

No contest on board

Incumbents run again for school board seats

In a no-race election, three incumbent members are running for Oberlin School Board and one for the Jennings City Council.

In the only real race on the ballot, meanwhile, a banker has decided to be a write-in candidate for the Oberlin City Council, bringing the list up to eight.

Polls will open at 7 a.m. on Tuesday and close that evening

at 7 p.m. for voters in the county.

Although Sarah Coiner registered for re-election to the Jennings School Board, the reporter left messages and was never able to get in touch with her.

All other positions in Jennings, Norcatur and Dresden will be filled through write-ins, since no incumbents or other candidates filed for the election.

Norcatur man seeks full term

After sitting on the Oberlin School Board for the last two years, Chris Bailey is seeking the position of representing the 6th district for another four years.

Mr. Bailey was appointed to the board to take over the seat of Gary Gawith, who resigned. As a board member, he said that he has played a role in many issues including the bond issue the board is looking at, hiring and sometimes firing teachers, and school finance.

Mr. Bailey said that with the board being in the middle of talks on the bond issue, he decided to run for re-election. It would be tough for someone to jump in and understand where the project started from, he said. This is not the only reason he wants to sit on the board for another four, though.

"I would like to see us improve in certain areas," he said, "meaning extra-curricular activities."

He said that he is able to give recommendations to the superintendent and principals, who seek teachers to hire. Through hiring, Mr. Bailey said, they may be able to get teachers who are best qualified.

Although the board actually does the hiring, he said that the credit needs to go to the superintendent and principals because they do the recruiting.

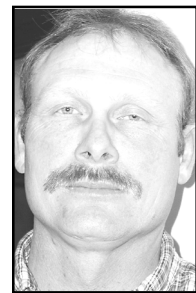
Mr. Bailey lives in Norcatur, where he farms land outside of town and in Kanona where he grew up.

He is an active member at St. John's Lutheran Church and a past trustee there. He said that he is currently a chairman of the recreation commission for the county which does the summer ball program, is a board member at the Decatur Co-op and is a past member of the school board.

Mr. Bailey said that he recommends more people get out and get involved in public life because it gives them a chance to meet a lot of people and hear ideas that they can learn from.

He also is raising three children with his wife Karen: Danielle, who is a freshman at Kansas State University; Andrea, who is a senior here; and Denton, who is in grade school.

Mr. Bailey is also a graduate of Decatur Community High School and attended Fort Hays State University.



Chris Bailey

Postman wants to serve again

With the school bond issue starting to be sold to the public, DeWayne Jackson says, he wanted to stand up for the decisions he has helped the board make on the renovation plans.

He decided to run for another four years on the Oberlin School Board to represent the 5th district.

He said it would be difficult for someone to move into a board position in the middle of the bond issue. Mr. Jackson said four years ago when he was elected, members were at an impasse with teachers and although he didn't make any of the decisions leading up to it, he still became part of those decisions. He said he had to learn quickly and after four years, Mr. Jackson said he is still learning.

Part of the process, he said, is making decisions and then being willing to answer questions about them and sometimes deal with people who are upset.

Mr. Jackson said the bond issue has been a difficult decision because it looks at the needs of everyone in the school system and what needs to be done. At first, he said, he was astonished at the price, but came to believe "the changes will make a better learning place."

The decision has led to not only looking at the needs but being willing to look at the other side and constituents who don't think the renovation is necessary or those that are saying it is too much.

"We are trying to balance the needs of the community the best we can," said Mr. Jackson.

He said as a board member, he has many duties, such as looking at the budget, paying the bills, hiring teachers and administration and others. Mr. Jackson said he would like to do that for another four years. He currently serves as the vice president on the board.

Mr. Jackson is a rural mail carrier in Norcatur and also farms in that area. He and his wife Aurelia have three children, Joshua, Kelsey and Destry Ann.

He has lived in the area all his life, growing up in the Norcatur area and attending school there until it closed in 1970. He is a graduate of Decatur Community High School.



D. Jackson

Woman wishes to stay on board

With 13 years on the Oberlin School Board representing district 4, Delayne May says she's ready for another four years.

Mrs. May said the first year she was appointed to the board, and then decided to run for a full term. Having kids still in the school system, she said, helps her know and understand what is going on with the curriculum. She said it helps to know what the kids are going through, what is demanded of them and what type of role the board can play in that.

As a board member, she said, her primary role is to keep the staff following the policies and then to act as a liaison between the community and the schools.

For the last several years, as enrollment has steadily declined, Mrs. May said, the state has suggested that smaller districts look at having just one school. With the upcoming bond issue, she said, this was something she asked the board to look at because there isn't just one answer to what should be done.

Mrs. May said that she didn't feel she could leave in the middle of the bond issue campaign, especially since she has the most experience on the board.

Although the schools are facing declining enrollment, she said she doesn't know what the board can do to help bring people to town other than promote the quality education children get here. She said that the test scores here have always been high and they need to let people know that and maybe promote the schools more on the Internet.

Mrs. May is a professional counselor dealing mainly with families and youth in foster care and the judicial system. With her job, she said, she travels a lot but she also meets clients in her office at the Oberlin Clinic.

She and her husband Richard, a doctor at the clinic, have three children, Brianna, 17; Danica, 13; and Nolan, 12.

Mrs. May said she moved to Oberlin after she married her husband, who wanted to return to the area where he was raised.

She is a member of St. John's Lutheran Church and an active swim team mom.



Delayne May

Banker looks to city's future

After living in Oberlin for 24 years, Gale Cook said he wants to look towards the future of the city and help make improvements, which is why he decided to run as a write-in candidate in the April 3 City Council election.

"My agenda is Oberlin, Kansas," said Mr. Cook, "the future and what will happen here."

He said when he moved to the city in 1977, one of the three things which impressed him the most and still does is the city employees, who are out with not only the street sweeper but with brooms cleaning the city, keeping the sidewalks and streets looking good. Mr. Cook said the city needs to maintain a well-groomed image.

The appearance, he said, will help attract people both ones who want to retire here and young people you want to move back. Part of attracting people is what the city has to offer, he said, including water.

Mr. Cook said water problems need to be addressed. Before he had a water purifier, he said, there used to be a gunk in the bottom of his glass. Part of the project is finding and obtaining clean water, which he said will help keep people and attract them.

Another issue is safety, which people want before they move to a city. He said hiring a fourth police officer will provide this and cut down on overtime pay, which is normally

time and a half.

The council, he said, should play a role in getting young people to move to town, since those people are needed for the city to survive.

As the community bank president at Gold Bank, he said, his financial background will help on council because he understands how money issues work.

Mr. Cook moved to Oberlin in 1977 and worked at the Citizens State Bank in Norcatur, which was later bought by Farmers National Bank and then bought by Gold Bank. In

1995 he started to work full-time in Oberlin. He and his wife Kendra have two children, Tarah, 19, and Tyler, 16. Mr. Cook is a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, Oberlin Rotary and an active wrestling parent.

Although Mr. Cook said at first he had decided not to run for council after people asked him, he said he realized he was concerned about the future of Oberlin and the only way to help the city is to get involved.

He said he feels the council is there to set policy and then let the city administrator implement it, and he wants to take that role on council.

Mr. Cook was born and raised in St. Francis. He went to college at Fort Hays State University with a double major in economics and political science.



Gale Cook

Woman runs for Jennings post

Louise Cressler has been on the Jennings City Council for the last eight years and is now seeking another four.

She said it is important for Jennings to look toward the future and she wants to play a role in that. She said the council just finished repaving the streets and preparing them for the coming years.

Another project which the council is working on is the community hall, which will start getting repairs shortly. Mrs. Cressler said the city just hired a worker to do the job.

She said she likes being in a small town which she calls home, but thinks they need to try to bring in young people and help the city grow.

"We need to have housing first, before we can ever get anyone into town," she said. "We don't have houses that are livable and for rent."

With that said, she said that without the people they won't have the money to provide the housing. Mrs. Cressler said it is also important to keep the school in Jennings, which is a way to hold jobs and keep people in town.

The council will also work on the city's water, she said. Although the city doesn't have a nitrate problem like Oberlin, they need to work on their lines, which are getting old.

Mrs. Cressler said she enjoys being on council and thinks she is the best candidate for the job. She is the only one who filed for one of the three open seats.

She and her husband Wayne have been in Jennings for most of their lives. She said she was born north of town and went to school in the city.

Mrs. Cressler is a member of the Friendship Housing Village, United Methodist Church and the Senior Center.

Federal rule would erode freedom, man says

To the Editor:
A rule published in the Federal Register by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on Dec. 28 will become effective April 14, unless it is vigorously protested by Friday or unless it is repealed by Congress.

This rule requires that a "Health Identification Number be assigned to every person, doctor, employer and health plan. Every doctor or other health care practitioner is required to send our health care records and treatment records to the department without the consent of the patient! (The assignment of the identification number is on temporary hold for only one year.)

The banking of organs, blood, sperm, eyes or any other tissue which contain genetic information has no privacy protection and can be released without consent of the patient. Records can be released without consent, for oversight of the health care system, Federal Drug Administration monitoring, to foreign governments, for research, law enforcement activities and judicial proceedings, among other things. There is practically no privacy covering a patient's medical record.

Will you be able to buy a life insurance policy or get a job if your Deoxyribose Nucleic Acid (DNA) doesn't look quite right?

Letters to the Editor

Congressman Ron Paul, a practicing physician for over 30 years who worked successfully for delay on the identification number, has introduced House Joint Resolution 38 in Congress to repeal the number assignment and the rule which makes medical records almost public property.

If we don't like being branded with

a Health Identification Number and having our medical records sent to Washington, it is time to ask our Congressional representative to co-sponsor Ron Paul's resolution and to write our senators protesting this rule.

If a voice is to be heard, it must be right away!

For more information see www.the-liberty-committee.com and the "Medical Privacy Regulations Background" article.

Write to U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, 1200 Main Street, Suite 402, Hays, 67601 (202-225-2715); U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, 302 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202-224-4774); and U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510 (202-224-6521).

Kenneth Clark Hill City

Know the signs of diabetes, writer urges

To the Editor:
The American Diabetes Association and the Diabetes Under Control Group have declared Tuesday as Diabetes Alert Day.

Did you know that diabetes is a silent killer? A person could have it for seven to 10 years and not even know it. Take the test and see how you score.

Write in the following points for each question that is true for you and put a zero if it is not true. Then add up your score and see how you do.

1. Having a baby weighing more than nine pounds at birth - Yes (1)
2. Having a brother or sister with dia-

- betes. - Yes (1)
3. Having a parent with diabetes. - Yes (1)
4. Being overweight. - Yes (5)
5. 45-65 years of age. - Yes (5)
6. 65 years of age. - Yes (9)
7. 65 years of age and get little or no exercise. - Yes (5)

If you scored 10 or more points, you are a high risk for diabetes. Only your doctor can tell. Many people do not notice any signs of diabetes until they start having complications. Those at risk should have yearly lab tests.

Things you can do to lower your risk for diabetes:

1. Keep your weight down.
 2. Be active most days of the week.
 3. Eat more fruits, vegetables and foods that are high in whole grains.
 4. Eat low-fat meals.
 5. Keep your blood pressure no higher than 135/85 if possible!
- The mission of the American Diabetes Association is to prevent and help find a cure for diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes. The Diabetes Under Control Group helps with support and the education material that they receive from the American Diabetes Association.
- Elsie Wolters, Oberlin

Woman wants students on honor roll recognized

To the Editor:
What a wonderful way to spend an evening by attending the best all school play that we can remember, "The Pink Panther Strikes Again." Leigh Davis, cast and crew can be very proud.

This leads me to my second reason for writing this letter. I think honor roll students should continue to be recognized. It seems to me parents, teachers and communities should continue to encourage and help all students so the ones that aren't on the honor roll now can also have a chance to do better. It's not my intent to make personal attacks, but only to bring back into the system common sense thinking.

I was probably considered an average student, but could have been better with more effort. At no time did I ever think those who achieved that goal should not be recognized. All departments in school should get the recognition they deserve; academics, music, forensics, scholar bowl and sports. In this time of unrest in so many schools, we can be

proud that students at Decatur Community High School can all work together to put on a great play but also to excel in all fields. Everyone should be recognized and encouraged to be the best they can be.

Congratulations to all the participants.

Judy Goltl, Hill City

Write

The Oberlin Herald encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

Mail letters to 170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan., 67749, or by E-mail to oberherald@nwkans.com.

We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise.

We do not publish form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area.

**Judy Cathcart
City Council**

**Informed
Dedicated
Concerned**

Pol. adv. paid for by Judy Cathcart. 12-13*

**The Decatur County Health Dept.
will be sponsoring the annual Decatur County
Health Fair on Friday, April 20, 2001.**

In preparation for the Health Fair, the Health Dept. will be offering bloodwork at a reduced price. Blood will be drawn by appointments on April 2, 3, and 4, from 8-10 a.m. at the Health Dept.

Results will be available at the Health Fair.

**To schedule an appointment or
for more information, please call:
the Decatur County Health Dept. at 785-475-8118.**

**Vote April 3
Richard Russ for City Council.**

Put four years experience to work by voting for a willingness to research projects such as:

Number of police needed for the size of our city; Positives and negatives of paying total family insurance; Check for alternate methods to getting clean water; Work at finding ways to keep spending down; Staying in touch with the public.

Pol. adv. paid for by Richard Russ