

* Judges rule on changes in districts

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The old 121st included Sherman, Thomas, Sheridan and Graham counties.
With the 121st gone, the new 120th includes Cheyenne, Rawlins, Decatur, Sherman, Wallace and the northwest part of the 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. 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, Rep. Billinger said, but the judges didn't even use it as a reference point.

This new map pits 23 incumbents against each other and created 25 districts that suddenly had no incumbent.
Both Rep. Billinger and Rep. Cassidy lost much of their old districts. All that remains are from the old 120th are three counties, Cheyenne, Decatur and Rawlins.

Both said they expect their primary to be a friendly campaign.
"Ward's a friend of mine, has been for many years," Rep. 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.

Rep. 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 re-election.

Rep. 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.

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

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

"Both of us look out for western Kansas," Rep. 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.
"It'll all work out," Sen. 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. Sen. Ostmeyer said that Hays holds 33 percent of the new district's population, and a Democratic incumbent. Sen. Schmidt, a Hays resident who had been in the 36th District, now is in the 40th.

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.

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 is a business development manager for the Columbia Group.

Sen. Ostmeyer also has to run in the primary against John Miller, a long-time Norton County commissioner.

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

"The judges punished us," he said.

Sen. 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 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.

County nixes closing roadway

By STEPHANIE DeCAMP
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A request to close an unimproved road in Sherman Township was denied by Decatur County commissioners when two neighboring families disagreed over whether it should remain open.

The road, 11 miles north and about five miles east of Oberlin, just south of the Nebraska line, lies on the property of Joyce and Don Remington, but in years past has been used by Beverly and Eugene Witt to get to a field they own.

It has never actually been an official road, said County Clerk Colleen Geihlsler at the meeting June 5. It was used as a driveway for a house built on the Remingtons' land. When the tenants moved out,

the driveway went into common use for anyone coming through.

The Remingtons said they proposed the closing because the road had gone into disrepair and its closing would help them at harvest. The Witts, however, opposed the closing, saying it is the only road (of two near their property) that is wide enough for them to get their combine through.

Don Remington had several suggestions throughout the meeting. Both parties at one point stood over the map of the area with the commissioners, Mr. Remington using a pen to track what he was suggesting to change at his own expense or with the expense shared.

The commissioners decided to keep the road as is, with minimum

Gobbling up the grain



HARVESTERS CHATTED while a machine filled a horizontal storage tube with newly cut wheat at the May Family Farm last week. The tubes allow farmers to store grain right in the field until they're ready to haul it to an elevator.

— Herald photo by Susan May

* Businessman noted for his honesty

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fishing and tackle items. Mr. Young went on the road to sell to wholesale routes. The area had more population and not as many discount stores, said Mr. Woolsey, so the routes weren't as long as the ones the men run today.

Mr. Young went to bait and tackle shops at lakes and towns, offering products to dealers who would then sell to the public. He offered a weekly service, something the company still does today.

On Oct. 29, 1979, the store moved from the couple's garage to the present building on U.S. 36, allowing

room to expand.
Mr. Young, said Mr. Woolsey, started with walleye spinners, which were picked up and made by a manufacturer.

The company, said Mr. Woolsey around its 50th anniversary, has always been a family business. Eris Young, he said, was a trooper and helped Dale out. Mr. Woolsey's wife Terry and Mr. Dejmal's wife Candy help out today.

The Youngs retired in 1984, turning the business over to their sons-in-law.

Mrs. Woolsey said when she was born, it was at the tail end of the

construction business and the beginning of the store. She said she can remember the sporting-goods store being in the garage. She added that she thinks she got in on the best of both worlds.

Mr. Woolsey said his father-in-law was one of the most honorable men he has ever met. It was an honor to call Mr. Young his father-in-law. People can see the kind of man Mr. Young was in the way he raised his family and treated his customers.

"He was a very honest man," said Mr. Woolsey.

Shortly after he married into the family, said Mr. Dejmal, his father

passed away and Dale soon took over his role.

"I valued the time he spent with me and the advice he offered," said Mr. Dejmal. "He was always willing to help out in any way he could."

He added that he admired the strong work ethic that made Mr. Young so successful.

Mrs. Dejmal said she and her father shared an interest in the business world. She said she values the business knowledge he taught her.

Dr. Young said his dad had a good life. He made mistakes, but God gives us love, forgiveness and grace.

Mr. Young served with the Army Air Corps during World War II and reached the rank of staff sergeant. While stationed at the McCook Army Air Base, he met his future wife, Eris Wenger. They married Dec. 28, 1945, at the Lund Covenant Church southwest of Oberlin in a ceremony officiated by her grandfather, the Rev. Edward Anderson.

* Street bids higher than expected

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question for Thursday's meeting is, should the city go with concrete, and simply repair fewer blocks? Or should it repair all blocks that need work, but with asphalt.

"There are nine blocks in this project," said Steve Zodrow, city administrative assistant. "The main one is Columbia Street from the highway to the hospital. Obviously, we want to do that one in concrete, with as much traffic as it gets. The other one of importance is Griffith Avenue from the Catholic church to the highway."

Bryant and Bryant of Halstead had the low bid in concrete, and McCormick Construction of Wichita came in with the only bid for asphalt, Mr. Miller said.

"What we're waiting on is the release of funds from the Department of Commerce," Mr. Zodrow said. "And once we get that we can release the bids. It's my understanding that we'll get that letter this week."

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. Thursday at The Gateway and is open to the public.

Mrs. Larson said the city received three bids; two for concrete and one for asphalt. Those bids will be discussed during the meeting. The city has received money through the Community Development Block

Grant, with the city planning to pay \$130,000 of the project.

Also at the meeting, Councilman Rusty Addleman plans to ask the city for money to help pay for the Fourth of July fireworks.

Also on the agenda will be a report on the city's test water wells.

Prior to the meeting, the city will hold a retirement reception from 4 to 6 p.m. in the arena at The Gateway for Police Chief Wade Lockhart.



58% of Kansas 3rd graders have experienced tooth decay.
Don't let lingering oral health issues continue to rob our kids of their smiles.
Learn more about this growing oral health epidemic at TruthAboutTeeth.org.



Source: CDC, 2004.

Blazes keep firemen busy last week

Four fires started by lightning last week burned a total of about 10 acres of pasture land. Assistant Fire Chief Jerry Stein said Monday.

Two of the fires rekindled and had to be fought a second time, he said, but total damage was minimal. All occurred between last Wednesday and Thursday.

The first fire was nine miles south and four miles west of Oberlin at 12:30 a.m. last Wednesday.

• The second was 12 miles south and 12 miles west of Oberlin at 7:03 p.m. Thursday.

• The third, in Rawlins County, was 17 miles west and 11 miles south of Oberlin at 9:13 p.m. Thursday.

• The fourth was five miles east and three north of Oberlin at 1:25 p.m. last Friday.
"It needs to cool down," Mr. Stein said. "We need rain, and not just

lightning."

The night of the second fire, which struck three trees, the department ended up helping Rawlins County before the trucks came home. Fire fighters were finishing up and saw smoke rising from about five miles away, so helped, the chief said.

Monday afternoon, a combine fire was reported east of Norcat. Fire Chief Carl Lyons couldn't be reached for details.

