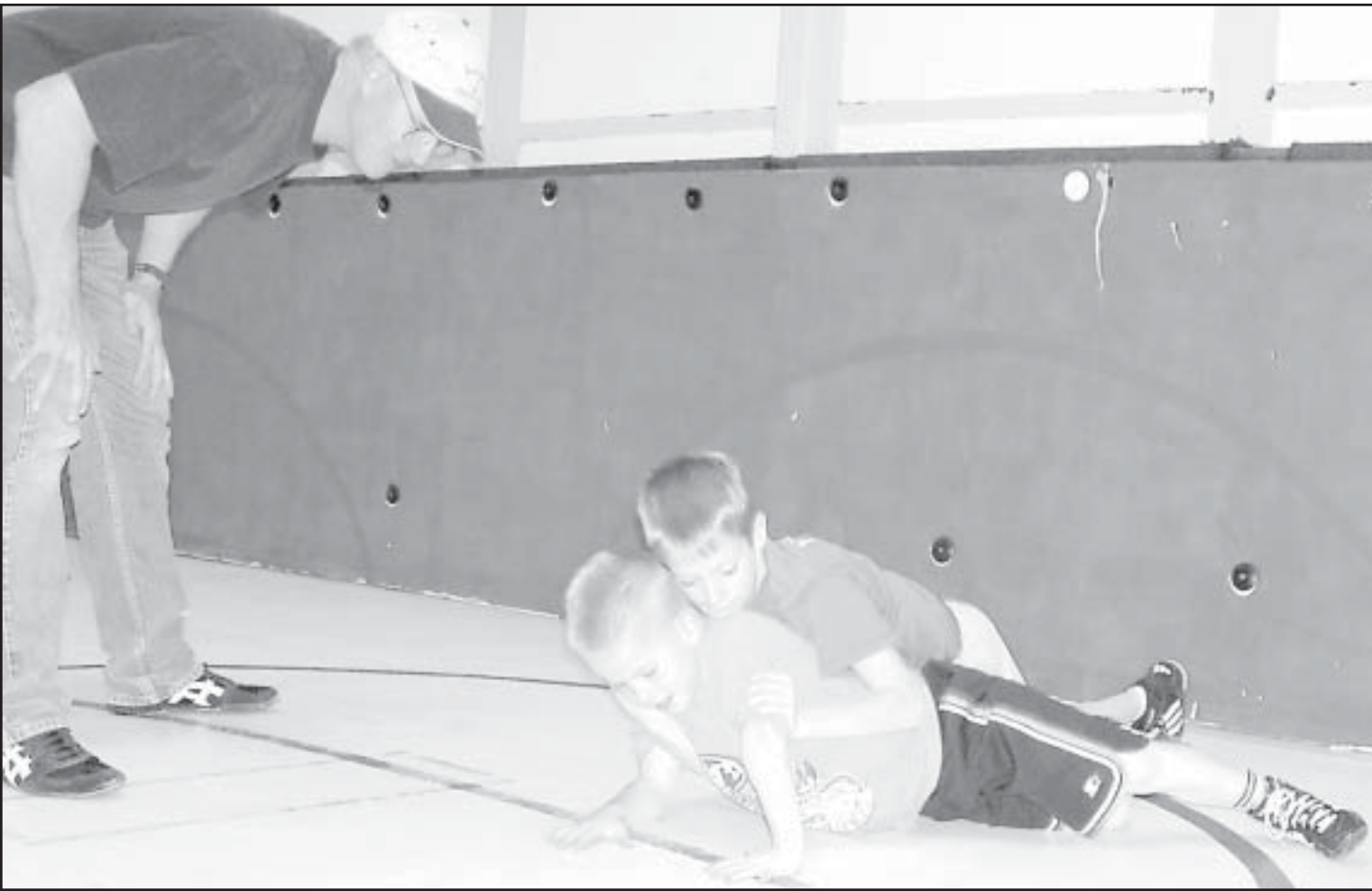


# Sports

## Kid wrestling gives youths a head start



**TRYING TO FLIP** their opponents during practice on Thursday, Tyler Shields (top above) took on Chris Anderson

and Troy Warta (below) grimaced while working on Tyler Bruggeman.

— Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes

Boys as young as 5 are doing what they love — rolling on the ground wrestling each other.

But, unlike normal boy play, this is Kid Wrestling, a supervised form of fun that will prepare these boys to join junior high and high school wrestling squads of the future.

Actually, while the sport prepares young men to wrestle in high school and even college, Coach Bo Farr said, it also gives anyone, boys or girls, up to the age of 16 a chance to just enjoy the sport.

While girls can wrestle, there are none in the Oberlin club at this time, Coach Farr said.

Practice started on Dec. 2 for those up to the sixth-grade. For those in junior high and high school, the season starts when the schools' ends.

The Kid Wrestling season runs through the end of March, Coach Farr said.

"It's a long season for these little guys," he said.

The first match of the season was on Saturday in Hays, but since it was Christmas break, only three boys — Clay Andersen and Troy and Dustin Warta — were able to go out of about 45 young wrestlers.

Dustin finished first in the 14-and-under 145-pound class and Clay took first in the 10-and-under 73-pound class in Hays.

"We get more every year, which just tickles me to no end," Coach Farr said.

He said he is hoping to help the Decatur Community High team fill

all its weights in the future. This year, the team is missing a 103-pound wrestler but has everything else covered.

This is Coach Farr's fourth year to coach the kid wrestlers. Before that, he wrestled four years for Oberlin and two for Labette Community College in Parsons.

He has Jeff Williams as his assistant and a lot of help from parents.

The young wrestlers practice on Monday and Thursday in the high school wrestling room, which is upstairs on the south side of the gymnasium.

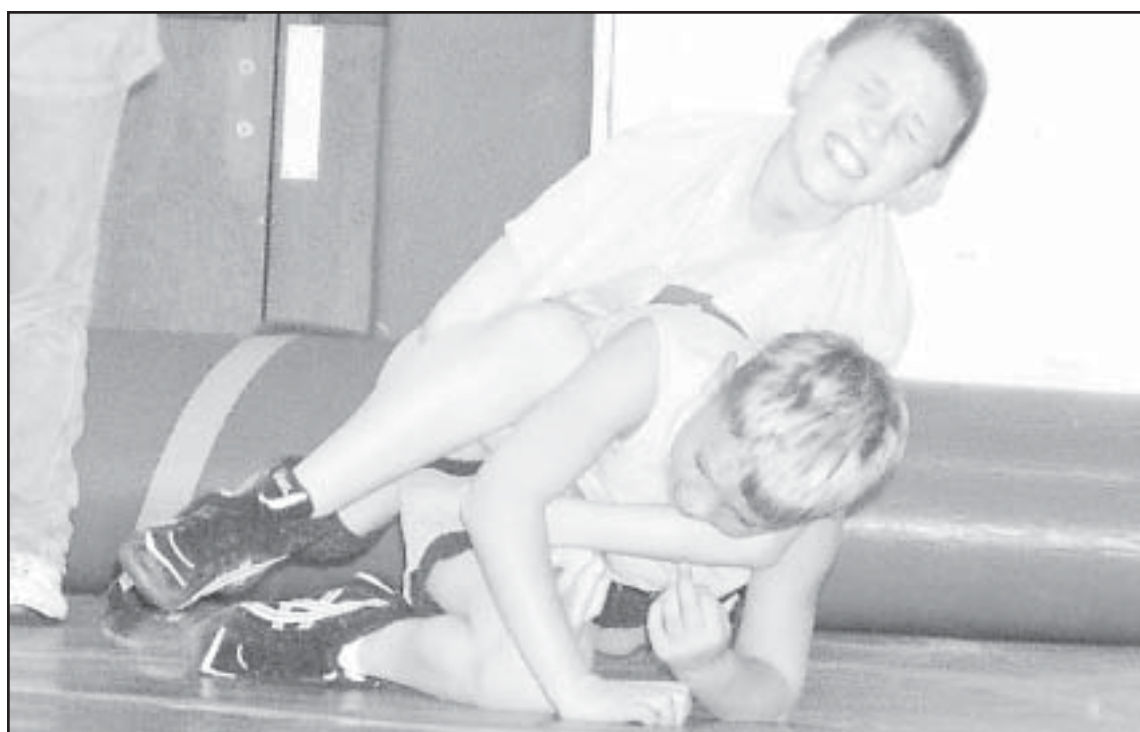
The first- through third-graders practice from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and the fourth- through sixth-graders from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

It is still possible to sign up, he said, but there would be a late fee. Anyone interested in signing up should call Gina Andersen at 475-2184.

The young wrestlers are divided up into 20 weights for each age group. Age groups break every two years, starting with age 6-and-under and going up to 16-and-under.

While the program provides singlets for each wrestler, they must provide their own head gear and shoes, Coach Farr said.

He said the club has started a shoe exchange, since the boys outgrow their shoes long before they wear them out. Anyone with shoes to donate can call him at home at 475-2449 and he will pick them up or they can drop them by the wrestling room during practice.



## Schedule

Here is the schedule for Oberlin Kids Wrestling this year. All matches are on Saturday unless noted:

- Jan. 4 — Hoxie
- Jan. 11 — St. Francis
- Jan. 18 — Ellis
- Jan. 25 — Norton
- Feb. 1 — Phillipsburg
- Feb. 8 — Plainville
- Feb. 8 — Scott City
- Feb. 15 — Oakley
- March 8 — Oberlin
- March 15 — Subdistrict in Colby
- March 22 — District in Great Bend
- Friday-Sunday, March 28-30 — State in Topeka

## A big buck



**AFTER TAKING HIS BUCK** the first day of the season, Tyler Witt, 15, showed off his trophy. The non-typical whitetail had 10 points on one side and 11 on the other. He was taken on the Witt farm near Cedar Bluffs.

## Car turns over; wheels take flight

A Herndon girl rolled her car, but wasn't hurt, near Traer on Christmas Eve, the Decatur County sheriff's office reported, while a Jennings man was surprised when two wheels flew off a passing semi and creamed his parked pickup.

Deputies reported that Alicia L. Bergling, 17, Herndon, was driving west up a hill on County Road 7N about one-eighth mile from Traer at

4 p.m. Dec. 24 when she met a vehicle driven by Brian Gutchewsky, Lawrence. Mr. Gutchewsky edged as far over as he could but Miss Bergling lost control while trying to move over. Her purple 1994 Chevrolet Beretta went into the right ditch and rolled.

Mr. Gutchewsky and his passenger, Krista Simonsson, turned around to help. The Bergling ve-

hicle was on its side and the driver and her passenger, Kristy Osterman, 17, McCook, were uninjured but could not get out.

Mr. Gutchewsky righted the car and the girls were freed.

No citations were issued.

In Jennings, Stanley Shaw had parked his 1996 red Chevrolet pickup at the Decatur Co-op. Deputies said James L. Clark, Hoxie, was

driving east on K-383 in a 1997 Peterbilt 359 belonging to Foote Cattle Co. of Bucyrus when two wheels on the passenger side of the truck came off and rolled into the pickup.

Mr. Clark said that he had been going 55 mph but was slowing down when the accident occurred. No tickets were issued.

## Damage to cars, property keeps city police hopping

Oberlin police were busy with several small incidents, including problems at Sappa Youth Ranch, property damage complaints and a couple of non-injury fender benders.

Walter Pennell reported that the two drivers' side tires on his 1994 Astrovan were slashed at about 9:20 p.m. on Dec. 21 as it was parked north of the American Legion building.

Mr. Pennell told officers he was suspicious of a patron who had just left the club.

Police officers contacted Larry M. Long, 51, of Oberlin. Mr. Long has been summoned into city court, Chief Wade Lockhart said.

On Dec. 12, Jeanie May of 407 N. Elk reported that two strings of Christmas lights had been cut. Damage was estimated at \$30. This is not the first time her lights have been cut, she said.

On Dec. 17, police officers took a report of an altercation between a staff member and 14-year-old at Sappa Youth Ranch. The staff member was hit but did not require treatment, Chief Wade Lockhart said. No charges have been filed so far.

A criminal damage report was also taken on Dec. 24 for destruction of furniture worth about \$125

by a 13-year-old at the youth ranch, Chief Lockhart said.

Three backing accidents were reported — one on Dec. 18 and two on Thursday.

At 8:20 a.m. Dec. 18, a 1968 Chevrolet pickup owned by Randy Peters was running unattended in his driveway at 604 E. Commercial. The vehicle rolled backwards across the street and into an unattended 1991 Chevrolet pickup owned by Barry Richards of Oberlin. The accident resulted in damages in excess of \$500, Chief Lockhart said. Mr. Peters was cited for leaving an unattended vehicle running.

At 2:15 p.m. Thursday, Jennie Swart of Herndon was backing her 1997 Ford pickup from the lot south of the Good Samaritan Center and struck a 1989 Pontiac being driven by Florence Kuhlman with minor damage to both vehicles.

There were no injuries and no tickets, Chief Lockhart said.

At 6:10 p.m. Thursday, Jeanie Pachner was backing her 1994 Pontiac van out of her driveway at 714 E. Commercial when she turned too sharply and hit a 1999 Chrysler, also parked in her driveway. The Chrysler is owned by Maurice Peterson of Norwalk, Calif. No citations were issued.

## Hospital offers scholarships

Citizens Medical Center of Colby is participating in the Health Careers Foundation Scholarship Loan Program for the 2003-2004 school year.

The foundation encourages health care careers by providing a scholarship/loan program. Strong emphasis is placed on non-traditional students, older students, single parents and under employed individuals.

The center promotes the program, supplying information and applications to people and counter-

signing applications.

Eligible fields include dietetics, medical records/transcription, medical technology, nursing, occupational therapy, pharmacy, physical therapy, radiology, respiratory therapy and speech pathology. Awards are generally half scholarship and half loan.

Application deadline is April 1. Applications must be obtained from the hospital by March 28. For details, contact Jeanene Brown, director of education, at (785) 462-4850.

## Bowling

### HIGH PLAINS

NAPA, 4-1; Warren Bainter CPA, 4-1; Pizza Hut, 4-1; Decatur Co-op, 1-4; R&M Service, 1-4; 2B Creative, 1-4.

Men: High scratch game, David Eldridge - 226; series, David Eldridge - 747. High handicap game, David Eldridge - 262; series, David Eldridge - 891.

Women: High scratch game, Carol Kingery - 146; series, Carol Kingery - 500. High handicap game, Carol Kingery - 218; series, Carol Kingery - 788.

High team game, Pizza Hut - 840; high team series - 3184.

## Basketball tourney set

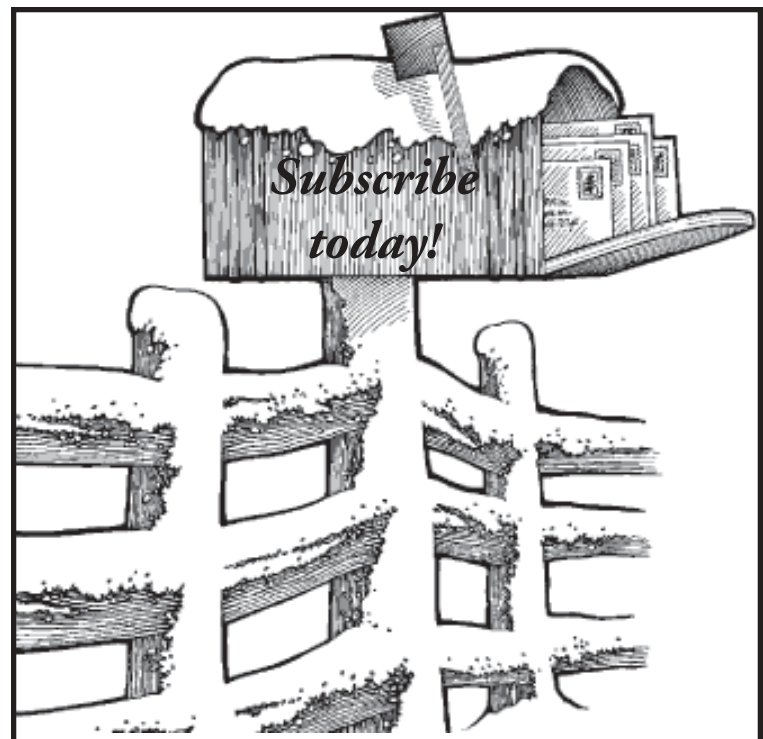
The 11th annual MAC Attack youth basketball tournament will be held in McCook the weekends of March 29 and 30, and April 5 and 6, sponsored by the McCook Optimist Club.

The fourth-, seventh- and eighth-grade boys and girls will compete on March 29 and 30. The fifth- and sixth-grade boys and girls compete April 5 and 6.

Entry fee is \$80 per team with a three-game guarantee. Entry deadline is Monday, March 10.

Entry forms may be picked up at the Sports Shoppe in downtown McCook.

For details, contact Bob Elder, event chairman, at (308) 345-4296 or Craig Olsen, club president, at (308) 345-1575.



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