

School board makes cuts to finish year

Three staff terminated, kitchens combined

The Oberlin School Board agreed to terminate three classified staff members, combine the kitchens in the district and increase the lunch prices by 50 cents for students.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt said the district has already taken several steps to cut costs this year, but with the fixed costs, three jobs had to be cut.

Those terminated included Custodian Gloria Schultz and Cooks Sharon Mockry and Jeanette Diederich. Mrs. Schultz has worked for the district for 12 years, Mrs. Mockry 15 and Mrs. Diederich 14. Board Member Dewayne Jackson asked if any of the women were retiring or if they were all being terminated. Mr. Glodt said at this time it was a termination.

By terminating the three women the district saves \$23,000 in payroll for the rest of the year. In a full year,

Mr. Glodt said the district would save around \$53,000.

Mr. Glodt said there has been a lot of research done about combining the kitchens to save money. The money savings will come in when ordering in bulk and also having to only run the ovens and everything else at one school.

Last year, he said, the district had to supplement food services \$110,000. The goal is for the food services to stand alone, although that isn't reality.

This year, said Mr. Glodt, the district will have to supplement it from \$70,000 to \$80,000.

He said he called the state and checked into the regulations about combining the kitchens. Mr. Glodt said the state officials told him that they had too many expenditures with food and personnel and they (See SCHOOL on Page 12)

Petition started to allow voters to decide on increase

A petition to let the voters in the Oberlin School District decide if the district can increase the local option budget from 18.11 percent to 25 percent was certified on Thursday.

Phil Lahman, who builds terraces and owns two houses in Oberlin, started the petition. He said he received some information about state statutes and it shows that the school board has the authority to put the increase to election without going through the petition process. He said he talked with Board Members Barb Olson and Monte Moore about that authority and he said they both said they didn't know the board had that authority.

Mr. Lahman said he feels that tax-

payers have the right to vote on tax increases.

Last July when the board asked for a 5 percent increase in the local option budget, Mr. Lahman started a petition. He received 150 signatures which was more than enough to force an election.

In July the special election, which cost the district around \$2,500, was held. The vote passed 606 to 392 which gave the district an extra 5 percent in local taxes for five years.

Mr. Lahman said this time if the board chooses not to use their authority to go to an election he would petition for it to give voters the chance to make a decision.

(See PETITION on Page 12)

Annual conference will bring Kansas official here to speak

The Tri-State Initiative for Economic Development annual conference will be held at The Gateway on Thursday, April 22, with featured speaker Kansas Lt. Governor John Moore, who serves as the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Commerce.

The event will actually kick off on Wednesday, April 21, when members will be arriving in Oberlin. They will have the choice of either touring the Last Indian Raid Museum or golfing at the Oberlin Country Club.

That evening at 5 p.m. the annual business meeting will be held at the LandMark Inn. Connie Grafel, marketing director for the Economic Development Corp., said an event like this will normally bring around 125 people to town from around the tri-state area including Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska.

The conference is always held where the chairperson lives. This year's co-chairs are Ms. Grafel and Carolyn Applegate of Goodland.

The conference will begin at 8 a.m. with Paul Mastilak, International Trade Specialist with the United States Department of Commerce and Laurel Alpert who is the state of Colorado director of international development.

Theme for this year's conference is "Windows to the World." The conference will be based on ways to reach far away markets with value added agriculture commodities, home-grown products and main street retail offerings.

Throughout the day activities will include an international trade panel representing the Central North American trade corridor, short-line rail service and Mid-States Port of Authority.

There will also be a number of breakout sessions. This time will include business owners from the tri-state area telling success stories on how they got international ties.

Another session will be held by the tri-state group about continuing to promote agricultural tourism while focusing on ways to get international travelers to rural communities.

Other speakers during the day will include David Bernard Steves and Ted Tietjen from Nebraska who will talk about the growth strategy for the United States heart-

(See CONFERENCE on Page 12)

Churches help museum fix up old hall

By KIMBERLY BRANDT
Decatur County Lutherans have made it possible for the Decatur County Museum Board to get bids on replastering the main room in the Bohemian Hall after holding a pancake feed in November.

Pastor Charlotte Strecker-Baseler said Faith Lutheran and St. John's Lutheran churches joined forces to put on the feed on Nov. 21 at St. John's.

The effort raised \$967 for the museum, which was matched by \$800 by the Smoky Hill Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, giving the museum \$1,767 for the job.

There were 160 people at the feed, said Pastor Strecker-Baseler.

Thrivent wants people to do more

volunteer work in their community, she said, and the pancake feed created 98 hours of volunteer work.

The Smoky Hill Chapter covers 14 congregations in Decatur, Sheridan, Gove, Trego, Graham, Norton and Phillips counties. Each year the chapter leadership board decides how much money is allotted for each county or congregation and then projects have to be matched.

Pastor Strecker-Baseler said that St. John's and Faith have separate projects. For example, the St. John's youth raised money for the high school band while the youth at Faith Lutheran raised money for the Angel Tree and the Decatur County Food Pantry.

The pancake feed, she said, is the

first time she has seen the two churches work together on a project.

Barbara Dehlinger, a museum board member, said she didn't know if the money will cover the entire job. She said after the plastering is done, the room will have to be painted, and the board doesn't have a bid on that yet.

Curator Sharleen Wurm said that any donations to help finish the project would be appreciated.

The pancake dinner was planned because it seemed to be a good way to raise money and there hadn't been one in awhile, said Pastor Strecker-Baseler. Everyone needs to eat, said Mrs. Wurm.

Pastor Strecker-Baseler said the replastering was a worthy project. So far, all the money that has been

raised or donated for the hall had been used to re-do the kitchen and the bathrooms, Mrs. Wurm said.

The bathrooms are just about done, she said. They just need some finish work. There are also a few things left to do in the kitchen.

After those projects are finished, said Mrs. Dehlinger, the board will have to decide if the balcony is going to be made safe and usable. There is a possibility of using the little room off the main floor as a mini museum to the hall, but those are the long term plans.

The hall can be rented for \$75 a day or \$40 for a half day.

The museum board plans to hold a pancake feed from 5 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 24, to raise money for operating expenses.

Aerial sprayer may learn to fight fires from the air

A local man who owns an aerial applicator business has volunteered to check into learning how to fight rangeland fires in his plane.

Rich Shaw, owner of Shaw Aerial Spraying, met with the Decatur County commissioners Tuesday morning to talk about using the

plane.

Mr. Shaw said about three years ago Kansas approved the plan to use aerial applicators for this purpose, but there is no help money-wise for the service. It is all volunteer.

He said he received a memo from Dusty Dowd of Syracuse Flying

Service which explained that he is working with Casey McCoy of the Kansas Forest Service to sponsor a training course in Great Bend on Saturday, Feb. 7.

Mr. Shaw said he plans to attend the meeting. The training has been set up, he said, to encourage aerial

applicators to join forces with the Kansas Forest Service to help put out rangeland fires.

Rural fire departments in Kansas have also been asked to the meeting. Fire Chief Bill Cathcart had planned to be at the commissioners meeting (See SPRAYER on Page 12)



WITH HER FLUTE AT HER MOUTH Nakita Bose (above) practiced with her fellow students during band class. Jacob Larue (below) prepared to play his trombone.

—Herald staff photos by Kimberly Brandt

Students learn to play music while having fun

With their arms held perfectly still, each student tilted their wrists and lifted their horns, clarinets and flutes to their mouths, ready to play.

Students in the back held out two sticks waiting for the instructor's signal to start playing their drums and xylophone.

The fifth and sixth graders at Oberlin Elementary School have band class every day. With 22 students in the sixth grade and 18 fifth graders taking part in band, just about every instrument is used.

Teacher Christie Morris said in fifth grade the students learn mouth position, breathing, technique, basic theory, and how to play together as a group in both unison and harmony. In the sixth grade, things are stepped up and students learn more difficult rhythms and music.

Mrs. Morris teaches with

Deanne Spanier. Mrs. Morris teaches the fifth grade group and woodwinds and Ms. Spanier, the sixth grade and bass and percussion.

The sixth grade gets together twice a week while the fifth graders gather just once a week.

By splitting up the sections of the band, she said, it is easier to cover material and advance quicker.

There is also a saxophone trio made up of Mary Olson, Daniel Jordan and Alejandra Ortiz. The trio meets Fridays after school and will perform at Oberlin Rotary on Tuesday, Feb. 10.

Mrs. Morris said the teachers try to let the students choose the instrument they want to play, but some students are encouraged to play certain instruments. At the beginning of the year there is a period when students try each of the instruments.

She said she tells the students that the more they practice at home the better they will get.



Jennings celebrates state's birthday early with guest speaker

By VERONICA MONIER

The birthday celebration began early in Jennings as the Czech Memorial Museum and the Heritage Associates of Jennings held a Kansas Day Celebration Sunday afternoon.

Federal Appellate Judge Deanell Reece Tacha, who was the guest speaker, said that Jan. 29 was not only the birthday for Kansas, but was the 150th anniversary of Kansas becoming a territory.

She said the Kansas Territorial Sesquicentennial Commission, which she chairs, has set into place several projects to commemorate the event. For the first and probably last time in Kansas history, the Kansas/Nebraska Act of 1854 will leave Washington's archives to be on display in Topeka for three

months.

The committee has also implemented programs which will hopefully last through future generations, she said. In April, the commission will be giving away disease and drought resistant trees to schools and other organizations, and will be selling them at \$5 apiece to all those who want them. They will also be trying out a new middle school curriculum on Kansas history, which will include an interactive DVD on Kansas history which will hopefully give a special feeling of pride and add an extra dimension of understanding about the development of Kansas and its people.

Judge Tacha said that Kansas' history was extremely recent in the great scheme of things. Kansas (See SPEAKER on Page 12)

County reviews coverage

After reviewing the insurance list, the county attorney found that the fire station isn't insured through the county.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch said there were three items the county needed to look at on the insurance list sent out by Kansas Counties Association Multi-Lined Pool.

The first thing was that the county is paying insurance on Wheat Ridge Terrace which the county is not responsible for, the old county shop is insured at \$357,000 and there is no coverage on the fire station in Oberlin.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said he thought the coverage on the old county shop was a little high. The suggestion was made to drop the amount to \$100,000. It won't cost \$357,000 to replace the old county shop with a metal building, said Mr. Hirsch.

Apparently, said Mr. Hirsch, there is no county coverage on the fire station in Oberlin. County Clerk Marilyn Horn said that is because the city owns it.

Baloney, said Mr. Unger, the county paid all the financing on it. The townships donated to it and the city only donated \$5,000 for the whole project.

Mr. Hirsch said the deed is recorded to the county.

Mrs. Horn said she would call about the insurance and get everything taken care of.

* Sprayer may help fight fires

(Continued from Page 1A) but there was a mix-up in the timing so he was in later in the day.

Mr. Shaw said with his plane he can dump on an area about the size of a football field. He said he opens the emergency jets so all the water doesn't dump out at once but it isn't the same as when he is spraying.

Mr. Shaw said anyone interested can accompany him to the meeting.

Later in the meeting Chief Cathcart came in. Commissioner Doyle Brown asked if there were any places in the county that the firefighters couldn't get to. Chief Cathcart said not really although there are some that take a little longer than others.

Commissioner Patricia Glenn said that Mr. Shaw said he would go find out about it and then get back in touch with the county.



FEDERAL COURT of Appeals Judge Deanell Reece Tacha talks about Kansas history at the Kansas Day Celebration in Jennings Sunday afternoon. Judge Tacha said Jan. 29 is the 150th anniversary of Kansas becoming a territory.

— Photo by Veronica Monier

* Speaker talks about state

(Continued from Page 1A) sas was the cauldron in which the civil war was born. She said after the Kansas/Nebraska Act was passed, Kansas was called Bleeding Kansas because of the many skirmishes fought between those people who were against slavery and those who were for it.

"Had the anti-slavery people not prevailed," she said, "we would be a very different state and country today. Kansas has a proud history, but also a sad history because of all of the Native Americans who were

displaced so our ancestors could own their land. Our history gives us the opportunity to look at our future and make it better."

She said the commission wanted people to focus on the land and people, and the future of everyone and not just the individual.

"Kansans need to be proud of who they are and where they came from," she said.

Also during the celebration, children from the grade school performed and sophomore Elise Kinsler read a poem written by her grand-

mother.

Lila Jennings gave a progress report on the Czech Memorial Museum.

She said the walkway was complete and their projects — cemetery books and area newspapers going back to the late 1800s — were going well.

"I'm really proud of our community and all of the help that has been given to us to get this museum going," she said.

She thanked everyone for their time and donations.

* Conference to be held here

land through development of a Central North American Trade Corridor Association. A representative from Phillipsburg will talk about the vanishing number of short-line rail providers. Joe Kiley will present "Ports to Plains" in Colorado.

Students from McCook Community College from international locations and high school foreign exchange students have been asked to talk about their views of "cultural diversity" through experiences they have had in the rural midwest.

Representatives from Go-Light of Culbertson and Prairie Tumbleweed Farm of Garden City, which have both cracked the international market, will speak.

The banquet that evening will be open to the public. Reservations must be made in advance. The cost will be \$25.

For conference registration information of banquet reservations contact Tri-State Initiative, McCook Community College, 1205 East 3rd St., McCook, NE 69001; (800) 658-

4348 or email schneiderc@mpcc.edu.

Scholarship deadline looms

The Tri-State Initiative for Economic Development will be choosing students from each state to be awarded a \$250 scholarship.

Deadline for the applications is Friday, Feb. 13. Applicants must be a high school graduate or have a general equivalency diploma from a school in the tri-state area, have a minimum of 2.5 grade point average

and be planning to attend a school in the tri-state region with an enrollment date no later than the fall semester following graduation.

The committee will select a student by Monday, March 15.

For more information contact Mr. Larry Worth at (970) 867-9053, extension 233 or email at necalg@twol.com.

* School board makes cuts to end year

(Continued from Page 1A) weren't bringing in enough money.

For free and reduced lunch prices the school gets reimbursed \$2.33. The official from the state said that the district lunch prices should be closer to what the district gets reimbursed.

Currently at the grade school lunch costs \$1.45 and at the high school \$1.75.

Mr. Glodt said this will not be popular, but he recommended the board increase the meal prices.

For every quarter raised, there is \$12,000 more revenue for the whole year, said Mr. Glodt. Basically the district raised the lunch prices a quarter at the beginning of the year and that raised \$12,000. He said with 50 cent increase that will be around \$12,000 more raised from now until the end of the year. This is district wide revenue.

Mr. Glodt said the price change doesn't mean that the servings will be smaller or that the meals will change. Students will still be able to get a hot lunch and also go to the salad bar.

The district's job is to serve a nutritious meal, he said.

What about adult meals, asked Board Member Barb Olson. The price for an adult is \$2.50 and the

board didn't raise the prices.

Mr. Glodt said he didn't think that the breakfast prices should be raised either. He said there may be a greater percentage of cold breakfasts now.

The board agreed to raise the prices, which brought the grade school lunch to \$1.95 and the high school lunch to \$2.25.

Mr. Glodt said he was working Thursday on a letter to the parents to explain the increase. The prices will change as of Monday, Feb. 2.

In other business, the board:

- Held a closed session for negotiations for 23 minutes. There was no action taken.

- Had a visit from Phil Lahman who wanted to hand out information to the board stating that they could choose to go directly to an election for the increase of the local option budget to 25 percent.

The board by statute has the authority to go right to an election, otherwise it can be petitioned and if the petition gets the signatures then it has to go to a vote.

After the meeting was adjourned Mr. Lahman approached the board members. Mrs. Olson said she didn't think they could address anything. Mr. Glodt said he could get the information out to the board members in their weekly meetings.

* Petition circulating needs 106 signatures

(Continued from Page 1A)

The petition has to have 106 signatures and be turned back into the clerk's office by Thursday, Feb. 19. That is 30 days from publication in *The Oberlin Herald*.

On Thursday, he said, he has talked with several people who want

to carry a petition.

Mrs. Olson said that she feels strongly that if people are going to sign the petition they should get educated about the cost savings the district has already done and why the board is asking for the money.

Wagner Ford/Mercury

3 x 10 1/2

obh

Ad sent to GDN

**620 Acres (+/-) Furnas County, Nebraska
Dryland Farm/Pasture/CRP**

Absolute Land Auction

SELLING IN 5 TRACTS

Helen Stevenson Trust-Owner

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Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2004 • 10 A.M.

Auction to be held in the School House in Hendley, NE

Located 4 Miles West from the Junction of Hwys. 283 & 89 West of Beaver City, NE

FARMERS - HUNTERS - CATTLEMEN: Take advantage of this opportunity to acquire 620 Acres (+/-) of productive Furnas County, Nebraska Dryland and Pasture. Approximately 420 Acres of 1st and 2nd Sappa Creek Bottom. The 5 Tracts will sell individually, and will ABSOLUTELY sell to the highest bid without reserve. Make your plans now to attend this LAND AUCTION.

NOTE: ALL TRACTS ARE LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 8 MILES SOUTH OF HENDLEY, NE

TRACT #1
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: The W1/2 SE1/4 & Pts 1/2 W 1/2 NE 1/4, S 30, T 1 N, R 23 W, Furnas County, Nebraska.

THE FARM: The 117 Assessed Acres consist of approximately 117 Acres of 2nd-Bottom Dryland Farm Ground, of which approximately 77 acres are 1D soil. The Farm Ground is currently corn stalks. Gravel roads provide excellent access to this property. FSA DATA: (Estimate) Contract Acres: Wheat 61.2; Corn 10.3; Grain Sorghum 11.5; Soybeans 26.7

TRACT #2
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: The SW1/4 S 30, T 1 N, R 23 W, Furnas County, Nebraska
THE FARM: The 218 Assessed Acres consist of approximately 200 Acres of mostly 2nd-Bottom Dryland Farm Ground and approximately 6 Acres of Grass. The Farm Ground is currently corn stalks. There is an irrigation well on this tract that is and has been inactive for many years. It is #G-015238 and was done in 1948. One of the better Dryland quarters in Furnas County with good gravel road access.

FSA DATA: (Estimate) Contract Acres: Wheat 104.3; Corn 17.6; Grain Sorghum 19.6; Soybeans 45.6

TRACT #3
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: The NE1/4 S 35, T 1 N, R 24 W, Furnas County, Nebraska
THE FARM: The 210.31 Assessed Acres includes Tract #4 which consist of approximately 60 Acres (+/-). Tract #3 consists of approximately 106.8 Acres of 1st and 2nd-

METHOD OF AUCTION: The farm will be sold in 5 Individual Tracts, undivided and will absolutely sell to the highest bid without reserve.

SUBJECT TO: Existing fences, boundaries, covenants, easements, leases, oil and gas leases, if any, and roads as the same may appear of record.

TERMS: The purchaser shall make a 20% earnest deposit the day of the auction. The balance due upon closing on or about March 25, 2004. Possession given upon closing. 2003 and prior years taxes paid by seller. The cost of title insurance/escrow fee shall be divided equally among the buyer and seller. The property sells in "as is" condition, no warranties. Announcements made at the auction take precedence over any advertising. Heartland Partners Realty are agents representing the seller.

Bottom Dryland Farm Ground which is currently in corn stalks. The Sappa Creek meanders across this quarter providing lots of excellent natural wildlife habitat with water year-round and a gravel road provides excellent access.

FSA DATA: (Estimate) Contract Acres: Wheat 55.0; Corn 9.3; Grain Sorghum 10.3; soybeans 10.3.

TRACT #4
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: PT N 1/2 NW 1/4 S 35, T 1 N, R 24 W, Furnas County, Nebraska.

THE FARM: This tract is included in the Assessed Acres of Tract #3 above and is estimated to be approximately 60 Acres (+/-) of Pasture which can nearly all be seen from the gravel road that provides access.

FSA DATA: No Contract Acres Bases established.

TRACT #5
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: The W1/2 SW1/4 S 26, T 1 N, R 24 W, Furnas County, Nebraska
THE FARM: The 75 Assessed Acres consists of approximately 17.3 Acres of Dryland Farm Ground, 26.3 Acres of CRP with a \$41.00/Acre/Year contract through 2007. The balance of approximately 31 Acres consists of pasture across the road North of Tract #4.

FSA DATA: (Estimate) Contract Acres: Wheat 24.7; Corn 4.2; Grain Sorghum 4.7; Soybeans 4.7

For More Information Call (308) 962-7745 or see it at www.hprealty.net

