take practical considerations into account.

This district already represents nearly all the northwest quadrant of the state, with a slice of the southwest thrown in. Stretching it into a germyrander won't make things any better.

Anyone who votes for the district as it stands in the Ad Astra map ought to be made to come out here and drive it. — Steve Haynes



## Casey's Comments

Believe it or not, sometimes newspaper people actually get it right.

I find great pleasure from writing about special places that we have in our region. A new jewel for me is the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City.

The dream of Kansas City Star publisher, William Rockhill Nelson, came about when his estate was combined to that of former school teacher, and widow of a wealthy real estate speculator, Mary Atkins.

Opened on Dec. 11, 1933, the museum is home to an incredible assortment of art and history.

With relics dating back some

4,000 years, the museum boasts items from the ancient Near East, Egypt, Greece and Rome. An impressive new exhibit spotlights a 2,300-year-old Egyptian noble woman named Meretites.

Moving forward in time are Christian artifacts taking the visitor to the Renaissance and Reformation periods.

In the center of the U.S. I hardly expected to find such a vast collection of paintings. Hanging are works by such greats as Van Gogh, Gauguin, Cezanne and Seurat. Around other corners are Rembrandts and Rubens, Manets and Degas, El Grecos and Goyas. One wall is covered by Monet's

By Casey McCormick



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"Water Lilies" with his "Boulevard des Capucines" nearby.

Other exhibits include American, Asian and African, along with Modern and Abstract pieces. If that weren't enough the building holds numerous sculptures and architectural surprises, both within and on the grounds.

The Nelson-Atkins Museum contains over 33,500 objects. But what is most amazing, admission is free!

Yes, occasionally newspaper people do get it right.

## Hangin' With Marge

Embarrassing Others

When I was in the hospital I had an IV going pushing fluids along with drinking water, lots of water. There was nothing wrong with that but the trips to the little girl's room was almost constant.

Kurt was there with me and I told him I didn't want to keep ringing for nurses so if he would help me I could get the IV stand and myself into the bathroom.

Sure enough I could. It just meant stretching the cord and get-

ting the cart as close as we could to the bathroom door. Then I would back in, stretch my arm out and it would work. Of course you didn't want anyone to enter the room when you are like that but it doesn't take long to lose your pride if you have to.

After about three days of that, I went to go again and this time a nurse was there and she said, "Just unplug it and wheel it in." Only if I would have asked earlier I could have saved myself a lot of work.

One night Leslie and Casey had stopped by to visit and I kept excusing myself to walk to the bathroom. Poor Casey would go to the door or turn his back and stare out

the window. He was very thoughtful and I did appreciate it.

On one of my trips in he stood at the window and when I was washing my hands I looked in the mirror and my cheeks where a rosy red color instead of the pale white I had been seeing. As I stepped out of the bathroom I looked at Leslie and said, "How do you like my rosy cheeks?"

Poor Casey who was sitting with his back to me thought I was talking to him. Believe me his face was much redder than mine.

By Margaret Bucholtz



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**GOD SAYS**

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

Psalms 121:1-3

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## The Gardener

By Kay Melia



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In 1952 and most of 1953, I was a buck Private in the U.S. Army. I trained as a Signal Corp Cryptographer at Fort Gordon, Georgia and eventually deployed to the 25th Signal Company of the 25th Infantry Division in Korea. The 25th was known as the "Tropic Lightning" division and has served the nation from 1941 through it's present assignment in Afghanistan. While in Korea, it was the most decorated division of them all with some 14 Medal of Honor winners. I was not one of them.

I was in Korea for 14 months, mostly after the fighting had subsided. Our job then became one of alert, and training of Republic of Korea troops. As such, I became better acquainted with the Korean people and their culture. Most of the civilian population were small farmers, with rice as their dominantly produced crop, and just about every family in the land maintained a garden on the little piece of land they called home.

We of course understand that every nation enjoys their own unique set of historical doctrine, not only in how they live, but in what they eat. The Asian population has always thrived on rice, vegetables, and to a lesser extent on, meat. Each family of Koreans grow most of what they eat, although in today's modern South Korea, large supermarkets are everywhere. and fresh fruits and vegetables are offered to the public, as in other modern nations.

But when I was there 60 years ago, the people had to grow what they ate, and it didn't take long for me to realize that they grew lots of cabbage. But not the kind of cabbage we grow in our gardens for slaw or kraut. They grew

scads of what we refer to as Chinese cabbage, or Asian cabbage, or sometimes referred to as Pak Choi, or Bok Choi. We will occasionally use those types of cabbage in stir fries, or maybe to give a green salad a little more flavor. It has a much stronger taste than regular cabbage.

But in Korea, much of the crop is sliced up and packed into large glass jars, highly seasoned, and allowed to ferment for a few days. The finished product is called Kimchi, pronounced KIM-chee, and if South Korea has a national food, it is indeed Kimchi. Everybody there loves it! Walk down the street of any town or city and the aroma of Kimchi will have your olfactory nerves working overtime! It permeates clothing, home furnishings and local stores. Among Republic of Korea mess halls, Kimchi was al-

ways available, everyday.

I have a recipe for Kimchi, but have never used it, and I don't intend to start now. It's ingredients include the Chinese cabbage, water, salt, fresh ginger, fish sauce, chile paste, green onions, daikon radish, and a bit of sugar. You are advised to eat it within 3 weeks or it can become overly fermented. I can only imagine.

I firmly believe that Kimchi should not be ingested. But then, that is my culture speaking. Koreans are probably not too keen on mashed potatoes and gravy. But if you would like to have my Kimchi recipe, let me know. And then, you're on your own!

## Photo Policy

The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times wants to emphasize photos of people doing things in the community. If you know of an event or new happening that we should attend, please call 332-3162.

Please be sure to allow a couple of days' notice so we can be there.

Space in the paper is limited and so is the time of our staff, so we may not be able to get to every event. Because space is so limited we cannot run team or group photos, any pictures of people lined up or of people passing checks, certificates and the like. (We will always try to make room for a story about any of these events, however.)

We do run wedding and engagement pictures and "mug" shots with stories and obituaries, when they are provided to us. Please remember that we need a clear, sharp picture. Dark or fuzzy prints will not work.

We cannot return photos unless you submit a self-addressed, stamped envelope with clear instructions for return. Other photos submitted may be picked up at our office within two weeks. After that, they will be disposed of.

Laser prints of photos which have run in The Herald or Times are available, first come, first served. Special-order laser prints of photos will be available at \$3 each.

<p><b>Church of Christ</b> 332-2380, Pars. 332-3424 502 W. Spencer Norman Morrow - Minister Bible Class 9 a.m. Morning Worship 10 a.m.</p>	<p><b>St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church</b> 625 S. River • 332-2680 Fr. Roger Meitl Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m. Weekday Mass 8:00 a.m. Confessions Sat. 4-4:30</p>	<p><b>First Baptist Church</b> 2nd &amp; Scott • 332-3921 J.W. Glidewell, Pastor Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m., Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.</p>
<p><b>United Methodist</b> Church Office 332-2292, Church 332-2254, 512 S. Scott Pastor Warren Cico Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>Salem Lutheran Church</b> 332-3002 Pastor Chris Farmer Sunday School 10 a.m. Morning Worship 11 a.m. Communion 3rd Sunday</p>	<p><b>St. Francis Community Church</b> 332-3150 204 N. Quincy Street www.sfccfamily.com Pastor: David Butler Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Potluck &amp; Communion - Every 2nd Sunday Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.</p>
<p><b>Seventh-Day Adventist Church</b> 785-890-5718 • 3rd &amp; Adams Pastor Jerry Nowack Sabbath School 9:30 Morning Worship 10:45</p>	<p><b>Solid Rock Baptist Church</b> 412 S. Denison Welcomes You! Pastor Allen Coon Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 Prayer Meeting, Wed 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC</b> 202 N. College Pastor Randy Nelson Church 332-2928 Parsonage 332-2312 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Communion 1st Sunday</p>
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