

Hunters' banquet on Friday

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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Hunters, supporters and anyone interested in the Sunflower Chapter of Pheasants Forever are invited to the group's annual banquet Friday at The Gateway.

Tickets for the dinner, which starts at 6:30 p.m., are \$25. While the prime rib won't be served until 6:30 p.m. the doors will open at 5:30 p.m., said banquet chairman Charlie Haag.

Supporters can buy a Pheasants Forever membership that night for an additional \$35.

The evening will include a live auction and door prizes, but no silent auction this year.

The group is trying several new things this year, he said. Each hunter 18 or younger who pays the \$25 to get in will not only get a membership in Ringnecks, the group's youth unit, but a door prize, with the biggest one being a lifetime Kansas hunting license, compliments of the chapter.

Mr. Haag said the group plans to hold two new raffles this year.

Tickets for the first one, to win a Traeger grill, will sell for \$25. Only 54 tickets will be sold.

Tickets for the second one will sell for \$20 and again, only 54 will be sold. The winner will get his or her choice of any item off the auction table with the exception of the mystery gun or the youth auction item.

The group also plans to have a four-gun raffle as in the past, Mr. Haag added.

Two of the big items on the auction table are tickets for the University of Kansas vs. University of Colorado basketball game in Boulder, along with a night's stay in a four-star hotel on Tuesday, Jan. 25.

The other is for the Kansas State-Colorado basketball game in Boulder along with a night stay in the hotel on Wednesday, Feb. 2.

The money raised at the banquet is used for chapter projects, including improvements at Sappa Park. This year, the group wants to stress the importance of getting kids involved in hunting, Mr. Haag said.

Town, schools to honor veterans at parade, program

Veterans Day will be celebrated in Oberlin with a parade downtown and a program at the Decatur Community High School main gym on Thursday.

The program will begin at 9:15 a.m. in the high school gym. In the past, both the high school and grade school have done programs for Veterans Day, said teacher Candy Dejmaj, but they alternate and the high school will have the program this year and the grade school next year.

The school program had been scheduled for 9:45 a.m., but with a parade planned for 11 a.m., she said, the program has been moved up 30 minutes.

Mrs. Dejmaj said they would like veterans who plan to attend to call the high school at 475-2231 so seating can be set up on the floor for them.

She said the program has been arranged by the Decatur Community High chapter of the National Honor

Society.

At 10:30 a.m., anyone who wants to be in the parade should meet on N. Griffith Avenue, northeast of the Good Samaritan Center. The parade will begin at 11 a.m., then pass in front of Good Sam before turning left on Penn Avenue. A short program will be held at the gazebo in Centennial Park, then the parade will reform and proceed down Penn Avenue to Hall Street, where it will disperse.

Veterans, family, Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion members, and supporters from throughout the area are invited to join in the parade. Veterans are encouraged to wear military items, such as caps, hats, fatigues, or complete uniforms in the parade. The Legion will provide transportation for those unable to walk the parade route.

For information, contact Legion Adjutant James F. Miesner at (785) 475-2380.

City may require deposits on utilities

The Oberlin City Council discussed asking for a deposit for new utility accounts and making landlords liable for any unpaid utility bills on rental properties at its meeting Thursday, but made no decisions.

Mayor Joe Stanley said he's not sure what's going on this year, but the number of unpaid bills seems to be particularly bad. People renting properties have taken the city for \$5,000 in utility bills, he said.

The city didn't have a comparison number to what was not paid last year as the billing system failed this summer. The staff also didn't know the total amount billed out in utilities for a year.

Interim City Administrator Karen Larson got some examples of what other cities do to stop this from happening. One idea was to put the responsibility on the landlord, so if a renter doesn't pay, the property owner would have to.

City Attorney Steve Hirsch said he knows the city stopped taking deposits because a state law required it to pay interest on the money, and the amount could add up over the years.

The council talked about making landlords responsible if a renter

didn't pay. The landlord could just increase his deposit, suggested Councilman Ray Ward.

There's a reason there aren't many decent houses in this town to rent, said Councilwoman Rhonda May, and the reason is that these problems go back to the landlords.

Besides, Ms. May said, Kansas law limits rental deposits to one month's rent or a month and a half with a pet.

Remember, said Mr. Hirsch, if these people aren't paying their bills, they might not be paying their rent either.

If the city does something with landlord liability, said Mrs. Larson, the council probably needs to have a public hearing.

The deposit idea is a good one, said Ms. May, but the landlord liability idea is "stinky."

The decision was tabled until the next meeting.

In other business, the council: • Heard that Mrs. Larson had talked with Rick Pauls with Pheasants Forever, who said the group has hired a biologist to be based in Oberlin. He was curious if the city's offer to make available the house at Sappa Park was still good. (See WILDLIFE on Page 10A)



OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL, nurse Jennie Anderson helped Jacob Helm (above), whose leg supposedly was stuck under a farm implement, during the nursing competency fair on Thursday. Students from the high school played parts in

the different scenarios. Karen Bailey (below right) held a pad on Mr. Helm's leg to help stop his false bleeding.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Nurses practice skills

Decatur Community High School students played the victims of emergencies Thursday to help with a "nurse competency fair" at the Decatur County Hospital.

The students acted out scenarios including a patient stuck under a farm implement, another with a gunshot wound and a heavy smoker who couldn't breathe.

In each of the cases, the professional nursing staff, including all registered nurses and licensed practical nurses, had to assess the situation and go through the steps to treat the patient as if it were real.

Hospital Administrator Lynn Doeden said this is the first time the hospital has held a nurse competency fair. While the nurses have to do testing each year, she said, this time they wanted to do something different. This way, it was a little more fun.

The hospital used its own staff as the instructors for the scenarios. Mrs. Doeden said she thought it went very well, adding that Susan Ahlberg, head of nursing, was very pleased.



Physician assistant joins hospital clinic

The Decatur County Hospital has hired a physician assistant to work in the new family practice.

Robin Williamson will start seeing patients next week, but anyone who wants to schedule an appointment can call 475-2015.

The hospital opened the family practice at the end of September when it hired Dr. Leslie Dally.



Williamson

Ms. Williamson said she had never planned on going to school to become a physician assistant, but it was God's plan for her life, so she listened.

Partway through school, said Ms. Williamson, God planted a seed in her heart for rural family practice.

For the past two years, she's been working in

Satanta, which is as far southwest in Kansas as Oberlin is northwest. Things changed there, however, and she left the job in the middle of September.

While she made contact with the hospital in Oberlin in August about a job, she also looked elsewhere.

Ms. Williamson said she has children and grandchildren in Montana and Wichita, and she had signed a contract to work in Montana. Shortly after that, however, the facility

went broke and closed its doors.

She said she's 90 percent packed and has been living that way for months.

A few phone calls and visits with Hospital Administrator Lynn Doeden, and now Ms. Williamson is on her way to Oberlin.

She said she loves the town, the trees, the brick streets and all the antique stores.

Ms. Williamson said wants to see (See PHYSICIAN on Page 10A)

Decatur County voters turn out for election

More than half of the registered voters in Decatur County showed up to cast a ballot last Tuesday in the general election.

Actually, said County Clerk Colleen Geihlsler, 60.2 percent of the 2,013 registered voters cast a ballot, either on election day or in advance. That means 1,222 registered voters helped determine who won the state's election.

Friday morning, the Decatur County commissioners canvassed those votes, said Ms. Geihlsler, who

serves as the county election officer, but they didn't find anything out of the ordinary.

There weren't any local races in the election. One commissioner ran for re-election, Stan McEvoy for the 1st District seat. He received 329 votes to retain him in office.

The race closest to home was between Bob Strevey, a Norcat Democrat, and Ward Cassidy, a St. Francis Republican, for the 120th District House of Representatives seat.

Mr. Cassidy won with 80 percent, or 5,618 votes, in the five-county district. Mr. Strevey received 1,406.

Mr. Cassidy won all of the counties, including Phillips, Norton, Decatur, Rawlins and Cheyenne. He beat long-time Rep. John Faber in the August Republican primary.

Here are the Decatur County votes for Congress and statewide office:

• Jerry Moran, a Hays Republican, got 1,057 votes; Lisa Johnston,

Democrat, 91; Joseph K. Bellis, Reform Party, 11; and Michael Wm. Dann, Libertarian, 11, for the U.S. Senate.

• Tim Huelskamp, Republican, of Fowler, got 934 votes; Alan Jilka, Democrat, Salian, 194; and Jack Warner, Libertarian, 28, for U.S. representative for the 1st District.

(See VOTERS on Page 10A)



Sheriff, police to get equipment for alcohol tests

Decatur County commissioners approved spending \$2,300 out of the special alcohol and drug fund to buy new alcohol sensors and mouthpieces for city and county law officers.

Police Chief Wade Lockhart talked to the commissioners about the expenses at their meeting Tuesday, Oct. 25. He said the sensors and mouthpieces would be used for both the police department and sheriff's office.

Chief Lockhart said the drug and alcohol committee would also like to start doing more alcohol and drug awareness programs. He said he would be talking with the state Juvenile Justice Authority about some programs and ideas.

Weed Control Director Gaylen Huntley said he has heard that the federal Environmental Protection Agency wants the county to get a permit through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Mr. Huntley said he doesn't know if the department can just get one permit for the whole year for roadside spraying, or if that means a permit each time the crew goes out.

He said the computer monitor

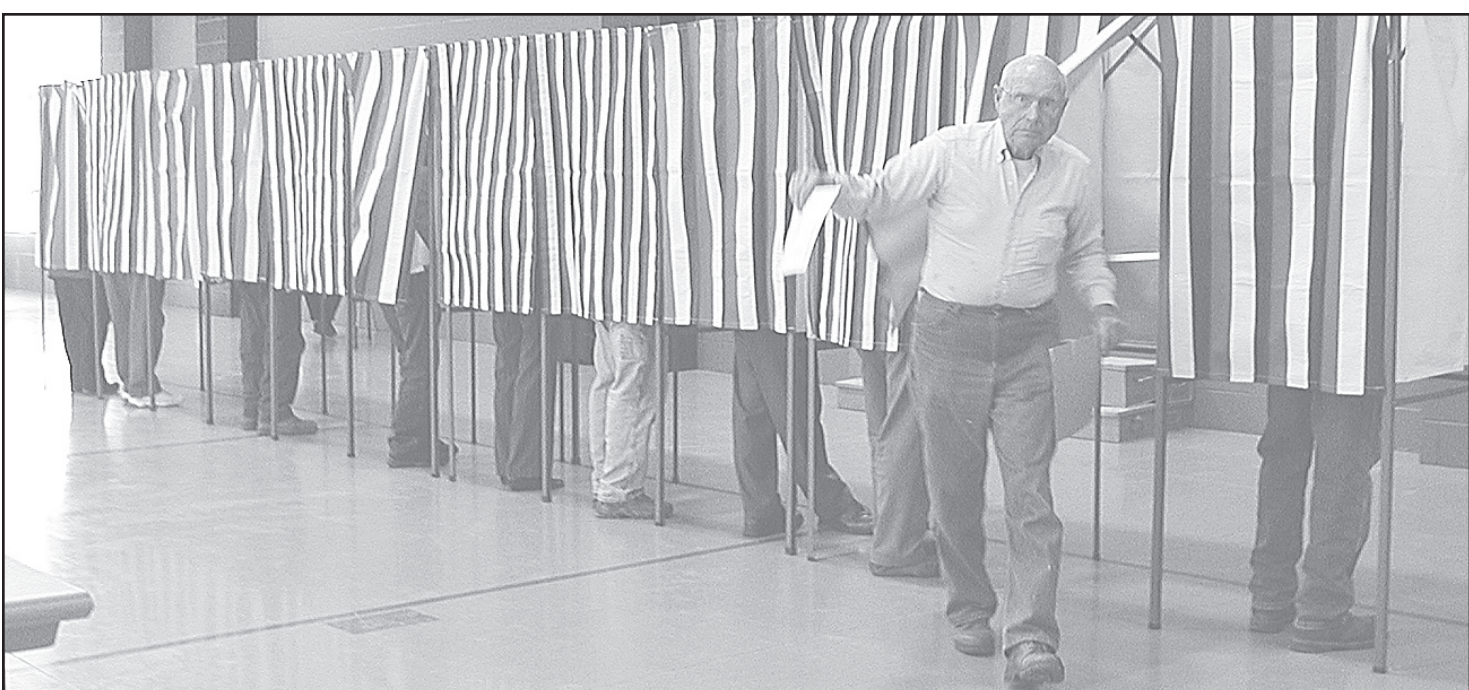
in his office went out, so he called Dick Carman and he had a used one for \$150 or a new one for \$199. Mr. Huntley said the office bought the new monitor.

Mr. Huntley said the department has both the 2001 Dodge and 1998 Chevrolet trucks back. The Dodge had some burned out wiring and it was a \$100 fix. The Chevrolet needed a switch, too, and it got a new battery and alternator. The fuel pump had to be replaced, but that was under warranty.

The men talked about a fork lift which is for sale at federal surplus. Mr. Huntley said the machine might work for the recycling operation, but he wasn't sure how tall the roof is at the recycling building.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman said they would like one that could run on all terrain, not just in a warehouse. He added that he would probably use a skid loader more.

The crew is down to mowing township roads. After harvest, they will check to make sure all the minimum maintenance signs are up. The crew also has put up the icy bridge signs.



AT THE GATEWAY Tuesday, Stuart Euhus (above) came out of a private booth with his ballot while Fern Moore (below) decided to give a voting machine a try.

— Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes

* Voters cast ballots

(Continued from Page 1A)

- Sam Brownback and Jeff Colyer, Republicans, got 936 votes; Tom Holland and Kelly Kultala, Democrats, 193; Kenneth W. Cannon and Daniel J. Raublton, Reform Party, 17; and Andrew P. Gray and Stacey Davis, Libertarians, 24; for governor and lieutenant governor.

- Chris Biggs, an appointed Democrat, got 289 votes; while challengers Kris Kobach, Republican, got 724; Derek Langseth, Reform, 20; and Phillip Horatio Lucas, Libertarian, 12, for secretary of state.

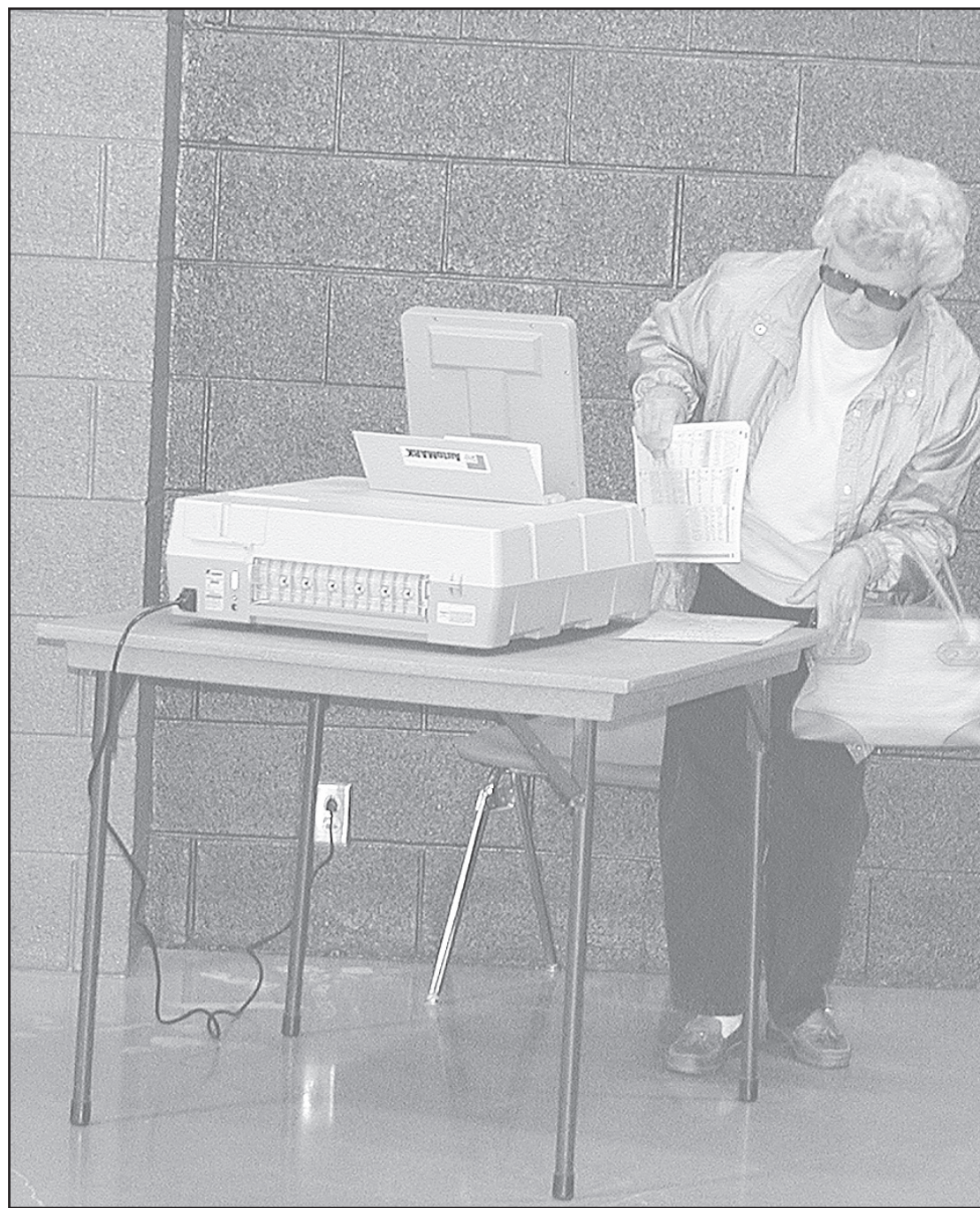
- Derek Schmidt, Republican challenger, 804; incumbent Steve Six, Democrat, 324; and Dennis Hawver, Libertarian, 36, for attorney general.

- Ron Estes, a Wichita Republican, got 804; and incumbent Dennis McKinney, a Greensburg Democrat, got 332, for state treasurer.

- Sandy Praeger, Republican incumbent, got 1,013 unopposed for commissioner of insurance.

- Sally Cauble, Republican, got 947 unopposed incumbent for state Board of Education in the 5th District.

Statewide, the Republicans won all the contests.



* Wildlife group to check on house

(Continued from Page 1A)

The city offered the house rather than making a donation to help get a wildlife biologist here as part of the donation.

The council suggested he go look

at the house.

- Held a 15 minute closed session for attorney-client privilege with the mayor, council members, interim administrator and attorney. There was no action taken.

- Held an hour-long closed session for non-elected personnel with the mayor, interim administrator and council members. There was no action taken.

- Talked briefly about more signs

on The Gateway, but the discussion was tabled.

- Appointed Foreman Dan Castle as the second delegate to the Kansas Municipal Energy Association meeting.

* Physician assistant to help staff hospital clinic

(Continued from Page 1A)

patients of all ages and help those with all kinds of health issues. She is interested not only in seeing patients in the office, but also working in the hospital and the emergency room.

She received a Bachelor of Science in nursing from Washburn University in 1978, then earned a Master of Physician Assistant Studies from Wichita State University in 2008.

While she was born in Aurora, Colo., and has moved around a lot, she said, "Kansas has been home more than anywhere else."

Ms. Williamson said after moving, it will be a high priority for her

to find a church. She has played piano and sung in public, mostly gospel, for many years. She is also an avid scrap booker.

Ms. Williamson said she's excited to start seeing her new patients.

City may help absent landlord advertise house

The Oberlin City Council agreed Thursday to ask a homeowner if the city could advertise his house for sale to keep from it continuing to be a problem or falling into the city's lap anyway.

Jan Ackerman of Hoxie, the city's contract code enforcement officer, said she talked to the man from California who owns a house at 110 S. York. She said he told her that he is in a position to sell the property cheap or give it away. Mrs. Ackerman said she needed to know what to tell him.

The owner received a letter about the house because of trash, trees and weeds in the yard, she said. Some council members drove by the house and saw the trash and mess.

Mrs. Ackerman said the owner asked if the city could clean up the property and bill him so he could make payments on it. She said she told him no.

She said the owner told her it would be some time before he can get to Oberlin to do anything with the house.

The city sent out other letters to homeowners, said Mr. McFee, and those properties were supposed to be cleaned up in 90 days. That is coming up soon, he noted.

If the owner decided to deed the property to someone, asked Mrs. Ackerman, what would that cost? Fifty dollars, said City Attorney

Steve Hirsch, but just because it's deemed to someone, that person doesn't have to accept it.

The council agreed the city doesn't want the property.

If the owner is serious and wants to sell the home for a low price, said Mr. McFee, maybe that needs to be advertised in the newspaper with his phone number. Otherwise, the city is going to be in the same

position with that house as it is with the other two that are coming up on the 90 days. The houses will have to be torn down or something done with them.

An ad sounds reasonable, said Mayor Joe Stanley.

The owner could sell the property at auction, said Councilwoman Rhonda May. That could result in no bid, said Mr. McFee.

It will take three years of the owner not paying his taxes for the property to go to a tax sale, said Mrs. Ackerman, but so far, the taxes are current.

Mr. McFee made a motion to see if the city could advertise the property with the owners' permission and phone number and see what happens.

The council approved.

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