

## Board asks if Herndon has any options

The Oberlin School Board talked briefly about the idea of consolidating with the Herndon school system at their meeting last Monday night.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt said he had checked with the state Department of Education to see if people who live in the Herndon District could put their land into a district which the school board did not decide to consolidate with. Mr. Glodt said what he found out was that people who live on the border

- Town hall meeting on consolidation, 7 p.m. tonight, Herndon School.
- Oberlin Schools may buy land east of high school, 6 p.m. tonight. See story on Page 10A

between two districts can choose to put their land with another district

even if the Herndon School District didn't decide to consolidate with it.

For example, if the Herndon Board decided to consolidate with the Atwood District, but a family lives on the Oberlin district line, they can choose to put their land with the Oberlin district.

Mr. Glodt said he spoke with Herndon Superintendent Kim Juenemann about whether their board was interested in doing something other than consolidation, possibly a cooperative agreement. That way, he said, the districts could both still

keep their schools open but could share activities like sports teams.

He said she told him the only option being considered was consolidation.

Board Member Dan Wasson said he thought someone from the board should attend the town hall meeting tonight.

Mr. Glodt said he would be going and if anyone wanted to go with him, they could.

Some of the board members said

they would be interested in going. They decided to call a special meeting just in case more than a quorum showed up.

Mr. Wasson said he didn't understand why the Oberlin board went to Herndon for a joint meeting but Herndon went to both Golden Plains and Atwood to meet with those boards.

Mr. Glodt said that Oberlin offered to go to Herndon. Mr. Wasson said he was just wondering.

## Sheriff's office has new look with one officer

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

The Decatur County commissioners learned the sheriff's office will have a different look for a few months with the sheriff being the only full time officer.

Sheriff Badsky said Undersheriff Randy McHugh is on active duty in the National Guard. Deputy Mark Dahlsten has undergone knee surgery and will be out for awhile recovering. Full recovery takes a year, he said, but after a few months the deputy will be able to work again.

While they are gone, the sheriff said, Oberlin Police Patrolman Troy Haas has said he would help out and there are reserve officers willing to help.

Pat Glenn asked the sheriff if he was still going to broadcast the high school wrestling matches, especially out of town, for KFNF. Sheriff Badsky said he was and those times have been covered. He said he isn't worried; he had run the office by himself before.

Commissioners talked with Sheriff Badsky about the recent change in vehicle inspection hours. Commissioner Doyle Brown asked if another county department could do the inspections. Sheriff Ken Badsky said that would be possible, but they aren't a big problem for his department. Although he has posted hours, he said, he still does them whenever he happens to be in the office and makes house calls just as he did before.

The office will work around just about anything, he said, but people need to know that they should come in and get their vehicle inspected before the day they have to have their tags. There often is no officer present.

### Clerk shoo in for sheriff job

Imagine County Clerk Marilyn Horn, a diminutive former kindergarten teacher, dressed in a blue uniform, racing through the county in the sheriff's pickup with lights flashing and sirens blaring.

That got a few laughs at the Decatur County Commission meeting last week, when Sheriff Ken Badsky said if anything happened to him, Mrs. Horn by state law, would take over as sheriff.

Sheriff Badsky said that if anything did happen to him, she would be in charge, but he said he wasn't too worried. He is the only regular officer in the department right now, with the undersheriff on military duty and the full-time deputy out because of knee surgery.

Mrs. Horn said she thought the law was set up a long time ago when most of the elected positions were held by men, including the clerk. She said it made sense for the clerk to back up the sheriff, because the clerks know about the finances and could keep the department running.

Mrs. Horn said she was praying that Sheriff Badsky stayed well.

Mr. Brown said if it gets to be a big problem, then another office may be able to take it over. (See SHERIFF on Page 10A)

## Council decides to cut animal patrol

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

The Oberlin City Council decided Tuesday to no longer have an animal control officer patrol the city after seeing no real change in how many dogs had been picked up and ticketed in the last six months.

Last summer, the council asked animal control officers Elmer and Delores Zodrow to patrol the city to find dogs that may be running the streets.

The decision came after Councilman Stan McEvoy had been attacked by a dog while out on his

morning walk and he asked why they didn't have a dog catcher patrolling the city.

Before the patrol began, people would call dispatch and the Zodrows would come out and get the dog. In the last six months, according to the handout, the city has paid the Zodrows \$2,576 in wages and just over \$369 for mileage to McCook to take the dogs to the Humane Society.

From July to December, they picked up 34 dogs, with 20 of them (See ANIMAL on Page 10A)

## Races set for Oberlin mayor and school board

There will be races for mayor in Oberlin and one seat on the Oberlin School Board, looking at filings so far for the April general election for city office and school boards.

Mayor Gary Walter, who took over from Charles Frickey four years ago, said he would not run, leaving the door open for his job. So far, two men have decided to take a shot at the seat.

Councilman Ken Shobe, who teaches at McCook Community College, has filed, as has Steve Smith, pastor of Pioneer Baptist Church and photo technician at *The Oberlin Herald*.

For the Oberlin School Board, incumbent Jeannie Martin has filed for re-election for the at-large posi-

tion. Dave Stapp, who farms near Norcatur, will be running against her.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn, who serves as the county election officer, said unless three or more people filed for the same position, there wouldn't be a primary in February.

Several others filed in the last week. Barb Olson, who said she was undecided last week, decided to run again for District No. 3 on the Oberlin School Board. Mike Helm will run for Norcatur City Council, Lawrence Carter and Sheila Rhodes for Jennings School Board and Russell Rhodes for Dresden mayor.

Positions which had not received filings as of Monday were: (See ELECTION on Page 10A)



DCHS SINGERS Sara Ruf, Anthony Marshall and Brent Smith (above) performed at the Chamber of Commerce annual banquet Thursday night. Vocal teacher Susan

Nelson (below) was surprised when board member Judy Cathcart announced she was the educator of the year.

— Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes

## Award shocks music coach at banquet

Everyone in the room got to their feet, clapping and smiling, when it was announced Thursday that vocal teacher Susan Nelson had been selected as the Chamber of Commerce's first Outstanding Educator of the Year.

Mrs. Nelson has been teaching at Decatur Community High School for 24 years.

Before the Chamber surprised Mrs. Nelson with the award, her DCHS Singers sang and danced for the crowd.

The Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce decided to do something a little different this year at its annual banquet. Instead of just having a speaker and

election for the new board members, they honored community leaders with five awards.

K.G. Ward of Norcatur was selected as the Community Builder of the Year. Mr. Ward helped with the initial organization of the Chamber and has been active in the Norcatur Newsletter, among other things.

Jack Benton was selected for the Community Volunteer for his work raising money and then a roof on the Sappa Park Shelter House.

The Lions Club, which was started in 1948, was picked as the group showing outstanding service to the community.

The last award was given to Wasson Family Farms as the outstanding agriculture builder.



Director Doug Brown presented the award, saying it was a hard decision but the entire family and their farming practices met all of the criteria.

Before the end of the evening, Mr. Brown, who has served on the Chamber board since 1999, was presented with a brown bag in honor of all the brown bag lunches the board

has had over the years.

The new board members elected are Marilyn Horn, Decatur County clerk; LeAnna Dempewolf, manager of Duckwalls, and Eric McMurtrey, who works for Decatur Co-op Fertilizer.

Herschel Betts and Janice Shobe both won door prizes at the banquet.

## Speakers shows off prehistoric flint cache

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

The stash of flint rock shaped into points, scrapers and knives of different sizes, sat on the table.

In all, there were about 15 to 20 pieces, each around 10,000 years old. The collection belongs to Dan Busse, a farmer/rancher who lives south of Bird City.

Mr. Busse said he grew up in Bird City on land that his family homesteaded in 1884. When he was a kid, his dad would bring an occasional arrowhead in from the field and lay it on the table.

In 1968, he said, he was home from college and out in the field building a fence. He looked down and saw a piece of flint showing through the ground. He went to uncover it with a pocket knife and pair of pliers and found that it wasn't just one piece, but several pieces.

The place he found them (See FLINT on Page 10A)



DAN BUSSE showed Chamber members how plains dwellers might have held and used their spears 10,000 years ago.

— Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes



# \* Flint shows past

(Continued from Page 1A)  
turned out to be a four-foot-by-four-foot area filled with flint rock of different sizes. In all, said Mr. Busse there was 26 pounds of tools stashed in the field. It took him and his family three days to uncover it all.

The find turned out to be the artifacts of people who lived here a very long time ago, he said.

The flint is jasper type, he said, otherwise known as Smoky Hill flint or Republican River flint. There is an open quarry of it in Gove County. Mr. Busse said it is the most common type of flint found in Cheyenne County and has a good quality.

Mr. Busse said once he found the stash, it encouraged him to learn more about the people who put it there. These were people who lived in the area before the Cheyenne, Arapahoe or Pawnee. These tribes were known to live here before us, but Mr. Busse said he is talking about those who lived here before the Native Americans.

He said in 1896, near the 12 Mile Creek, bones were found along with a spear point. It turned out the bones belonged to a species of bison which no longer roam the earth. There have also been leg bones of mammoth found around here and those belonging to saber tooth tigers.

He said a camel bone has also been found near his home, along with a spear point. In his collection, he said he has a spinal column of a rhinoceros.

Mr. Busse said people were killing these animals, which is why the spear points were found with the bones. They may have been the ancestors of the Indians. There were different races here then, he said, and it is interesting to know they lived together here on the plains.

Not only were the animals different then, but so was the area. He said sediment tells researchers that the area used to receive 40 to 50 inches of rain a year. There was a lot of green lush grass, shrubs and even a pine forest.

Our land has a rich topsoil and is very productive, he said. The animals ate the green grass and residents lived off those animals. Back then, said Mr. Busse, their diets may have been 80 percent meat.

Between the time when the elephants lived in the area and the horse showed up, there were many droughts, he said, and there wasn't much growing, just like now. There have been tremendous changes in the area and in the world weather forever. Things are different now.

Mr. Busse said he very rarely gets his 50- to 60-piece stash out. It has been to France, where it was on exhibit, and to the University of Kansas, where it was studied and on exhibit.

# Speaker called at last minute

The Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce had to make last-minute plans to its banquet Thursday night when the guest speaker called in sick.

Ronald A. Averyt, a former professor at Emporia State University, had planned to talk at the banquet but was ill. Mr. Averyt had planned to talk about history and maybe do some jokes and cowboy poetry.

The Chamber asked Don Busse from Bird City to speak in his place. Mr. Busse talked about history and a stash of flint rocks he found which are around 10,000 years old.

# Hypnotist show planned

Hypnotist Michael Johns will perform at 7:30 p.m. at Morgan Theater in The Gateway on Saturday. The program is sponsored by the Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission. Admission is by season ticket; or \$10 for adults or \$5 for students living at home.

For details, call Mary at (785) 475-3329 or Ella at (785) 475-3557.

## A healthy donation



WITH A SMILE on her face, Sarah Olson donated blood at The Gateway on Thursday. She went to the blood drive with some of her friends from school in the morning.

— Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

# \* Animal officer won't patrol

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being taken to McCook. The six months before that they picked up 31 dogs with 18 going to McCook. With an officer patrolling, they got three extra dogs.

It looks like only 65 dogs were picked up all year with only nine tickets written, said Mr. McEvoy. What is happening?

Mrs. Zodrow said if the dog is taken to McCook to the shelter, it's unclaimed and the owner doesn't get a ticket. The couple said they took 38 dogs to McCook last year.

Councilman Ken Shobe asked how many of the dogs were repeat offenders, and Mrs. Zodrow said not many.

The Zodrows explained that if they pick up a dog and give the owner a ticket, if the owner takes the dog in to get tagged, the ticket doesn't always make it to the books. Even though the records show only nine tickets for the year, they said, they wrote more than that.

Mr. Zodrow asked what the council thought about a higher penalty for the owners. Now the ticket is \$55 with \$25 going for the fine and \$30 to the court.

Mr. McEvoy said it was discouraging that there are that many dogs that are being taken to McCook unclaimed. Some people just don't care about their pets, said Mr. Shike.

Councilman Jerry Fidele said if

there were 65 dogs for the year, there should be 65 tickets. Mr. Shike asked who would get the ticket for an unclaimed dog.

Mayor Gary Walter said the nine tickets were those which actually went to court.

It looks like the Zodrows did well the first six months, said Mr. Shobe, as well as the second six months. Mr. Shobe said he didn't think the scheduled hours were helping.

The council agreed to eliminate the patrolling, with Mr. McEvoy voting against.

The council said they will respond when needed and the Zodrows would get paid by the call as they did before.

# \* Election races set

(Continued from Page 1A)  
• Oberlin Councilmen Jerry Fidele and Ray Ward of Oberlin. Both said they were undecided. Each is a four year term.

• Board Members Sarah Coiner and Sara Carter for the Jennings School Board. Both are at large positions, with one being a two-year seat.

• City Council Member Martin LaRue for Jennings. There is an additional position to fill.

• Council members Ron Jacobs and Jeannie Spresser in Dresden. Both are four-year terms.

• Council members Rodney Leichter in Norcat. There is also a vacant seat to fill. All are four year terms.

Noon Tuesday was the last day to file. For positions that no one filed for, a candidate can declare a write-in campaign, which means that on election day voters would have to write the candidate's name in.

If no one runs, once the new boards are elected, they can appoint someone to fill any vacant seats.

# Board may buy land

The Oberlin School Board will hold a special meeting at 6 p.m. tonight to discuss a land acquisition offer and then members will go to a town hall meeting in Herndon.

The offer is for a little more than seven acres the district has been renting from Lairy Goldt just east of the high school. There is also an irrigation well which the district would get in the deal. The district leases the land for \$700 a year and then pays Mr. Goldt to water it.

The board has had closed sessions for the last three months to talk about offers. It plans to decide tonight if the district wants to buy the land.

The board will then recess to drive to Herndon, where they will attend a town hall meeting scheduled by the Herndon School Board.

The meeting has been set to talk about consolidation options.

# \* Sheriff's Office down to one man

(Continued from Page 1A)  
Commissioner Glenn said she thought that Treasurer Jean Hale was upset because Sheriff Badsky didn't visit with her before setting his hours.

Mrs. Glenn said all of the county departments need to work with each other. Sheriff Badsky said he agreed, but it works both ways.

Sheriff Badsky said he sent the city a bill for driving a mental patient out of town, but he didn't know if the city was responsible for paying the bill.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch said they have never paid before, but if the county wants to change, that they could ask the district court.

Sheriff Badsky said the transport cost \$500.

Mr. Hirsch said he would get Sheriff Badsky the law which applies. If the county pushes on this issue, he said, the city may decide to push back.

He said the statue says the county

can be reimbursed if a regularly employed deputy or the sheriff drives. The question is whether a reserve deputy is a regularly employed deputy.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard that Sheriff Badsky thought it was time to look at the jail contract again. They are getting \$10 a day for people staying in the jail who are arrested by the city police. Mrs. Horn said they could talk about that during an upcoming city/county meeting.

- Heard that in December, the sheriff's office collected \$252 in vehicle inspections, covered seven accidents, three incidents and three offenses, served 46 papers and had written five tickets.

- Heard that for the year, the department collected \$4,257 for vehicle inspections, reported on 55 accidents, 25 incidents and 47 offenses, served 522 papers and had written 154 tickets.

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