

# Election '08

## Business owner seeks county spot

A Jennings woman with businesses in Oberlin hopes to represent District No. 3 on the Decatur County Commission.

Vickie Bailey said she owned a beauty shop in Jennings for 20 years before she started having problems with her arms and hands. She talked to the late Mara Crawford and started to sell insurance with her.

Mrs. Bailey, a Republican, will face Norcat-ur-area farmer Gene Gallentine in the Aug. 5 primary election.

In early 2000, she said, she bought the crop insurance operation of Gold Bank. She has owned and operated Decatur County Title and Abstract since 1995, when she bought it from Karen Metcalf.

She and her husband Mike have lived on his family farm half mile north of Jennings for 29 years. They have three children, all married. Their daughter Missy and her husband Jamie Among have two children of their own, she said; son Colin and his wife Lindsey have three; and their son Grant and his wife McKenzie are expecting their first. They all live in Norton.

Mrs. Bailey said she's involved in the county. She's a business owner, is accessible and wants to do her part.

She's in the fourth year of her second term on board of the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp., a member of the Good Samaritan Center Advisory Board, treasurer of the Jennings United Methodist Church; and served 14 years on the Jennings School Board before it disbanded.

Mrs. Bailey said she has a lot invested in the county and wants to continue working for the people. She said she tries to be fair and open-minded and tries to see more than just one side of an issue, which has come in handy on the economic development board. For example, she said, the airport project has evolved out of a project to get a bus firm in Jennings.

Mrs. Bailey said she's been to many commission meetings, so she is aware of the politics involved.



V. Bailey

She has served on the county mircolan board and was involved in selling stocks to help the grocery in Jennings stay open.

As a commissioner, she said, the most important thing is to make sure the county budget is in order. It's important, said Mrs. Bailey, to keep things like roads, equipment and infrastructure up to date.

It is also important that the people's wishes are carried out, she said, without making promises the commissioners can't keep. As a commissioner, she said, you also can't be a "yes man."

Mrs. Bailey said she doesn't want to be a commissioner because she has an agenda. She said she just wants to do the best job she can. She said she has a lot at stake and wants to see Decatur County grow, adding she doesn't like to see empty businesses.

This is a great community, she said, and that needs to be advertised so other people can see that.

As far as economic development, said Mrs. Bailey, the commissioners need to be on board and be in close contact with what the development group is trying to accomplish. The community needs to want to work together, she said.

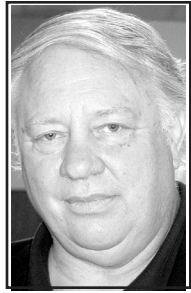
The senior center project, said Mrs. Bailey, isn't just for seniors. It will be great for everyone, she said; it would include a teen center, bowling alley and movie theater. This project would be a place for all generations to interact, said Mrs. Bailey. With the money raised from a state tax rebate program, she said, it shows the community is behind the project.

"That's awesome," she said. "That's the kind of attitude needed to get things done."

Mrs. Bailey said people should vote for her because she will do the best job she can and listen with an open mind to make decisions based on the facts.

## Man runs for office at voters request

After people asked him to run for the district No. 3 seat on the Decatur County Commission, Lee Franklin, known to most as Doc, said, he decided to do it.



L. Franklin

As the only candidate on the Democrat ticket for county commissioner, he will meet the winner of the primary election on the Republican ticket in November.

Mr. Franklin said he grew up in Decatur County, went to college, the service and worked in New York before returning home. He said his great-great aunt was the first white child born in the county.

Mr. Franklin said he now lives on the family homestead three miles east and three south of Kanona.

He graduated from Decatur Community High School and then went to Kansas State University, later transferring to Wichita State, where he received a bachelor's degree in management and economics. He earned a master's degree from the University of North Dakota in management and marketing and has done guest lectures on new urban development for the Harvard Graduate School of Architecture.

After college, Mr. Franklin said, he went into the Air Force for 5 1/2 years. He worked for Merrill Lynch in Minneapolis and then was recruited to work for the J.P. Morgan company in New York, doing stock trading for some of the largest accounts and banks.

He said as his parents got older, he decided to move to Boulder, Colo., so he could get home to help them more easily.

Four years ago, said Mr. Franklin, he decided to move back home to keep the family farm running.

In the old days on the ranch, he said, when someone got to go to town, they brought things back for the others. Mr. Franklin said he's had the opportunity to see what Decatur County has to offer other people from an outside perspective, and the county has a great deal.

He said he serves on the strategic committee for Decatur Tomorrow and has helped with the airport project. That project will be an important platform to attract businesses here, he said, that will provide good jobs and good pay to give adults and young people a future in the county.

Benjamin Franklin, he said, is his uncle or cousin about eight generations back. He spent his career working with and advising the presidents and boards of large and small companies. Western heritage is important, said Mr. Franklin. The western cattle trail ran right through Decatur County, said Mr. Franklin, the county can do a lot with that.

As a commissioner, he said, part of the job is a balance between strengthening the infrastructure and building things up for the future.

Mr. Franklin said if he's elected, he plans to visit with as many people as possible to find out what their needs are and what they want. That's what politics used to mean, he said. Politicians found out what constituents needed and got it for them.

It's important that people write and call their representatives, he said. People think it doesn't matter, but it's the only thing that does matter.

The county needs to be proactive in initiating and supporting wise economic development moves, he said.

Mr. Franklin said he will listen to the voters, take their best ideas and run with them. He said he will add in his best ideas and experience along with the voters' and find the best way for the county.

The county doesn't need to just survive, he said, but prosper and grow into a community everyone would like to live in. There's a host of opportunities and businesses for people to get involved with, which will provide job opportunities for all ages of people so they can build lives here, he said.

## Farmer vows to listen to the people

A Clayton man says he is seeking the District No. 3 county commission seat, hoping to see the county



G. Gallentine

maintain its health care system and support its economic development. Gene Gallentine said he was born in the Norton County Hospital and has lived in Decatur County all his life. He said he attended school in Clayton and Norcat-ur and graduated from Decatur Community High School in 1973.

He graduated from Colby Community College an associate's degree in farm and ranch management and then returned home to farm with his father.

He took over the farm in 1980 and today farms land in Decatur and Norton counties.

Mr. Gallentine said he doesn't have an agenda and does he want to make any big changes if elected. A Republican, he will face businesswoman Vickie Bailey in the Aug. 5 primary election.

One of his biggest goals, he said, is for the county to maintain a viable health care system. This a community of mainly older citizens, he said, so health care is important.

Mr. Gallentine said he would also like to see the county be a proponent of economic development.

He said he's a good listener and if elected, he will listen to the voters and try to represent their views.

He would be a good steward with the county finances, said Mr. Gallentine, and that is as important as a health care system.

When the county spends tax-

payer money, he said, it's important that it's a the best interest of the people.

Mr. Gallentine said he's served on lots of boards and is a good listener.

He said he also understands a little about how a budget works.

He has been a board member of the Oberlin-Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce, trustee for the Garfield Township for 20 years, a member of the Decatur

Health Systems board for 14 years, a member of the Decatur Health Foundation for 12 and a member of the Oberlin Municipal Airport Advisory Committee for four. Mr. Gallentine said he also served as an advisory director for Gold Bank for three years, as a director for Peoples State Bank in Colby since 2000 and has been part owner of the Cardinal Bar and Grill in Norcat-ur since December 2008.

Without knowing all of the issues at hand right now or what's coming down, said Mr. Gallentine, he doesn't know of anything that needs to happen or be changed at the courthouse. It may take several meetings for him to get up to speed, he said.

If there is money available through state or federal grants, he said, the county should be diligent in pursuing those resources.

Mr. Gallentine and his wife Kristi have two children, Jason, 24, and Kelsey, 21.

He said his grandfather was a commissioner for at least one term.

## Men look for fire



**FIREMEN** Matt Farr and Rocky Diederich looked under a piece of wood on the roof of Dick and Linda Weber's house on Marks Ave. with the help of two men who were

replacing the roof last Tuesday. A small fire started when one of the roofers didn't get his cigarette put out, Fire Chief Bill Cathcart said. — Herald staff photo by Steve Haynes

## Volunteers needed for local carnival

The Amusement Authority needs volunteers to work at the home-owned carnival during the Decatur County fair next month.

A sign-up sheet is available at the Chamber of Commerce office at the Business Enhancement Entrepreneurial Center downtown, said Judy Scott, president of the authority's board.

She said the group discussed selling wrist bands for the first night of the carnival, Tuesday, Aug. 5, for \$15, but decided to cut the fee for unlimited rides to \$10 that night. People will still be able to purchase tickets for the rides as well, she said.

Ms. Scott said a sign-up sheet for volunteers who want to work rides

or games will hang outside the office in the center on Main Street.

There are still some areas where the group needs volunteers, including the concession stand Saturday night. She said they need six to eight workers for the late shift.

The group is still working on the rides, she said, and needs donations to help fix and maintain several. Jars are out in businesses around town, she said, and the group just received a check for \$500.

Anyone can make a donation for the carnival through the Chamber, she said, which makes it tax deductible. The memo line of the check needs to say that it's for the carnival, she added.

## City Council to meet

The Oberlin City Council will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday upstairs in The Gateway.

The meeting is open to the public but will not be aired on the cable

local access channel 7.

City Administrator Gary Shike was called, but had already left the office.

## Club president asks for Sunday beer sales

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**  
k.davis@nwkansas.com

A member of the Oberlin Country Club board asked the Decatur County commissioners last Tuesday for permission to sell beer at the golf course clubhouse on Sundays.

The club received a license this year to sell cereal malt beverages, or 3.2 percent beer, at the golf course to help generate revenue.

Preston Pratt, president of the club's board, said under that license, the group is only allowed to sell beer Monday through Saturday. He said

the group would like the commissioners to pass a resolution allowing Sunday beer sales.

In the City of Oberlin, he said, establishments are allowed to sell liquor and beer on Sunday, but the country club is in the county.

The commissioners didn't pass a resolution, but said they would look at one for the next meeting. There was some question as to whether the decision would be subject to an election, but the county attorney was in court during the meeting.

With the resolution passed, said

Commissioner Doyle Brown, that would mean any other license outlets in the county could sell beer on Sundays, although there aren't any at this time.

All of the other places are inside city limits, said Mr. Pratt.

Being able to sell beer on Sundays, when most of the tournaments are held, would help the club make money, said Mr. Pratt. The club has been having budget problems and asked the Oberlin City Council for financial support.

Mr. Brown said the commission-

ers probably needed to talk with County Attorney Steve Hirsch, but didn't have a problem with the idea.

Commissioner Ralph Unger added that they need to see if the resolution is subject to protest, which could mean an election.

After publication of the approved resolution, people would have 61 days to petition the decision. Mr. Hirsch would determine if the petition meets legal requirements; if so, it would go to a vote.