

Senator concerned with budget

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Ostmeyer said he was disappointed in the recent decision on prairie dog poisoning in Logan County. The Kansas Appeals Court ruled that the county could not go in and poison prairie dogs on a piece of land that was the site of a black-footed ferret reintroduction.

"It might be time to update the law," he said. "Otherwise we'll be overrun."

Ostmeyer said it is no problem if one landowner wants the prairie dogs on their land, but it becomes a problem when they spread to other people's land.

School finance will be another major issue in the state Legislature. Ostmeyer said he is not in favor of putting more of the burden on local option budgets - requiring districts to raise more local tax revenue to offset state cuts. While one mill might raise a lot of money in urban districts, he said, out here districts would have to raise taxes a lot more to compete.

One piece of good news, he said, is that farm valuation is going back up. Farmland and ranch-lands are valued on an eight-year average, which fluctuates up and down

depending on how well the lands were producing during those years. Ostmeyer said he has been working with people from Kansas State University and the Department of Agriculture to try and update those formulas. Farm and ranch valuations have been low in the past few years, which places more of the tax burden on homes and businesses.

"If we want our small communities to survive, we need to make sure everyone is working on the same field," he said.

One thing that could help is fracking, a process for getting oil out of the ground. Oil companies are coming in and leasing ground from landowners, Ostmeyer said, and when oil production takes off it could mean a huge influx of workers.

Ostmeyer said he worked with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment on waste policy, especially with the excess millings. His proposal was to spread the millings on fields so they could be absorbed easily, rather than concentrate them in one place.

Ostmeyer said it was great to see the turnout at the Goodland candidate forum. He had been to several forums so far, including one in Hays, which had poor attendance.

He said he didn't know if it is election burnout, or whether people just don't like politics.

Ostmeyer came back to town last week going door to door to talk to business owners on Main Street.

"You have to get out and work," he said. "You can't just sit back."

He also plans to attend as many county fairs as possible. After the federal court's redistricting decision, Ostmeyer has five fewer counties to travel to. The change drastically cut down on the square miles Ostmeyer has to cover, especially since he puts his own signs up around the district.

Ostmeyer also has the endorsement of Rep. Tim Huelskamp, current U.S. Congressman for the 1st District. The two men used to share an office when Huelskamp was a state legislator.

"Ralph Ostmeyer has been a strong conservative in the Kansas State Senate," Huelskamp said. "The 2012 legislative session made it clear that we need more legislators, like Ralph - and less politicians - serving in our state capitol. It's time we had more men and women of courage and conviction like Ralph Ostmeyer representing Kansans in Topeka."

No decision made yet on fire, ambulance station

STATION, from Page 1

would be on the south side. Hall said they would be free-standing walls eight or nine feet high, with no roof storage space. The current heat and lighting system can stay, he said, but will likely need some modification. The current electric service would be well suited to a fire station.

The interior columns will have to remain in place, Hall said, but they may put some holes in the interior load-bearing wall.

Hall brought a structural engineer with him to look at the building.

"There are certain things you want to look at when dealing with an existing building," he said.

These things include the roof supports. Hall said that sometimes they are not redone properly when an addition is put on a building. The building had at least two additions since it was first built in the 1960s. Hall called later with a report from the structural engineer, who said the building looks great.

Hall did have several issues with the building, one being the drainage in the alley on the south side. The alley is higher than the floor of the building, but Hall

said he sees that some work has been done to keep water out. The commissioners suggested the city could be asked to make sure there is proper drainage.

Another remaining issue, which could be a deal-breaker for the county, is the floor. It is unknown at this time how thick the concrete slab is. The heavy fire trucks will need a thick floor slab to prevent damage over time.

"If it's a four-inch slab it may not perform the way you want it to," he said.

The floor may be six or more inches thick, but without the plans there is no way to know except by drilling a hole in the floor to see how far it goes down. Hall suggested having a soil testing company do the drilling since it could test how good the soil compaction is underneath the concrete.

Commissioner Cynthia Strnad said it was a good idea to do the soil compaction and concrete tests.

"We need to know before we go any further," said Commissioner Larry Enfield.

They instructed Hall to send out the bid letters and bring the responses to the commissioners for their approval.

Loans available for drought-stricken farmers

Farmers in Sherman County who suffered crop or livestock losses due to drought after Jan. 1 may now apply for Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency loans, said agency Farm Loan Manager Patty Eckhardt.

Applications for assistance will be accepted by the agency until March 12.

"Loans covering physical and/or production losses may be made at a 2.25 percent interest rate, and are scheduled for repayment as rapidly

as feasible, consistent with the applicant's reasonable ability to pay," she said.

Agency loans covering physical losses may be used to replace installations, equipment, livestock, or buildings (including homes), lost through this disaster.

Agency loans covering production losses may be used to buy feed, seed, fertilizer, livestock, or to make payments on real estate and chattel debts.

To be eligible for an emergency disaster loan, an applicant must be operating a family size farm or ranch, must be unable to get credit elsewhere, and must have suffered a qualifying physical and/or production loss from the disaster.

Farmers and ranchers that think they may eligible should contact the Farm Service Agency county office in Goodland, Kansas or call 899-3070 for additional information and how to apply.

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- 18 Years in Law Enforcement (serving Sherman County)
- Proudly serving the last 8 years as your Sheriff
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- 33 Years Active Member of KSHSAA
- 6 Years on Soil Conservation Board
- Member of Immaculate Conception Church, Grinnell
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"I have a common sense approach to governing in Topeka. I believe that a government closer to the people it serves, the better. This philosophy has guided me during my service in the Senate and I will continue this record of leadership."
-Ralph Ostmeyer

Re - Elect

Ralph Ostmeyer

State Senate - 40th District
Republican
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NRA & KRA
(National Rifle Association & Kansas Rifle Association)

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KHA
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KCC
(Kansas Chamber of Commerce)

KLA
(Kansas Livestock Association)

Congressman Huelskamp's Endorsement
by the American Freedom PAC

Pol. Adv. paid for by Ostmeyer Campaign Fund, Lori Edwards, Treasurer

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