

Kansans seem happy with how things are going

What did Kansas voters tell the boys, and girls, in Topeka?

For the most part, we think, they seem pretty happy with the way things are going in this state.

Except for our neighbors to the east, where the Republicans lost a Senate seat when a cute redistricting ploy backfired, incumbents fared well.

So the message, first of all, seems to be, "stay the course."

Most major changes came in the primaries, when a couple of liberal Republicans were beaten by conservative challengers. Conservative groups put thousands of dollars into some races, and they had some successes.

If there was any message, it was not a pro-growth, raise-taxes message. There was no demand for a tax increase, for schools or other state programs. It was anti-tax conservative Republicans who made the gains. Democrats and liberals in the GOP lost ground.

The Republican leadership did not fare well in a well-financed drive to unseat young Josh Svaty, a Democrat who took a House seat south of Salina two years ago. Their guy lost badly after a sometimes contentious race marked by dirty tricks.

As the state's economy gains steam, there will be a blizzard of requests for more money from nearly every state program. From social services to schools, highways and law en-

forcement, there is tremendous pent-up demand for more money.

While state income is on the rise again, and exceeding official estimates, there isn't nearly enough to go around.

Schools will continue to get priority for money, but colleges and other agencies are positioning themselves with hands out.

Everyone has legitimate needs. Every agency has a lobby to support it. Every program thinks it should get the spare change.

It will be a long spring as legislators try to sort through the requests and demands. No one knows what the courts will do with a lawsuit over school finance. A district judge estimated that the state should put another \$1 billion into the school budget, but of course, had no suggestions as to where to get the money.

It ought to be clear that the taxpayers whose pockets would be tapped are in no mood to pay. If anyone — school supporters, the judge, school boards or superintendents — thinks otherwise, it'd be interesting to put the issue to a statewide vote.

That's not how Kansas works, though. The voters have already spoken, and our guess is their voice will be heard. There'll be no massive tax increase next year, and state programs will have to fight over the scraps that fall to the budget room floor.

We will survive, and so will most state programs. — *Steve Haynes*

Trip to Milwaukee better than last

Milwaukee's a nice city, but getting there was a little worrisome.

We were on our way to Milwaukee by train on Sept. 11, 2001, when terrorist attacked the U.S.

We ended up getting off at Ottumwa, Iowa, and returning to McCook.

The National Newspaper Association convention we were attending was canceled and the next year we went to Portland, then Kansas City and Denver.

Next year, we're going to try to hold the convention in Milwaukee, so last week we headed for Wisconsin for a "site visit," since hubby Steve is the convention chairman.

The train leaves from McCook at about 1 a.m. and arrives in Chicago between 2 and 3 p.m. on a good day. However, the trains are notoriously late.

We were lucky and our train ran close to on time. We were able to transfer to the Milwaukee train at Union Station in Chicago and arrived downtown not only on time, but within five blocks of our hotel.

Our hotel, the Hyatt, is in the heart of the city and we walked to a nice German restaurant for dinner. The restaurant, Mader's, turned out to be a Milwaukee landmark and the food was excellent.

The next day was for work. We met a Convention and Visitors Bureau representative and he took us to visit the sights.

First stop was the County Museum, which is their natural history museum, where they have an old Milwaukee village set up. You could look in windows at the apothecary, the grocer, the hardware store and see what was for sale 100 to 150 years ago.



Open Season

By *Cynthia Haynes*
chaynes@nwkansas.com

In our 30-minute tour, we also got to watch them dust the dinosaurs.

Next stop was the art museum. The new wing looks a little like the prow of a ship, and the front part is all glassed in so you can see Lake Michigan, and watch waves come over the breakwater in the bay.

We inland folks were amazed. We loved the place, and the pictures and statues were nice, too.

Our next visit was to the Domes, three geodesic domes holding gardens — one for the tropics, one for the desert and one that changes four times a year. The changing dome was being outfitted for Christmas as.

Our last stop was the city's botanical gardens, which were mostly dead. However, we were told that next September, when the convention is held, the last of the roses and many fall flowers will be in bloom.

That was all in the morning.

After lunch, we discussed the

sites and decided we liked the two museums best. Our convention planner still has to talk costs and find out how many tables and chairs we need and deal with all those little details that make the difference between a well-run meeting and a mass of people descending on some unsuspecting tourist attraction.

The next day, after details were finalized, Steve and I went for a walk through the city's many sky walks. There was one from our hotel to a shopping mall across a couple of busy streets. However, it runs through Milwaukee's federal building.

We got to go through a metal detector and have my purse searched. It's the first time I've had to go through security to go for a walk.

The trip home on the train was uneventful and we're looking forward to returning to the city of brats, beer and baseball in September.

From the Bible

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling: One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above

all, and through all, and in you all. But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Ephesians 4: 4-7



What's for dinner? — potluck

I should write a book. I'll call it, "How to Feed Your Husband. In- definitely, at Potluck Dinners".

Starting Tuesday night of last week, we ate potluck dinners, or the remains thereof, every day for six days. Tuesday, our singing group performed for a local senior citizens group. All the members brought a dish for the potluck meal, and they invited our group to join them, which we gladly did.

Wednesday night was my annual Liberty Star Thanksgiving meal at Lyle, and we feasted on turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy and all the fixin's. Due to the bad roads, attendance was low, so we had plenty of leftovers for Thursday. We don't get home until late Friday nights, so leftover salads were all we wanted.

Saturday night was the Pheasant Hunter's Supper at the church in our little town. The ladies of the community fixed turkey, ham loaf, smothered steak and ham.

Sunday found Jim filling the pulpit in a neighboring town. Guess what? Another potluck. "Could we stay to eat with them?" the congregation asked. Could we? You bet we could. It was another turkey dinner, with everything cooked and served



Out Back

By *Carolyn Sue Kelley-Plotts*
cplotts@nwkansas.com

to perfection. We ate so much for dinner, we didn't need anything else that night.

It's like an addiction, though. Everything is so good, you can't get enough. Brookville Corn is one of my favorites. I was able to eat it every day for five days. And I want more.

But, after checking the calendar for this week, it looks like we might be going through withdrawal for a few days. Nary a potluck dinner in sight. Jim will have to settle for plain old home cookin' tonight. It's a good thing he likes tacos.

—ob—

Wednesday night we went to Lyle for dinner (see above), and plowed mud all the way. It had rained all day and by the time we were leaving town, snow was mixing with the rain drops. About two miles north of

town, on a less-than-perfect gravelled road, Jim was all for turning around. He said, "I'm fearless, and this has got me scared."

"We can't go home," I pleaded. "I have the rolls and cranberry salad."

Our friend Veda was riding with us. She said, "Whenever I have to drive on bad roads, I do a lot of talkin' to the Lord."

I'm glad she had a direct pipeline. We made it to Lyle, had a great time and when everyone was ready to leave, Roger and Angie said they would follow us back to the highway in their four-wheel drive. It took about 45 minutes to drive those nine miles, slinging mud all the way.

The next morning when I went to leave for work, my poor car looked like the loser in an off-road mud rally. It took four dollars at the car wash just to tell it was white.

Are townships thing of the past?



Along the Sappa

By *Steve Haynes*
schaynes@nwkansas.com

As hot a topic as township government is these days, there were a couple of contests here and there for township office.

For the most part, county commissioners have to scrape around to find people to fill the three-member township boards.

It's no wonder. Townships don't do too much these days. Many contract road maintenance to the county. Their budgets are minimal.

Decatur County, with 25 townships, probably has as many as any in the state. Some of them draw 25-30 voters, some fewer, come election time.

While townships don't do much or spend much, they do cost money. And it's likely that removing an extra layer of government would save taxpayers some dough.

If nothing else, the county would save the cost of keeping a set of books for each township and of publishing the annual financial reports.

There may have been a time when the township was a useful unit of local government, close to the people and easy to deal with. That was a century and a half ago.

Since then, we've streamlined courts and police powers, doing

away with justices of the peace and constables. The sheriff and the district court handle legal matters today.

Schools that used to dot the landscape have closed and consolidated. Soon, we may have just one school in most counties where once there were dozens. Many of the old township roads are closed, or on "minimum maintenance," and the county grades much of the rest.

Most of all, the farm population has faded away, leaving no one living in vast stretches of townships that once harbored dozens of families.

Add to that the fact that township boards don't really have much to do on the best of days, and it's easy to see why there's not much interest in many of these jobs.

In Sherman County, commission-

ers had to canvas those who got write-in votes to find people to fill many board positions. Often, even those who got voted in turned the jobs down.

There ought to be some way to disorganize townships when interest lags. I'm not saying just do away with all of them, but when no one wants to be on the board, then the commissioners ought to be able to set the ball rolling to close up a township.

Voters and township boards, too, ought to have that authority. Why keep beating a dead horse?

And if there is a township here and there where the population is high enough, interest is keen, and things are getting done, fine. Let them be.

For the rest, they have served their purpose. It may be time to call it quits for a relic of another era.

There are ways to fight diabetes

To the Editor:

November is American Diabetes Month. The American Diabetes Association works with Diabetes Under Control to help people with diabetes.

Diabetes is a disease in which the body does not produce enough or properly use insulin. The cause is a mystery, although genetics, obesity, and environmental factors such as lack of exercise appear to be important.

Diabetes results from the body not being able to properly use insulin, with relative deficiency of insulin. The major types of diabetes are Type 1 and Type 2. Most Americans are diagnosed with Type 2.

Type 1 diabetes symptoms usually occur suddenly and may include frequent urination, excessive thirst and hunger, unusual weight loss, weakness and fatigue, irritability, nausea and vomiting.

Type 2 diabetes usually occurs gradually and may or may not include sores that are slow to heal, gum and bladder infections, tingling or burning in the feet, blurred vision, itching, drowsiness, or numbness of

Letter to the Editor

the hands or feet. If you have one or more of these symptoms, see your doctor.

Diabetes is a major risk factor for heart disease, and for other health problems such as kidney disease, eye disease, and amputations. Many of these health-related diseases depend on how well you are in control of your diabetes and how long you have had the disease. Reduce your risk by checking your blood sugar regularly and keeping track of the readings for your doctor. If you smoke, stop as soon as you can, or at least cut down.

Managing your diabetes has a lot to do with controlling your diet and improving your cholesterol level. Cut down on fats. Bake, broil and steam your food instead of frying. Healthy foods are fresh fruits and vegetables, lean meats, chicken and fish and whole grain foods, including cereals and pasta.

Exercise to keep firm and help

you lose weight. Weight puts a strain on the heart, and can raise cholesterol and blood pressure.

Have your doctor help you set a target rate for your glucose levels. Recommended glucose levels are: premeal (fasting) levels should be 80-120, and bedtime readings should be 100-140. Some doctors would like you to have tighter control, and some labs have different rates, so you will need to find out exactly what your doctor wants you to do.

The more control you have over your diabetes, the better you will feel.

Elsie Wolters, coordinator
Diabetes Under Control
Oberlin



THE OBERLIN HERALD

Serving Oberlin and Decatur County since 1879

USPS 401-600

Phone: (785) 475-2206 Fax (785) 475-2800

E-mail: obherald@nwkansas.com

170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749-2243

Published each Wednesday by Haynes Publishing Co., 170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749. Periodicals mail postage paid at Oberlin, Kan. 67749.

Steve and Cynthia Haynes, publishers
Official newspaper of Oberlin, Jennings, Norcatur, Dresden and Decatur County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Colorado Press Association, Nebraska Press Association and Inland Press Association.

Subscriptions: One year, \$30 (tax included) in Decatur, Norton, Rawlins, Sheridan, Thomas and Red Willow counties; \$34 (tax included) elsewhere in Kansas; \$37 elsewhere in the U.S. Foreign subscriptions, \$20 extra per year (except APO/FPO). POSTMASTER: Send change of address to 170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749-2243.

Office hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
(Also open most Saturdays when someone is in.)

Nor'West Newspapers

STAFF

- Steve Haynes editor
- Kimberly Davis managing editor
- Mary Lou Olson society editor
- Judy Jordan proofreader
- Carolyn Kelley-Plotts columnist
- Cynthia Haynes business manager
- David Bergling advertising manager
- Pat Cozad want ads/circulation
- Karla Jones, Doris Miller advertising production
- Joan Betts historian
- Marsha Morford mailing
- Whitney Beinke page makeup

