

# Ostmeyer reports on end of 2010 Legislative session

This is the third and final segment of state Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer's session-end report.

## Senate Doings Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer



**Public Safety**  
• \$5 million for state disaster assistance payments, totaling \$50 million all funds including federal funding

State Employee Pay Adjustments

• Reduce state officer salaries by 5 percent. Applies to all state-wide elected officials, legislators, justices and judges and agency heads. Reduction continues for the same group of employees who took a 5 percent pay cut at the end of FY 2010

• Self-funding by agencies for the state employee longevity bonus payments, savings of \$5.2 million

• \$8.5 million for year three of the state employee undermarket pay adjustment

The Senate concurred with House changes to SB 572 by a vote of 21 to 17 on May 10. The bill was signed by Governor Parkinson on May 27.

HB 2130 - Primary Safety

### Belts

HB 2130 amends current state law to require each occupant in a passenger vehicle with safety belts to wear one. The bill allows law enforcement to stop a vehicle for violating seat belt requirements by anyone in the front seat or under the age of 18. Current state law does not require adults in the back seat to wear a safety belt and law enforcement can only stop a vehicle and issue a citation for failure to wear a safety belt only if another law has been violated. The bill continues to require a citation be issued for an adult who fails to wear a safety belt in the back seat only if another law has been violated. Current requirements under the Child Passenger Safety Act for children under 14 do not change.

The measure establishes fines for violating safety belt requirements by adults at \$5, including court costs, beginning June 30, 2010, until July 1, 2011 when the fines would increase to \$10, including court costs.

The bill would take effect upon publication in the Kansas Register. The conference committee report for HB 2130 passed 29 to 8 on May 8.

HB 2595 - School Districts; Transportation

HB 2595 authorizes a local board of education to provide transportation to any non-resident pupil who is enrolled and attending school in the district until the end of the school year. Before a school district can provide the transportation the bill requires the school district providing transportation to notify the school board where the pupil resides. For school finance purposes the non-resident student is counted in the district where they attend school with the exception for transportation weighting. HB 2595 passed 37 to 3 on May 5.

HB 2650 - Transportation Works for Kansas Program

HB 2650 establishes a new comprehensive transportation program called the Transportation Works for Kansas (T-Works) Program.

The bill dictates legislative intent for the program expenditures for preservation projects; expansion and economic opportunity projects after Feb. 1, 2011 unless funded by Build America Bonds; modernization projects; city and county assistance programs that exchange federal aid funds for state funds; railroad, aviation and public transit programs; and multi-modal economic development programs that provide assistance for local or regional transportation specific economic opportunities.

The measure authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to procure one demonstration project in Johnson or Wyandotte County using the design-build concept.

The bill adds revenues to the State Highway Fund (SHF) by increasing registration fees for

smaller vehicles, trailers and buses by \$20; increasing registration fees for trucks 54,000 pounds and smaller by \$100; and by increasing registration fees for trucks weighing more than 54,000 pounds by \$135. The measure includes a \$10 one-time registration fee for permanent license plates for trailers used in combination with vehicles registered at 54,000 pounds or more, beginning in 2013. Also, the bill increases transfers from the SHF to assist with transit, rail and aviation starting in 2013.

Between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2020, the bill requires that \$8 million be spent in each county for transportation projects and requires the current distribution of motor fuel taxes to stay at the current ratio of 66.37 percent to the SHF and 34.63 percent into the Special City and County Highway Fund.

The bill expands KDOT's bonding authority to allow the secretary to issue bonds at a limit of 18 percent debt service payments out of projected State Highway Fund

revenues for any year. Municipalities are allowed to use loans from the Transportation Revolving Fund for projects, community improvement districts or transportation development and may use special district funds to repay the loans.

The bill would take effect upon publication in the Kansas Register. HB 2650 passed 25 to 13 on May 7.

This is an excellent time for me to acknowledge and thank my wife, Kay, and all our family for their unending support. They keep all the loose ends from unraveling while I am in Topeka. Also thank you to my session secretary Judy Crapser.

It has always been an honor and privilege to serve the people of Kansas. Your concerns and comments are important to me, and I welcome your contact. I may be reached at home now that the 2010 Legislative Session is adjourned.

Senator Ralph Ostmeyer  
District 40

# Ag Valley Co-op honored with award

Ag Valley Co-op of Edison has been named the Environmental Respect Award state winner for Nebraska in 2010. Winners were selected May 6 in Willoughby, Ohio.

The Environmental Respect Awards, sponsored by CropLife® magazine and DuPont Crop Protection, are the agricultural industry's highest recognition for environmental stewardship among U.S. agricultural retailers, those who serve farmers and ranchers with the nutrients, pest control and agronomic information and services critical to effective crop production. Each year a panel of industry experts gathers to recognize achievement in environmental stewardship, professional excellence, and community involvement.

"Environmental stewardship is top priority for Ag Valley Co-op" said Darrell Fellows, agronomy division manager at Ag Valley Co-op

Ag Valley Co-op won the award based on excellence in site design,

in-plant storage and handling procedures, proper application and leadership in safety and stewardship among customers and employees. Ag Valley Co-op has taken many extra steps to ensure the environmental impact of their business is minimal. Some steps include a recently constructed liquid fertilizer facility built to meet or exceed all state regulations, frequent and thorough safety training for employees and comprehensive continuing education for custom applicators.

"It is our duty to ensure that our industry protects America's ground water, sub-surface water and soil for years to come," says Fellows. Fellows continued, "If everyone does not do their part, we as an industry will be regulated out."

Each state winner will receive a personalized, distinctive Environmental Respect Award crystal sculpture and a statewide press campaign geared toward select print and broadcast media, as well as a public relations kit.

"DuPont is pleased to congratulate the winners of the 2010 Environmental Respect Awards and applauds their accomplishment in environmental stewardship," said Jim Collins, president, DuPont Crop Protection. "These leaders are helping to advance environmental safety and the safe use of agricultural products, and we hope they will inspire others who share our passion and desire to elevate environmental stewardship around the world."

"It's through the conscientious efforts of these ag business and the crop producers they serve that this nation is assured of a

safe and bountiful food supply," said Paul Schimpf, group editor of CropLife magazine. "We're delighted to be able to gain them some recognition for their environmentalism."

The winning agribusinesses also compete for regional Environmental Respect Awards. Regional winners will receive their trophies in Washington, D.C. during a special ceremony at the U.S. Capitol in July to honor the regional, national, and international winners. More information on the Environmental Respect Awards can be found at [www.environmentalrespect.com](http://www.environmentalrespect.com).



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## Wasinger

(Continued from Page 1) saying he is against the No Child Left Behind act.

"No Child Left Behind is an unmitigated disaster. I completely oppose No Child Left Behind," he said.

School funding is another important issue to Wasinger.

"Public education is important to me. I'm a product of public schools and so are my kids," he said.

Wasinger is from Hays. He

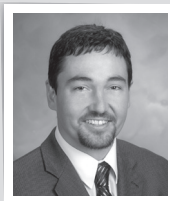
has worked for Gov. Bill Graves, Jerry Moran and as chief of staff for Sen. Sam Brownback.

He said he has lived in Kansas and Washington D.C. and looks forward to returning to Kansas to serve in Congress. Wasinger and his wife Meghan have 10 children.

"This is the single most important election in a decade. I'd love to get your vote," he said.

The Republican primary will be held Aug. 3.

## 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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