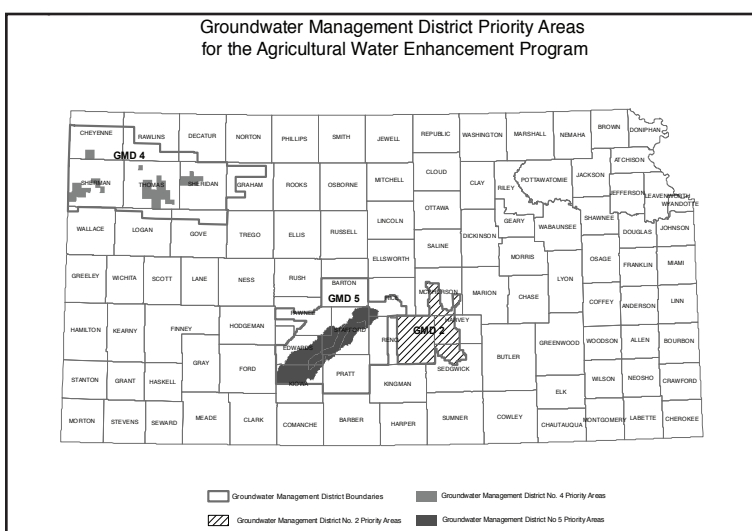


Program to help farmers improve water quality

Irrigators in northwest and south central Kansas in designated priority areas (including Cheyenne County...see map) may be eligible to conserve water and improve water quality on agricultural working lands through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP). Through this program, the Department of Agriculture will leverage additional resources and services from conservation partners. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers the program and enters into agreements with conservation partners to help landowners plan and implement conservation practices in priority areas established through the agreements.



DESIGNATED PRIORITY AREAS (including Cheyenne County) for Water Enhancement Program are shown on map above.

Three Kansas groundwater management districts partnered with other local agencies and organizations to submit Agricultural Water Enhancement Program proposals that were approved. The Groundwater Management Districts will partner with Natural Resources Conservation Service through Agricultural Water Enhancement Program beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2010. Producers in the project areas have until Aug. 13, to apply for this program at their local NRCS office.

Project areas include:

Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 4 (GMD No. 4) was funded for a three-year period receiving almost \$2.7 million in FY 2010. Six designated agricultural areas are eligible to directly conserve groundwater. To address the aquifer overdraft concern, NRCS and the GMD No. 4 seek to convert irrigated to dryland cropland acres. Portions of Cheyenne, Sherman, Sheridan, and Thomas Counties are eligible.

Equus Beds Groundwater Management District No. 2 (GMD No. 2) was funded for a five-year period receiving over \$1.1 million for Fiscal Year 2010. Natural Resources Conservation Service and Groundwater Management District No. 2 will address inefficient water use on irrigated land

and aquifer overdraft, through installation of more efficient irrigation systems and irrigation water management. The eligible area includes the entire district No. 2.

Big Bend Groundwater Management District No.5 (GMD No. 5) was funded for a five-year period receiving over \$570,000 for 2010. Natural Resources Conservation Service and Groundwater Management District No. 5 will address inefficient water use with financial assistance to remove end guns and convert those acres to non-irrigated. The project area is in the Rattlesnake Creek Sub-basin.

"The Natural Resources Conservation Service is working hard to support efforts to protect and preserve our water resources in Kansas with our partners," said Eric B. Banks, Natural Resources Conservation Service State Conservationist in Kansas.

"The funding announced will help producers in Kansas begin or expand plans and projects to improve water conservation and quality," he said.

Partner proposals were selected using a competitive process that considered several factors including statutorily defined priority

areas, emphasis for water conservation activities such as conversion of irrigated land to dryland farming, and assistance to farmers and ranchers to meet regulatory requirements. Approved partners enter into multi-year agreements with Natural Resources Conservation Service to promote ground and surface water conservation or improve water quality on eligible agricultural lands in the project area. Additional information about Agricultural Water Enhancement Program and a map of project areas is available at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/awep.

Agricultural Water Enhancement Program agreements provide assistance to producers through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). All participants must meet Environmental Quality Incentives Program eligibility requirements.

In Kansas, socially disadvantaged, limited resource, and beginning farmers and ranchers will receive a higher payment rate for conservation practices related to Agricultural Water Enhancement Program

Information about other Natural Resources Conservation Service conservation programs can be found at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs.



CANDIDATE FOR U.S. CONGRESS Tim Huelskamp (left) visits with Kevin Berens (center) and Rodney Shay during his visit to St. Francis.
Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Candidate visits St. Francis

By **Karen Krien**
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Tim Huelskamp, Republican candidate for U.S. Congress, and his son, Athan, were in St. Francis on Tuesday, July 13, at the Dairy King. He had told Athan if there were more than five people at the meeting, he would be treated to an ice cream cone before they left. Athan won as there were 15 people attending. Also attending was Kansas Senator, Ralph Ostmeier, Republican, District 40.

He talked about a number of things that were concerning him but one was a question he had been asked, "Is it too late for the United States?"

Many people, he said, are troubled about where the country is going.

"We have the blessed, best country in the world!" he said

However, he said, America is in a sad state with Barack Obama, Nancy Pelosi and other Washington insiders destroying our nation. We can no longer sit back; instead, we must stand up for what is right.

"I am concerned, afraid, of what they are doing to our country but I refuse to think it is too late. I will

not give up."

Being from a five generation farm family, he wants to bring the values of Northwest Kansas back to Washington. He sees that Northwest Kansas folks cannot afford higher taxes but good-paying jobs and better opportunities are needed. We cannot forget to keep family values strong.

He is concerned about the new health-care bill. He believes in having a health savings account. The Republicans, he said, had their chance to do something about this for many years, but they didn't do anything to help the problem.

"Obamacare" can still be reversed. He said if Kathleen Sebelius, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, doesn't have the money to enforce that health-care bill, then she can't do it.

Concerning Wall Street and the banking industry, Mr. Huelskamp said Wall Street rewrote banking laws 10 years ago. Today, he said, the local banks are bailing out Wall Street. Folks in Washington, he said, subsidize risky behavior.

Washington, he said, backs Wall Street and it is hindering us in Kansas.

Mr. Huelskamp believes in se-

curing the borders, controlling spending, and balancing the budget.

He said he doesn't buy global warming and he thinks it is wrong that the United States should use cap and trade as a control. The Environmental Protection Agency needs to be held accountable. They are pushing to destroy our lives. Congress, he said, can roll those regulations back and not refund part of the agency.

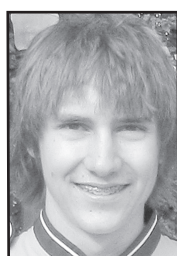
When it came to his views on the wars, he admitted that he was not an expert in this area. He said he thought the wars needed to be won quickly and, he pointed out that he didn't think the U.S. should apologize to the leaders of these countries. These leaders, he said, don't want an apology, they want victory! The president, he said, has turned his back on the American troops.

There are 435 congressmen in Washington. Ten or 11 are farmers. It won't hurt if there are more, he said.

As Mr. Huelskamp campaigns, he is making his stand on common sense, conservative values and sticking to principal.

Musicians chosen for Masonic Band

Logan Whitmore and Sarah Whitmore are among the over 200 members of the All-State Masonic Marching Band converging on Pittsburg State in preparation for the Kansas Shrine Bowl. There are band members from high school and junior high programs from all over Kansas.



Sarah

Logan

Twenty-seven years and counting. That's the number of years that the All-State Masonic Band has come together to entertain fans and add color and excitement to the Kansas Shrine Bowl to be played at Pittsburg State University on July 31.

"Football and bands just go together," said Dave Mize, Kansas Shrine Bowl executive director. "It's hard to imagine being at a college or high school game without the band setting the stage before the game, entertaining the crowd at half time, and providing a backdrop during the game itself. It's an integral part of the entire football package, and we are thankful to all of the terrific band directors and bandsmen who have made the Masonic All-State Marching Band such a big part of our game for 27 years."

The 2010 band will be one of the largest. Musicians report on

Tuesday to begin several days of intense practice prior to Shrine Bowl weekend. The band will provide music at the annual Shrine Bowl Banquet on Friday evening, July 30, a traditional event for players, their families and Shriners.

The band will also get the annual Shrine Bowl Parade off to a rousing start, leading the 10 a.m. parade through downtown Pittsburg on game day, and will perform during pre-game festivities prior to kickoff that night. And, of course, there will be the traditional half-time show, which will feature both the band's musical and marching skills.



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