

63 percent out in off-year vote

Fueled by a race for county commissioner in District 1, nearly two-thirds of Decatur County voters showed up for the general election on Tuesday.

Voters decided to elect all Oberlin School District board positions at large, with 747 yes votes and 364 no votes. Faced with the need to redraw lines for the six districts after the latest census, the school board agreed to let the voters decide whether the seats should be at large.

Each district for the school board needs to have a similar population under state law.

With polling places in Oberlin, Norcat, Dresden and Jennings, there were 553 more voters than in the August primary, when all of the voters had to travel to Oberlin.

Under the federal Help America Vote Act, the county had to buy voting machines designed to help people who have trouble dealing with a paper ballot. That meant for the primary election there was only one polling place because the county got only two machines. Since then, the county had found three more, allowing the polls to be open in smaller towns.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn, who serves as the county election officer, said 65 percent of the registered voters turned out, a little lower than she expected.

There were 979 voters at the polls, plus 373 advanced ballots, for a total of 1,352 out of 2,077 registered

voters. Two years ago the general election, when President George W. Bush was elected for his second

term, saw a 73 percent voter turnout, the highest here in 20 years. This year's general election was only 8 percent lower.

There was only one county race, for commissioner in District 1, where Patricia Glenn is retiring. Stan McEvoy won the seat with 276 votes.



Jerry Moran

In other races, ballots tallies were:

- 1,083 for Republican Jerry Moran and 193 for Democrat John Doll.

- 677 for Democrat Kathleen Sebelius and 622 for Republican Jim Barnett for governor.

- 960 for Republican Ron Thornburgh and 237 for Democrat David Haley for secretary of state.

- 703 for Republican Phill Kline and 554 for Democrat Paul Morrison for attorney general.

- 959 for Republican Lynn Jenkins and 281 for Democrat Larry Wilson for treasurer.

- 913 for Republican Sandy Praeger and 308 for Democrat Bonnie Sharp for insurance commissioner.

- 376 for Democrat Tim Cruz and Republican 809 for Sally Cauble for the state Board of Education.

The county commissioners will meet at 8:30 a.m. Monday to canvass the votes.

They plan to hold their regular meeting after that, instead of coming back in on Tuesday.

* Vote goes to Faber in House contest

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two years will probably be education, he said. Johnson County didn't feel it got a big enough slice of the money pie this year, he said, and Wichita is also unhappy with the school finance formula. The rural areas will be looking for more money also.

The next big issue will be a new transportation program, he said. The present 10-year program expires in two years and the state needs to start work to craft another one.

Mr. Faber said that while a program should be in place within two years, it may take three to get it done.

Also on the horizon are more talks about Senate confirmation of judges. That will be an ongoing battle, he predicted.

Prisons are running out of beds, he said, and the state will either have to build more or let criminals back onto the streets, not something he would like.

Medicaid also will be a big issue in the coming years.

"It's going to eat our lunch," Mr. Faber said of the increasing large bill for health services for the poor.

Reached at his home in Norcat just after 11 p.m., Mr. Streyve said that he'd already called Mr. Faber and wished him well.

"He ran a fine campaign," Mr. Streyve said. "I wish him well. There's a lot going on down there (in Topeka)."

Mr. Streyve, who ran as the Democratic candidate for the House in 2002, 2004 and again this year in the predominately Republican 120th District, said it is too soon to say if he will run for anything again.

On the federal side, with 79 percent of the vote in, U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran looked to be heading for a sixth term from the 1st District.

Rep. Moran had 78 percent of the vote while Democrat John Doll had 20 percent.

* Ranch listed for sale with Internet service

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to three organizations in the past, including Cookson Hills, Clarence M. Kelley Detention Services and King's Achievement Camp. Cookson Hills ran the ranch first and then Kelley for eight, but King's Camp lasted less than a year.

Mr. Shike said he didn't want to make the decision about how to list the property, so called for a special meeting.

The council agreed the facility would be listed to sell or lease, although it doesn't imply that either will happen. The council will have the final say, he said.

Mr. Shike said the city wants to put in a clause that if the property is sold later, the city would have the first right to buy it back.

An agent with Midwest Services should be here today to take pictures of the property so it can be listed.

County agrees to back U.S. 36 highway study

The Decatur County commissioners approved \$2,000 in the courthouse general budget in 2007 to promote improvement of U.S. 36 at their meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 24. Representatives of the U.S. 36 Highway Association asked the commissioners months ago for the money to help with a study about making the road four lanes.

Bob Streyve, an association board member, called and asked if the commissioners had made a decision about the \$2,000.

The commissioners can't spend money for the 2007 budget yet, said County Attorney Steve Hirsch, but they can say that they will put the money in the budget. That doesn't mean the commissioners are agreeing to pay the \$2,000 for the study, he said.

Commissioner Doyle Brown said there are two people whose terms are up on the hospital board. Joan McKenna, who has served 13 years,

is retiring, but Marilyn Noone, who also lives near Jennings, has filled out an application, he said.

Gene Gallentine's term is up, Mr. Brown said, but he has agreed to continue on the board.

Anyone else who is willing to serve should fill out a form in the county clerk's office, commissioners said.

The commissioners agreed to pay for flu shots for county employees who want them through the health department. At the meeting last Tuesday, the commissioners heard that the department is waiting for vaccine.

The county received a call from someone in Norton who wanted to know if Decatur County would be willing to do a mutual aid agreement for emergency services for a 75-mile radius. County Attorney Steve Hirsch said any response would depend on whether a county can staff its own needs.



AT THE PHEASANTS FOREVER banquet Friday night at The Gateway, Maureen Anderson (above) mixed up names for a drawing. Saturday, Madison and Avenue (below) slept in the back of the truck after a long morning of pheasant hunting.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis and Dave Bergling

* Birds attract a crowd

(Continued from Page 1A) organization and among them won both a rifle and a quail picture as door prizes.

Around 303 people came to the banquet, down about 40 people from last year. Ken Badsky, treasurer of the group, said he thought the numbers were down because of the change in the opening date. The season opened a week earlier than usual this year.

The group brought in \$25,000, he said, but they still have to pay the expenses. He said the bills would start coming in this week.

Part of the fund raising includes a youth auction. Mr. Badsky said the group auctioned off 13 youngsters. "Buying" a kid entered the bidder in a pool to win half the cash, and the youth the winner sponsored got a .22-caliber rifle.

Each bidder or group of bidders got a ticket. At the end of the auction, the winning ticket was pulled. The winner got \$1,000 and the child got the rifle.

The auction raised \$950, which Mr. Badsky said will go for youth



activities through Pheasants Forever.

During the dinner, Mr. Badsky announced that he would be stepping down as chapter treasurer and the spot needs to be filled. He said

the group also needs a president, vice president and people to be on the banquet committee.

All in all, he said, the night went well.

Mr. Badsky said he has heard the

hunting was good over the weekend. There are still lots of uncut fields, he said, which made for nice extra cover, and hunters report seeing quite a few birds.

City hires cook, looks for sewer plant operator

City Administrator Gary Shike told the City Council he has hired Kelly John, father of a city police officer, as a cook at The Gateway.

Patrolman Cody John's first job with the city was as a cook at the civic center and as dog catcher, then he went to the state police academy and became an officer.

The administrator said at the meeting Oct. 19 that Jonathan Counter has turned in his resignation as the waste water treatment plant operator. Mr. Shike said he has already started to advertise the position.

The council agreed to pay \$136,386 to Midlands Contracting

for work at the waste water treatment plant. Chris Miller, with Miller and Associates, said \$614,000 of the work is done to date, not quite half. By the end of the month, if the weather holds, said Mr. Miller, the crew will start installing the plastic liner for the lagoons.

In other business, the council:

- Heard that since Veterans Day is on Saturday, the city office will be closed on Friday, Nov. 10.

- Discussed renting out the old port of entry building, which once

served as the police department office, but didn't make a decision. Mr. Shike said he was approached by a real estate agent about someone being interested in renting the spot for a business. The information was vague, he said, and he didn't know how much the rent would be or for what business.

The council decided not to rent the building unless it gets more information. Besides, members said, the city made a commitment to let trucks park there.

Elementary students top \$600 in fund-raising drive

With the help of students, staff and others, the Oberlin Elementary School collected \$612 in Box Tops for Education credits in four weeks.

Two years ago the Support Our Schools group started the contest to collect the box tops from grocery products like cereal and other items. The school receives 10 cents in cash for each box top.

Although the contest is held at the beginning of the year, the grade school collects box tops all year long.

For four weeks, students brought box tops to school in a race to see which class could collect the most.

Tim Thornton's fifth grade won the competition with \$102.20 worth

of tops. Kathy Tacha's second grade took second with \$76.70.

The winning class will get donuts and juice on Friday, and all of the classes will get cookies.

For winning the competition, Mr. Thornton will receive \$25 for supplies for his class. The money, said Abby Hissong with Support Our Schools, can be spent on playground equipment or other items that stay at the school.

In January, she said, the school will be doing the Campbell's Soup label challenge.

Since the school receives cash back for the tops, the money can be spent on anything.

Thank You!

I would like to thank everybody for their support in the primary and general elections.

I look forward to serving the people of Decatur County as District 1 Commissioner.

Stan McEvoy

Paid for by Stan McEvoy for District 1 Decatur County Commissioner. Stanley A. McEvoy Treasurer

Thank you

Marcia Lohofener

Paid for by Marcia Lohofener, Treasurer