

# Opinion

## Editorial

### Show support

Share in the celebration of Franklin County veterans

Local observations of Veterans Day begin today.

Opening ceremonies for a full week of events are scheduled for 6 p.m. in Ottawa's Forest Park, 320 N. Locust St. The program includes speakers, a Boy Scouts program and a musical performance by local fifth-graders.

Saturday will include special services at the War Memorial at Fourth and Main streets in Ottawa, a downtown parade and military re-enactments at Forest Park.

Give some thought not only to joining with the rest of the community in honoring our veterans, but also to what the many symbols of patriotism present on this day mean.

As one advertisement in The Herald's Veterans Day special section, published Thursday, read: "The American flag is the most recognized symbol of freedom in the world. Not by chance but by the desire of many who deemed it worthy of personal sacrifice."

Here's a schedule:

#### FRIDAY, NOV. 6

- 6 p.m. — Opening ceremonies.
- 6:30 p.m. — Speakers and Boy Scouts program.
- 7 p.m. — Lincoln Elementary School fifth grade musical performance.
- 8 p.m. — Tour of the Healing Field of Flags.

#### SATURDAY, NOV. 7

- All day — Healing Field open.
- 10:30 a.m. — Red Cross serving free coffee and donuts, Fourth and Main streets, Ottawa.
- 10:45 a.m. — Parade begins, Fifth and Main streets.
- 11 a.m. — Special services at the War Memorial, fourth and Main streets, Ottawa.
- Noon — Food vendors and craft booths.
- 1 p.m. — Prelude to World War II.
- 1:15 p.m. — World War II re-enactment.
- 2 p.m. — Prelude to Civil War.
- 2:15 p.m. — Civil War firing demonstration and/or Civil War skirmish.
- 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. — Family ties.
- 3 p.m. — The Lintners and friends.
- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. — War re-enactments.
- 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. — Living History for World War II and Civil War with games and concession stands.
- 4 p.m. — War history displays.
- 5 p.m. — Wild West Horse Women presentation.
- 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. — Music and entertainment.
- 7 p.m. — Tour of the Healing Field of Flags.

#### SUNDAY, NOV. 8

- All day — Healing Field open.
- 6 p.m. — Time of reflection.
- 7 p.m. — Tour of the Healing Field of Flags.

#### MONDAY, NOV. 9

- All day — Healing Field open.
- 6 p.m. — Evening program: Hands of Glory/Gospel.
- 7 p.m. — Tour of the Healing Field of Flags.

#### TUESDAY, Nov. 10

- All day — Healing Field open.
- 6 p.m. — Live entertainment.

#### WEDNESDAY, NOV. 11

- 11 a.m. — American Legion Veterans Day program. Wellsville High School, 602 Walnut St., Wellsville.
- 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. — Closing ceremonies, Ottawa High School, 1120 S. Ash St.

#### SATURDAY, NOV. 14

- 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. — Marine Corps Ball, Ottawa Country Club, 1001 E. Logan St.



## Reader Forum

### We love our vets

Well, Veterans Day is coming soon, and with the Veterans Day parade being this Saturday, I have a request for the people who will be coming to watch this year.

I thought it would be nice to have people holding up signs saying, "Thank You For Serving," "We Love You," "Freedom Isn't Free," "We Support Vets" or other patriotic slogans — basically whatever a person would want to put on a sign that shows our veterans we care.

It would be an awesome sight to see those signs all the way up and down the parade route, from Fifth and Main streets all the way to Forest Park.

It appears we are going to be blessed with a wonderful day. There are about 200 entries in the parade and then there are slated, as of Thursday morning, about 300 or more motorcycles coming from six different motorcycle groups. The groups are from Ottawa, Emporia, Topeka, Lawrence, Kansas City, Kan., and Kansas

City, Mo., as well as from the surrounding areas of those cities.

We have a wonderful community and, because of word of mouth, the Internet and the hard work of the parade committee, this event just keeps getting bigger and bigger. It has come a long way from being a block long in 1993 to where it is today.

Thank you in advance for making it a successful event. Thank you, Ottawa, for standing behind your community and your veterans.

— Sherry Wright, Ottawa

### Say no to flu clinics in Ottawa schools

I do not agree with the USD 290 School Board's decision to have H1N1 flu vaccination clinics in our Ottawa grade school buildings.

I have outlined reasons for this, as well as posted information regarding this decision I received via e-mail

from Dean Katt, USD 290 superintendent. You can read this and more information at [www.healthteam.info](http://www.healthteam.info). You also can find the contact information for our superintendent and school board members, as well as the contact information for your grade school principal.

As a parent in the district, I do not believe our schools should be used as medical facilities. Nor do I believe school board members, the superintendent or faculty should be providing medical recommendations to parents.

It certainly appears our school district is giving its approval and recommendation for the H1N1 vaccine by proposing our grade schools have the H1N1 vaccination clinics.

A public school building is for learning; a medical building is for medical procedures. If you agree, please take a few minutes to make a phone call or send an e-mail.

— Donielle Summers, Ottawa

# Development deal gets complicated

This economic development business is getting curiouser and curiouser.

The big deal now, of course, is Cerner Corp., which wants state assistance to bring a giant office complex to Kansas City's Village West development in Wyandotte County. Cerner currently operates on the Missouri side of the Kansas City area.

But what started out as just a "how can we help" from Kansas has grown exponentially in complexity and in political criticism.

First, nobody's against 4,500 high-paying jobs coming to Kansas. That's for sure. But the negotiation for those jobs has gotten complex because the state has made its final, take-it or leave-it offer to Cerner, and apparently was putting together that offer while Kansas Secretary of Commerce David Kerr was being considered for Missouri's top eco-devo job, which we learned last week that he got.

Immediately, conservative House legislative leaders — the same ones who were virtually disarmed last session by moderate Republicans and Democrats — roared without any proof that Kerr may not have used his best efforts on behalf of the state

### MARTIN HAWVER



At the Rail

he will be leaving.

Gov. Mark Parkinson defends Kerr, says that he, Kerr and Secretary of Revenue Joan Wagnon put together the best offer Kansas can make for the Cerner deal. The whole point of economic development, of course, is to grow the Kansas economy, and you can't do that if you offer a developer more money than the jobs are worth. That just makes sense.

But, this Cerner deal is complicated by Cerner officials' ownership of the Kansas City (Missouri) Wizards soccer team. Most of the state's offer for Cerner is for a soccer stadium that doesn't have anything to do with Cerner's business of creating computerized medical records manage-

ment equipment.

Because most eco-devo bargaining now is, if not outright extortion, at least a lesser-included offense, you have to wonder why the state is contributing a dime to construction of the soccer arena. And, you probably have to wonder whether Cerner stockholders care about a soccer team owned by Cerner managers that's not going to contribute to their dividend checks. And you probably have to wonder whether those stockholders want their company to be used as a lever to get a soccer stadium built.

That soccer stadium probably is the key to this whole deal — it's where most of the state's money is pledged. Which is a little curious, isn't it?

We don't know yet whether Cerner is taking Kansas' offer, but we're certain Kerr isn't going to juice up a Missouri offer, having crafted the Kansas deal. Playing both sides of the state line would be unethical, and it would kill Kerr's eco devo career.

Curious? It sure is....

Martin Hawver is publisher of *Hawver's Capitol Report*. Visit his Web site at [www.hawvernews.com](http://www.hawvernews.com).

# Lobbyists take a soak, on taxpayers' dime

Here's a startling tally: 13,000.

That's the number of corporate lobbyists in Washington, D.C. Adding to their clout are the thousands of corporate executives who jet into our nation's capital city periodically for closed-door sessions with key lawmakers and regulators.

If you wonder why such crying public needs as health care for all and environmental protection are constantly bent to serve private corporate interests, look to this army of hired guns and executive-suite dandies.

But let's concede that influence-peddling can be hard work. Such tasks as glad-handing and passing out campaign contributions — that'll tucker you out.

That's why the Ritz-Carlton is so crucial to the system. This swank hotel is a Washington oasis for frazzled lobbyists and executives. For one

### JIM HIGHTOWER



Hightower Lowdown

thing, no tacky tourists are there to bother the swells, since room rates at the Ritz start at \$599 a night and run up to \$5,800. Then there're the little touches.

For example, where else do guests get a "Bath Menu" in their room? "Choose from an assortment of butler-drawn baths to ease your concerns," says the menu. "A personal

attendant will be pleased to draw the bath of your choice."

The menu offers The Inaugural Bath, with mineral salts "from the depths of the bright blue sea;" The Capitol Bath, with lavender, sea salts, and a libation of your choice; and The Cherry Blossom Bath — actually, rose petals are substituted for cherry, but you do get a glass of champagne and strawberries.

Each bath adds 50 bucks to the bill of the soaking influence peddler. But hey, as the Bath Menu explains, a little rub-a-dub-dub is not an expense, it's "a reward at the end of a successful business day."

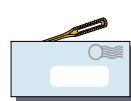
They soak us, then they take a soak, writing the whole thing off as the cost of doing business.

Jim Hightower is a syndicated columnist.

## Share your views with The Ottawa Herald

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LETTERS: Send letters of 250 words or less to the Readers' Forum. Please include name, address and daytime phone number. The letters may be edited for length and clarity. Readers will be limited to one letter per month. Form letters, poems, consumer complaints or business testimonials will not be printed.



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