

Two more file for seats in election

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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Two more candidates have put their names on the line for a chance to serve as a Decatur County commissioner.

Mick Barth of Oberlin, a Republican, has filed to run in commissioner District No. 3, which includes Jennings, Dresden, Norcat and generally the east half of the county, but none of Oberlin.

Also running are Bob Jones of Jennings, a Republican, and Brad Long of Norcat, a Democrat.

Commissioner Gene Gallentine of Clayton has served one term in the seat and is not seeking re-election.

Sid Metcalf of Oberlin, a Republican, will run in commissioner District No. 2. The district includes Finley, Logan, Liberty, Sappa and Bassettville townships and Oberlin City Precinct No. 1, generally the west side of the county and the west side of town.

Incumbent Ralph Unger has also filed to run, and the two will meet each other in the August primary election.

The primary will be Tuesday, Aug. 7, and the general election Tuesday, Nov. 6. Candidates can file either by paying a fee or getting signatures on a petition.

Others who have filed include:

- Ken Badsy, Republican incumbent for sheriff.

- Kari Ketterl, Republican incumbent for register of deeds.

- Sheriff's Deputy Jay Tate has filed for magistrate judge, a post held for many years by John Bremer. Judge Bremer says he will retire this year and has not filed. With proposed changes in state law, however, there's no guarantee the county will continue to have a judge.

- Jean Hale, Republican incumbent for treasurer.

All county offices are up for election this year with the exception of commissioner in District 1, held by Stan McEvoy. Mr. McEvoy was re-elected in 2010 by the voters in Oberlin City Precinct No. 2.

Ms. Geihlsler said all 30 township treasurer and trustee positions also are on the ballot as well. Only a handful of people have filed for those spots.

Ms. Geihlsler said each voting district, whether a township or precinct, may elect a man and a woman in each major party to form the county party committees.

Anyone interested in filing for an office, can get information in the clerk's on the second floor of the courthouse, she said.



Kids look for candy

AT CITY PARK on Saturday, Franklin Kritzer (above) knelt in the grass while he picked up candy put out by Oberlin Lions Club members during the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Makayla Marshall (right) held her plastic bucket while she looked for candy.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



Fire starts on bed, damages a home

A fire that started in a bedroom Thursday night left an Oberlin family temporarily homeless.

Fire Chief Bill Cathcart said the fire at Chad Jensen's house at 605 N. Wilson started when an electric lamp fell off a night stand onto a mattress. The lamp was on, said Chief Cathcart, and the bulb didn't have a shade on it.

Mr. Jensen woke up when the smoke detectors in the house went off, said Chief Cathcart, and he got his four children outside. He then picked up the mattress and got it outside and the fire out, but the fire apparently had already spread into

the box spring, which he left in the house.

"The smoke detectors saved lives that night," the chief said.

Brian Klima, who lives across the street, reported the fire to dispatch at 11:26 p.m. Firemen arrived within minutes. While flames flared when they broke a window, they quickly got the blaze under control.

The chief said the flames damaged the one bedroom and a hallway, but there was heavy smoke and heat damage throughout the main level of the house.

Oberlin City Fire Department re- (See SMOKE on Page 5)

Museum to hold big sale

What you really need are some good used dishes, sporting equipment, clothes, movies, toys, tools, small appliances or household gear — or maybe some car care products.

And Oberlin's museum is just the place to get them this weekend.

Come on down to the Last Indian Raid Museum's annual Rummage Sale and buy the best for less.

Or, if you have some unneeded items cluttering up the place, now is a good time to take them over to the Bohemian Hall and let the museum find a good home for them.

So take your good, clean "I don't use that anymore," or new "it seemed like a good idea at the time" stuff to the museum from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. this week. No large appliances or exercise equipment, please.

The sale will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and from noon to 3 p.m. Sunday in the Bohemian Hall.



CHECKING OUT AN OVERSIZED ice cream cone, museum worker Judy Groneweg put out donated items on Monday for the big annual Museum Rummage Sale set for Saturday and Sunday. — Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

Courts to close across the state

The Decatur County District Court and court offices here will be closed Friday along with others across the state as the Kansas court system begins the first of five "furlough" days set to close a \$1.4 million budget gap.

Clerk of the Court Janet Meitl said the judges will be available for emergencies on those days. Under the state Constitution, their pay cannot be reduced under most circumstances.

Court offices, including the clerk, will be closed on five Fridays including this Friday and April 27, May 11 and 25 and June 8 unless the Legislature comes up with more money to pay workers.

While the courts are closed, cases will be put off and lawyers, while they may work, cannot file anything.

The courts had hoped to avoid furlough days by asking the Legislature to pass a supplemental appropriation for this year, said Chief Justice Lawton Nuss. House and Senate negotiators agreed to that.

However, the \$1.4 million got tied up in wrangling over the regular budget for next year. It still could be passed when the Legislature convenes again later this month, but Nuss said the court system couldn't wait to start saving money on payroll.

If the supplemental appropria-

tion doesn't pass, he said, then the furloughs would have to come out of employee's checks two days at a time to make up the gap.

"As of today, we have no assurance that we will have that appropriation to operate through the end of the fiscal year," he said in a letter Wednesday, adding: "We will rescind the remaining furlough days if the appropriation is approved."

His letter said the shortfall was caused by a drop in case filings which left court revenues lower than expected. Nuss said payroll cuts were necessary because salaries make up the bulk of the court system's budget. Counties pay most of the other costs.

City residents asked to mow

By **CYNTHIA HAYNES**
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Oberlin City Administrator Karen Larson wants the town to look good for Memorial Day weekend, when the Decatur Community High alumni hold their annual reunion, and she's doing what she can to make it happen.

Mrs. Larson told the City Council on Thursday that her office is preparing grass and weed notices. Any property owner with a lawn or yard with growth over 12 inches tall will get a letter, she said. If the property is not mowed in 10 days, the city will mow it at a cost of \$100 per hour.

"I'd really like the town to look good when the alumni come home," she said.

The suggestion of City Code Enforcement Officer Jan Ackerman, the council passed a resolution to have city crews clean up debris from the removal of a house at 302 W. Hall and put the cost on the property's tax bill.

Mrs. Larson said she really wanted to get the area cleaned up since it is on a main street and it would be a real eyesore if it is not taken care of before the big weekend.

Mrs. Larson said that the Oberlin Garden Club has taken over some of the beds in the city's parks and will be planting flowers and doing extra work on them.

She said she was really happy about that, because most of the members are master gardeners and

the extra help will make the parks look a lot better.

Councilwoman Fonda Farr asked if something could be done about the lot next door to the city substation, where a transformer caught fire and caused a lot of problems because a raccoon got into the works last December.

Mrs. Farr said that she thinks that the raccoon was probably in the area because the lot next to the transformer site is full of junk.

She was told, however, that the lot might not be city property, and there is little the council can do about it except ask the owner to clean it up.

