

Ostmeyer reports on end of 2010 Legislative session

This is the first segment of state Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer's session-end report. Others will follow as space permits.

When I traveled the 40th Senate District during the "turn-around," some of the main topics of interest shared by our Western Kansas residents were: proper funding of our schools, mental health funding, programs for the elderly, handicap services, maintenance and reopening of correctional facilities and the heart-felt attitude of not forcing taxes to the local level. The thoughts and opinions of my constituents are of critical importance to me and guide me in determining how I vote on legislation.

Having voted for the 2005 school finance plan, which schools in my district needed, the choice of further cuts going forward was not a viable option. When comparing current average salaries in our schools we discovered those averages to be: Grinnell \$34,000, Johnson

Senate Doings Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer



county \$64,000, Shawnee county \$67,000. It is differences such as these that make it hard to attract people to stay or move to our area to raise a family. During the floor debate I was accused of being selfish because western Kansas receives more state aid funding than they collect. We should not have to apologize for western Kansans because we send our best and brightest to the population centers to work. The legislature had already cut \$1 billion from the 2010 budget and we would be short \$400 million in 2011.

I felt an increase in state income by raising some sort of taxes would be necessary to balance the state budget. I believe my consti-

tuents have trusted my judgment on issues before and pray I made the right choice of supporting the 1 cent sales tax increase. Regardless of my philosophy, I needed to put services to my district first. People of western Kansas had already made cuts and sacrifices the past few years and services were being threatened.

The Senate failed in its override of the late-term abortion bill that would require physicians to provide the specific diagnosis that justifies the procedure. Current state law prohibits abortion of viable fetuses during or after the 22nd week of pregnancy unless a physician determines continuing the pregnancy could seriously harm the mother, but the physician does not have to supply specific information. My explanation of vote; "Someday I hope the unborn will have a voice in these chambers. It's not about a woman, it's not about a man, and I'm convinced at this point the unborn do not have a choice. We

need a change in Governor and we will get this passed."

SB 214 - Unilateral Annexation

SB 214 - prohibits a city from annexing unilaterally, or by consent, a narrow corridor of land to gain access to noncontiguous land. The bill requires the corridor of land to have a tangible value and purpose other than for enhancing future annexations. The Senate concurred with House changes to SB 214 by a vote of 39 to 0 on May 3.

SB 300 - Covering a License Plate; Text Message Ban; Protective Equipment for Minors on Motorcycles; Window Tinting of Law Enforcement Vehicles; School Bus Operation

SB 300 amends a variety of Kansas laws concerning traffic regulation and enacts two new traffic infractions. The bill prohibits a license plate from being covered with any material that affects its visibility or reflectivity and sets the fee for this violation at

\$60. The measure also prohibits a person operating a motor vehicle from texting with a wireless communications device that writes, sends or reads written communication. Exceptions apply for law enforcement and emergency service personnel acting within the scope of their employment; for vehicles stopped and off the roadway; for making or receiving a phone call; receiving an emergency, traffic or weather alert message; or from receiving a message regarding the operation of a vehicle. Exceptions also apply for those who report illegal activity to law enforcement; for preventing imminent injury to a person or property and for relaying information between operators and dispatchers. Until Jan. 1, 2011, law enforcement is required to issue a warning citation for violations. Fines for unlawful text messaging are set at \$60.

The measure extends responsibility for ensuring that persons under the age of 18 wear protec-

tive equipment while riding on a motorized bicycle or motorcycle by making it a violation of Kansas law to allow an individual under the age of 18 from operating or riding on a motorized bicycle or motorcycle without a helmet or on a motorcycle without eye protection.

The bill exempts clearly identified law enforcement vehicles from restrictions that prohibit motor vehicles from having one way glass or sun screening devices that restrict the total light transmission to less than 35 percent.

Finally, the bill extends the period, from 20 to 25 years, where a school bus could be operated if the bus meets the requirements for design, lighting equipment, distinctive markings, special warning devices and other equipment in place at the time the bus was manufactured. The conference committee report for SB 300 passed 32 to 8 on May 10.

Program deadline extended

Kansas State Conservationist Eric B. Banks, with the Natural Resources Conservation Service announced that the application period for the Conservation Stewardship Program has been extended through June 25.

Kansas producers and those throughout the nation are invited to apply for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Stewardship Program.

Authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, the Conservation Stewardship Program offers payments to producers who maintain a high level of conservation on their land and who agree to adopt

higher levels of stewardship.

Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, pastured-cropland, rangeland and non-industrial forestland.

"The USDA has issued the final rule for the Conservation Stewardship Program," said Banks, "and the changes expand access and promote greater environmental benefit while maintaining program goals." The final rule can be viewed at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-12699.pdf>.

"I encourage producers who are interested in the Conservation Stewardship Program to

take the opportunity to sign an application at their local Natural Resources Conservation Service office by the deadline June 25, to be considered for the next ranking and funding period," said Banks.

For more information about the Conservation Stewardship Program, please visit http://www.NaturalResourcesConservationService.usda.gov/programs/new_ConsevationStewardshipProgram/ConservationStewardshipProgram.html.

Budget

(Continued from Page 1) she would be cautious in assessing fees for her office.

"Our organization matches our public funds with private funds on almost all projects to leverage the taxpayer investment. We have also successfully written several grants to maximize our impact on the community. I would be cautious assessing fees for our services as it may negatively affect the outcomes of our organization," Stiles said.

Stiles said three fees that could be raised are business assistance, grant writing and consulting fees.

The health department listed no fees that could be increased.

Road and Bridge said driveway extensions, fence replacement

and road damage done by drivers "playing" on roads are all fees that could be raised.

The commissioners expressed concern about charging for damage caused by "playing" on roads since it is hard to determine who caused the damage.

Norton County Sheriff Troy Thomson listed recovery of jail expenses, accident reports and booking fees, which are set by statute, as fees that could be raised.

Most departments listed upcoming technology changes as an expense in the next three years.

"We really need to review our department needs," Applegate said.

Miller said this was the beginning of next year's budget

process.

He said they are waiting to hear what state assessed and valuation will do this year before work on the budget continues.

"We have to find out what the cost of doing business is," Miller said.

Don't forget
to go
to Lenora
this weekend

Jubilee

(Continued from Page 1)
• 7:30 a.m. The charity walk/run

• 11 a.m. The parade
• 1 p.m. The pedal pull, wobble trap shoot and bingo
• 4 p.m. Creature races
• 5-9 p.m. The inflatable carnival

Saturday night's concert will kick off at 8 p.m. with a local

favorite, Jimmy Dee and the Fabulous Destinations, and will feature Confederate Railroad, the 1993 winners of the Academy of Country Music's Best New Group Award.

For more information about the Lenora Jubilee, visit <http://www.lenorajubilee.com/index.asp?DocumentID=16>.

• PUBLIC NOTICE •

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LOREN M. LESH

Published in The Norton Telegram on Tuesday, June 8, 15, 22, 2010.

(3T)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF NORTON COUNTY, KANSAS In the Matter of the Estate of LOREN M. LESH, Deceased

Case No. 2010-PR-17

NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on the 4th day of June, 2010, a Petition was filed in this Court by Dale Schinke, named in the Last Will and Testament of Loren M. Lesh, Deceased, dated October 15, 2002, praying that the will filed with the petition be admitted to probate, that Shad B. Chandler be appointed as Administrator with Will Annexed, and that Shad B. Chandler be granted Letters of Administration with Will Annexed.

YOU ARE REQUIRED to file your written defenses thereto on or before

Tuesday, the 29th day of June, 2010, at 3:30 o'clock p.m. of said day, in this Court, in the City of Norton, Norton County, Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.

All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the estate within four (4) months from the date of first publication of this Notice, as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

Dale Schinke, Petitioner

R. Douglas Sebelius, #09157 SEBELIUS & GRIFFITHS, LLP
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Norton, Kansas 67654-0010
785-877-5143
Attorneys for Petitioner

Reconstructive Surgery: Rebuilding Bodies and Lives



What do cancer surgery, birth defects and traumatic accidents have in common? They can leave the individuals who experience them to deal with lasting physical changes.

Fortunately, Hays Med's Dr. Kirk Potter, plastic surgeon, offers a broad spectrum of reconstructive surgery options to those facing the lasting effects of illness or accident. Not only does reconstructive surgery restore functionality and improve appearance, it can provide significant emotional benefits by helping patients feel more confident and able to live their lives again.

A tailored approach to surgery

Just as each patient's issue and needs are unique, so are the treatment plans devised by Dr. Potter. He carefully evaluates each individual and recommends a surgical treatment based on a detailed medical

history, the patients' desired results and medical necessity.

Types of surgery

Dr. Potter is skilled in the latest technologies and treatments, including the following:

- Reconstruction after cancer surgery. Surgery can be performed to repair damaged tissue and restore a patient's appearance and function. Dr. Potter specializes in breast and skin cancer reconstruction.
- Flap procedures. These delicate surgeries help severely injured or disfigured patients by replacing or reconstructing parts of the body affected by injury or disease.

- Burns. Treatment of new or old burns with wound care and skin grafts address scarring, functional loss and appearance.

- Breast Surgery. Reconstruction after mastectomy is performed to optimize aesthetic results. Breast reduction is used to alleviate back and neck pain.
- Reconstruction of limbs. Traumatic injuries to hands, arms and legs, including amputation, often can be reconstructed, leading to significantly improved function.

- Facial surgeries. These procedures correct defects caused by illness or trauma that result in injury to soft tissue or bones in the head and neck.

For more information on reconstructive surgery, call 785-623-6350.

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Ear, Nose & Throat – Dr. Black

Second Wednesday
(785) 628-3131

Mobile Echo

Monday
(785) 877-3351

Ophthalmology – Dr. Pokorny

Surgery: Fourth Monday every other month

Clinic: Fourth Tuesday every other month
(785) 628-8218

Orthopedic – Dr. DeCarvalho

Fourth Tuesday
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Urology

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(785) 877-3351

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