

# The County

## Jennings man wants to see county progress

When it comes to running for county commissioner in the 3rd District, Bob Jones of Jennings has a clear goal:

"To help Decatur County move forward," he said, "and to better the quality of life for everyone in it."

"It's a duty of every citizen to address the issues, and there are a lot of issues we have to address now in taxes, roads and bridges."

Mr. Jones is the third-generation to operate Jones Auction Service, which has served the area since 1912. A Republican, he says these best qualities as a candidate are that he is "open-minded and willing to listen to solutions to problems that Decatur County faces. I also have a strong resolve to see things through."

"I'm born and raised here in Oberlin," he added. "I have a



Bob Jones

business that's been here through generations. I'm proud of the county and it's why I'm here, and sometimes we miss the boat when we need to get back in it."

"I've had eight years experience being mayor of Jennings, and also served on the (Jennings) City Council for eight years, dealing with budgets and other aspects of governmental office."

But when it comes to being a commissioner, at the end of the day, he's here to serve, not dictate.

"What I feel and would like to see done, if the district does not like it, I will follow what they want, not what I want.... But it needs to be put to the public in a way that they understand what it will do for them, and then it's their decision."

## Business owners sees need for county to grow

Mick Barth, a Republican candidate for county commissioner in the 3rd District, says he believes that what Decatur County needs now more than ever is growth.

"I feel Decatur County is falling behind in comparison to our surrounding counties," he said. "Progress is good for all, and we need to find a way to bring people and jobs here. To bring back our younger generations to raise their families will benefit our schools, medical care providers, local grocery store and all other businesses."

"Entertainment is equally important, too. The new theater and bowling alley are a great start."

Mr. Barth said his best qualities are honesty and common sense.

"I'm not afraid to research situations to help make intelligent deci-



Mick Barth

sions," he said. "I feel one (person) does not have all the answers, but must be able to listen and work toward a good solution for all."

Mr. Barth has been self-employed most of his life, first as a subcontractor who spliced telephone cable for Sprint, then as a professional rodeo cowboy, and for the last 18 years, he's owned and operated the Re-Load bar and restaurant.

"I understand budgeting and cutting costs," he said. "I feel the best way of running things is to find qualified people and let them do their jobs."

If elected, he said, the first thing he'll do is what he's doing now.

"I'll try to find out what the majority of our community wants, and the concerns they have," he said.

## Woman wants to see quality of life protected

Shayla Williby has lived in Decatur County all her life, and when asked why she wants to be a county commissioner representing the 3rd District, her response is simple:

"I am very concerned about our quality of life and our future," she said. "My tap root here runs deep."

"My best quality is that I will have an open-door policy to discuss any and all issues, and work toward finding the best solutions while maintaining a sound county infrastructure."

Mrs. Williby, co-owner of a grant-writing business, calls herself an archetypal Republican, adding that she has experience serving the county in money matters and otherwise.

"I've worked for both the City of



S. Williby

Oberlin and Decatur County," she continued, "and have followed the inner workings of each. I work to stay apprised of legislation at the state and national level, and how each piece may affect the citizens of Decatur County."

"Via my business (as a grant writer)," she said. "I try diligently to find foundations or grant possibilities...."

Mrs. Williby said her biggest challenge in the race will be reaching to everyone in her district.

"I prefer small, intimate groups to discuss issues and get to know each other personally," she said. "The first thing I will do if elected is to become familiar with the budgets, the employees, and the current and day-to-day issues the county is facing."

## Farmer, civic leader wants to serve county

Sid Metcalf is a man ready to take on tradition.

Running for county commissioner against a 40-year incumbent in the 2nd District, he says his biggest challenge is his opponent, Ralph Unger.

But, he said, he believes that everyone should serve their community.

"I think it's my turn to step up and serve," he said. "I don't expect to move mountains, but there are issues coming up that I'm prepared to deal with."

And Mr. Metcalf has served a lot already.

"I was a farmer-rancher for over 45 years," he said. "I served on the board of directors of the old Farmers National Bank for 17 years, and have been either on the board or chairman of almost every organization but the hospital. I spent a couple of years in college. I served



Sid Metcalf

two years in the U.S. Army and am an American Legion member. I'm also the chairman for the committee that's a sounding board for water issues in the state of Kansas. I regularly go to Topeka and know a lot of people there."

"Through all this, I've gained a lot of information and knowledge on the way things work, and I know Ralph has been there many years, but I think it's time for a change."

Mr. Metcalf is a member of the Mountain Slope Masonic Lodge and the Oberlin Shrine Club and the Oberlin United Methodist Church. He said he considers himself a moderate Republican.

"An individual commissioner does not do or change anything by him or herself," he said. "It is a joint effort by three people."

## Veteran commissioner wants to continue in job

Ralph Unger wants people to know that he feels he still has something to offer to Decatur County, even after almost 40 years of service.

"I have a degree in secondary education, with an emphasis in government and history," he said. "Government was my main interest, and I've put my academia to work on a practical basis."

"I've spent a lot of time representing Decatur County, on state committees, boards, and commissions," he said. "I spent 12 years on the state Board of Emergency Medical Services, and eight years as chairman. I was president and vice-president of the Kansas Association of Counties and was on the board... for seven years."

Mr. Unger, a Republican finish-



Ralph Unger

ing his 10th term as commissioner in the 2nd District, said he feels you should let people control their own money and futures.

"I believe in individual freedoms, personal liberties and letting people make as many decisions as possible for the use of their own money," he said. "Any government can only give back money that it's taken, and it's almost always taken from the taxpayer."

When asked what his biggest flaw is, Mr. Unger replied:

"I've had friends and neighbors tell me that sometimes I put representing (the people) above my own personal interests, and maybe the interests of my family, and they're probably right. It's unintentional."

## Farmer, county worker hope to see a better place

"Decatur County," commission candidate Brad Marcuson said, "has provided me with a wonderful place to live and raise a family. I want to continue to help make it a better place, where other people want to live. And I have the time it takes to commit to being a commissioner."

Mr. Marcuson, a Republican running in the 3rd District, said his best qualities are being able to ask people what needs to be done, relating to them and being honest and fair.

"I've been a farmer all my life," he continued, "and have had to make decisions on what will work and what won't work in order for the farm to exist."

"Working for the county Road and Bridge Department for nine years has given me the opportu-



B. Marcuson

nity to understand the layout of the county. I have served in leadership positions... in the Decatur County Farm Bureau, Decatur Co-op, Oberlin Lions Club, Decatur County Fair Board and the Lund Covenant Church, along with holding the office of Summit Township clerk."

Mr. Marcuson said he has also served on state committees for the Farm Bureau and on the board for the Covenant Heights Camp in Estes Park, Colo.

"The biggest challenge in the race will be getting to know everyone in the 3rd District and making sure they know I will listen and represent them," he said.

Mr. Marcuson said that if elected, his first priorities would be catching up and "following the money."

## Only Democrat says he has time to give to job

As the only candidate for county commissioner running as a Democrat, farmer Brad Long doesn't have to worry about the primaries this August. But he will still be facing a lot of questions soon.

"I'm a conservative Democrat," he said. "A conservative Democrat doesn't spend money like a wild person. But see, Republicans are money people, and they spend money like they're nuts."

"There's too much public 'free' money and too many people on welfare. People in general take or sign up for what's free."

While Mr. Long, who is running in the 3rd District, says he's never served on a board or done anything political before, he says his experiences with survival as a



Brad Long

farmer and rancher have given him the qualities he'll need to help run Decatur County.

"People know the quality of the candidates running for office, and they'll choose whoever they think is best for the office."

Mr. Long said he thinks every department of the county should run separately and independently of the county, both fiscally and otherwise.

If elected, he would separate the different departments and make them each responsible for their own money.

"Everyone needs to work together, because every department is fighting over money and it's stupid. We need to be on the same team... Everybody needs a reality check."

## Deputy thinks the bench needs 'common sense'

Deputy Sheriff Jay Tate says he has wanted to be a judge ever since he interviewed Judge John Bremer in high school, and he thinks the position of district magistrate judge is a natural progression for his career.

"I have the ability to apply common sense and reason to everyday situations," he said.

He has six years of service on the police force as a police officer and sheriff's deputy as well as six years in the child welfare system.

"In truthfulness, though," he added, "it is the time I have spent working seasonally at harvest time, taking part in community activities, or just visiting with my friends and neighbors that make me a grounded and well-rounded



Jay Tate

person."

Mr. Tate, a Republican, said he values individual freedoms highest among the GOP's priorities.

"I have respect for the idea that the people of this country are the most qualified to make their own decisions about social and economic issues, rather than any government agency," he said.

The biggest challenge of the race so far, he said, has been finding the time to reach out to voters without sacrificing his time with family or on the job.

Mr. Tate said he thinks his biggest flaw is also one of the most common: "I don't always listen as much as I should before I open my mouth," he said. "It's very easy to forget that sometimes, people just need someone to listen to them."

## Lawyer says he's the one to keep judgeship here

Allen Shelton, who serves as the Smith County attorney, says he believes that being a lawyer should be a requirement for being a district magistrate judge, and his 40 years' experience with the law makes him the best man for the job.

"As an attorney," he said, "I'm trained and experienced in learning the facts and applying the law that pertains to those facts, before forming an opinion on an issue."

"My decisions will be based only on the law and the facts, not on social position, wealth or other extraneous factors."

"As a conservative Republican, I believe in the free enterprise system. We conservative Republicans do not believe that the Constitution



A. Shelton

was intended to be a 'living document,' having whatever meaning five members of the Supreme Court say it means at any given point in time. We do not believe that judges have the power to rewrite the Constitution and discover and enforce hitherto unknown 'rights.'"

Mr. Shelton said that he expects that in the next few years, the number of judges will be reduced in rural Kansas, and that more than that, the Legislature will require that magistrate judges be lawyers.

"As these reductions are made, it only makes sense that the non-lawyer magistrates will be the first to go. If I'm elected, this may increase the chances of retaining a magistrate judge in this county."

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**NOTICE**

On Thursday, July 5, the Mayor of Oberlin declared a Stage 2 Water Warning due to the continuing drought and the lowered water level in our city water wells.

The regulation actions of a Stage 2 Water Warning are as follows:

**Regulation Actions**

An odd/even lawn watering system is imposed on water consumers. Residents with odd-numbered addresses will water on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday; even addresses will water on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. A rotation system for non-resident water consumers will be developed by the City Administrator.

Outdoor water use, including lawn watering and car washing will be restricted to from **12:01 AM to 9:00 AM**, and from **8:00 PM to midnight**.

Refilling of private swimming pools will be allowed one day a week after sunset.

Emergency water rates may be imposed.  
Waste of water is prohibited.

**Rationing until further notice.**

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