

Election 2008

Sheriff has served more than 20 years

With over 20 years of law enforcement under his belt, Ken Badsky is seeking the office of Decatur County sheriff for another four years.

Mr. Badsky, a Republican, has served as sheriff since 1984. He will run unopposed in the general election on Tuesday, Nov. 4.

Born and raised in Decatur County, Mr. Badsky said, he received a scholarship to play football at the Garden City Junior College after high school. He said his coach at the time was a criminal justice instructor. He went to those classes and decided that was what he wanted to do.

After graduation, Mr. Badsky said, he came back home and worked for Jim Gaumer building terraces until 1981. In 1982, he started working for the Oberlin Police Department and two years later he ran for the sheriff's office.

Mr. Badsky said he hopes to continue making the sheriff's office better. This is the job he's done pretty much all of his life, he said, and he enjoys it.

As the sheriff, he said, he helps run the jail, focuses on meeting the demands of the state law, serves civil papers and helps with cases in court. There's also patrolling the roads in the county, working accidents and helping at other emergencies.

Mr. Badsky said he has the experience and dedication, which often means working more than 40 hours a week, to continue on the job.

Over the years, he said, he has always stressed family and being involved in the community.

Currently, he serves on the board of the Sunflower Chapter of Pheasants Forever and the Decatur County Fair Board, helps coach Decatur Community High football and does play-by-play on the radio during wrestling season.

He and his wife Jan have five children, Tim Hrnchir, North Platte; Paula Gnad, a nurse in Hays; Lacey Smith, Oberlin; Kenyon Badsky, Denver; and Regan Badsky, a student at Fort Hays State University. The Badskys have six grandchildren.



Ken Badsky

County attorney looking for fifth term

Running unopposed, Steve Hirsch is seeking another four years as Decatur County attorney in the general election on Tuesday, Nov. 4.

Mr. Hirsch was first elected in 1989, and is serving his fifth term. He attended Kansas State University and the Washburn University School of Law and has been practicing here since 1987.

Mr. Hirsch, a Republican, said his office has two main functions, serving as the county's lawyer and handling criminal cases in court.

As the county counselor, he attends weekly commissioner meetings, gives legal advice to county officials and represents the county in any lawsuits or legal matters.

In 2007, he said, filings included 103 criminal cases, 12 juvenile cases, three "child in need of care" cases, five commitments for alcohol, mental or drug evaluation, 178 traffic tickets (ranging from speeding to driving under the influence) and two fish and game violations.

The office also handles about 100 bad-check cases each year. In Mr. Hirsch's 20 years as a prosecu-



Steve Hirsch

tor, he said, he can count on two hands the number of bad checks his office has been unable to collect.

The civil side of the job includes collection cases on ambulance bills that haven't been paid. The office also handles tax foreclosure sales, of which there's been about 20 since he started as the county attorney.

Mr. Hirsch said probably the most important part of the job is keeping records and meetings open to the public. Part of that is educating elected officials about the law. The most difficult are the juvenile cases, he said.

Over the years he's helped develop the Decatur County code book, which is a compilation of all the resolutions passed by the commissioners. Decatur County, said Mr. Hirsch, is probably one of the few counties of this size in Kansas that has one of these books.

Mr. Hirsch and his wife Anita have two children, Jennifer who married Jeremy Tally over the summer, and is a student at Kansas State University, and Joseph, a student at Decatur Community High School.

Deputy wants to move up to clerk

After serving as deputy clerk for the past 12 years, Colleen Geihlsler is seeking the county clerk's spot in the upcoming general election.

Ms. Geihlsler, a Republican, is running unopposed for the spot in the Tuesday, Nov. 4 election. She will take a spot held by her long-time boss, Marilyn Horn, who is retiring after many years as clerk.

Ms. Geihlsler said she has worked in the clerk's office since February 1992 and in 1996 became the deputy clerk. When Mrs. Horn decided to retire at the end of her term, Ms. Geihlsler said, she decided to run for the position.

She said she really enjoys her job, including working with figures and the people. In the clerk's office, she said, they do the same things pretty much every month, with the same deadlines, but it's fun.

If elected as county clerk, she said, she will be in charge of the

county elections, all the bills, the payroll, helping employees with things they need, ordering office supplies for the courthouse and taking the minutes for commissioners' meetings. Serving as the deputy clerk for so many years, she said, she isn't new to any of these jobs, but she plans to continue learning.

With serving as the county clerk in mind, she said, she's attended meetings for clerks about the budget and election process.

Ms. Geihlsler said she looks forward to serving the county, adding that she hopes the county has a great turnout for the election.

She said she's lived here since 1984. Ms. Geihlsler has three children, Shelley Hoffmaster, who lives in McCook; Ed Geihlsler, Colby; and Jim Geihlsler, Oberlin, and 10 grandchildren.

Since 1995, she said, she has done volunteer work at the Good Samaritan Center.



C. Geihlsler

Treasurer seeks third four-year term

With seven years in office and another 13 working in the Decatur County treasurer's office, Jean Hale is seeking a third term in the upcoming general election.

Mrs. Hale said she has worked in the office since 1988 and was elected to the treasurer's spot in 2000, and sworn in March of 2001, but her election term didn't start until October 2001.

Mrs. Hale, a Republican, has no opposition in the election on Tuesday, Nov. 4. Before working in the treasurer's office, she said, she spent two years in the appraiser's office.

As the treasurer, she said, she issues motor vehicle license tags and registrations, does driver's license renewals, takes tax payments and distributes the money to the taxing districts, prints and sends tax statements, invests county money and collects sales

taxes. She is also responsible for the daily book work for the office.

Mrs. Hale said she likes her job and the book work. Sometimes it's a struggle to keep up with new requirements from the state, she said, but she really enjoys all parts of her job. No two transactions are the same in any one day.

She was born in Decatur County, then went to vocational-technical school in Goodland, where she received a certificate in secretarial science, and then moved back home.

Since she started in the office, she said, things have changed, becoming more computerized. Things will change again in 2010, said Mrs. Hale, when the state is scheduled to start a new system for motor vehicle licenses and titles.

Mrs. Hale and her husband Byron, the county extension agent, have a daughter, Chyanna, 3.



Jean Hale

Magistrate judge running unopposed

Twenty-four years ago John Bremer became Decatur County's district magistrate judge, and now he's seeking another four-year term.

Mr. Bremer, a Republican, is running unopposed for the seat in the Tuesday, Nov. 4, general election.

He was first elected as magistrate judge in 1984, after graduating from the Washburn University School of Law in 1973, and practicing law in Oberlin for eight years.

Judge Bremer said his first job was as an in-house attorney for Medicalodges Inc. in Coffeyville, a business that built and designed nursing homes.

In 1976, he returned home. He is a 1964 graduate of Decatur Community High School. After graduation, he said, he enlisted in the Army for two years. In Oberlin, he

practiced law with Elmo Lund for a while and then went out on his own. Judge Bremer later served as the county attorney and then was elected as judge.


In his position, he said, he hears cases on small claims, probate (wills), juvenile and other issues. That includes minor criminal cases and first appearances, arraignments and preliminary hearings in felony criminal cases. Judge Bremer said he has concurrent jurisdiction with the district judge, which means they can hear the same cases.

He said he enjoys the work, noting that he will be eligible for retirement after another term, which he is thinking about.

He and his wife Dianne have two daughters, Kristen, who lives and works in Colby, and Jessica, now a freshman at Washburn.



John Bremer



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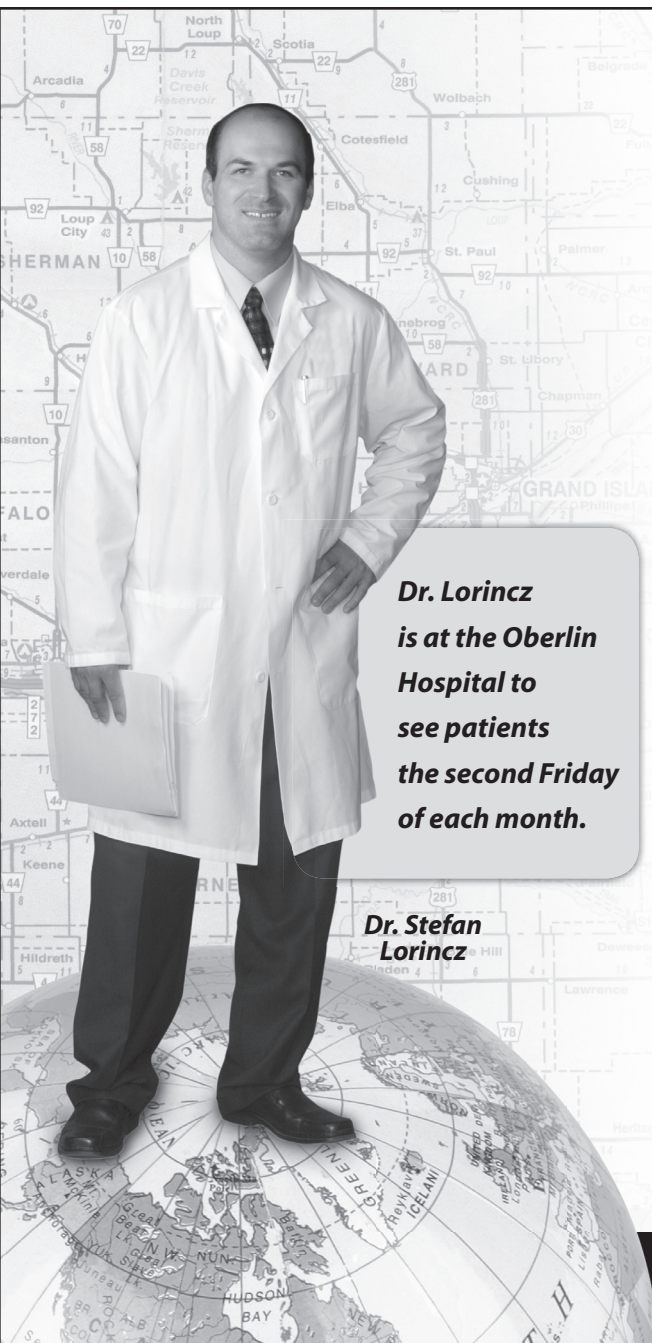
"During the last twelve years that I have served in the House of Representatives, I have cast over 10,000 votes. I have worked hard for the best interests of our district, studying the issues and their importance for the citizens of Northwest Kansas as well as for the state.

Kansas faces many challenges, but I am optimistic about our future. I want to continue developing new and innovative ways to create economic opportunities for rural Kansas. I appreciate the trust that my constituents have placed in me, and I will continue to work hard to serve their needs in Topeka."

John has the experience we need and the vision to succeed:

- Votes to protect "home owned carnivals" from government regulation.
- Also serves on the Education Committee, Education Budget Committee, and Joint Committee on rules and regulations.
- Understands the importance of hard work and cooperation and the issues facing the 120th District.

Paid for by The Campaign to elect John Faber, Ed Carson, Treasurer.



Dr. Lorincz is at the Oberlin Hospital to see patients the second Friday of each month.

Dr. Stefan Lorincz

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