

# County officials discuss change in policy group

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Decatur County commissioners and department heads continue to discuss the possibility of changing the number that make up of the Kansas Association Counties policy committee.

At the association's annual meeting, there will be a vote to change the group's policy committee to six commissioners, one register of deeds, one county clerk, one treasurer, one sheriff and the association's president and vice president. This would eliminate other affiliates, who represent people who are appointed, not elected.

The department heads have questioned the change because many of them are not elected, so the change in the policy committee would eliminate organizations that represent them.

At the last two meetings, commissioners have discussed the change.

The county gets to send one person to be a voting delegate at the convention. At the meeting last Tuesday, Health Department Administrator Marilyn Gamblin was selected to be the delegate, with Noxious Weed Director Gaylen Huntley as the alternate, and Commissioner Ralph Unger will get a write-in vote.

Ms. Gamblin asked if the delegate votes the majority's view, or how that works. Mr. Unger said he thinks that the people from Decatur County normally try to sit together and then poll to see where each person is on an issue. The reality is that once a delegate is selected, he said, it is in their hands.

Ms. Gamblin said she thought the group should come to an agreement on how to vote before the meeting. Is there still dissent on the issue

statewide? asked Commissioner Doyle Brown. Yes, said Ms. Gamblin. A lot of the commissioners have pulled their letters of support.

If this passes, asked Mr. Brown, is there going to be a departure of those groups that aren't represented? The group agreed there would be.

Register of Deeds Judy Gaumer said she doesn't think any of the groups really want to withdraw from the association, but with the committee being so out of balance, there won't be representation for everyone.

Mr. Huntley said he sees a power struggle developing.

The committee is out of balance, said Mrs. Gaumer. Besides, they have attached a plank saying the commissioners have authority over the money. Although it has been said that the added part has been taken off, no one can say for sure.

"We are a lot stronger as a group," said Mr. Huntley, "than as an individual association."

There is another group that represents western Kansas and it is viable, said Mr. Brown. Right now, said Mr. Unger, there is another group but it is only for commissioners.

Maybe the county needs to re-think whether they want to remain members of the association, said Ms. Gamblin.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch asked how it will affect Kansas Counties Association Multi-Lined Pool and Kansas Workers Risk Cooperative for Counties, which provide insurance for the county. It shouldn't, because those organizations stand alone, said Mr. Unger.

The association meeting is Sunday, Nov. 21 through Tuesday, Nov. 23.

# Young Coyotes write pumpkin stories

Students at Jennings School worked together to write stories about pumpkins at the beginning of the month.

The younger students in kindergarten, first and second grades came up with the idea for the pumpkin stories and then told them to the students in the seventh and eighth grade, who wrote them down.

The stories were then displayed in the hallway outside the young students' classes.

Here are the stories: "Pumpkin Man Learns to Scare," told by Stephani Noone, kindergarten, and written by Stephanie Stone, eighth grade.

Once upon a time... The pumpkin man walked on a road to his home. He sat down in his chair and took off his shoes. He takes a short nap. He wakes up and goes back to work. He fixes one truck and two cars, he feels tired, so he goes home. He makes dinner. His drink is water and he makes grass stew.

He lays down to sleep, but he can't sleep. He tries to read, but it still doesn't work. He hears an eerie noise outside. It is a family looking for a pumpkin on Halloween. He hides underground and pretends to be a jack-o-lantern. The family takes his head. He gets scared and starts screaming. The family is scared and they drop his head. His head rolls back to his body. Now he knows what to do when people look for a pumpkin on Halloween. He gives them a scare.

"Mr. Coyote and Pumpkin are supposed to be Friends" told by Collin Long, kindergarten; written by Jacinta Carter, eighth grade.

Pumpkin went down the woods. A coyote saw him.

He said, "You look yummy, I will eat you. Come with me, I'll cook you in my oven."

The pumpkin ran around and went home. His dad was ready.

He said, "I don't see a coyote." He spanked him with his head.

An eagle flew by, but it was really a coyote. An elephant threw him to a tiger face.

He was flying away. And the coyote and pumpkin were friends again.

"Mr. Pumpkin In the Woods" told by Drake Rowh, first grade, written by Marissa Baker, seventh grade.

Once upon a time the pumpkin climb up in a tree. He fell down and bruised his knee. And he hurt his foot. He fell down and broke his forest, and he fell in the ocean and got wet, but he couldn't dry off because it was too blue. He broke his forest and desert.

"Once Upon a Time a Pumpkin Man was a Good Fighter" told by David New, second grade, and written by Nathan Baker, eighth grade.

He was the strongest pumpkin man in the whole wide world. He can lift up the whole school with one finger. He can lift up the Nathan and throw him in the garbage.

And he can pick up one million pounds. And he can touch all the teachers with his crackly power and beat them up. And he can pick up the whole wide with out him teaching it. And his is really rich.

And his name is David and Nathan the genius.

# City to talk about pool

The Oberlin City Council will talk with Anna Shaw from the swimming pool commission about the pool when it meets at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday.

At the last meeting, the council received a pool evaluation from Water's Edge Aquatic out of Lenexa, but hasn't had the opportunity to talk with members of the commission.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the council will be considering a bid for replacing the roof at the library, which has storm damage.

They will also look at a request from the county to replace the curb and gutter on the south side of the courthouse.

The meeting, upstairs at The Gateway, is open to the public.



WITH A LADLE, Becky Anderson (above) helped serve chicken noodle soup at the benefit for the Decatur County ambulance service Sunday night. Abbigale Vineyard (below) played in her Halloween costume after she ate dinner.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

# Soup served for cash

Warm chicken noodle soup, chili, hot dogs and hot apple cider were on the menu for a Decatur County Emergency Medical Service fund raiser Sunday night at the Golden Age Center.

Ambulance Director Patrick Pomeroy estimated that 70 people were served.

It was pretty steady throughout the evening, he said, with a lot of families coming in before going out for Halloween.

Around \$301 was raised, he said, but they haven't tallied the final bills yet so they aren't sure how much they made. There was a lot of food left over, he said, so they will be doing another fund raiser soon.

Mr. Pomeroy said the service is raising money mainly for uniforms. He said there are 31 technicians and probably 20 of them need new jackets, which cost about \$80 with decals. That doesn't include pants or shirts, he said, and they need those too. Polo shirts cost around \$20 a piece.

The money raised will be added to the memorial fund. Mr. Pomeroy said the fund is low and they need to start putting some money back into it.

He said he talked with the Decatur County commissioners and they asked him to figure out how much money he has and then



put everyone on a clothing allowance. Mr. Pomeroy said at a recent meeting with the volunteers, they

decided to do some fund raisers. The feed was organized by Sharla Ritter of Jennings, he said.

## Joan Stone

performs The Populist March of Annie Diggs

Sponsored by the Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission.

It replaces a previously advertised program.

Sunday, November 7, 2004 • 2 p.m.

The Gateway, Oberlin, KS



Her accompanist is Kacey Link

The Hansen Foundation

Season ticket or \$10.00 at the Door \$5.00 students, 1-12

For information call

Mary Henzel (785-475-3329) or Ella Betts (785-475-3557).

Information also available at www.oberlinarts.org

# Town chimes are fixed

## Sirens also out at city shop location

Decatur County commissioners heard last Tuesday that the chimes in downtown Oberlin have been fixed.

Emergency Preparedness Director Bert Cool was in recently to tell them the chimes and sirens downtown were broken, and the commissioners told him to get them fixed. Mr. Cool said they would get a bill later but didn't say where from.

Custodian Bob Berls said he received a proposal from Oberlin Concrete for replacing the curb and gutter on the south side of the courthouse. It looked like it would cost around \$12,000 for the work, with the city's share around \$5,000.

Sheriff Ken Badsy brought his August and September reports in. In August, he said, there were 32 vehicle inspections, two accidents, three incidents, nine offenses, 33 papers served and two tickets. In September, there were 34 vehicle inspections, eight accidents, two incidents, six offenses, 46 papers and one ticket.

Sheriff Badsy said the transmission went out on the Caprice patrol car, and after looking around for a replacement, they found the cheapest buy in North Platte for \$5,800 with a warranty.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Held a 10-minute closed session with Hospital Administrator Lynn Doeden for non-elected personnel.

- Received a \$229 bill for the electrical work done to the vehicle Rusty Addleman bought in bid from the sheriff's office. Sheriff Badsy said he has approved the payment.

# Waste collection was small

The Decatur County Road and Bridge Department reported a small turn-out for the fall household hazardous waste collection in Norcatur on Saturday, Oct. 23.

Supervisor Tim Stallman told county commissioners last Tuesday that only four people showed up. Mr. Stallman said they can take hazardous waste items to the landfill east of Oberlin when they are open.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said farmers have been busy working around the drought and the rain to plant wheat and harvest corn. That may be part of the reason for the low turnout, he said.

The road crew, said Mr. Stallman, is blading township roads and also graveling. They are also mowing, since they try to do that one last time before the winter.

The group discussed the bridge collapse a mile east of Lyle. Mr. Stallman said he has talked with the sheriff's office and Kansas Counties Association Multi-Lined Pool, and the county's insurance carrier. The collapse is under investigation.

## ANTIQUA AUCTION

Saturday, November 13, 2004 • 10:00 a.m.  
LOCATION: 711 E. Frontier Parkway (E. Highway 36), Oberlin, Kansas

SELLERS: JAMES R. AND REVA MARSHALL  
HARVEY AND MAXINE WRIGHT

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: Jim and Harvey have been in the antique tractor business for several years and have a lot of nice collectibles. You won't want to miss this auction!

TRACTORS, PARTS & EQUIPMENT

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ANTIQUES

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