

Voters oust veteran in big turnout

* Electors decide to make a change

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The reason I ran is because I had a lot of encouragement from voters to do so. Obviously, they wanted a change."

Because there is no Democratic candidate to oppose Mr. Metcalf this November, his seat at the commissioners' table is all but assured.

In the other commissioner race in the primary, Brad Marcuson led by five votes to be the Republican candidate for commissioner in the 3rd District in a tight race against three other candidates.

If his lead holds up, Mr. Marcuson will run against Democrat Brad Long for the position, which will be decided in the general election on Tuesday, Nov. 6.

The winner had 73 votes. The three runners up were close behind: Bob Jones, a former city council member in Jennings, finished with 68 votes; Mick Barth, who owns the Re-Load in Oberlin, had 62; and Shayla Williby, a grant writer and consultant, had 63.

"It's humbling," said Mr. Marcuson, a farmer and former county employee, sitting before the huge dry-erase board that listed the numbers

outside the clerk's office. "I didn't know what to expect. I figured it would be a tied race."

"It was a great bunch," said Mrs. Williby. "Congratulations to Brad, and I thank everyone for the support in the general election, and thank you to all the voters."

Mrs. Williby said that when it comes to local politics, she's only just started.

"I just got my feet wet with this one," she said. "I love it here; anything we can do to make it better, that's what counts."

Not everyone felt the same, though a sense of humor was present in Mr. Barth's voice when he heard the news.

"Well, I come from a long line of rodeo crews," he said with a laugh, "and second place is just the first loser."

When asked if he planned to run again for any positions in the future, he said he would not.

"I'll just take my ass-kicking humbly and go to bed," he said.

* Decatur citizens want to have a voice

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The downside is that in 2010, the county had 2,000 registered voters and today that number has dropped by 59. In 2008, the county had 1,945 people registered to vote.

Decatur County Republicans cast 646 votes for U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp in final unofficial returns. He was running unopposed in the primary.

In a hotly contested Republican race, State Sen. Ralph Ostmeier was favored 466 to 289 over challenger John Miller of Norton. Democratic candidate Allen Schmidt of Hays received 63 votes.

Rep. Ward Cassidy, St. Francis, had 603 votes to 139 for Rep. Richard Billinger, Goodland, in Decatur County. Both men are incumbent Republicans but were thrown together by redistricting.

Mr. Cassidy has been Decatur County's representative in the legislature for the past two years after he upset John Faber in the 2010 primary.

In the race for magistrate judge, sheriff's deputy Jay Tate won 545

to 223 over Oberlin lawyer Allen Shelton.

Sid Metcalf upset longtime incumbent Ralph Unger 181 to 77 in County Commission District 2.

In District No. 3, a wild race could end up being determined when the votes are canvassed next week.

After the preliminary count Tuesday night, Republican Brad Marcuson had a five vote lead of 73 to 68 over Bob Jones of Jennings. Shayla Williby with 63 votes and Mick Barth with 62 were close on their heels. The winner will face the only Democrat in the race, Brad Long, in November. Mr. Long, who is from Norcatour but also has a home in Oberlin, received 18 votes.

In uncontested races, District Judge Preston Pratt got 683 votes, Mrs. Geihlsler, 711; Treasurer Jean Ann Hale, 689; Register of Deeds Kari Ketterl, 705; County Attorney Steve Hirsch, 645; and Sheriff Ken Badsky, 632. All ran as Republicans and, at this time, have no opponents for the November election.

* State races draw lots of interest

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tricting map drawn by federal judges this spring took away Billinger's 121st District.

Billinger won big in his home county, Sherman, 1,080 to 262, and won Thomas County and Colby by a smaller margin, 653 to 527. Cassidy carried the north counties handily, Cheyenne 570-188, Rawlins 593-122 and Decatur 630-139, piling up a lead Mr. Billinger couldn't top.

Sen. Ostmeier, a two-term incumbent, ran well across the district. He carried Hays and Ellis County, new to the district, and home of a Democratic incumbent, 995-554. In Mr. Miller's home county, Norton, the margin was almost as large, 643-413. Overall, the senator's vote was 65 percent to 35 percent for Mr. Miller.

A series of attack ads launched late in the campaign against Sen. Ostmeier and supporting Mr. Miller appeared not to have had much affect.

Reached at home in Grinnell on Tuesday night, Sen. Ostmeier said he had three phones going at once.

"So far, I haven't lost a county," he said. "I've never run well in Gove

County, and I'm leading there 63 to 37 (percent).

"I hoped I'd get 40 percent in Norton and I got 61."

"It's been an ugly year. I'm not proud of it. It's not good."

He said it looked like the conservative faction would take control of the Republican-dominated Senate while the minority Democrats might lose seats.

"There's no doubt, when it's all done," he said, "it's going to be a conservative leadership."

Mr. Miller, who was at the races in Norton, said he had taken the night off.

"The voters are doing it," he said. "I wasn't going to check until it was about over."

Mr. Cassidy could not be reached Tuesday. From his Goodland home,

Mr. Billinger said the voting had gone as he expected.

"He did strong in his counties," the representative said, "and I was strong in Goodland. I carried Colby."

We knew this would be close.

"It's very unfortunate. We had two good maps in the House. Three federal judges in Kansas City had no idea where western Kansas was."

Building a better bridge



THE BRIDGE at the south end of Penn Avenue won't be done for another couple of weeks, but don't blame Nelson Concrete and Construction. The forms that Dan Fortin was working on Friday must hold concrete for a week before it's set enough to fill in behind the new wall.
— Herald staff photo by Stephanie DeCamp

* Woman hands in her resignation

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the last few years she's overseen the startup of a family practice clinic, the purchase of the former Medical Arts Clinic and continuously searched for doctors to live and work here.

"It has not been an easy decision to make," she said of her resignation. "It wasn't planned. Recruiting for a physician isn't easy, and there are others who think they can do a better job. Not those doing it now — I'm perfectly fine with who is handling it now. But we need someone here who can truly take care of the community, not just a warm body. And that's not easy in rural Kansas."

At a special meeting of the hospital board, President Pam Wilson said that Mrs. Doeden will be missed.

"I think we all feel that Lynn has done a fantastic job here," she said. "She has worked endlessly for the hospital, and she has been a wonder-

ful asset for the community." She added that she has been in touch with the Kansas Hospital Association to help find someone to fill the position temporarily and start the process of finding a new administrator.

"It'll be very sad to leave," Mrs. Doeden said. "I have a lot of feelings in this town. I've done a lot of things, but I think that it's a decision (my husband) Rick and I had to make together. We're hoping it will be the best. We'll be closer to our kids, and they're very excited that we're moving, so that helps."

When asked if she had anything to say to Oberlin before she left, or that she wanted to tell people, she laughed.

"I honestly would like to tell the community a lot," she said, "but it's not my personality to share everything."

"Do I feel like I've been beaten? No, I'm not. I'm still a winner,

because this is a wonderful place to work for," she said, her voice rising a little and tears peaking through her eyes, "and the honor just to work here was enough."

Mrs. Doeden has worked at the hospital since April 1988, when she started as a floor nurse. Over the next 10 years, she was promoted to positions supervising performance improvement and risk management, as care coordinator, and as the obstetrics and operating room nurse. In 1994 she became the nursing services administrator, and then administrator in 1999 under Banner Health Systems. When Banner pulled out in 2011 after 50 years, the hospital board and management decided to go independent. They formed Decatur Health Systems, keeping Mrs. Doeden as chief executive. She said her last day will be Sept. 1.

Deputy looks to be next judge

By **STEPHANIE DeCAMP**
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Jay Tate won the Republican nomination for district magistrate judge for Decatur County in the 17th Judicial District last night by a margin of 71 percent to 29 percent for his opponent, Allen Shelton.

Mr. Tate's final tally was 545 votes, while Mr. Allen Shelton had 223 votes in unofficial returns.

Both men campaigned hard preceding election night — Mr. Tate under a banner of common sense and Mr. Shelton as a trained lawyer more qualified to be judge.

Because Mr. Tate faces no Democratic opponent in November, his victory probably secured his elec-



Jay Tate



A. Shelton

life," he said. "I am grateful to those who were willing to place their trust in me, and hopeful that I am able to earn the trust of those who voted for my opponent."

Mr. Shelton could not be reached for comment.

The men joked as the numbers rolled in with Commissioner-elect Sid Metcalf. Both candidates knew early on that their victory was all but guaranteed, and relief was visible on their faces by the end of the night.

"I would like to express to the voters ... how honored I am," Mr. Tate said. "Thank you to all that have supported me this year."

"I had friends I didn't even know I had."

It was the deputy sheriff's first foray into politics, and he waited calmly with Sheriff Ken Badsky at the courthouse as the results poured in.
"This has been one of the most humbling experiences of my entire

* Mayor says he is finished

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because I don't; it's really become home to me. I just couldn't do it anymore."

Mr. Riedel said that he was proud of getting a state grant for the street project to repave nine blocks around town. Working with the engineers on the water project had been wonderful, but the constant problem of how to deal with blighted property was "the straw that broke the camel's back."

"I don't feel that any one group of people should be able to tell any other how to live," he said. "If someone's house is harboring rats and snakes and is a health hazard, that's one thing. But people who can't afford (to change their property) or are physically unable to do anything about it ... To turn a code enforcement officer loose on these

people, that's not right.

"Since we've moved to Oberlin, in those 14 years, I don't think a year's gone by that we haven't taken care of someone else's lawn. The community used to do that sort of stuff. And now it's easier to send an officer loose, and send a nasty letter and a court summons, and that's not the way it should be done. That's what's really been working on me, mentally and physically."

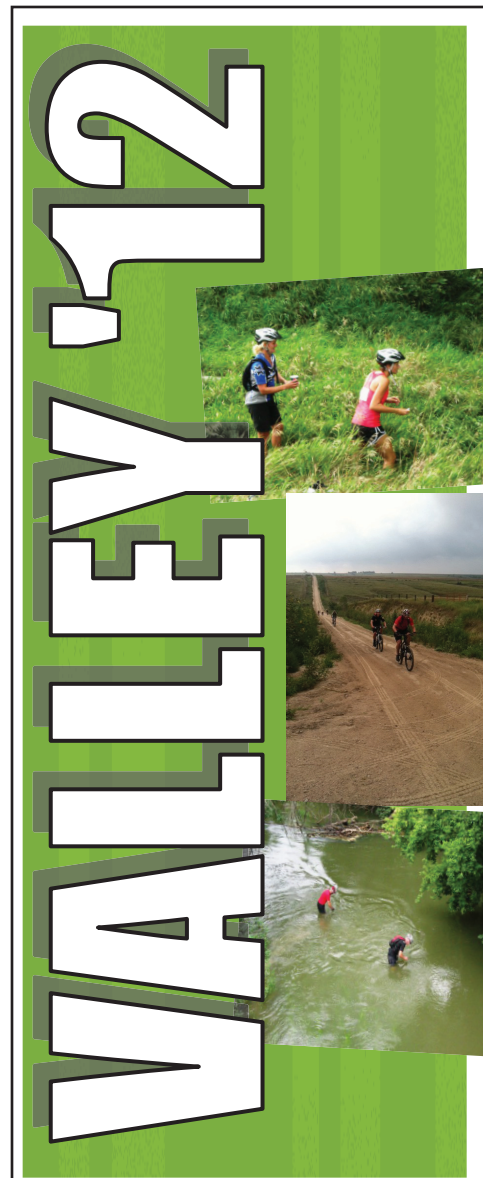
The office, he said, has taken its toll on his health ("not just my blood pressure") and his family life ("You know when things are bothering you, and you take it out on those closest to you?"). Philosophically, he said, he just can't be on board with what the council is doing and where it is headed.

"It's just not the same place any more," he said. "We don't treat our

fellow men like we used to.

"It was the most difficult decision I ever made. I thought that when I retired and gave away my career, that would be it. But it didn't hold a candle to this. I felt I'd made a commitment to the people, and that I was there to do right by Oberlin, but my hands were tied."

Mr. Riedel worked for Coors before moving here from Golden, Colo. He and his wife, Connie, bought their house 16 years ago and spent weekends and vacations restoring it. They have been full-time residents of Oberlin for 6 1/2 years. He was a city councilman for two years before being elected mayor in April 2011. He said that from now on, he would like to volunteer, but does not plan on re-entering politics.



2012 Valley Adventure Race

AUGUST 18, 2012 Cambridge, Nebraska
8:00 am 308-697-1400

Adventure Racing consists of biking, running, water obstacles and mystery events. Each team of 3 must remain together through the course. The team to obtain all check points and complete the course in the fastest time **WINS!!**

Two courses will be offered:
A short course of approximately 15 miles biking, 3 miles running (or walking) and 8 check points. A long course of approximately 30 miles biking, 5-6 miles running (or walking) and 15 check points.

Entry forms available at trivalleyhealth.com, agvalley.com, and various Tri Valley Health System or Ag Valley locations.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: AUGUST 8, 2012
Sponsored by:



Proceeds will go to area school wellness programs.