



## Maps drawn place two in 40th district

By Kevin Bottrell  
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Maps drawn by federal judges in Kansas City left the state House and Senate districts covering the northwest corner of Kansas with two incumbents, sending the House district that once served Goodland and Colby to Olathe.

Maps proposed in the Legislature would have avoided the head-to-head election matchups, but none of them was ever passed. A fight over control of the Senate between conservative and moderate Republicans left the redistricting process up to the courts.

That means Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, a long-time incumbent Republican from Grinnell, and Sen. Allen Schmidt, a Hays Democrat, both now live in Ostmeyer's 40th District, which shrinks from 17 counties to 13 1/2 but now takes in Democratic-leaning Hays.

The 121st District shifts to Johnson County, where population continues to grow. The 120th, which had run from Cheyenne to Phillips counties along the Nebraska line, now takes in Goodland and Colby,

throwing Republican representatives Rick Billinger of Goodland and Ward Cassidy of St. Francis into a primary race.

"This is bad for Kansas," Sen. Ostmeyer said Wednesday, summing up the opinions of many officials toward the redistricting maps handed down by three federal judges late last week. "I'm tremendously disappointed. We're elected to do this job, and we failed."

While the House had a map done and approved quickly, he said, the Senate didn't even start until late in the session. The process got bogged down in the fight between conservatives and moderates.

When the session ended, several days over the usual 90-day limit, no new legislative maps had been approved. The process went before three federal judges, who issued their opinion, along with new maps, on June 7.

Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt could appeal the case to the U.S. Supreme Court. Billinger said the attorney general hasn't

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FIRST HALF OF FIREWORKS arrived Sunday and Roger Neitzel, left, and Rodney Neitzel were busy unloading them. There will be more fireworks this year than last. The fire-

work Rodney is handing to Roger costs \$125. There are four of those and many more that will be just as spectacular.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Plans falling in place for the Fourth

By Karen Krien

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The July Fourth celebration is just a couple of weeks away and plans are falling in place fast. The first half of the fireworks have arrived and, as of the first of the week, six out of the 10 entries for the hot dog contest had been filled.

Time is running out to enter the hot dog contest. The winner will have 12 minutes to eat as many hot dogs plus the buns as fast as they can. The first place winner will receive \$50 in prizes plus 24 packages of hot dogs. Call Uptown Market, where the contest will be held at noon, to sign up, 332-2774.

There are two events starting the day at 7 a.m. The Sainty Sharks swim team will host a tri-

athlon and the Cheyenne County Wildlife organization will hold a fishing contest for kids 15 years and under.

The triathlon will be for children to adults with different distances to swim, run and bike. Margaret Poling, organizer, said individuals or teams can enter.

The adults or Super Spring, will be starting the triathlon with a 400-yard swim, followed by a 10K bike ride and 5K run.

Kids of Steel, the older kids, will swim 200 yards, bike 5K and run 2K. The junior Kids of Steel, kids 8 and under, will swim 100 yards, bike 2.5K and run 1K.

The triathlon starts at the pool with registration and the swimming competition. The routes will be marked and there will be maps.

At the top of the hill north of town there will be buckets of water for the bikers to splash over them. From there, the bikers will turn around and head downhill back to the pool.

For those wanting more information or to enter can all Mrs. Poling at 785-772-7374.

Other events include:

10-10:15 a.m. - The red, white and blue parade at Sawhill Park. Children, sixth grade and under, can enter with trikes, bike, wagons, but no motorized vehicles.

10:15 a.m.-noon - Children games in the park.

10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. - Young Peoples Band in the band shell.

Noon - Hot dog eating contest.

11:30-1:30 p.m. - Hot dog meal at Uptown Market.

1-4 p.m. - Swimming and water

games at the pool.

1 p.m. - Road Rally-Poker Run. 1:30-3:30 p.m. - Old fashioned patriotic sing-a-long at the Old Country Church, U.S. 36.

3-4 p.m. - Cheyenne County Museum open house, U.S. 36.

6:30-8 p.m. - Hamburger meal, Park Hill Restaurant parking lot.

6:30-10 p.m. Food Vendors at Park Hill parking lot.

6:30-9:45 p.m. D.J.music and karaoke, Roger Neitzel's Heating and Air Conditioning.

8:30 p.m. - Young people to sing patriotic songs, Neitzel Heating and Air Conditioning.

9:50-10:45 - Fireworks display with patriotic music.

Everyone is encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating.

## First hometown hero selected

The first Saint Francis Herald Hometown Hero has been announced and appears in this week's issue.

Sherry Schultz was nominated earlier and drawn for the honor. Western State Bank has agreed to sponsor the hero each month for the entire year. Be sure to stop by and tell them how much you enjoy reading about the heros.

Every community has "heros."

They might be the fireman who pulled a person out of a fire, or a policeman who rescued a child, or doctor who saved a life... they are outstanding. But there are also the heros who work quietly behind the scenes, never asking for recognition or money. It might be a hospice worker who sat with a patient during their last hours; or the janitor who made

sure the public place was always clean; or a volunteer who painted the nails for Village residents; it can be a parent or someone admired... the list is endless.

"The promotion has started and we are asking people to continue submitting the names of those who they think should be recognized as a Hometown Hero and why," said Karen Krien, publisher.

Each name will be considered and those selected will have a story and, hopefully, a photo. There is no special form but the staff prefers the name of the selection to be written, either on paper or sent by e-mail to karen.k@nwkansan.com.

The heros and their stories will vary, Mrs. Krien said, and it should be interesting reading.

## Alumni come back home

The St. Francis Community High School alumni banquet along with all the other activities was held Saturday.

Many of the honor classes held special get-togethers, attended the Draggin' Main Art Walk as well as participating in the alumni golf tournament.

Dark clouds gathered in the sky on Friday evening and by dusk, it was thundering, lightning and raining which sent some of the groups scurrying for cover.

Saturday, the Once Again Sound Band comprised of local talent, played while people were gathering in the gym waiting for the program to begin and their pictures taken. Tom Keller, former graduate, was the speaker. The winners of the alumni golf tournament were announced.

The number of alumni attending was down this year. Shirley Zwegardt, corresponding secretary, noted that there could be a number of reasons including the fact that the honor classes are smaller, the economy and the price of gas. However, she said, the biggest reason was probably the early harvest.

Honor classes this year were 1937, 1942, 1947, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997 and 2002. Look for the honor class photos in a future issue of *The Herald*.

People are urged to check the website, [www.stfrancisalumni.org](http://www.stfrancisalumni.org). There would be no cost for



LEE WIECK, class of 1952, was having a good time at the alumni banquet held Saturday night at the St. Francis high school.

Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

an individual to access this site, said Tom Keller, president of the Community Foundation, and

one can determine what personal contact information to share with others.



PERRY KELLER, local farmer, questioned Congressman Tim Huelskamp about the regulations required by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Congressman visits St. Francis

By Karen Krien

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A small crowd showed up for the 8 a.m. meeting of Congressman Tim Huelskamp on Friday. He talked about the budget, the national deficit, Environmental Protection Agency regulations and food stamps.

Congressman Huelskamp, who has filed for re-election, showed

charts which showed the national debt and where it was going. These charts, he said, are the same charts I showed 18 months ago. Nothing has changed and every day, we borrow \$3.6 billion.

The budget, he said, is in a sad shape of affairs. People in Washington, he said, don't believe there is a need to balance the budget. It is going to get worse as the baby

boomers retire.

The national debt and entitlement costs are going up and if nothing is done to stop it, Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security will consume the entire budget in the next few years.

As Americans, we owe more money than Greece. The main foreign lender is China but, he

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