

VISIT

Continued from Page 1

said, until countries quit loaning us money, the leaders will continue to borrow and not worry about balancing the budget.

A member of the Budget Committee, Mr. Huelskamp helped put together a plan which would have the United States' budget balanced in 5 years but the House ended up passing a budget which would balance the country's budget in 26 years.

"I didn't vote for that," he said. "We need to have the budget balanced before then - that is too late. "We own 50 percent debt," he added.

That budget has not passed the Senate and Mr. Huelskamp didn't look for any passage of a budget bill.

Perry Keller, Cheyenne County farmer, was concerned about EPA over-regulations. To meet some of these regulations, and, he added, not all of them are bad, it costs thousands of dollars. Legislators don't seem to have any idea of what it costs.

Mr. Huelskamp advised talking to legislators and posting concerns on the internet.

Mr. Keller was talked about the fuel containment regulations which the regulations need to be met by May 2013.

Unless there is something that is causing death or harming people, Mr. Huelskamp would like to see no more regulations made. If there is a new president, he said, the old president will push a bunch of regulations through, or at least, in the past, that is how it has been.

Beth Maifeld asked about the EPA's regulation banning farm dust. He talked about a speaker who had been asked about banning

farm dust and he said, no, they weren't going to ban farm dust, only to later talk about banning coarse particles which is dust.

"You can't believe a word they say," he said. "Until you stop them, they will continue to try to enforce regulations on farm dust."

Mr. Huelskamp talked about coal being the cheapest type of energy but there will be no more coal plants built because of EPA regulations.

Mr. Huelskamp pointed out that it takes money to enforce regulations. If money is taken away from EPA, it will be harder to make and enforce regulations.

It seems like there is a war on rural American, said Bruce Swihart. Mr. Huelskamp said that Washington is a different world. There are only 20 farmers and he is one of them. Agriculture, he said, is carrying our economy. The single, most important export we have is food. The people in Washington just don't understand.

Elmer Kellner said he would be glad to house some EPA bureaucrats and take them around to the different farms. These people (bureaucrats), he said, have no concept of what we are about out here!

Ken Beougher noted that spending is flat but there has been a huge increase in food stamps. Mr. Huelskamp said that if 3 percent were cut from the food stamp budget, it would save \$5 billion.

Paula Keller said that she had been told that one of the benefits for those receiving food stamps is they receive cell phones. And, Mr. Huelskamp said, the phone companies are automatically reimbursed for cell phones.

Neil McCumber said he thought that anyone receiving food stamps



CONGRESSMAN TIM HUELSKAMP spoke to a small group in St. Francis.

should have to take a drug test. It just seems like there should be some common sense.

But, he said, how can a rural individual out here in Kansas do anything?

Mr. Huelskamp said to submit comments. Send them in to all legislators - it is political fear.

What helps me are the stories that the people tell that I take back to Congress - it isn't the figures.

"Yell, scream and write letters," he said, "but, in the end, what we really need to do is pray. The future of our country is really in trouble. If family, community and churches are not going to help, then the bureaucrats will come in.

"The American people need to be ready to step up."

Hometown Hero



Sherry Schultz has been selected as the first Hometown Hero.

While Mrs. Schultz is involved with several different organizations, she is best known for the work and many hours spent at the United Methodist Thrift Store located on St. Francis' Main Street.

Mrs. Schultz started working in the church's thrift store when it was still located on the second floor of the Methodist Church Education Building.

At the time, the thrift store was only bringing in about \$3,000 a year. That was not enough to pay the utilities, let alone buy a building. But, a donation of a house that sold opened the door to buy the building on Main Street.

Seven years ago, volunteers started working on the building. Items, clothing, shoes, household and Christmas decorations started pouring in. They opened in mid-October and have never once had to look for items to fill the racks and shelves.

The Thrift Store is neat and well organized and the clothes smell good and are pressed.

Mrs. Schultz is quick to point out that the Thrift Store would not be what it is today if it were not for the volunteers. They faithfully show up to help unpack bags and boxes, sort, press, fill the racks and take the money.

We have items coming in from as far as Alaska, from the East Coast to the West Coast. People seem to be happy to have a place to donate where their items will be well displayed, sold, and the money donated to good causes, she said.

No one, including Mrs. Schultz, receives any money for their services. Many enjoy the work, she said, others enjoy the company of the people they work with, and others like the people who come into the store. It give some of the volunteers a reason to get out and see people. Volunteers are from many denominations, she said.

Mrs. Schultz says she works at least 40 hours a week, even though the store is open only three days a week. She is responsible for paying bills and doing the bookkeeping.

She added that she has the support of her husband, Eddy, who also helps emotionally as well as physically.

Each year, they give money to help a variety of local organizations and causes, as well as giving to Methodist missions. Several months ago, Mrs. Schultz said the total given since opening is around \$250,000.

She sees the future of the Thrift Store continuing. We, the church board and volunteers, feel that we are giving a needed service to the people in the community and surrounding area as well as keeping a business going in St. Francis.

While she is busy with the store, she also finds time to become involved in community and church activities. She is a member of Hospital Guild, Ramblers and Community Builders. In the past, she has been active in American Cancer Society, Eastern Star, Job's Daughters and Riverside Recreation.

"I enjoy what I do," she said. "I feel like it is my mission."

MAP

Continued from Page 1

given any indication that he plans to do so.

"I'd love to see them appeal it," he added.

Ostmeyer said he doesn't think the case will be appealed.

Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach has announced that the filing deadline, which was noon Monday, will not be extended, and the primary election will go forward as scheduled on Tuesday, Aug. 7. Across the state, many candidates had to refile and others jumped into races, based on the new maps.

Both the House and Senate districts are drastically different from the current layout. The old 120th included Cheyenne, Rawlins, Decatur, Norton and Phillips counties. The old 121st included Sherman, Thomas, Sheridan and Graham counties.

With the 121st moved, the new 120th includes Cheyenne, Rawlins, Decatur, Sherman, Wallace and the northwest part of Thomas County, including Colby. The rest of Thomas as well as Sheridan and Graham counties are now in the 118th, represented by Don Hineman of Dighton. Norton and Phillips counties are now in the 110th District, which runs down to Hays.

It's a far cry from what Rep. Billinger thought he would be contending with.

"It's appalling that three judges from Kansas City were the ones to decide the western Kansas districts," he said.

The House passed a map in just three days with more than 110 votes, Billinger said, but the judges didn't even use it as a reference point. That map, he said, got the population numbers within a few percentage points of the ideal, and it took care not to put incumbents together.

This new map pits 23 incumbents against each other and created 25 districts that suddenly had no incumbent. In many cases, Billinger said, there hadn't been anyone filed in those new districts. After Thursday's announcement, party officials scrambled to find candidates for them before the Monday deadline.

Both Billinger and Cassidy have much of their old districts. All that remains are from the old 120th are three counties, Cheyenne, Decatur and Rawlins. Another example, he said, is the new 106th District, which pits Rep. Clay Aurand of Bellville against Rep. Sharon Schwartz of Washington. The two had been in neighboring districts before the judges issued the new map.

Both Billinger and Cassidy said they expect their primary to be a friendly campaign.

"Ward's a friend of mine, has been for many years," Billinger said. "Neither of us wanted to run against each other, but circumstances have thrown us together."

Cassidy said it is not a nice scenario. He had been campaigning

across five counties, then suddenly two of those were taken away and new ones added.

"When the legislature draws a map, they favor incumbents," he said. "We were told that if the judges were to do it, they wouldn't care."

Cassidy estimated that in both houses there would likely be a minimum of 50 new legislators. The House will also be electing a new speaker, since the incumbent, Mike O'Neal, is not running for reelection.

Cassidy said his decision to continue running was due in part to being on the House Appropriations Committee during the last session.

"I was told I have a good chance of being on it next session and I also have a chance of being educational budget chairman," he said.

Cassidy said that gaining that amount of influence would allow him to do good things for western Kansas.

One way or the other, either Billinger or Cassidy won't be heading back to Topeka for next year's session.

"Both of us look out for western Kansas," Billinger said. "It's tragic that two good voices for western Kansas are pitted against each other."

The 40th Senate District is in the same boat. The redrawn district includes Wallace, Logan, Gove, Trego, Ellis, Sherman, Thomas, Sheridan, Graham, Cheyenne, Rawlins, Decatur, Norton and half of Phillips county - not including the city of Phillipsburg.

The old district boundaries stopped at Trego County and extended south to Greeley, Wichita, Scott, Lane and Ness counties. It also included Rooks County. To make up for losing these six counties, the district picked up half of Phillips County and Ellis, including the city of Hays.

"It'll all work out," Ostmeyer said. "Ellis County is a rural area, its got small schools and a college I support."

Having Hays in the district does change the dynamic though. Ostmeyer said that Hays holds 33 percent of the new district's population, and a Democratic incumbent. Schmidt, a Hays resident who had been in the 36th District, now is in the 40th.

"Schmidt and I are very good friends," Ostmeyer said. "We talked during the session, and he told me that if we were put in the same district that he might not run. When we talked about it over this weekend, I told him to do what he needed to do."

Schmidt announced Monday that he has filed to run in the 40th. He lost nine of his 10 counties, which he said represents a huge challenge.

"The job is not finished and neither is my service to rural Kansas," he said in a press release. "Representing

senting rural Kansas is a responsibility I take as conscientiously as I did my senior leader duties in the Army. It has been a privilege to represent the needs and values of rural Kansas these past two years and that responsibility has required firmly standing up to keep our rural representation against efforts to take away yet another rural western district because of population shifts."

Schmidt is a one-term senator. He spent 32 years in the Army Medical Service before retiring as a colonel. He and his wife spent 12 years operating a dairy and he currently works as a business development manager for the Columbia Group.

Ostmeyer also has to run in the primary against John Miller, a longtime Norton County commissioner.

Including Ostmeyer and Schmidt, six incumbent senators have been pitted against each other. Ostmeyer said the Senate has no one to blame but itself.

"The judges punished us," he said.

Ostmeyer said he suspected the conservative wing of the party has been hurt worse by the maps, but it is too early to tell.

"I still see that rift being there," he said.

The judges also issued maps for the Kansas Congressional districts and the state Board of Education.

The 1st Congressional District only picked up a little territory, and now has far fewer than the old count of 69 counties. Junction City will be reunited with neighboring Fort Riley, and the district will now include Manhattan.

To even out the populations, the 4th District will pick up some rural counties in south central Kansas. To make up for losing Manhattan, the 2nd District will pick up the rest of Nemaha County and most of Marshall County in the north, Montgomery County in the south, and part of Douglas County. However it will lose part of Miami County to the 3rd District.

In the final opinion, the Court said it is satisfied that its plans meet the legal requirements for redistricting.

"The Court recognizes that because it has tried to restore compact contiguous districts where possible, it is pushing a re-set button; its maps look different from those now in place," the opinion says. "Some changes may not be popular and some people - perhaps many - will disagree that the Court has struck the appropriate balance."

The three judges in the case were Kathryn Vratil, chief judge of the U.S. District Court in Kansas City, appointed by President George H.W. Bush in 1992.; Mary Breck Briscoe, chief judge of the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals, appointed by President Bill Clinton in 1995; and Senior U.S. District Judge John Lungstrum, also a George H.W. Bush appointee.

Brought to you exclusively by:



WESTERN STATE BANK



"Achieving goals by Building Relationships"

785-332-3100

www.wsbks.com

P.O. Box 1102

400 E. Washington ~ St. Francis

Changing the landscape of

Healing

Please join us as we celebrate

The Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting of the Facility Master Plan Phase II Project

Featuring
Community Hospital's Surgery Wing
and Healing Garden

Sunday, July 1, 2012
1 p.m.

Community Hospital
Prairie View Conference Room
1301 East H Street
McCook, Nebraska

Program to start promptly at 1:00 p.m. with remarks from Senator Ben Nelson and Lieutenant Governor Rick Sheehy.

After the program, enjoy refreshments and tours of the Surgery Wing and Healing Garden.

Parking is available in the front hospital parking lot and on H Street.



COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Advanced care. Always there.

1301 East H Street - McCook, NE 69001 - 308-344-2650
www.chmccook.org

