

County required to write animal plan

By KIMBERLY BRANDT
Decatur County commissioners found out that each Kansas county is required to have an emergency plan for foreign animal disease at their meeting last Tuesday, though few actually have finished one. Dave Cuthbertson, a livestock inspector, with the Kansas Animal Health Department, said the animal plan should tie in with the bioterrorism plan. Meeting with him and the commissioners was Dr. Mark Olson of Countryside Veterinary Clinic. Experts believe that there will be attacks

on animals somewhere in the United States, he said. Bert Cool is listed as the Decatur County emergency preparedness coordinator, said Mr. Cuthbertson. He said a year ago he contacted Mr. Cool. He then contacted Marilyn Gambelin, health administrator and Patrick Pomeroy, ambulance director. He said none of them were interested in doing the plan. Someone needs to do this, said Mr. Cuthbertson. It isn't as hard or overwhelming as it looks. Each county, he said, is handling the plan

differently. Some are letting the sheriff's office do the plan, some the Farm Service Agency and some are letting different groups do it. When this was first started, the goal was to have all the counties in the state have a plan developed by March, he said. That didn't happen; only a few counties have their plans in. Foreign animal disease, said Mr. Cuthbertson, is titled as a weapon of mass destruction. After the plan is taken care of, he said, the

county can apply for grants. The plan will help the county look good, and it could mean a lot of grant money for law enforcement. Mr. Cuthbertson gave the commissioners a guide for the plan. It gives a list of questions that have to be answered, the procedure and suggested county committee members. Both Norton and Rawlins Counties have started their plans, he said. Mr. Cuthbertson is from Norton County. He said Dr. Olson has been to the meeting in Rawlins County about the plan since

he has had experience with foreign animal disease. Dr. Olson said he thought it was important to have a pro-active plan for the county. That way, if something does happen, there won't be chaos. He said he was willing to be part of that committee. In case a foreign animal disease is spotted, the farmer would contact his veterinarian, who would contact foreign animal disease diagnostic experts, who would be here in four hours and take a sample and send it (See COUNTY on Page 10A)



AT THE DECATUR COUNTY FAIR last summer, Jane Carlisle helped Kevin Amack and his daughter Madeline at the duck pond while the Ferris wheel ran in the background.

The picture appeared in the May edition of *National Geographic*.

— National Geographic photo by Jim Richardson

Fair featured in National Geographic

By KIMBERLY BRANDT
Oberlin and the High Plains are the focus of a cover spread in *National Geographic* this month, complete with a picture of the Decatur County Fair. Jim Richardson, photographer on the project, lives in Lindsborg, where he has a gallery. Originally, he said, he came from Belleville, where his parents had a farm. For a time he lived in Denver and drove U.S. 36 back and forth. Mr. Richardson said he discovered the fair in Oberlin on those drives. When they decided to do the story on the Great Plains, he said, they weren't just looking for how

the area has changed, but how people are trying to keep things going. Mr. Richardson said he is impressed with the fact that the Decatur County Fair started its own carnival, with civic groups and individuals volunteering to run things. The community has banded together, he said, to take fate in its own hands. Last summer, he was at the fair on Friday and Saturday nights looking for an action shot. He laid under the swings for a long time to get shots, met some people and got some shots of the Ferris wheel. In the magazine, he said they used the picture of Jane Carlisle working the duck pond with the

Ferris wheel in the background. Also in the picture are Kevin Amack of Meeker, Colo., son of Mary Ann Amack of Oberlin, and his daughter Madeline. The shot is a typical example of townspeople working the home-owned carnival, he said. Mr. Richardson said he loves the fair. It is obvious that everyone has a great time and families aren't afraid to have their kids run around rides and play games. The magazine project was started about a year and a half ago in November or October and then wrapped up last November, Mr. Richardson said. Then he went back to Washington to do layouts.

He said he probably spent 12 weeks in the fields, three or four doing research and three weeks editing. Mr. Richardson said doing one major story in a year is a good load, as he doesn't work from a manuscript. At the beginning of the project, there is a story conference with the writer and photographer, the editor of the magazine, the illustration editor and whoever came up with the idea. That way, everyone is on the same page. Mr. Richardson said he and the writer communicate a fair amount of time during the project. (See FAIR on Page 10A)

Graduation to break tradition with four speakers

By KIMBERLY BRANDT
Decatur Community High School's graduation ceremony is filled with tradition year after year. Every year, the DCHS Singers perform. So does the choir. The students march to "Pomp and Circumstance" and school board members hand out diplomas. Normally the valedictorian, the student with the highest grade average, talks and so does the salutatorian, the student with the second-highest average. Most of those traditions will be observed on Sunday, but this year four young women likely will share the honors as valedictorians. Principal Charles Haag said all of the girls have received straight A's throughout their high school careers. If all goes well — the school is holding off until they finish their classes today and final grades are recorded — they will be co-valedictorians. Each will get a chance to talk, he said, but they won't all give a speech. He said one is going to read a poem, another a story, the third a speech and the fourth is going to

give a challenge to her class. Another young woman selected as salutatorian has decided not to give a speech. This class, said Mr. Haag, is an outstanding set of young people. Last year, they "blew the top" off the state tests. The class received "building of excellence" awards in both reading and social studies. What really makes them so special, he said, is that they represent the school well in everything, from academics to athletics to drama to music. They are versatile and well-rounded. There are kids this year, he said, who have a grade average as high as valedictorians in the past but are No. 10 or so in the class because of how well everyone has scored. Graduation, said Mr. Haag, is one of the last traditional rites left in our society. It represents moving from one stage of life to another, he said, and is about growing up. He said they take graduation seriously at the school, and take great pride in it. He said it should be a wonderful experience. (See SENIORS on Page 10A)

World War II vets to be Legion guests

Members of the Oberlin American Legion plan to make a change in the program for the annual observance of Memorial Day, scheduled for 10 a.m. on Monday, May 31, at the Oberlin Cemetery. This year, there will be a national recognition of the veterans of World War II in Washington on Saturday, May 29, with the unveiling of the National Monument in honor of "The Greatest Generation." The Oberlin American Legion will honor World War II veterans during the Memorial Day ceremony instead of having the traditional guest speaker. They are encouraging all World War II veterans to at-

tend. As part of the program, they will ask these veterans to come forward, be identified and be part of a group photograph. The Legion hopes to record, for community history, these veterans by placing the photographs in the Post 70 Memorial Hall and the Last Indian Raid Museum. "This program will only be successful if the World War II veterans attend the ceremony," said Commander Walter Pennell. Anyone needing help to and from the cemetery should call him at 475-1055 or Adjutant Gary Allen at 475-3461.

Dancing the night away



EARLY IN THE EVENING on Saturday, Anthony Marshall and Bayley Bryan got in some dances. Check out the OH! page for more pictures of Oberlin's prom.

— Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

Herndon to hold last graduation Sunday

Herndon High School will graduate its last class Sunday, with the school closing its doors for good at the end of this school year. The Herndon School District consolidated with the Atwood School District last summer. At that time,

the boards agreed that this would be the last year for the high school. Over the year, the students have had a lot of lasts. They played their last football game at home and almost won the Nebraska six-man league. They came home with sec-

ond place. The basketball players went to state as well, playing their last game together as Beavers. This was the last year to take tests in the school, the last prom and Sunday will be the last graduation. The 11 seniors will graduate at

5:30 p.m. in the Herndon High gym. Their invitation reads, "As Seniors, we all have our own ambitions, our own dreams to pursue. But wherever our separate pathways take us, we'll always be the Class of (See STUDENTS on Page 10A)

* Fair on the cover

(Continued from Page 1A)
The job of the writer, John Mitchell, is to write, and his is to tell a story through pictures.

After the meeting, Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Richardson went their separate ways. He said they do share ideas: if he finds something interesting, he tells the writer and vice versa.

When he does a story, there is a lot of digging for photo ideas, not just trusting to luck. There will always be some luck involved, but if more than 10 to 20 percent of the pictures are coming from luck, then the photographer isn't doing his job. He said he can't just go out on the road and hope to find things.

Before he headed out, he researched events and set up when and where he needed to be.

During the story conference, he said, he has a list in his hand with 40 to 60 pictures with the dates of events outlined, along with ideas.

He said his two favorites from the project are on the cover of the newspaper edition, of burning pastures in the Flint Hills, and the picture inside of the Lakota man near Rapid City who was hunting buffalo. It was the first time for his family to hunt buffalo in the last 100 years. The man hunted with a bow and arrow from horseback, the way his ancestors had.

Mr. Richardson worked in newspapers for 15 years, much of that time at the *Topeka Capital-Journal*, and then became a full-time freelancer. He said he has been doing this for 20 years.

The magazine is based out of Washington, so he goes there three to four times a year. Up until now, all the work he has done has been on film, although soon he will change to digital cameras. Whether all the work is digital will vary depending on the photographer and the needs of the story, he said.

For most jobs, he said it is easy to use 800 to 1,000 rolls of colored slide film. He said the slides are reproduced more easily, make for a better work flow and are easier to work with in the editing process.

On this story alone, he shot well over 200 subjects. The database had around 380 contacts and he probably talked to over 200 of those on the phone or in person.

Mr. Richardson also does a lot of issue, cultural and travel photography and said he has traveled to Ireland, Wales, Italy, China and Scotland.

The web site nationalgeographic.com has several more pictures of the fair in a video.

"I hope the people in Oberlin realize what a precious thing they have in the fair and that the community comes together to work on it," he said. "It is a real example of how communities can take their fate in their own hands and defy all the trends that would otherwise tell us what is going to happen. It is a great fair, and everyone was extremely nice to me. Thanks for taking me in."



Residents, kids dine

AFTER THE LAST reading theater at the Good Samaritan Center presented by kids from the Jennings School, Travis Cressler, David New and Gabriel Bird (above) had lunch. The kids read a story about a substitute teacher to residents last Wednesday. Jade Cressler (right) waited to eat lunch with her reading partner, Dena Gillespie.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Brandt



Ambulance director wants to buy golf cart

The Decatur County ambulance director told the commissioners at the meeting Tuesday, May 4, that he thought the department should buy a golf cart to pick up injured players and haul them off the football field.

Director Patrick Pomeroy said the department could purchase the cart out of the memorial fund.

Commissioner Doyle Brown asked why they wouldn't just drive the ambulance on the field and pick someone up. Mr. Pomeroy said the cart could also be used for public relations and in parades.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said he didn't think it was a great idea. He said he would feel better if Mr. Pomeroy wanted to get a four wheeler or something with better traction.

Can better wheels be put on a golf cart for traction? asked County Clerk Marilyn Horn. Commissioner Patricia Glenn said she would like to think about the purchase and commissioners said they would like public comment on it.

Commissioner Glenn asked if Mr. Pomeroy had heard from Brady

Richards, an emergency medical technician and Oberlin graduate, who had talked about working part-time for the county. Mr. Pomeroy said he has played phone tag with him.

Mrs. Horn said several have called to see if the position will be open to people here.

Mr. Pomeroy can pay his emergency workers \$8 an hour if they want to come in and work. There is only one that normally does that work.

He also said all five of those from

the first-responder class passed the practical tests, but they are still waiting for the written test results. He said there are some openings in coverage this month. Commissioner Unger asked about the new emergency workers and Mr. Pomeroy said it will take two to six weeks to get written results back.

The department, he said, doesn't have a single radio in stock and there aren't any old ones. He added that he is going to need two more radios, but three of the students already have radios.

* Students, community say good-bye

(Continued from Page 1A)
2004 from Herndon High School."

Graduating are Kara Allen, Lance Basgall, Alicia Bergling, Curtis Brown, Tabettha Hoehner, Ted Juenemann, Caleb Kastens, Abraham Marintzer, Tyler Mercer,

Kati Niemeth and Daniel Riener.

Four students have a straight A 4.0 grade point average, so all four will be recognized as honor students and all, Mr. Basgall, Mr. Brown, Miss Niemeth and Mr. Riener, will have a chance to speak. The students

decided they didn't want any music this year, but will march in to "Pomp and Circumstance," played by two former Herndon graduates.

They will give a slide show called "Looking Back," which will have pictures of the class.

The class flower is a silver-tipped white rose. Each of the graduates will be presenting yellow roses to their parents.

Eighth graders who will be promoted to high school are Dusti Kowalski and Zyle Nelson.

Commissioners talk about truck bids for weed department

The Decatur County commissioners talked about a new truck for the noxious weed department Tuesday, but made no decisions.

Gaylen Huntley, director, said he had received five bids. He said he left the process a little open so there would be some flexibility in what dealerships would bid. Mr. Huntley said a club cab was OK but he didn't want anything longer than that.

A bid for a club cab came in and

Commissioner Ralph Unger asked if it was a four door. Mr. Huntley said he didn't want a four door, but didn't know.

Mr. Unger suggested that Mr. Huntley check the bids out and said they would talk about them again next week.

Mr. Huntley returned at the end of the meeting to say that the club cab was a four door and that he said he would continue looking for a truck.

Spraying for musk thistle is in full swing, he said. The bindweed is growing early so they have started to spray it too.

* County must do plan

(Continued from Page 1A)
to New York. If it was positive, the county would be in charge of declaring it. The county would act as the first responders to the situation in that case.

As first responders, it is important to stop any livestock travel, said Mr. Cuthbertson.

Decatur County is a prime target, he said, because of the feed lots and the sale barn.

Experts claim, said Mr. Cuthbertson, that the next terrorist attack will be in the pocket book, which could be the meat market. He said he will come over and give a program to get things started.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said maybe they need to have a county-wide meeting to get things started. That way they will find out who is interested.

* Seniors graduate Sunday

(Continued from Page 1A)
rience for the young women and men who will be graduating on Sunday.

The ceremony will start at 2:30 p.m. in the high school gym. Doors will be open around 1:30 p.m. for anyone who wants to get a seat early.

The school asks that the seats on the north side of the gym be reserved for relatives and friends and the northeast end for parents and immediate family members.

There will be 44 students graduating this year.

Mr. Haag said there will be a slide show about the seniors. The DCHS Singers will perform "The River," the choir will sing "I Just Want to Thank You" and the trumpet trio will perform "Gallant Brigadiers" during commencement.

School board President Chris Bailey and board member Monte Moore will be handing out diplomas. Mr. Haag will read the names while Superintendent Kelly Glodt will move the graduates' tassels.

There will be a special tribute at the end of the ceremony.

The class colors are red and black, class flowers are a Fuji mum and calla lily and the class song is "Time to Fly."

The class motto is "What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us," a quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Webmaster has area ties

Jason Brewster of Atlanta makes up the web pages for National Geographic, as well as several other magazines.

He is the son of Jamie (McKay) Brewster, a 1965 graduate of Decatur Community High School, and the grandson of Phyllis McKay of Jenks, Okla., formerly of Oberlin.

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Oberlin Swimming Pool

will open
Saturday, May 29
1 - 6 p.m.

(weather permitting)

Sunday, May 30 - 1-6 p.m. • & Monday, May 31 1-6 p.m.
Open Swim

Regular Hours of Operation

(Pool hours subject to change)

Monday - Friday
11 a.m. - Noon Ladies' Swim
1 - 5 p.m. Open Swim
6 - 6:30 Lap Swim
6:30 - 8:30 Open Swim

Saturday 1 - 6 p.m. Open Swim
Sunday 1 - 5 & 6 - 8 p.m.

Admission Costs:
Daily- Adults \$2.00/Children under 12 - \$1.00
FREE Kiddie Pool

Season Passes Available at the Pool after May 29
Family \$60.00 - Individual \$30.00

Swim Lessons
Call Manager: Jennifer Thomas
Sign up at the pool or call: 785-475-2546

For More Information, Call:
Pool Manager Jennifer Thomas at the pool (785-475-3112)

Big Timber Memorial Services

Sunday, May 30

10 a.m. followed by
Potluck Dinner at 12:30 p.m.
at the City Hall in Jennings.
Drinks will be furnished.
Please bring your own table service.

<p>WAR DEAD Foreign Service</p> <p>Joseph Cilek John Fiala, Sr. Albert Janousek Matt Kaspar, Sr.</p> <p>Civil War Bartholomew Henry</p> <p>Henry W. Heilman William Krizek</p> <p>Edward Cilek Vollie Kathka Raymond Matousek Alfred W. Heilman</p> <p>Vietnam Peacetime Wayne Buchanan Elmer Petracek</p>	<p>Fred Wentz James Janousek Joseph Urban</p> <p>Spanish American War Anthony Kolsky</p> <p>World War I Anthony Kaspar Joseph Petracek</p> <p>World War II Anton Vacura Carl Kasper Bernard Ehrlich Frederick A. Flaska</p> <p>Korea Raymond Kaspar Norman Petracek Harwood Chandler Bennie Krizek</p>	<p>Frank Pachner Gustave Steffen Joseph Tucek Joseph Vacura</p>
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