

## City prepares for hot, dry summer

**By KIMBERLY BRANDT**  
The Oberlin City Council got ready for summer water restrictions Thursday, lowering the triggers for a water watch, warning and emergency, and authorizing the mayor to set the plan in motion.

If a trigger is hit, the resolution passed by the council allows Mayor Ken Shobe to put the city on odd/even watering restrictions or even ban water use outside. At the meeting after the mayor makes the decision, the council would have to ratify the decision.

The old plan had 1 million gallons or more a day as the triggers for stage

two of the drought emergency contingency plan. With city wells producing less water after three years of drought, that was cut to 800,000 gallons per day.

City Administrator Gary Shike said he talked with Willard Perrin, with the water department, that day and he recommended that the council lower the trigger amount to 900,000 gallons a day.

Can the city stand to pump that much water? asked Councilman Stan McEvoy. With the way the wells are producing now, yes, said Mr. Perrin.

He said if the city pumps 24 hours

### Council Roundup

At its meeting Thursday, the Oberlin City Council:

- Got ready for summer water restrictions by lowering the triggers for conservation rules and authorizing the mayor to set the plan in motion. Story to left.
- Voted to approve vacation of the alley to make way for a new lumber yard. Story below.
- Received three bids for test holes to be drilled around well No. 9 east of town and approved the lowest bid from a Hoxie firm. Story to come.

day and the water doesn't go down any more in the wells, then the city can pump a little over 1.3 million gallons a day.

Even though the city is looking at re-drilling well No. 9, said City

Foreman Dan Castle, unless a well is drilled that produces more than No. 10, if the city pumps 1 million gallons of water a day, it will be a water emergency. Two of the three wells can't be pumped at the same time, he said. Well No. 9 will still be a back up to No. 10.

Mr. Perrin said if variable-speed pumps are put in wells, then the city may be able to get a little more water out of the two. In all the years those wells have been in use, the city has never been able to pump them together.

Mr. Perrin said on Monday, April 5; Tuesday, April 6; and Wednesday,

April 7 the city pumped 500,000 gallons a day.

If the city got to 900,000 gallons a day, how long could they sustain that level? asked Mr. McEvoy. Probably a while, said Mr. Castle, if the water table doesn't drop or a pump doesn't go down.

Councilman Jay Anderson said most people he has talked with know the city is probably going to have to go on water restrictions again this year. The restrictions have been in effect the last two summers.

Maybe 900,000 gallons is too high for a trigger, said Mr. Perrin. (See CITY on Page 10A)

## Babes of Spring



**EXPLAINING THE RITES** of spring, teacher Diana Steinmetz (above) showed Madison Macfee (center) and Jakobi Blau how to handle baby chicks born last week in the developmental kindergarten class at Oberlin Elementary School.

Taylor Corbett (below) proudly showed off one of the black chicks as Evan Shobe watched. In all, 14 baby chickens hatched out of their eggs.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Brandt

## Eggs hatch out crop of little peepers

**By KIMBERLY BRANDT**  
Fourteen black-and-yellow chicks cuddle together in a cardboard box under a heat lamp, the newest addition to Diana Steinmetz's developmental kindergarten class.

Thursday, the 12 students had the chance to watch their eggs hatch into chicks, and now the kids are learning how to care for them. Twenty-four pairs of little hands take their time reaching into the box to get a chick out.

The students are all smiles as they pull the chicks out of the box. One little girl cuddles with her chick holding it cupped in her hands and then putting it in the crook of her neck. Others are almost too excited to hold the little birds that are trying to flap their wings and get away. Still other kindergartners haven't yet mastered

how to hold the chicks and get a little warning not to squeeze the birds too much.

The eggs, provided by Cade Wurm, were placed in an incubator on the far east side of the classroom with four duck eggs and four brown Chinese goose eggs, that haven't yet hatched. Principal Duane Dorshorst came up with the duck eggs.

Mrs. Steinmetz said the chick eggs take about 21 days to hatch, the ducks 24 days and the geese 28 to 34 days.

So far, the class has only had the chicks. On Friday, there were still a few chicks trying to peck their way out of their eggs in the incubator.

Mrs. Steinmetz said she has chicken eggs in the classroom every year, but these have been a

(See CHICKS on Page 10A)



## Schools check role of leaders

### Area athletic directors all work at other things

**By KIMBERLY BRANDT**  
The Oberlin School District seems to be right in line with others in the area as far as administrators go, Athletic Director Randy Olson told the school board last Monday.

Mr. Olson gave a report including what he does in his job and how many administrators each area district has.

In the area there, he said, no school district has a full-time athletic director. Including school districts in Atwood, Colby, Goodland, Hoxie, Oakley, Quinter, St. Francis and Oberlin, three districts have the principal or assistant principal serve as the athletic director. In all the others, the director position is held by a teacher. None of the director positions is a full-time job.

With the recent budget cuts and staff reduction, he said, the question has been raised whether the district should cut any administrators. Mr. Olson said he has a supplemental contract for \$9,040 to be the half-time athletic director. He is responsible for all sports, but works with Principal Charles Haag on scheduling for all activities.

He said he has checked with other schools. In Atwood, there are four administrators. The athletic director gets two hours a day to do that work. Atwood hosts two invitationals. Hoxie has four administrators

### School Roundup

At its meeting last Monday, the Oberlin School Board:

- Heard that the district seems to be in line with others in the area as far as administrators go. Story at left.
- Faced with a \$25,000 shortage in federal programs, agreed to cut one of four "Title I" teachers to half time. Story below.
- Approved a list of projects for the summer. Story to come.
- Approved contracts for teachers and other certified staff. Story to come.

plus a person, who is hired to run events they host. The athletic director gets three hours a day and the district hosts three events.

Oakley has four administrators plus a person who helps when they host events. The athletic director gets two hours a day.

Quinter has four administrators. The director gets two hours a day. (See SCHOOL on Page 10A)

## Teacher cut to half time as federal money shrinks

Faced with a \$25,000 shortage in federal programs, the Oberlin School Board agreed last Monday night to cut out of four teachers who work with "at risk" students under federal Title I programs to half time.

Elementary Principal Duane Dorshorst said preliminary numbers show that the school district will lose over \$8,000 for the next school year. This year, he said, the district borrowed \$9,722 from Title IIA money and used some carryover. All of these funds are money the district receives under the federal Education Act.

When everything is said and done, said Mr. Dorshorst, the district will be short around \$25,000. He said they pay four employees out of the federal money, and the district gets a total of \$99,623.

The district won't know what carryover is available for next year until June 30, he said.

The bad thing about federal money is that there aren't many options to look at when it gets cut, said Superintendent Kelly Glodt. He said there are two teachers who are

teaching the same thing, so then the reduction in force policy comes into play. The board agreed to reduce Kimberly Witt's Title I teaching contract at the elementary school to a half-time position for next year. She does a lot of one-on-one with kids, helping students with different subjects.

Mr. Glodt said the good news is that the district did receive a slight increase, more than \$15,000, in federal money in the delinquent fund, but the money has to be used at Sappa Valley Youth Ranch.

Mr. Dorshorst said that the federal money isn't the only thing that is changing. There are some changes being made because of the No Child Left Behind Act.

He said there will probably be revision to the student handbook next year. It doesn't really say anything different, but gives more recognition to the law.

Mr. Dorshorst said they have to notify parents of students who are not being taught by a "highly qualified" teacher. That means if the dis-

(See TEACHERS on Page 10A)

## Business gets go ahead to build lumber yard by vacated alley

**By KIMBERLY BRANDT**  
With 13 people in the audience, the Oberlin City Council voted Thursday to approve the vacation of the alley between Fidele Electric and Woodcrafting and the old cafe building to make way for a new lumber yard.

Owner Greg Fidele bought the old cafe building south of the alley and asked the council to vacate the right of way at the end

of March so that he could put up gates at either end of the alley for security. Mr. Fidele said he planned to cut the north wall out of the old cafe building so he could install lumber bins.

At the meeting, the council decided to adjourn the hearing until the first meeting in April to get public comment. At that meeting, a motion to vacate the alley died on the lack of a second. Councilmen said

then they had heard little support and lots of opposition to the move.

Last Thursday night, the council voted to vacate the alley with the stipulation that if Mr. Fidele sells either of those buildings, the alley will revert back to the public at no cost to the city. The city will maintain a utility easement. The council also asked that an appropriate gate be put on the alley on the side that faces Main Street.

All of the council members voted yes except Ray Ward.

Before making a decision, the council asked for public comment.

Connie Grafel, director of the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp., said that the board felt they needed to write the council a letter. She said the economic group sees this as favorable for the community, a business which will add jobs.

As a group, said Ms. Grafel, they don't see any problems with closing the alley.

When the group helped Mr. Fidele get his loan, she said, it never crossed anyone's mind that the alley vacation might be turned down.

"I think we need to support businesses who want to expand," said Ms. Grafel.

Wayne Goltl, owner of Home Planning (See LEADERS on Page 10A)

# \* Leaders prefer business to alley downtown

(Continued from Page 1A)  
 Center, said he has had a business on Main Street for 30 some years and he doesn't see why there should be any objections to vacating the alley.  
 "We need the business," said Mr. Goltz, "not the alley."  
 Councilman Jay Anderson said the alley doesn't belong to the city. The city can't rent it or sell it. All the city can do is give it away. If Mr. Fidele vacates the business, sells it or

whatever, if the alley goes back to the city, then Dr. Anderson said he didn't see a problem with it.  
 Mayor Shobe said he felt the city should support economic growth. He said the council always talks about stimulating economic growth. The city will need to maintain easement for utilities, he said.  
 Councilman Patrick Pomeroy said he has been in favor of the vacation since Mr. Fidele brought it up two meetings ago. He

said he has heard some negative comments about the alley closing, but feels it is the least the city can do.  
 Councilman Ward said he has had more people say things against closing the alley than for it. He said the city has had problems getting public comment. This issue has brought more public comment than anything else. He said he thought if the council was going to ask for public comment, they need to listen, even though he is for economic development.

Dr. Anderson said he didn't realize how big of a deal the closing was. He apologized to Mr. Fidele, saying he didn't mean to embarrass Mr. Fidele because he is not a member of the Chamber of Commerce or the Oberlin Business Alliance.  
 Mayor Shobe said the council needed to make a decision.  
 Mr. Pomeroy made a motion to accept the request to close the alley. He put in the stipu-

lation that if the one of the buildings is ever sold, the alley will revert to the city at no cost to the city. The city will maintain an easement. He later amended it to say that an appropriate gate needs to be put on the side of the alley that faces Main Street.  
 Mr. Fidele said he didn't have any problem with that.  
 Councilmen Pomeroy, Joe Stanley, McEvoy and Anderson voted for the vacation. Mr. Ward voted against it.

# \* School checks others

(Continued from Page 1A)  
 and they host four events.  
 St. Francis has three administrators. The high school principal is also the administrative athletic director and there is a part-time director. There are directors hired for each sport, so they have five assistants who are teachers. Those assistants take care of scheduling their sport. The director gets an hour a day. The part-time director gets two hours a day. They host two events.  
 Among the larger districts, Colby has five administrators and the athletic director is also the assistant principal at the high school. They host seven invitational tournaments.  
 Goodland has six administrators, with the assistant principal doing the athletic director's job, and they host eight.

Mr. Olson said Oberlin has three full-time administrators, plus him and teacher Jim Andersen, who schedules all the workers for events. Mr. Olson said he gets three hours a day to do the activities work and teaches three classes. The district hosts nine events.  
 Other administrators are grade school Principal Duane Dorshorst, high school Principal Charles Haag and Superintendent Kelly Glodt.

He said other directors advised him that he should not move his athletic director work to his classroom. If he does, they said, he might end up stealing class time to do the work.  
 Mr. Olson said he attends a lot of night and weekend events.  
 He takes care of all the scheduling, forms for the state activities association, transfers in and out of district, contracting officials, travel arrangements, meals, number of kids the district is sending to an event and the athletic budget. Just this year, said Mr. Olson, he has handled 181 contracts for officials and attended 105 events.

When Principal Charles Haag is out of the district and something happens at the high school, Mr. Olson said, he handles it. When they are both gone, Mr. Andersen does.  
 The athletic department has spent around \$76,000 on equipment, officials, travel expenses, lodging, meals and administration of events this year, he said, but brought in around \$89,000 from ticket sales, activity tickets and entry fees to tournaments. Mr. Olson said they have bids out to replace some uniforms.

Mr. Andersen makes around \$2,000 for his role. Mr. Olson is paid a teacher's salary and then has the supplemental contract for the director position.

Mr. Haag said the high school hosts a lot of events. The athletic department makes money on those.  
 Board President Chris Bailey asked what Mr. Olson's responsibility for the coaches is. Mr. Olson said he does an evaluation on each one at the end of the year. They discuss how to make things better and he also deals with the staffing issues.

## Finding a bargain at the museum



**CHECKING OUT A BOOK**, Dorothy Vacura of Jennings was one of the shoppers this weekend at the Decatur County Museum's third annual rummage sale. Museum Director Sharleen Wurm said sales were up this year, thanks to all the people who donated items and those who came to buy them.  
 — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Brandt.

# \* City gets tougher on watering restrictions

(Continued from Page 1A)  
 Maybe it should be only 800,000 gallons.  
 The council approved new water triggers. For a water watch, people will be asked to conserve water, the trigger will be 600,000 gallons a day instead of 1.2 million gallons. For a water warning, the city will go to even/odd watering, the level will be 800,000 gallons per day, compared to 1.3 million last year. And for a water emergency, no outside water use, the trigger is 1 million gallons, down from 1.5 million gallons.

Councilman Joe Stanley asked if the no outside water use is strictly residential or if it will affect the car wash. Mayor Shobe said last year the council anticipated leaving the car wash open.  
 Mr. Stanley said this year he thinks the city needs to be tougher on enforcement. Until someone pays the \$100 fine, he said, the city will get to the 1 million gallons a day and then there won't be any water use.

## Health meeting set

If you want to sound off on health care in Decatur County, a public meeting will be held from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, May 18, in the courtroom at the Decatur County Courthouse.  
 The meeting, organized by the county commissioners, will include representatives from the hospital and Good Samaritan Center.

Where should someone call with a violation, asked Councilman Ray Ward? Mr. Shike said during the day, the city office, but at night people should call dispatch.

He said it would be good for those who have private wells to let people

know that. Mayor Shobe said even those with private wells should know the water comes out of the same place and he urged everyone to conserve.

Some ways to conserve include not watering the lawn when the wind

is blowing, checking sprinklers to make sure they aren't watering the street, checking for leaky hoses, using common sense, washing full loads of clothes, fixing leaky faucets and running toilets and taking shorter showers.

# \* Chicks brighten classroom

(Continued from Page 1A)  
 little more successful than usual. She said she bought a new incubator, which may have made a difference.

From the beginning of the process, she said, the students have been learning about the different birds. Mrs. Steinmetz said on the seventh day, the kids "candled" the eggs, holding them under a bright light in a dark room. She said if the egg is clear, then they know that it isn't fertile. If there is a dark spot, they know that a chick is growing.

Again on the fourteenth day, they did the same test, she said. By that time, the mass is a little bigger.

Throughout the process, said Mrs. Steinmetz, the class reads books about development and about taking care of chicks after they hatch. The students learned that the chick feeds off the yolk in the egg and grows inside.

A few days before the eggs are supposed to hatch, she said, they pull the plugs out of the top of the incubator, which increases the oxygen the birds get.

Mrs. Steinmetz said they also have to keep the right amount of moisture in the incubator.

After the chicks hatch, she said, she leaves them in the incubator for three to four hours and lets them fluff up. If the chicks are weaker, she said, she will leave them there a little longer. It is 100 degrees in the incubator and only 92 under the lamp.

Mrs. Steinmetz said if the class gets eggs that don't hatch, they will crack them to see how far along the birds got.

She said the kids just get a kick out of the project.

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# \* Teachers get graded

(Continued from Page 1A)  
 trict has to hire a long-term substitute, he said, they will try to get someone who meets that standard.  
 Another change is that parents will have the right to ask about teacher qualifications. That can cover five things, including whether the teacher is certified by the state to teach the grades and subjects he or she is teaching, if the teacher is

teaching under an emergency or other provisional certificate, the teacher's college major, if the teacher has any advanced degrees and if so, in what subject, and if aides provide services to a child, what their qualifications are.

The parent has to come in and fill out a form for the request, he said. The school then has 30 days to get the information back to them.

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