

Six candidates have filed to run for public office

Six people, two incumbents and four newcomers, had filed to run for the four seats open on the Oberlin School Board as of Monday morning.

Incumbents Monte Moore and Barbara Olson both filed for the at-large seats, as did newcomers Dan Grafel, Brad Long, Daniel Nedland and Mike Helm.

This is the first time all four of the seats will be elected at large, which means that the four people with the highest vote will win the spots.

Currently, Mrs. Olson, Mr. Moore, Jeannie Martin and Kurt Vollertsen hold the four seats.

Joe Stanley filed just before lunch Monday for the mayor's seat in Oberlin and Melinda Enfield, who filed a petition to chickens in town, filed for a spot on the city council. Two seats are up on the council, those held by Rhonda May and Ray Ward.

Mayor Ken Shobe has said that he

doesn't plan to run again.

In Norcat, the city council has three openings, but no one has filed yet.

In Jennings, Bill Gawith filed for the City Council. There are still two seats without filings.

In Dresden, Scott Taylor filed for Mayor and Erma Spresser and Margaret Rhodes have filed for the two open council seats.

The general election will be Tuesday, April 3, with all of the polling places in the county open.

If a primary is needed, it would be on Tuesday, Feb. 20, but that will happen only if more than twice the number of candidates as open seats file for one job.

The deadline for candidates to file was at noon on Tuesday. If a candidate didn't file by the cut-off, said County Clerk Marilyn Horn, they still have the option of running a write-in campaign.

Telethon needs auction items, talent

With less than two weeks left until the annual Seeds of Hope Telethon on Saturday, Feb. 3 at The Gateway, it's time to make a donation for the all-day auction at the community fund raiser.

Each year, committee members ask businesses in Oberlin, Decatur County, McCook and the surrounding area to donate items for the auction.

The money raised through the auction is then given out to selected organizations in the county.

Peg Smith, a committee member, is in charge of the auction, but since she lives in Nebraska, Susan May has volunteered to pick up auction items here. Any business or individual who wants to donate an item for the auction can call her at 475-3369. Call Kimberly Davis, a committee member, at 475-2206 or 475-3510, if they can't get in touch with

Mrs. May.

Mrs. Davis said they still have 40 minutes of time to fill for the telethon. If anyone has a talent they would like to perform in that time, please call her or Kristi Smith at 475-3510.

Groups which will benefit from this year's telethon include are the Decatur County Fair Foundation for the new livestock building, Kansans for Life, the Norcat Public Library, Norcat Museum, Teens for Christ, Oberlin Area Concert Band, Decatur County Relay for Life, Oberlin Lions Club, Creative Movements Gymnastics, Jennings Czech Museum, Decatur County Last Indian Raid Museum, Decatur County Ministerial Association, Jennings City Library, the Tripple Creek Riders, FROGS Camp, Salvation Army, Girl Scouts and the United Explorers.

Health nurse might hold class

Decatur County senior citizens might get a chance to learn how to take and store their medications during a medication management class at the Golden Age Center in Oberlin.

Administrator Marilyn Gamblin said the Area Agency on Aging had written suggesting the department do a medication management seminar for seniors here. The letter, said Ms. Gamblin, suggested having the session at a place like the senior meal site.

Ms. Gamblin said the agency would pay \$75 for holding an informational session. She said she would rather do it while people are playing cards at the Golden Age Center, since quite a few people show up.

Basically, she said, the information will include how to take medications, how to store them and information like that.

What about Jennings, Norcat and Dresden? asked County Clerk Marilyn Horn. Commissioner Ralph Unger said Ms. Gamblin should check with the agency about paying to hold sessions at the senior centers in all of the towns.

Ms. Gamblin said she received a bill from the Local Environmental Protection Group for the last half of 2006 and first half of 2007 for inspecting water wells and other jobs in the county.

She said she had heard that some legislators are trying to take money out of the water fund, which helps pay for the group's work.

Basically, she said, that means that if the agency loses money, people may have to pay more for the services.

The commissioners discussed writing a letter to area legislators about the money, but decided to wait to see if anything else comes up. The agency helps with putting in septic

systems, water wells and testing water for people.

Ms. Gamblin said she has a contract for pandemic flu planning that she has to have signed and sent back to the state. She said she will get \$5,000 for planning. It means more money for the health department, she added, but also more work.

These plans are so thick, said Mr. Unger, how are they going to be functional? Ms. Gamblin said they aren't, but the department has to do them.

It seems like the plans are more an academic exercise, not about service, he said.

This year, she said, she has to figure out the interest earned on grant money for bioterrorism and such. If the department earns more than \$100 in a year, the interest has to be paid back to the state Department of Health and Environment.

Mr. Unger asked Ms. Gamblin if she got all of the flu shots the department ordered. She said she ordered 750 doses and received 600.

Was she approached about paying more for the vaccines than normal? asked Mr. Unger. Ms. Gamblin said she received e-mails suggesting if she paid more, the county would be guaranteed to receive the vaccines. She said she didn't go that way.

Ms. Gamblin said her advisory board needs to have a meeting. She said she isn't sure if all the members still want to be on the board or if they are physically able. Mr. Unger suggested sending them a letter. Commissioner Stan McEvoy said the members then need to be back on a normal rotation again, with each person serving a term or a year. Each person can only serve two terms, he noted.

Ms. Gamblin said that is the policy, but it can be changed, if needed.

Wrestling club plans supper

The Oberlin Kids Wrestling club plans a soup supper at 6:30 p.m. Friday in the high school cafeteria, right before the wrestling dual with

Goodland High. The club will serve a variety of soups and desserts.

All donations will go to the program.



Legion gets face-lift

AT THE AMERICAN LEGION, Bill Goscha (above) and Jim Barrett (right) put in new carpet in the south bar area as part of the renovation project. Volunteers painted the bar area and restroom before the new tile and carpet were laid last week.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



Youths to make subs

It's time to order submarine sandwiches for the big pro football game on Sunday, Feb. 4.

The United Methodist youth group plans to make sandwiches that day after 1 p.m. at the church in Oberlin.

The teens offer two choices of six-inch subs: ham, salami, bologna and cheese or turkey and cheese, both with or without lettuce.

Each costs \$4. A combination pack includes four sandwiches, a bag of chips and two-liter bottle of soda for \$17.

Deanna Castle, who helps with the youth group, said the money will go for the group's mission project and a ski trip.

Mrs. Castle said people can either pick the sandwiches up or have them delivered. Order through a youth group member, Mrs. Castle at 475-3227 or Betsy Haag at 475-8967.

Chili cook-off scheduled

Get out the spices, meat, beans and secret ingredients: it's time for the first American Legion chili cook-off and football party at the Legion Hall on Sunday, Feb. 4.

The contest features three categories: mild, spicy and other, so anyone's chili can fit in. Each cook must be 21 or older and enter a slow cooker with at least 5 quarts.

All entries must be at the American Legion by kick-off of the game.



Letter of Thanks

On behalf of Prairie Land Electric Coop Inc. I want to thank the members for the hospitality shown to our employees during the recent ice storm. We also would like to thank all the farmers for the use of their tractors in getting our trucks to areas unreachable without their help. The employees really appreciated everything that was done for them and the patience shown during this difficult time.

As of Jan. 16th, our best estimate of poles that went down the ice storm is 1,850. The storm hit Dec. 30th, 2006 and we were able to restore everyone's power by Jan. 12th, 2007 (14 days later). We had 182 linemen and 7 inside help working on our system at one time restoring power. We had other cooperatives and contractors that came in to help during the restoration period. They are as follows:

- Kaw Valley --- Topeka, KS --- 4 Linemen
- Brown Atchison -- Horton, KS -- 3 Linemen
- Rolling Hills -- Ellsworth, KS -- 5 Linemen
- Aquila -- Phillipsburg and Concordia -- 5 Linemen
- Solida Tree Service -- Phillipsburg, KS -- 9 men

- Mid Plains Power, Inc. -- Grand Island, NE. -- 13 employees
- C&H Power Line Inc. -- Dewey, OK -- 47 employees
- Razz Electrical Services -- Lecompte, LA. -- 27 employees
- KDM Power Line Const. -- Gilbert, LA. -- 42 employees

Again, thank you for your patience in getting your power restored.

Earl Hansen

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Director of Operations