(Continued from Page 1A) tags, vehicle title and driver's license work for the state Department of Motor Vehicles.

"Things have changed a lot since I've been here, and will continue to do so," she said. "The population is less than when I started, and there are a lot of new faces. I used to know everybody raised here in Oberlin. I guess the population is the biggest change I've noticed in the town.

"But I love my job; I'm so glad I have it, and I hope I get to stay for several more years.'

The Clerk

Colleen Geihsler is in her second term as county clerk, and has never had to run against anyone for her

"We are the secretary to the county commissioners and the center hub of the courthouse," she said of her position. "We take care of accounts payable and payroll, work with the banks and balance the accounts. Both we and the treasurer do that.

As clerk, Ms. Geihsler is also the Decatur County election officer, so she handles the ballots when it comes time for a vote. Her office also does the budgets for the townships, takes care of the mail, manages county micro loans to small businesses and much more.

"I love my job, because it's not the same thing every day," she said. "We have so many different things to work on. I mean, we even take care of the transportation bus. I really enjoy it. And in this job, you know you have to have it done; it doesn't matter how long it takes.

"I like the girls that work with me. I like the people in the courthouse, and some of them have been here since I started in 1993, so we're like

The Register of Deeds Register of Deeds Kari Ketterl is

"here to protect the public and make sure that everything that everyone owns is put in their name, and in the right place," she said.

"The first year I ran against Democrats and Republicans," she said. "I'm only in my second term now, and glad to be here. It was a pleasant surprise to know I didn't have to run again. I love it because of the people, I just enjoy seeing people and being

The Sheriff

"This is my seventh term and 28th year," Sheriff Ken Badsky said. "Out of the seven terms I've served, I've run three unopposed. It was very stressful at times to run

always doing the best job you can, and doing good things in the community, then you're always campaigning. I believe my closest race was a primary competition with a former deputy, and I won by only eight votes.

Mr. Badsky said, the stress comes from pouring your heart and soul into the job, and fearing that you could lose it all in one day.

"Basically," he said, "we're one of those offices that a lot of people don't want to hear from – unless they need us. But we're here whether you need us or not ... and we're human beings like everybody else. I just have to thank everybody that backs our department. With all of our guys, it's never 'I,' but always 'us.' It takes everybody to make things work.'

"If I didn't love it, I wouldn't do it. It's a thankless job, but it's also gratification and working under stress. And there's a natural high and adrenaline rush in that. I definitely love my job."

The County Attorney

County Attorney Steve Hirsch is the man that county commissioners and other office holders go to when they need legal advice. But his job as the county attorney is two-pronged: he's also the prosecutor in criminal cases, and handles anywhere from

100 to 150 a year. "I'm the go-to guy on that," he said, laughing. "From the most serious cases to traffic tickets. This is my 24th year, and I've been elected six times. All but the first time, I was

unopposed." "On the civil side," he said, "in my 24 years, I've had super county commissioners to work with who really try their best. It's been a privilege to work with them and every other official of Decatur County;

they do a tremendous job. "On the criminal side, there are a lot of difficult decisions, but protecting the people of the county is always our No. 1 goal. And I say we' because it's very much a team effort. Our police department is second to none, and our new trooper, they all do a tremendous job protecting the public, and I only play a little

role in that.'

Getting a fresh coat of paint



ROY JORDAN painted and primed the ferris wheel alone in the heat Monday, after volunteers from the Danbury branch of the Decatur Co-op had left for vacation or called in sick. Mr. Jordan, who said he made his living as a painter for many years, took it with a sense of humor, and turned the rusty skeleton into a shining white structure once again.

- Herald staff photos by Stephanie DeCamp

Candidates attend forum

(Continued from Page 1A) the forum. Mr. Long did not.

questions either off the top of their ence members got a chance to ask heads or from notes, but all with about specifics. conviction. An atmosphere of ciagainst somebody. vility and good nature prevailed, why each person is seeking office, as candidates in turn agreed and what qualities they possessed that disagreed. Answers were timed for make them the best option, what

the prepared questions, many of ences they have.

By STEPHANIE DeCAMP

sdecamp@nwkansas.com

but suffered a setback Sunday, July

15, when its primary, and seem-

ingly most reliable, truck also broke

down, Director Gaylen Huntley

All four trucks are used this time

truck first wouldn't start, and then

Motors of Colby, where it was pur-

chased, and was back on the road by

said the truck considered the "good

one" is only four years old, but no

include nine fire trucks that need

to be replaced as well as a sheriff's

car. The fire department has money

Road Supervisor Tim Stallman

Wednesday, said Mr. Huntley.

longer under warranty.

began smoking from its fuse box.

which are also covered in the individual candidate profiles in this Those present answered their issue of *The Oberlin Herald*, audi-

The prepared questions included

their strengths and weaknesses are, After each group had answered and what schooling and job experi-

Weed department looks to replace old truck

over the next few months to help pay

for other equipment. The weed-control truck in ques-The county's Noxious Weed tion has had some electrical prob-Department has been looking to lems before, when the steering went replace one of its four trucks soon, out, Mr. Huntley said.

> "This time I don't know what went wrong," he said, "but it was smoking, and there's a computer in there that controls the lights, too." The truck is a 2008 one-ton Dodge

3500 with 140,000 miles on it. Mr of year to spray the county roads Huntley said the computer within for weeds. Mr. Huntley said that the the fuse box had fried.

"This isn't the one we were look-The truck was taken to Taylor ing to replace," Mr. Huntley said. "This is the workhorse of the vehicles.'

Commissioner Ralph Unger suggested filing an insurance claim with the county clerk, but Mr. Huntley said the repairs were only \$595, which is under the deductible, so The breakdown highlights the that wasn't necessary. Thankfully, county's vehicle problems, which the job of spraying the road tops should be completed over the weekend, Mr. Huntley said Monday, as only Beaver township was left on for one truck, and plans fund raisers the list.

Rawlins Clinic in Atwood

Rodney Dill, MD Charles Zerr, MD Dana Jewell, PA-C Michael Dorsch, PA



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Monday-Friday

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Kellogg

* Several seek state offices

(Continued from Page 1A) because of Gov. Sam Brownback's focus on water legislation. He said he is proud of the eight or nine water policy initiatives developed by his committee. Sen. Ostmeyer also was on the

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

redistricting committee. He said he is willing to take some of the blame for the Senate's failure to

"We weren't able to pull it off," he said. "I wasn't able to convince my colleagues." Sen. Ostmeyer said he also

helped work out a compromise on home-owned carnivals, which had been facing stricter safety require-Schields' question for the Senate

candidates was "What is the proper role of state government and what should its top priority be." Sen. Ostmeyer said the budget should be the first priority. The Leg-

islature was able to put a surplus in the budget this year, he said. "With the governor's tax plan, I feel that we're on the right direc-

tion," he said, The other priority should be education, Sen. Ostmeyer added. Many of the counties in the 40th District are down to one school district per county, he said, and they can't get

cut any further. Mr. Miller said the first priority of the Legislature should be to make the state succeed. Mr. Miller cited the Kansas Legislative Research Council, which said that the state could have as much as a \$2 million budget deficit after the Legislature slashed the income tax. Mr. Miller said the Legislature's role is to fix that budget.

That may take either serious cuts or raising taxes, he added.

Schields then introduced the House candidates. Both Rep. Billinger of Goodland and Rep. Cassidy from St. Francis have served one term in the House. The were thrown into a single district by a federal court decision where judges redrew the state's boundary lines.

Rep. Billinger, originally from Park, said he moved to Goodland in the 1970s. He was selected by the 121st District's Republican Committee to fill Rep. Jim Morrison's post after his death in December, 2010. This is his first election for do another before the November the Legislature.

Rep. Billinger said the Legisla-

ture needs to stick behind schools, agriculture and hospitals. It has been doing a good job with the budget, he said. There was a deficit in 2010, and the Legislature was able to get to a surplus this year. He said the state can't afford to keep spending money and expect future generations to pick up the debt.

THE OBERLIN HERALD 5A

Rep. Billinger said he did not vote in favor of the governor's tax plan because it was projected to result in a deficit down the road. He said he favors property tax relief over income tax cuts.

With many new legislators, Rep. Billinger said, there will be a lot opportunity for representatives with one term under their belts to get choice committee assignments.

Rep. Cassidy, a former principal and coach and now the school counselor in St. Francis, defeated a 14-year incumbent for the old 120th District in 2010. He said his first priority was to get on the Appropriations Committee, which at the time had no members from west of Salina. He was able to get on the panel during this year's session, and before long, he had people listening to his western Kansas perspective.

against each other, Rep. Cassidy said, he might be the only one next year who has any background in school finance. Schields asked the House candi-

With many incumbents running

dates the same question, "What is the proper role of state government and what should its top priority Rep. Cassidy said his priority is

western Kansas. He said he likes to get involved in issues that affect people out here. For instance he has been talking to the Board of Cosmetology about the length of time it takes to get a state license. Currently it can take up to six months, he said. which can hurt people's chances of

getting jobs. "That's what I like to do," he said,

"get involved." Rep. Billinger agreed that the priority should be western Kansas, and other than that, legislators should focus on the budget.

"You can't spend what you don't have," he said, "and with 60 or more new legislators, we'll have a lot

After the forum, the candidates stuck around to speak to members

of the public one on one.

* Move won't stop candidate

(Continued from Page 1A) officer. She said Mr. Long is eligible as long as he remains in the home at Norcatur and it is not occupied by

Ms. Scott said she thought the

forum was a wonderful success,

adding that the group hoped to

moves into the house," Ms. Geihsler

said, "then the (party) committee would have to appoint someone live out there and take the farming else to fill in his position ... it could

Mr. Long said that he bought 'If he's elected and someone else the home in Oberlin for personal

"It's time to let someone else responsibility...," he said. "It's time to pass the reigns over to the younger generation."

He added that he still plans to be at the farm at Norcatur every day.

Dr. John Dygert Joins Family Center for Health Care

'Good health is an important part of having a great life. I love helping people achieve good health so they can move on and enjoy life to the fullest. I also really emphasize the importance of proper end-of-life care. I try to keep things laid back and fun. I view medical care as a partnership between me and my patients, where it works best when both of us are working towards the same goal. I'm excited to join a great group of excellent physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinic and office staff.

Schedule an appointment with Dr. Dygert. "Our Family Taking Care of Your Family' 310 E. College Drive, Colby, KS (785) 462-6184 or 1-800-453-6751



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PA-C





