

Good job, grapplers!

... We're proud of your season. Story on Page 6A.

THE OBERLIN HERALD

75¢ (tax included; 54¢ delivered at home)

16 Pages, 2 Sections

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

125th Year, Number 10

Track almost ready

Fence will complete area

The Oberlin Speedway is only two steps away from completion and only one step away from racing in April.

A committee of four men took up the speedway project about six months ago and now they are only a week or two away from having a security fence around the track and are ready to race.

Jack Metcalf of Metcalf Real Estate; Lee Martin, an area farmer; Scott Dolan, who works at the Decatur Coop fertilizer plant, and Lee Scott, a soil conservation technician with the Natural Resource Conservation Services, are finishing the work started by Rhonda and Mick Barth over a year ago.

Mr. Martin said without the Barths and their idea to have the track and getting the work started, the group would never be at this point.

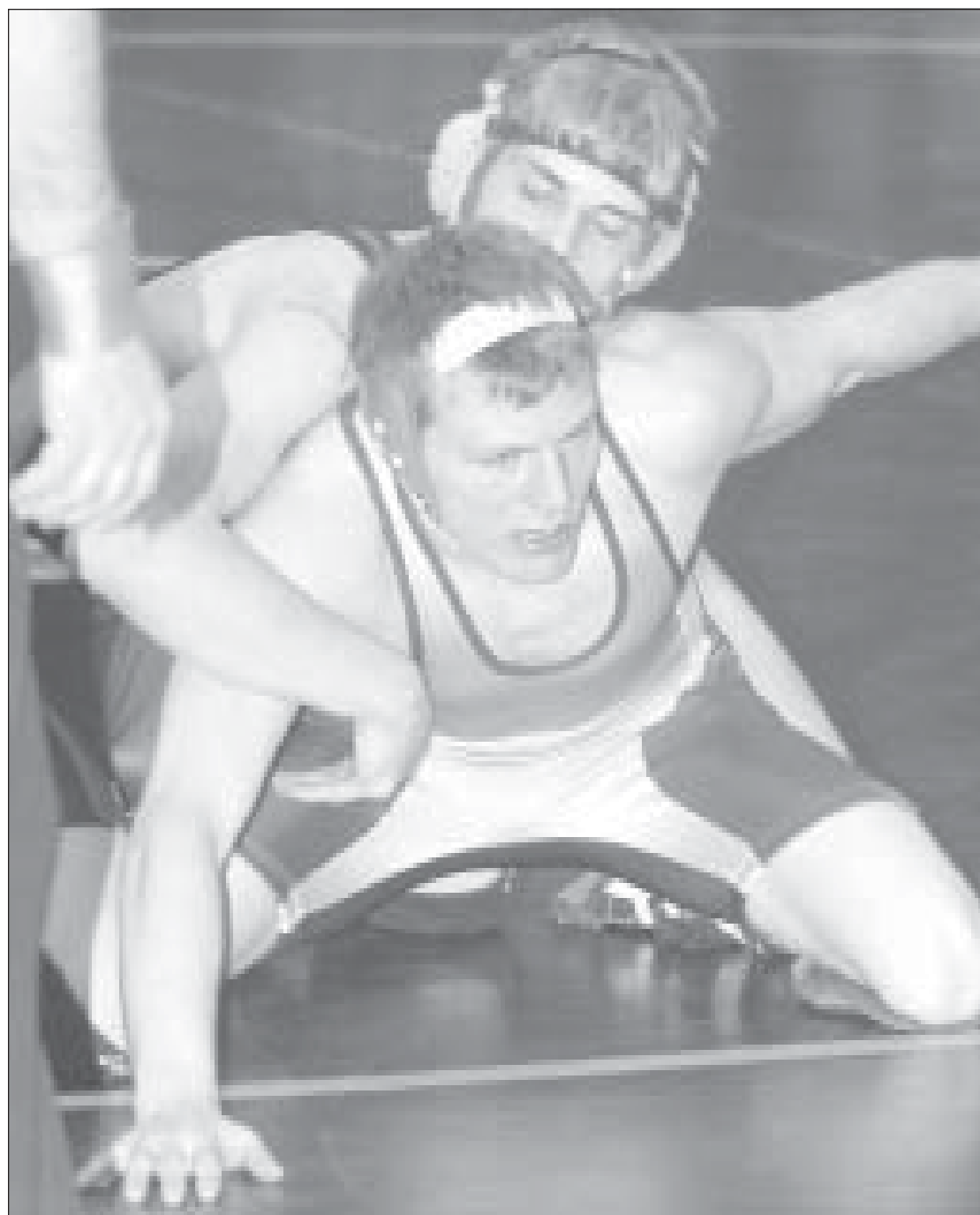
Last week, the group announced that around \$16,000 needed for a six foot chain link security fence that will go around the speedway had been raised.

The fence has been ordered, said Mr. Martin, from a company out of Grand Island, Neb., which will come in and put the fence up.

Mr. Martin said before the committee came in, between \$37,000 to \$39,000 of the work and material had been put into the speedway. It still needed to have the security fence put around the track for insurance purposes and the rest of a debris fence put up.

To raise the money for the security fence, he said, the group split up the businesses in town and just contacted people who liked racing. He said the group took any donation from \$1 up.

The more who contribute to the speedway, the more they will enjoy it and have a part in it, he said. Also, (See TRACK on Page 10A)



Athletes try hardest during state meet

OBERLIN CHEERLEADERS Tawni Davis (above front) and Karyn Jordan offered lots of support for nine Decatur Community High wrestlers at state on Friday and Saturday. Kenyon Badsky (left) was the top wrestler for the Oberlin team, finishing second.

— Herald photos by Kurt Gaston

Incumbent, farmer move on to general race

Incumbent Jeannie Martin, lab supervisor at the Oberlin Clinic, and farmer Dave Stapp will move on to the general election for the at-large position for the Oberlin School Board.

Last Tuesday, just 17 percent of the voters in the Oberlin School District went to the polls to pick two candidates to move on to the April election. Three candidates filed for the position: Mrs. Martin, Mr. Stapp and Jan Badsky, the activities director at the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center.

With three candidates, the district



Dave Stapp



Jean Martin

had to have a primary. After the votes were tallied, Mrs. Martin had 191 votes, Mr. Stapp 115 and Mrs. Badsky 38.

Only 338 voters out of 2,037 in the

district turned out, with 41 casting a ballot in advance.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn, who serves as the county election officer, said there were only two polling places with only three names on the ballot, at the courthouse in Oberlin and the Norcaur City Building.

By 7:30 p.m., she said, everything had been counted. None of the candidates was at the courthouse during the counting.

Mrs. Badsky congratulated the other two candidates and wished them luck in the general. She encouraged everyone to vote.

Mrs. Martin, who has served on the school board for four years, said she was pleased to be able to move on to the general election on April 1.

"I feel I'm getting a good grasp of the job," said Mrs. Martin, "and would like to help finish some of the work this board has started while I've been a member."

Mr. Stapp said he was pleased with the way the election turned out and plans to do some campaigning before the general. He said he would like to thank everyone who voted for him.

Advance voting is already open. Voter registration closes on Monday, March 17. The courthouse will stay open until 9 p.m. on the last day to register to vote.

Other candidates up for election in the general are:

- Councilman Ken Shobe and Pastor Steve Smith for Oberlin mayor.
- Councilmen Ray Ward and Jerry Fidele and Ambulance Director Patrick Pomeroy for two seats on the Oberlin City Council.
- Board Member Dan Wasson and (See SCHOOL on Page 10A)

Council tells J Corp to finish water project as originally bid

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

After a lengthy discussion, the Oberlin City Council refused to let contractor J Corp skip chlorine and pressure tests on home service lines it is replacing as part of the city's water project.

A motion to accept the firm's request on the tests died on a lack of a second during the Thursday, Feb. 20, meeting, meaning

the tests must be made.

The city received a letter from J Corp asking if they could skip chlorinating and pressure testing the remaining service lines, about 60 in all. The company is supposed to test the service line from the main to the meter, the part it is replacing as it connects homes to the new water line on Cass Avenue.

J Corp's letter said the city could deduct \$3,500 off what they will get paid for the project.

Councilman Ken Shobe said he would like to know the reasoning for the request. A representative from J Corp said currently they have 36 holes open on Cass Ave to have this test done. The temperature is supposed to drop to 25 degrees or lower, and the holes

have to be open for about three days for the test. That means that pipes may freeze.

Engineer Thaniel Monaco from Miller and Associates said the testing was included in the way the project was put out to bid. It is the way his firm has asked for projects to be done for the last few years. Before that, he said, the company asked for a visual test.

What is the downside to not doing the test

this way? asked Mr. Shobe.

Mr. Monaco said he didn't really see a downside to not doing it, but it is the way it was to be done.

So far the company has done around 15 of these tests, he said. Of those, two lines have frozen and J Corp has found one leak in a connection, said Mr. Monaco. If the (See WATER on Page 10A)

Cedar Bluffs area on tour for Ralph Moody Day Sunday

Cedar Bluffs, a small town near the state line north of Oberlin, has been put on the map by two books by author Ralph Moody, and on Sunday area residents will get a chance to learn a little more about the books and the area's history.

The Oberlin Convention and Visitors Bureau, Decatur County Museum and Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission will offer an afternoon of Ralph Moody starting at 1:30 p.m. Sunday in Morgan Theater at The Gateway.

The event will start with a presentation from Jim Hoy from Emporia State University, to be followed by a presentation by Sharleen Wurm, co-director of the museum.

Connie Grafel, with the visitors bureau, said the group decided to focus in on the books because many people who visited the LandMark Inn asked Owner Gary Anderson about the area because of the novels. Mr. Anderson read the books, as did many others in the group, she said.

At the state level, she said, a lot of people talk about tourism and drawing people in by focusing on the history of the area. These books are one way to get people interested in the area, both here and from all over.

Ms. Grafel said since the groups started to work on the event, they have started getting contacts from

people out of state who want to come next year if it becomes an annual thing. She said this is just a start, and the group hopes to make it a regular thing.

To help increase interest, the visitors bureau gave copies of "The Dry Divide" to elementary schools and students have read the books and will do a presentation on Sunday.

Ms. Grafel said part of the day will include a tour of Cedar Bluffs and talking with some older people who will tell about what they recall of the area.

The book, "The Dry Divide," is based on 1919, when Mr. Moody got off the train in McCook with no money to his name and needed a place to live. That place turned out to be Cedar Bluffs, which back then, said Ms. Grafel, was a bustling little town.

"The Dry Divide" and "Horse of a Different Color" were written about the time Mr. Moody lived in Cedar Bluffs.

During the tour, the group will see pictures and be shown buildings that existed at that time and the areas where things used to be. There will be a refreshment stop at Dick Bunstock's home in Cedar Bluffs.

Reservations for the tour can be made by calling Mary at (785) 475-3329 or Ella at (785) 475-3557.

The presentation is a season ticket event. Cost at the door is \$10 for adults or \$5 for students. The event is free to kids in the sixth grade and under.

Final counts show telethon with \$1,700 more than goal

The Seeds of Hope Telethon group brought in around \$1,700 more than its goal of \$10,000 during the annual event in February.

Jack Benton, one of the organizers, said before expenses the group brought in \$11,700. He estimated the expenses at \$1,000.

Mr. Benton said the group felt it might not bring in as much money this year, so the goal wasn't raised above \$10,000.

He said the group was right and things were a little slower, but the goal was met and even more money was raised.

For some, he said, it may have been confusing as to why the figure for money raised jumped so much at

the end of the evening. He said the group doesn't put any figures on the board that haven't been entered into the computer system or an invoice made.

At 10 p.m., closing time for the telethon, the final number was given, said Mr. Benton, but the figure still jumped because there were items purchased that hadn't been put into the computer.

Mr. Benton said things went well. There are always things the group learns at the event and things that change from year to year. He said the group tried a new idea this year with a live auction. They plan on having the auction at next year's telethon.

Event though the group is still collecting money from auction items, they have sent the checks out to the 17 organizations in the county who were on the list to receive money this year.

Mr. Benton said the majority of the organizations received \$650 but there were at least three that wanted less.

The group keeps a small part of the money to get things going for the next year. He said the group spend at least \$120 in stamps to get mailings out to groups and people.

For now, he said, the telethon group is taking a break, but in September, things will start getting rolling for next February.

Legislators will be here Saturday

Three Kansas legislators will be at The Gateway at 10:15 a.m. Saturday to have coffee and talk with people from the area.

The coffee, sponsored by the Decatur County Farm Bureau, will

include Sen. Stan Clark of Oakley, Rep. John Faber of Brewster and Sen. Kahrn Brownlee of Olathe.

Sen. Brownlee is the chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, which is placing emphasis on rural

development this year.

The three will talk about what is happening in session this year and answering any questions.

Everyone is invited. There three will be here for only an hour.

* Track almost ready to open

(Continued from Page 1A)
 he said with more people donating, fewer large donations were needed. Mr. Martin said he would rather receive a lot of smaller contributions than a few big ones.
 "We are elated in how positive people have been," he said.
 There has been a tremendous support for the speedway and a positive attitude from many people, he said. Mr. Metcalf said he thinks the Oberlin Speedway will boost the area's economy, provide entertainment and make a place for people who like to race.
 He said by the second week in March the fence should be up. All that will be left is to finish hanging the debris fence, which the group and volunteers worked on both Saturday and Sunday. Mr. Scott said after the fences are up, the promoters will take over.
 The speedway already has a sanc-

tioning license and all it will need is insurance and then it will be time to race.
 Racers will be able to bring IMCA modified, IMCA stock car, IMCA hobby stock, bombers and cruisers to the speedway.
 A schedule has been set with the first race set for 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 12, and the second at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 20.
 Mr. Martin said the next step in the speedway is to put up lights.
 He said it will cost around \$6,000 for the lights and then the group will ask for volunteer help for installation.
 He said on overcast days, the lights may be needed even for races starting at 5 p.m.
 Mr. Martin said anyone wanting to contribute may send a tax-deductible donation to Oberlin Speedway, Box 301, Oberlin, Kan. 67749.

* Water project running on time

(Continued from Page 1A)
 company doesn't do the chlorine and pressure tests, they will still have to do a visual test to make sure there aren't any leaks.
 Up to a year after the project is done, said Mr. Monaco, J Corp is required to fix any problems.
 Is the request being made because of time or is it a big monetary concern, asked Councilman Stan McEvoy. The representative said it is extra labor to re-dig the hole after it has been dug up once. The holes have to be covered or run the risk of the line freezing.
 Councilman Ray Ward asked if the project is on schedule, which Mr. Monaco said it was.
 It was sent out to bid this way, said Mr. McEvoy, and this is the way the engineer sped it. He said he would rather see the city add a couple of days to the project to allow the work to be done so that everything is done right.
 Mr. Shobe pointed out that there

could be problems if the pipes freeze.
 Mr. Ward said he was concerned about the holes being open, too, but winter is almost over and warmer weather is coming.
 J Corp Estimator Curt Staab said this is the only project the company has done this way.
 There are a lot of towns in Kansas that do the visual testing. It is quicker and the holes are covered quicker, he said. It is better for everyone.
 Steve Smith, who was in the audience, said he thought \$3,500 seemed to be a chintzy amount and he believed J Corp should be held to the original agreement and do what they are supposed to do.
 Mr. Shobe made a motion to accept the request, but no one spoke up to second it. The motion died, and the original agreement is still in place. That means the company has to do the chlorine and pressure testing on the service lines.

Stamped street signs will replace old ones

Faded, worn street signs will be replaced with new stamped signs, the Oberlin City council agreed at its second February meeting at The Gateway.
 City Foreman Dan Castle said that during earlier budget meetings, the council talked about putting \$10,000 to \$12,000 into the signs.
 He said he found a place to get 470 signs made identical to the ones the city has now for \$4,150.
 That doesn't include the hardware to put the signs up, but he said he thought that would be minimal. The hardware wasn't included in the original price either.
 Councilman Jerry Fidele said the city should go ahead and buy the signs. The council agreed.
 In other business at the meeting Thursday, Feb. 20, the council:
 • Approved moving David Perrin to full-time status, including benefits, at \$7.50 an hour.
 Mr. Perrin has earned his General Educational Development certificate.
 • Heard that Mr. Shike had attended a Rockies Venture Club meeting in Denver with others from Oberlin. He said it was different than any meeting he had been to before.
 • Heard that the video projector at The Gateway died. It has been replaced for \$1,810. The new projector is better quality and enables the city to provide computer projection anywhere in the building, which the

old one couldn't.
 • Heard that City Clerk Martha Nemeth plans to retire May 1. Mr. Shike said he would most likely move treasurer Deanna Castle into the job, as she has been training for it.
 • Talked briefly about Rep. Jerry Moran's recent visit to Norcatour.
 • Approved the reappointment to Mr. Shike to the Kansas Municipal Energy Agency board.
 • Moved the Thursday, March 6, meeting from upstairs to the theater because the room upstairs will be in use.
 • Held two 20-minute closed sessions for non-elected personnel, two for attorney-client privilege, with no action taken.
 • Held a 15-minute closed session for acquisition for real property. After the session, the council agreed to request proposals for consulting services at the airport. The city has some Federal Aviation Administration money that can be used to purchase property near the runway. The city will use a consultant to help acquire the property.
 • Decided at the Thursday, Feb. 6, meeting to pay the third request from J Corp for the water project. The council approved the request for \$41,276.
 The project is going well, Mr. Shike said. So far, there hasn't been enough moisture to freeze the ground and stop work.

Program for infants, toddlers introduced

Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center of Oakley has introduced a statewide initiative for Early Intervention Networks, now called *Tiny-k*.
Tiny-k Early Intervention Services promote development of infants and toddlers with special needs. The center provides these free services to children in this area. Help is available with speech,

developmental, vision and hearing screenings to all children, as well as physical and occupational therapy and developmental training for children who qualify.
 With the name change, officials they hope to better publicize the services and encourage parents to contact them.
 For details, call (785) 672-3125, extension 111.



FRIDAY MORNING, Decatur County Commissioner Ralph Unger helped canvass the votes for the primary school election.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Brandt

* School election has one race

(Continued from Page 1A)
 Monte Moore for the district 2 seat of the Oberlin School Board. Both men farm in the district.
 • Board Member Kurt Vollertsen for district 1 on the Oberlin School Board and Board Member Barb Olson for the district 3 seat, both unopposed.
 • Eric Green and Sara Carter for

Jennings City Council.
 • Aden Schilling, Lawrence Carter, Sheila Rhodes and Mrs. Carter for the Jennings School Board.
 • Mike Helm for the Norcatour City Council. There are two seats that no one has filed for.
 • Russell Rhodes for Dresden City mayor. There are two seats that no one has filed for.

Teens plan celebration

Teens for Christ Connection is planning a weekend celebration marking the 25th anniversary of the youth ministry the weekend of April 11-12 in Phillipsburg.
 A Friday night informal gathering is planned at the Phillipsburg Senior Center. On Saturday, a celebration

banquet (reservations) will be held at 12:30 p.m. at the Huck Boyd Center in Phillipsburg. The weekend will conclude with the EDGE (formerly known as the Rally) on Saturday night.
 Oberlin Teens for Christ was started by Eric and Cindy Scott.

Samway Floor Covering
 4x16
 RED Spot Color
 OH/ADV
 Ad Mailed to GDN