

Herndon votes for true consolidation

The Herndon School Board voted to consolidate with the Atwood School District at their special town hall meeting last Wednesday night.

Before the meeting started the Herndon board held a meeting in which they had decided to not consolidate, but after answering questions and taking a straw poll from the large crowd at the meeting they changed their minds.

Herndon Board Member David Ketterl said the board opened the dialogue between Herndon, Oberlin, Atwood and Golden Plains to research, which led to consolidation. Consolidation is not the way the board wanted to go, he said.

No school district has said they will keep the school in Herndon open for longer than a year and if the board uses the money wisely the school can stay open.

The board does not feel that consolidation is necessary, said Mr. Ketterl. He said the board is working with people in the city on how to market the community and once the school is gone it can never be

Gag order placed on superintendent

Before the special meeting last Wednesday night in Herndon a gag order was placed on the Herndon superintendent meaning she wasn't allowed to talk.

President Pat Allen said the gag order was placed on Superintendent Kim Juenemann by the Herndon School Board because she had been misquoted in *The Oberlin Herald* about the options the board was looking at. When contacted on Monday, Mr. Allen said he wasn't sure what quote it was and said he would check with the other board members.

At the time he made the statement the board members had said

they were looking at other options. In last week's paper a story said Superintendent Kelly Glodt had talked to Mrs. Juenemann who said the board wasn't looking at other options other than consolidation.

Around 140 people showed up for the meeting in Herndon and throughout the meeting kept asking for Mrs. Juenemann be allowed to talk.

The superintendent had put together a slide presentation discussing consolidation and other options which she had showed the staff at the school that morning. The board said the slide show wasn't going to be shown because they had not seen or

approved it.

After asking the board for over an hour to allow Mrs. Juenemann to talk and to be allowed to show the slide show she was allowed to speak by a vote from the board.

During the slide show Mrs. Juenemann said the board had five options. The first one was to do nothing, the second was a cooperative agreement with another district, third was a transfer of territory, fourth was disorganization and fifth was consolidation.

Mrs. Juenemann said her recommendation was to consolidate with Atwood.

with neighboring districts.

One idea was to share administration or split the cost and possibly share athletics.

The big thing is that the board is trying to keep the town here, said Mr. Ketterl.

One patron said she didn't want to know if it was a possibility to stay open, but wanted facts and figures on how the board planned on keeping the school open with less money. Mr. Ketterl asked if the people thought that was something the board could have come up with in three weeks, which the woman said it could have been possible.

Getting information, said Herndon Board Member Tom Kogl is what the meetings with the other districts have been about. It turned into slammed consolidation. A patron said she talked with people in Atwood and Oberlin who said they thought it was about consolidation too. Mr. Kogl said the board held the meetings to explore the options. The media turned it into consolidation.

Board Member Francis Wahrman

said the board was exploring how many years the school could be kept open. Consolidation, said Board Member Jerry Niemeth, was only one of the options.

The board said they talked with other boards about the options.

Mr. Kogl said the board would be able to keep the doors to the school open just as long without consolidation.

One patron asked to hear from Superintendent Kim Juenemann about consolidation.

"I'm not allowed to speak tonight," said Mrs. Juenemann.

Another patron stood up and said Mrs. Juenemann had said at the board meeting the district could not meet the budget needs to keep the doors open.

Patrons asked about advanced math teachers, what the tax increase would need to be to stay open or if they consolidated, and continually asked for Mrs. Juenemann to speak throughout the meeting.

Patrons asked how the board (See SCHOOLS on Page 12)

Primary election in February for school race

Three people filed for the at large position on the Oberlin School Board meaning voters will hit the polls on Tuesday, Feb. 25, for the primary election.

Candidates are incumbent Jeannie Martin and newcomers Jan Badsky, who is the activities director at the Good Samaritan Center, and Dave Stapp, who farms near Norcatur.

The two candidates who receive the most votes will advance to the general election on Tuesday, April 1.

There is one other race for the Oberlin School Board for District No. 2. Incumbent Dan Wasson, and Monte Moore, both farmers, filed for the position. Both Councilman Ken Shobe who filed for Mayor and Steve Smith who is the pastor of Pioneer Baptist Church.

The other races will not be voted on in the primary since only two people filed for the positions.

Other candidates who registered for the election are:

- Jerry Fidele, Patrick Pomeroy

and Ray Ward for city council.

- Kurt Vollertsen for District No. 1 and Barb Olson for District No. 3 for the Oberlin School Board.
- Mike Helm for the Norcatur City Council. There are still two positions open for the council.
- Eric Green and Sarah Carter for the Jennings City council. There is still one position open.
- Russell Rhodes for mayor of Dresden. There are five council positions open.
- Lawrence Carter, Sheila Rhodes, Sarah Carter and Aden Schillig for Jennings School Board.

For the positions where no one filed, County Clerk Marilyn Horn, county election officer, said others may run write-in campaigns.

The voter registration books will close on Monday, Feb. 10, for the primary election. The county clerk's office will be open until 9 p.m. that night for anyone wanting to register to vote. The books will reopen on Wednesday, Feb. 26, and then close again on Monday, March 17, for the general election.

Telethon to be held Saturday with walking, food, fun

Get your check books and walking shoes — it's time for the annual Seeds of Hope Telethon.

The annual telethon starts at 1 p.m. Saturday and will last until 10 p.m. The event, which raises money for county organizations, will be held at The Gateway, and aired on local access channel 7 on the Oberlin cable system.

Each year organizers set up for an auction, and a walk-a-thon on the indoor track at The Gateway.

Each hour a new item will be announced and bidders can call in to place their bids on the items. To place a bid, call (785) 475-2901 or 475-3753. The auction includes over 100 items including tickets to a St. Louis Cardinals game, tickets to the Denver Rockies vs. Cincinnati game, a nights lodging at The Cottage House in Council Grove, Kansas City Chiefs denim jacket, saddle blankets, western purse, silver World Trade Center tribute collector coins, gift certificates and sav-

ings bonds.

New to the event this year is a live auction which will be held at 6 p.m. Organizers invite people to eat dinner at The Gateway and stay for the auction.

Anyone interested in dusting off the family recipe can enter the chili cook-off. Those who want to participate need to have a full crock-pot of chili at The Gateway by 5 p.m. for judging at 5:30 p.m. The chili will then be sold for dinner.

Local talent will have the chance to strut their stuff, with performances scheduled all day long. Anyone still interested in signing up to perform should call Anita Hirsch at 475-2296 or 475-2358.

Those wanting to walk to raise money can pick up an entry form at Hirsch and Pratt law office on Main Street.

Past telethons have brought in over \$10,000 for county groups. The organizers are shooting for that much or more this year.

to ask. They wanted to know what the projected enrollment for next year, which Mr. Ketterl said would be 76 and the year after that 65 students are projected to be enrolled in

Herndon.

How will the district get around the \$100,000 less it will get from the drop in enrollment. Mr. Ketterl said they are looking into sharing ser-



TEACHER MARLENE MOXTER (above) sold Ward Votapka several sodas at the tournament Saturday while Jim Altfilish waited to make his purchase. A young man

from Cambridge (below) taped the basketball game on Saturday for the team.

—Herald staff photos by Kimberly Brandt

Games bring crowds

Imagine half a day filled with basketball for three days of the week.

For family, fans and players that is exactly what happened last week in Oberlin during the high school invitational. It started on Tuesday with games, continued to Friday and ended on Saturday.

Started in the mid afternoon the events lasted into the evenings with both gyms at the school hopping with excitement.

Athletic Director Randy Olson said they had a really good crowd on Friday and Saturday even though it is hard to see sometimes since the fans are



split between the two gyms.

With eight teams in the tournament, both boys and girls, there was always a game going on.

Mr. Olson said the planning for the event starts a year before the event with trying to line up officials.

After that is done the planning cools off until the big event gets closer. About three weeks ahead of time, he said the staff starts to get the rosters done and assemble the program.

A week before the seating is done

based on the most available records from the schools.

During the games the brackets are changed frequently and kept up to speed.

Overall, he said the tournament went well.

District buys seven acres

The Oberlin School Board decided to purchase seven acres of land and an irrigation well east of the high school, which the district has been renting for the past three years as a practice field.

The board met in a special meeting Monday night to talk about the offer.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt said it was the offer the board made to

Lairy Golt who owns the land. The offer was for \$30,000 with the board paying \$6,000 annually over the next five years with no interest.

Mr. Golt asked to keep control of the buildings on the property until July 4 which the board approved.

Mr. Glodt said he called the board lawyer Allen Shelton to do the legal work for the purchase including

(See BOARD on Page 12)

Oberlin city wells drop two feet since last year

After a summer of little rain and lots of pumping, water levels in Oberlin city wells are down two feet from this time last year.

That means, officials say, the city is pumping water out of the source and it isn't being replenished, so the levels continue to

drop.

City Administrator Gary Shike told the City Council Tuesday, Jan. 14, that the drop in the water level scares him, especially since people are already out watering their lawns.

Last summer, the city enforced an even/odd watering plan to help con-

serve water.

Mr. Shike said he was planning on asking Byron Hale, county extension agent, to the next council meeting to talk about watering lawns at this time of the year.

The city is pumping from just wells No. 9 and 11, said Mr. Shike,

since the pump at well No. 10 broke in half about three weeks ago. He said it was just worn out.

The crew talked about repairing or replacing the pump and decided to put in a new one because it is the lead well. It will take about a month to replace.

* Schools plan to join

(Continued from Page 1A)
would be able to keep the doors open if they have already had to cut some things like girls athletics. Mr. Kogl said the board didn't cut the girls sports team. There weren't enough players to field a team and the girls voted not to play.

Both of the superintendents from Oberlin and Atwood had a chance to talk and so did the board president from Golden Plains. The three men answered the questions that they could and offered to help in any way that they could.

Oberlin Superintendent Kelly Glodt said he got the feeling during the boards' joint meeting with Herndon that it was about true consolidation, but there are other options.

He talked about a cooperative agreement which would mean the Herndon high school students could be contracted to another district and the Herndon district would still receive partial money for those kids which could supplement the grade school and help keep it open.

Mr. Glodt stressed again that no matter what happens the students should go and visit the schools before they decide where they want to go.

Throughout the three hour meeting there were many who had raised voices and many questions. One patron asked how the board would remember the questions so they could get the answers since no one was writing anything down. The same person asked if the meeting was being taped, which no one answered.

Since the board had already made a motion to not consolidate, they rescinded the motion and made another motion to consolidate with Atwood.

Of those in the audience who took part in the straw poll, 65 voted for consolidation while 38 voted against it. Of the students in the audience, 18 voted for it and four voted against it.

The board voted to consolidate with Atwood with Mr. Niemeth and Mr. Allen voting against it.

Flying high and low



DURING RECESS MONDAY, John Meitl and Cole May played on the swings. It was nice enough for the kids to shed their coats as they enjoyed their after lunch break. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Brandt

* Board buys land

(Continued from Page 1A)
making sure everything is in order for the water rights for the irrigation well.

The district will be able to not only water the practice field with the irrigation well but possibly use it for other land the district owns. Mr. Glodt said it will be cheaper for the district and will help alleviate the city water use.

The irrigation pipe which is in place will stay.

The district has been paying \$700 a year to rent the land. Last year the land was watered twice which cost around \$1,700. Mr. Glodt said it probably should have been watered four times because of the dry weather.

Board President Chris Bailey asked who would be paying for the title insurance or bringing the abstracts up to date.

The board has the abstracts but do not know if the documents are up to date.

Mr. Glodt said that Mr. Goltl said he was cutting the board a good deal and didn't want any of the costs if it had to be done.

The board approved the offer unanimously.

City will give cinema \$100 a month

The Oberlin City Council agreed to continue giving the Sunflower Cinema \$100 a month to help pay their city bill.

The council started to make a donation instead of subsidizing the utility bill for the theater within the last weeks.

City Administrator Gary Shike said he had received a call from a board member asking if the council was planning on giving \$100 a month again this year.

The theater hopes to reopen the first part of February.

Councilman Ken Shobe said he thought the theater is a good thing for the town, and although the budget is tight, it is a good idea to help the cinema.

The vote was unanimous to give \$100 a month.

Mr. Shike said he had received word from the state that the city had not received a Community Development Block Grant for housing rehabilitation. He said the representative he talked to said the coverage area was too big.

The city can reapply for the grant with some changes to the application, he said.

Anytime the city can get a grant, said Mr. Shobe, they should try for it.

The council agreed unanimously to try again.

The council also agreed to pay J Corp. \$31,000 for their recent work on the water project. Thaniel Monaco with Miller and Associates said the project is going well. Workers are putting service lines in on Cass Ave. and have done a pressure

test on south Cass, he said.

Mr. Monaco said field inspector Shad McCartney has been replaced by Bob Graham. He said Mr. Graham was working on the project before and his resume has been sent to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which is funding the project, for approval. In other business, the council:

- Received a road audit from the Kansas Department of Transportation for the intersection of U.S. 36 and U.S. 83.

Mayor Gary Walter said the city has until Feb. 10 to contact the department with questions.

- Decided to pay David Sporn, the newly hired man for the water department, \$7.50 an hour.

- Held a 20-minute closed session for non-elected personnel.

The Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center is advertising for a **Interrelated Para-educator** for the Golden Plains School District. This is a full time position. **Qualifications:** High School diploma or equivalent. This position requires an individual to provide services to disabled children under the supervision of a certified school staff member. To receive an application, contact Rose Langley at 785-672-3125 extension 200. For position related questions, contact Mary Ellen Welshhon at extension 116. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. NKESC is an EOE.

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FEBRUARY

Decatur County Community Calendar
(Call Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce to have your organization's meeting updated and listed in next month's calendar.)
Call 785-475-3441

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Oberlin Herald NOW IN OUR 125th YEAR OF SERVICE						Hill City Invitational 1 Speech Tourney, 8 a.m.; NWKK Wrestling Tourney at St. Francis, 9:30 a.m.; Jennings GNEC Tourney at Logan; 1/2 Price Day Bar- gain Box-Plus Seeds of Hope Telethon, Gateway 1-10 p.m.
Attend the Church of Your Choice.	2 Junior Varsity Basketball Tourney at Colby, 5 p.m.; Junior High Scholar Bowl at Quinter, 3 p.m.; Norcatur Rebekahs; Lions, Medical Arts Bldg.; Dr. Rubinowetz, oncology; Jennings GNEC Tourney at Logan; Kindergarten Enrollment, all week 2003-04.	3 Junior High Girls Basketball at Colby, 4:30 p.m.; Weight Watchers, 12:30-1:30 p.m.; Dr. Doolittle, Decatur County Hospital, Surgery; Rotary, Gateway, Noon; Jennings Basketball; Masons Meal, 6:30 p.m.	4 Dr. Eskildsen, Decatur County Hospital; Blood Pressure Clinic, Golden Age, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Oberlin Business Alliance, Gateway, Noon; AA, Ambulance Barn, 8 p.m.; Eastern Star, 7:30 p.m.; Jaycees, Red Crown, 8:30 p.m.	5 Kayette Conference at Almena, 8:30 a.m.; Junior Girls Basketball, 4:30 p.m.; Junior Varsity Basketball Tourney at Colby, 5 p.m.; Junior High Wrestling, 6 p.m.; Regional Scholar Bowl; City Council, Gateway, 6:30 p.m.; Jennings GNEC Tourney at Logan.	6 C Team Basketball at Colby, 4:30 p.m.; Oberlin Basketball at Colby, 4:30 p.m.; Oberlin Wrestling, 6:30 p.m.; Jennings Basketball at Sharon Springs.	8 Oberlin Invitational Speech Tourney, 7:30 a.m.; 9-10 Wrestling at Goodland, 9 a.m.; Oberlin Wrestling at Republican Valley, 10 a.m.; Regional Piano.
Arts & Humanities, Gateway, 2 p.m., Slapstick Vandeville & Bungling Bros. Circus. Antique Engine Club Potluck, Sappa Manor, 6:30 p.m. Attend the Church of Your Choice	9 Drama Club Variety Show 9 a.m.	10 Dr. Doolittle, Decatur County Hospital; Rotary Gateway, Noon; Decatur Professional Women, Gateway, Noon; Convention Visitors Bureau, LandMark, 5:30 p.m.; Oberlin Basketball, 6:30 p.m.; Jennings Basketball, Palco; Weight Watchers, 12:30-1:30 p.m.	11 Legion Auxiliary, 7:30 p.m.; Norcatur Royal Neighbors; Dr. Eskildsen, Decatur County Hospital; AA, Ambulance Barn, 8 p.m.	12 Junior High Girls Basketball at Oakley, 4:30 p.m.; C Team Basketball, 6 p.m.; Junior High Wrestling at Hoxie, 6 p.m.; K & DK Parent/Teacher Conferences; No DK or K classes; Dr. Rainwater, Cardiology; Chamber, Decatur Co-op board room, Noon.	13 Oberlin Basketball, 6:30 p.m.; Oberlin Wrestling at Hoxie, 6:30 p.m.; K-6 Parent/Teacher Conferences; K-6 No Classes; Oberlin Royal Neighbors, Golden Age, 4 p.m.	14 Colby Novice Wrestling; Junior High Girls Basketball B-Tourney at Atwood, 9 a.m.; Junior High Wrestling Tourney at Phillipsburg, 9:30 a.m.; Speech at Wheatland; State Scholar Bowl; Jennings Basketball at Wheatland-Varsity.
Attend the Church of Your Choice	16 C Team Basketball, 6 p.m.; Hospital Board meeting, 7 p.m.; Lions, Medical Arts bldg.; Norcatur Rebekahs. Bargain Box-Plus 25 Cent Week.	17 Dr. Doolittle, Decatur County Hospital; Rotary, Gateway, Noon; Oberlin Basketball at Atwood, 6:30 p.m.; Jennings Basketball at Triplains; Weight Watchers, 12:30-1:30 p.m.	18 Gifted Seminar at Oakley, grades 2-5; Junior High Music Contest at Colby; Dr. Eskildsen, Dr. Werth, Urology, Decatur County Hospital; AA, Ambulance Barn, 8 p.m.; Jaycees, Red Crown, 8:30 p.m.	19 Junior High Girls Basketball, 4:30 p.m.; C Team Basketball at Oakley, 4:45 p.m.; Oberlin Basketball at Oakley, 6:30 p.m.; Junior High Wrestling at Colby; City Council, Gateway, 6:30 p.m.	20 Regional Wrestling Tourney; Jennings Basketball. American Legion Aux. - Ham & Bean Supper, 5-7 p.m.	21 Regional Wrestling Tournament State Piano
Attend the Church of Your Choice	23 C Team Basketball at Norton, 4:30 p.m. Junior High NWKL Girls Basketball, here	24 Junior High NWKL Wrestling at Quinter; C Team Basketball, 4:30 p.m.; Oberlin Basketball, 6:30 p.m.; Dr. Doolittle, Decatur County Hospital; Weight Watchers, 12:30-1:30 p.m.; Rotary, Gateway, Noon.	25 Dr. Eskildsen, Decatur County Hospital; AA, ambulance barn, 8 p.m.; Dighton Speech Tournament.	26 7th-8th Grade Girls Basketball, Northwest Kansas League at Hoxie, 3 p.m.; American Legion meeting.	27 State Wrestling Tournament State KMEA	

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