

Judges pit incumbents together

By KEVIN BOTTRELL
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Maps drawn by federal judges in Kansas City left the state House and Senate districts covering the northwest corner of Kansas with two incumbents and sent the House district that once served Goodland and Colby to Olathe.

Maps proposed in the Legislature would have avoided the head-to-head election matchups, but none of them was ever passed. A fight over control of the Senate between conservative and moderate Republicans left the redistricting process up

to the courts.

That means Sen. Ralph Ostmeier, a long-time incumbent Republican from Grinnell, and Sen. Allen Schmidt, a Hays Democrat, both now live in Sen. Ostmeier's 40th District, which shrinks from 17 counties to 13 1/2 but now takes in Democratic-leaning Hays.

The 121st District shifts to Johnson County, where population continues to grow. The 120th, which had run from Cheyenne to Phillips counties along the Nebraska line, now takes in Goodland and Colby, throwing Republican representatives Rick

Billinger of Goodland and Ward Cassidy of St. Francis into a primary race.

"This is bad for Kansas," Sen. Ostmeier said Wednesday, summing up the opinions of many officials toward the redistricting maps handed down by three federal judges late last week. "I'm tremendously disappointed. We're elected to do this job, and we failed."

While the House had a map done and approved quickly, he said, the Senate didn't even start until late in the session. The process got bogged down in the fight between conservatives and moderates.

When the session ended, several days over the usual 90-day limit, no new legislative maps had been approved. The process went before three federal judges, who issued their opinion, along with new maps, June 7.

Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt could appeal the case to the U.S. Supreme Court. Rep. Billinger said the attorney general hasn't given any indication that he plans to do so.

"I'd love to see them appeal it," he added.

Sen. Ostmeier said, however, that he

doesn't think the case will be appealed.

Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach has announced that the filing deadline, which was noon last Monday, will not be extended, and the primary election will go forward as scheduled on Tuesday, Aug. 7. Across the state, many candidates had to refile and others jumped into races, based on the new maps.

Both the House and Senate districts are drastically different from the current layout. The old 120th included Cheyenne, Rawlins, Decatur, Norton and Phillips counties. (See JUDGES on Page 12)

Early harvest moving in well

By STEPHANIE DeCAMP
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This year's wheat harvest is rolling in better than expected, elevator operators say.

"I think the farmers have been pleasantly surprised," said Janice O'Hare, office manager for Hansen-Mueller grain in Oberlin.

Both Hansen-Mueller and the Decatur Co-op said they were averaging between 45-50 bushels per acre, but both elevators stressed that this was only a guess.

Mrs. O'Hare said that Hansen-Mueller has taken in 600,000 bushels of wheat so far, most weighing in at 60 pounds or more. The moisture content has been good, too, she said, leveling out around 10 percent.

The Decatur Cooperative Association reported similar numbers, saying the co-op had taken in 1.6 million bushels (including all locations) at 10 percent moisture and between 62-65 pounds test weight.

"We're still so early in that it's hard to make a judgment call on how

it will end," said General Manager Kurt Anderson. "It's fairly decent in yield and quality."

The fact that harvest is a week or two early has rushed preparations a little, he said, but he didn't foresee any major challenges.

Sid Metcalf, an area farmer, predicted that harvest would be all but over by this weekend. With the weather reports showing isolated thunderstorms and pasture fires occurring over the weekend, it could end up being over before we know it.

"Well I'll tell you," farmer Dan Lippelman said, "I think the wind is blowing too much and I think we could use the rain, not for the harvest necessarily, but in general. Other than that, harvest is going right along, as long as breakdowns don't happen, which they always do, so we get breaks."

"We worked until after 10 last night because the elevators were still open, and then I was up at 6 again the next morning."

Concert, fireworks set for Fourth of July

The Oberlin Area Concert Band, directed by Neal Russell, will present a concert at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, July 4, in the City Park bandshell.

Ron Jansonius will read the Gettysburg Address and the Decatur Area Chamber of Commerce board will be selling root-beer floats in the park.

The Oberlin Business Alliance will sponsor the annual fireworks display at the Decatur County

Fairground beginning at 8:45 p.m. Judy Scott will read the Declaration of Independence and the Oberlin American Legion will provide patriotic music.

Floats will also be available at the viewing area outside The Gateway center beginning at 8:30 p.m.

Donations are being taken to help pay for the fireworks at businesses or they may be left at the Chamber office.

Man transferred to treatment center

A man charged with 11 felony counts last week, including kidnapping, aggravated battery of a law enforcement officer and aggravated child endangerment, has been transferred from Decatur County jail to the Valley Hope Treatment Center, Undersheriff Allen Marcum said Monday.

Chris Kelley was being held on \$500,000 bond. The court ordered that he be sent to Valley Hope for treatment of alcohol dependency this week, County Attorney Steve Hirsch said.

Police Chief Wade Lockhart and Officer Troy Haas responded

to the incident, which occurred on Wednesday, June 6, but has declined to comment on the case. A preliminary hearing for Kelley is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Friday, June 29.

Kelley's charges include five counts of kidnapping, four of aggravated child endangerment, one of aggravated battery against Officer Haas and one of interfering with a law enforcement officer.

The charges allege that Mr. Kelley confined or held his wife and four children hostage. The endangerment charges applied to these same children, though no injuries were reported.



Relay draws survivors

CANCER SURVIVORS

Kay Gaskill (left) and Dorothy Moore, holding helium-filled balloons, prepared to let them fly free outside The Gateway on Friday evening while Cheryl Votapka (center) and others watched. Earlier, cancer survivors did a lap around The Gateway arena. Carrying the Relay for Life banner (below, from left) were Charles and Vicki Mumm and Doyle and Kay Brown. The annual fund raiser brought in almost \$9,000, said organizer Norma Unger. Donors helped with food, prizes and advertising. About 350 luminaries were placed on the walking track above the arena in honor or in memory of people who have fought the disease.

— Herald photos by Susan May



City must decide between asphalt, concrete streets

By STEPHANIE DeCAMP
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The Oberlin City Council may be able to let bids on a street repaving project when it meets Thursday, but it will have to make some tough choices on what kind of pavement to use and how many blocks to repave.

Bids on concrete paving came in much higher than expected, officials said, and the city will either have to do part of the streets in concrete and

part in asphalt, cut the project back by a few blocks of concrete paving or just do the whole thing in asphalt. Asphalt pavement, they said, while cheaper, does not last as long and requires more and more expensive upkeep.

City Administrator Karen Larson said at the last council meeting the bids were in, but the state had not had the paperwork from the city long enough to release the money.

The problem is that those bids

were higher than expected, said Chris Miller of Miller and Associates, the engineering firm which planned the project. That puts the council in the position of making a few tough decisions.

The immediate concern is whether or not to use concrete or asphalt, Miller said.

"It comes down to longevity," he said. "Concrete has a longer life span and requires less maintenance, so it's better in the long run. Asphalt

is less expensive, but will require more maintenance in the future."

The city is waiting for release of money for the project from a state Community Development Block Grant. Once that money has been received, the bids can be awarded and the project can take off, Mr. Miller said.

Even then, council will have to compromise to keep within the project budget, he said, adding that a key

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Business leader left his mark

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
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Oberlin said goodbye to a long-time businessman and community leader, Dale Young, who died June 2 at the age of 88.

Mr. Young started his Young Construction Co. and kept it going for 25 years before dissolving the business in the late 1960s.

In 1961, he and his wife Eris started Dale's Fish 'N' Fun, a wholesale sporting goods outlet, in their garage at 310 N. Beaver.

The couple had a son, Dr. Gary (Nancy) Young of Manhattan, and two daughters, Candace (Joe) Dejmaj and Terri (Bob) Woolsey, all of Oberlin.

Dr. Young said his father's dad died when he was only 13. A year later, Dale Young built his first house.

"It is still a small, very well-kept house," he said at

his father's funeral June 6 in Oberlin.

Dr. Young said his dad built a lot of things, from a grain elevator in York, Neb., to commercial buildings and houses and also did repairs.

He said his father's motto was "Nothing too big and nothing too small."

While he was in high school, he said, his father got a contract to redo the sanctuary of the United Methodist Church as well as the rest of the older building.

"One of dad's joys in construction was the work he did on the house of the Lord," said Dr. Young, "especially this church."

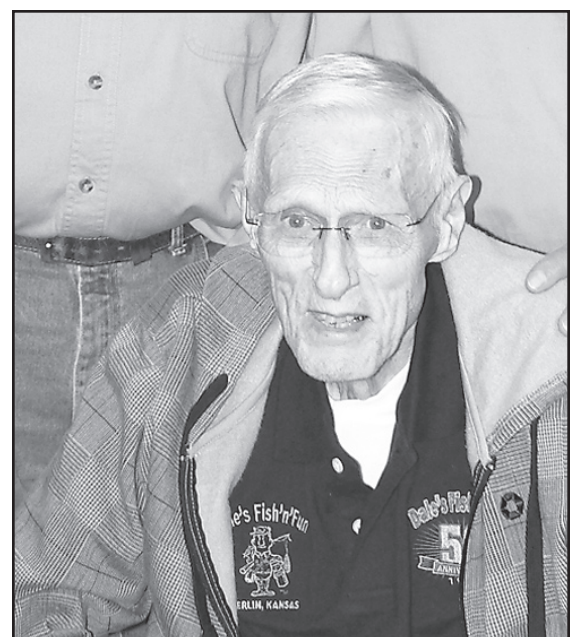
Dr. Young said he thanks his dad for giving him the opportunity to learn construction skills.

Both of the girls became teachers in the Oberlin schools. Their husbands, Bob Woolsey and Joe Dejmaj, operate the sporting-goods business today. When the business started, Mr. Woolsey said, it handled just

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Dale and Eris Young



Dale Young, 2011, at Dale's Fish 'N' Fun

