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THE HUTCHINSON NEWS

SATURDAY, JULY 9, 201675¢ newsstand

Kansas Farm Bureau endorses Marshall

■ But nod to Huelskamp's rival comes as others point to incumbent's capability.

By MARY CLARKIN
The Hutchinson News
mclarkin@hutchnews.com

Congressional candidate Roger Marshall personally visited with approximately 50 Farm Bureau groups at the

county level in the Big First. On Friday, the Kansas Farm Bureau endorsed Marshall in the heated Republican primary race.

Marshall is challenging U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp, Fowler/Hutchinson, in the Aug. 2 election. Huelskamp didn't get the Kansas Farm Bureau's endorsement two years ago, and he is the lone incumbent from Kansas

on Capitol Hill who is not endorsed by the organization this year.

To win the Kansas Farm Bureau nod takes a grass-roots effort at the county level, according to Marshall's campaign.

"So you really have to put in the work and it is well worth it," Marshall's campaign manager, Brent Robertson, said Friday.

Marshall is a Great Bend doctor who often mentions he's a descendant of generations of Kansas farmers and he owns farming interests.

"Agriculture is what ties Kansans together. The whole state beats to the rhythm of the agriculture industry," Marshall said in a statement Friday. "Kansas Farm Bureau is our voice, always fighting for the hard working

farmer and farming families. Our team looks forward to working with Kansas Farm Bureau President Richard Felts and the entire Kansas Farm Bureau."

"The county Farm Bureau evaluation committees made thoughtful recommendations in each district," said Kansas Farm Bureau President Rich Felts. "A clear message of strong support was delivered

to the VOTE FBF (Voters Organized To Elect Farm Bureau Friends) board, and these endorsements are a result of that effort. We are proud of our grass roots process, and look forward to working with all of these individuals in the next Congress."

The VOTE FBF also

See **MARSHALL** / A4

'We forced our hand'

Decision by Sheridan County farmers to conserve precious water is working

By AMY BICKEL
Kansas Agland

HOXIE – Roch Meier is a 60-year-old farmer who doesn't beat around the bush.

He has long known his way of farming wasn't going to last forever. Convincing others that something had to be done to stop the disappearing reservoir beneath their crop fields, however, was a challenge.

"We have to put some balls into this," the Sheridan County farmer stood up and said at a groundwater meeting about water declines and necessary cutbacks several years ago, adding, he said, a few other choice words.

"When it comes to saving water I don't care who is in the room," he said, noting he is thinking of his children and

grandchildren's future on the farm. "I just tell them what I think."

Across western Kansas, rainfall isn't enough to grow big crops like corn. Farmers depend on the vast Ogallala Aquifer for their survival. However, with water users drawing out more than nature can replenish, that pool of water is shrinking, putting an economy centered on water at risk.

But in a small 99-mile section of Sheridan County and one township in Thomas County, farmers, including Meier, began to do something unprecedented for western Kansas: Rather than do nothing and

WHAT IS A LEMA?
Farmers in the Local Enhanced Management Area limit themselves to 55 inches of irrigated water over five years as a way to conserve water. Those who overpump face stiff fines, and people have had to adjust the way they do things, but so far, their efforts seem to pay off.
Learn more at kansasagland.com.

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PUMP ACTION
The LEMA has pumped well below the targeted average over the past few years, A2

See **WATER** / A2



Travis Morisse/The Hutchinson News
Sheridan County farmers Mitchell Baalman and Roch Meier are two famers in the state's first LEMA.

As details of Dallas shooting, weaponry emerge, 'evil always fails,' gov reminds

By WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

DALLAS – An Army veteran killed by Dallas police after he fatally shot five officers amassed a personal arsenal at his suburban home, including bomb-making materials, bullet-proof vests, rifles, ammunition and a journal of combat tactics, authorities said Friday.

The man identified as

25-year-old Micah Johnson told authorities he was upset about the fatal police shootings of two black men earlier this week and wanted to exterminate whites, "especially white officers," officials said.

He was killed by a robot-delivered bomb after the shootings, which marked the deadliest day for U.S. law enforcement since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. In all, 12

officers were shot.

In Georgia, Missouri and Tennessee, authorities said gun-wielding civilians also shot officers in individual attacks that came after the black men were killed in Louisiana and Minnesota. Two officers were wounded, one critically.

President Barack Obama and Texas Gov. Greg Abbott asked for the public's prayers. In a letter posted online

Friday, Abbott said "every life matters" and urged Texans to come together.

"In the end," he wrote, "evil always fails."

Johnson was a private first class from Mesquite with a specialty in carpentry and masonry. He served in the Army Reserve for six years and did one tour in Afghanistan from November 2013 to July 2014, the military said.

After the attack, he tried to take refuge in a parking garage and exchanged gunfire with police, Police Chief David Brown said.

The suspect described his motive during negotiations and said he acted alone and was not affiliated with any groups, Brown said.

Johnson was black. Law enforcement officials didn't disclose the race of the officers.

ONLINE

- Black Lives Matter condemns Dallas shooting, plans protest
- Woman shielded four sons during rampage
- Use of killer robot opens ethical debate

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INTERCEPTED LETTER




Farmers saving water capably

Dear friends,

May there be a ripple effect whereby others decide to do likewise.

Yours, Hutch

LOCAL 3-DAY OUTLOOK

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Want more?
See a full weather report on **Page B4**.

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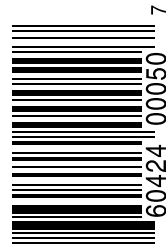
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