

The Commission

Democrat wants to serve the county

Brian Keahey has been putting up signs, handing out business cards, running ads and trying to talk with everyone he can to let people know he wants to serve in the district No. 1 seat on the Decatur County Commission.

Mr. Keahey, a Democrat, is running for the seat in the general election on Nov. 7.

He said he thinks it is time for some new blood on the board. Besides, he said, it's important for people to have a choice when it comes to voting. Mr. Keahey said he has lived all over including Wyoming, Colorado, Ohio and Kansas.

The exposure to other places and things might help him when serving in public office here, he said.

We need to get back to basics, said Mr. Keahey, a retired federal employee, like people helping people. We need to stop relying on the federal government so much and start relying on ourselves.

He and his wife have lived in Oberlin for five and a half years. Mr. Keahey said they moved here with this job through the U.S. Farm Service Agency. With that job, he said, he got to know the county and people well.

"I like the community and like the people," he said, "and I want to help as many people as possible."

There are a lot of things we can change in the county, he said. We need to do the best for the most people. The county needs to try to keep more people here, and part of that is bringing in businesses.

Mr. Keahey said some of the things that interest him are problems with water and also transportation. He said he would like to see U.S. 36 go to a four-lane highway, and he would like to check into the possibility of improvement in the rail system. That would mean possibly getting some kind of industry here.

An industry would help retain some of the young people and be a good working environment, he said. The candidate said he would like

to see a modern retirement center with good medical care. That would also help bring people here to live.

The county, he said, and himself if elected to serve as a commissioner, could do a lot to help economic development. Mr. Keahey said he would like to explore different avenues that could help the county and the entire area. He said he has read articles where other counties have an incentive program for people who want to expand or there is property available if businesses want to grow.

People shouldn't feel that they have to move here because this is where their job is, said Mr. Keahey; they should want to move here because this is where opportunity is.

Mr. Keahey said he was born in Kemmerer, Wyo., and has lived mostly in rural areas since then.

"Agriculture isn't anything new to me," he said. "I've grown up on farms and ranches."

He said he and his father did custom farming and hay work in the Sheridan, Wyo., area and he graduated from Sheridan High School in 1956. In the 1980s, he moved to Colorado and worked as an electrical lineman in rural areas. He also has worked in sales.

Although a job with the Farm Service Agency brought him and his wife Terry to Oberlin, he is now retired. He said he and his wife operate a small business out of their home, T&B Enterprises, which sells air machines. Other than that, he said he belongs to the Sheridan, Wyo. Elks Lodge, where he is a life member, and is chairman of the Decatur County Democratic Party. He said he will probably relinquish that position if he is elected.

Since he is retired, he said, he has the time to attend the commissioner's meetings and play an active role in the county.

Mr. Keahey said he and his wife have four children, eight grandkids, four great-grandchildren and one great-great grandson.



B. Keahey

Former councilman seeks new position

After winning the primary election in August, Republican candidate Stan McEvoy has been campaigning for the job of District No. 1 Decatur County commissioner.

Mr. McEvoy said he has been putting up yard signs, mailing fliers and making the rounds to neighbors' houses, talking to people face to face. He said he still has several people yet to talk to in this final push before the election on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

With eight years of experience on the Oberlin City Council, he decided to seek the commissioner seat.

Mr. McEvoy said he wants to make a difference and give the commissioners some new insight and a younger approach. He said he enjoys working to make a difference in the community and wants to be a voice for his generation.

One thing that he feels strongly about is updating equipment in county departments, and he thinks some of them have been overlooked. One department is the dispatch, which Mr. McEvoy — who works as a part-time dispatcher — says he feels needs to have the enhanced 911 system.

It's important for the county to concentrate on things that are already in place, he said, improving those that need changes and boasting about those that don't.

Before making a decision, he said, he tries to look at things from all angles and understand what it means to the people.

The county needs to keep providing as many services as possible with the money it has to work with, said Mr. McEvoy.

The candidate grew up on a farm 26 miles southwest of Oberlin in Rawlins County, but attended school here.

When he was in junior high, his family moved to Oberlin.

He owns a home in Oberlin and has worked for American Family Insurance in Norton for the last 10 years. He is also co-owner of Mobile



S. McEvoy

Music Express, a deejay service, with Kent Ploussard.

Mr. McEvoy is a member of the Oberlin Jaycees, a former member of the Oberlin Lions Club and president of the city Convention and Visitors Bureau board. He served two terms on the Oberlin City Council, being elected in 1997 and 2001.

With experience serving on the council, said Mr. McEvoy, he knows about budgets and other governmental issues. He said he is sure that county government is different but is confident he can bring some insight.

Mr. McEvoy said he believes in hiring department heads to take care of their departments. The county has some great workers and employees, he said. Some departments may have gotten some bad press in the past, he said, but they can work on bettering their image.

He said he is looking forward to working with the departments if he is elected.

Mr. McEvoy won the primary election against Marcia Lohofener on the Republican ballot by 30 votes. Mrs. Lohofener is running a write-in campaign for the seat.

Mr. McEvoy said he would hate to see the Republican split so much it would allow for the democratic challenger to take office.

Voters should cast their ballot for him, he said, because he feels he has the most to offer to the position. Mr. McEvoy said he has the most experience of all of the candidates running since he has served on the city board.

He said he is a hometown native who owns property in Oberlin and pays taxes.

Mr. McEvoy said he takes a lot of interest in seeing the county continue and making things better for the people living here and for the young people who might want to return.

He said he will be conservative with money and help with problems that need attention.

Write-in candidate decides not to give up

Marcia Lohofener may have lost in the Republican primary by 30 votes, but she decided not to give up and is running a write-in campaign for the District 1 county commissioner in the general election on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Mrs. Lohofener, a Republican, lost to Stan McEvoy in the primary for the seat.

"The primary was so close," she said, "and I feel strongly that I have the right outlook, skills and experience to serve the people well."

The first thing that she did, said Mrs. Lohofener, was call the secretary of state's office and see if people have to spell a candidate's name correctly for a write-in.

She said an official there said it didn't have to be spelled right, but the oval next to the line has to be filled in. She said she started to send out fliers and postcards with that information on them.

The next step was holding open sessions at her home, but people didn't drop in, so she invited groups in to talk. Mrs. Lohofener said they talked to her about county issues, which has helped her learn what people think is important.

She said she has also attended several commissioners' meetings. Mrs. Lohofener said she is from Norcatour and has lived in Decatur County all of her life, except for five years. She graduated from Decatur Community High School, attended Colby Community College and has taken some courses from Fort Hays State University.

Over the years, Mrs. Lohofener was the director of the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp. and manager of the Decatur County Chamber of Commerce for four years. Both opportunities have not only taught her to work with companies and people all over the county, she said, but with state departments and officials in Topeka.

She has served the medical community for 25 years and was an

emergency medical technician for eight. She is manager of Wheat Ridge Terrace senior apartments, and an agent with Johnson Realty and owns a small antique shop called Nanny's Attic.

Mrs. Lohofener said some of her concerns include federal Environmental Protection Agency regulations, state and federal requirements, government consolidation, disaster plans, jobs, schools and families.

She said her decision-making style is to gather information and talk with those who are informed. She then studies the information and looks at it from all sides. It is important to listen to the other commissioners and work out a consensus, she said.

"Agendas have no role in the county commission," she said.

Mrs. Lohofener said her experience over the years will help her if she is elected.

The candidate and her husband Jerry have four children, Merlou Robinson, Amy Lamb and Seth Lohofener of Oberlin and Lynn Fossum of WaKeeney. They have 13 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Mrs. Lohofener is an elder at the United Church, on the advisory board of the Good Samaritan Center and the Decatur County Retirement Housing Corp. for Wheat Ridge, and a member of the Monday Evening Club, the Decatur County Antique Guild and the Oberlin Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star.

She said she should be elected to serve as a commissioner because she cares about you and yours. She said she has the skills and experience and will put forth the effort needed.

"I believe in being honest and ethical," said Mrs. Lohofener. "I believe in looking you in the eye and speaking from the heart. I believe in being careful with money by spending it wisely."



Lohofener

Quilting away



OVER 50 QUILTERS from Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado enjoyed a quilt workshop, conducted by Chris Krisdriessen of New York on Monday at the Bohemian Hall at the Last Indian Raid Museum in Oberlin. Angie Wilson (above) worked on quilt pieces. The event was sponsored by the Needles and Pins Quilt Guild, which meets monthly at Country Quilting and Keepsakes. Participants learned about nine-patch blocks and "no-whining" quilts. Many toured the Quilt Bus, which featured fabrics, patterns, books, quilting notions and more.

— Herald photo by Kimberly Davis

Tie breaker determines the winners

It was a good week for prognostication in *The Oberlin Herald's* Pigskin Pickem contest: Six people picked all 11 games correctly.

The tie breaker between two Big 12 rivals, the Colorado Buffaloes and the Oklahoma Sooners, came down to a 24-3 loss for the hard luck Buffaloes.

Todd Ketterl, Oberlin, had all 11 games in the contest correct and his guess was 11 points off on the tie breaker. That was close enough to take first place and reap \$15 in scrip.

Denise Bailey, Norcatour, also picked all 11 winners, but was 12 points off the tie breaker. She took

second and will get \$10 in scrip.

Kade Brown, Oberlin, picked all the winners and was 13 points off the tie breaker for third place and \$5.

Zach May and Ivis Hanson, Oberlin, and Randy Wilson, Colby, also picked the 11 winners but were farther off on the tie breaker.

Guessing on 10 of the 11 were Connie Grafel, Kenny Gee, Travis Raile, Owen Wilson, Valisha Raile, Kimberly Solko, Gary Anderson, Oberlin; Cody Jacobs, Dresden; Vernon Ketterl; Herndon; Mark Winger and Jessica Vaughn, Colby; Betti Grout, Atwood; and Shayla Bailey and Lucas Bailey, Norcatour.

Coming up with nine out of 11 were Brock Baxter, Smith Center; Amanda Grafel, Colleen Gee, Norm Wendelin, Dan Grafel and Diana Solko, Oberlin; Jeff Reinert, Atwood; Billy McCoy, Danbury, Neb.; and Jacob Helm and Gail Bailey, Norcatour.

Sponsors include Fidele Electric and Woodcrafting, Golt Home Planning, Ward Drug Store, Raye's Grocery, Fredrickson Insurance Agency, Farm Credit of Western Kansas, the LandMark Inn, R&M Service Center, Prairie Petals, Wagner Chevrolet and *The Oberlin Herald*. Winners must pick up their

prizes at the newspaper office.

This week's contest is on Page 4B.

Winners of last week's games:

- Goodland over Hugoton, 41-20.
- Beloit over Oberlin, 52-20.
- Baylor over KU, 36-35.
- Hoxie over Quinter, 14-0.
- Texas over Nebraska, 22-20.
- Ulysses over Colby, 47-0.
- St. Francis over Leoti, 49-10.
- Oakley over Trego Community, 26-8.
- Atwood over Syracuse, 63-7.
- McCook over Holdrege, 35-0.
- Northwest Missouri over Fort Hays, 59-0.

Join us for the Spook Parade down main street - Tuesday, Oct. 31 Meet at Good Samaritan Center at 4 p.m.

Happy Halloween Fredrickson Insurance Agency 183 S. Penn - Oberlin - 785-475-3883

THE OBERLIN HERALD Have a Safe and Happy Halloween

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