

Jennings Schools expect a low count

The Jennings Schools expect to open Monday with just 25 to 30 students, but the board plans to get school open and classes started before it looks at the future.

The drop in the number of kids has affected everything from teacher assignments to where students will play sports to the superintendent's office.

Superintendent Dave DuBois said Monday that the board hasn't discussed whether this could be the last year for the district. School needs to start and get through the official count day on Sept. 20, he said, and then the board will need to revisit the future.

He said he sees some major changes needing to take place for the district to stay open, but there hasn't been any formal discussion about closing.

He said the district has reduced the staff by two, one before he was hired and then there was an opening this summer that was never filled.

"We are forming new partnerships to do sports," said Superintendent DuBois. "Class sizes are much smaller, but we will be offering the same courses."

The district has tightened its belts with jobs, he said, and most of the impact will be

at the elementary level.

Mr. DuBois was hired back as a part-time superintendent and principal with a one-year contract. He worked in Jennings until two years ago, finishing a two-year contract.

He went to the Weskan district, but had left the superintendent's job there and was working in the area. He said some board members talked to him about working part-time to replace Lee Stieben, the superintendent the last two years. He has moved back to Jennings.

Superintendent DuBois said he won't be sure what the count will be until the kids

come back on Monday.

The estimates show anywhere from 25 to 30 students, he said. That is a drop of 44 to 50 from the 74 who enrolled at the start of school last year. The school graduated 12 seniors this spring, with only two eighth graders coming up to high school.

So far, Mr. DuBois said, the school doesn't have any fifth or sixth graders at all.

The drop in numbers has forced the district to look at some new ways of doing things. Superintendent DuBois said they have entered into a cooperative agreement with Hoxie for high school football. An ac-

tivity van will take players to practice and bring them home.

They have applied for a cooperative agreement for junior high football and volleyball with Oberlin. The district is optimistic that they will have enough high school girls to play volleyball, he said.

The district originally talked with Golden Plains and Oberlin about high school football, he said, but it would have bumped both districts up a class, and the state High School Activities Association discouraged that.

Hoxie was enough below the top of Class 2A that it could take a few more boys.

District hires teacher back for first grade

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

With the resignation of a veteran first-grade teacher, the Oberlin School District, which let several staff members go last spring, found itself a teacher short.

First-grade teacher Audrey Pavlicek submitted her resignation at the July meeting. She has been ill and told the board that she would need surgery.

Diana Steinmetz was rehired to replace Mrs. Pavlicek. Mrs. Steinmetz had been a special education teacher, including an early childhood development class, with the district. After being let go in the staff cutbacks this spring, she was going to continue in special education but work for the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center.

The district will be dropping the early childhood class and its developmental kindergarten and replace it with an integrated preschool run by the service center, Elementary Principal Duane Dorshorst said at a school board meeting last Monday. "It'll be good for our first graders to have Diana as a teacher but it's a bad thing for our early childhood (class)," said Superintendent Kelly Glodt.

The school can offer the integrated preschool to both special education and regular students, Mr.

School starts soon

Alarms will ring bright and early Thursday morning, heralding the first day of school for kids in the Oberlin district.

That's right; it's time to start another year of school. Supply lists have been posted at the grocery store and Dollar General for a few weeks now.

Kids need to be at school by 7:20 a.m. because classes will be on the heat schedule. They will be released by 1:30 p.m. The heat schedule will last all of August and then may go into September, but that decision will be made later.

Glodt said. However, to get state aid for the program, there has to be at least a 1:1 ratio of special education to regular students.

He said he thought that there might be five to seven youngsters eligible for special education. The classes will be in the afternoons Tuesday through Friday, he said. (See STAFF on Page 10A)

School taxes will go up a little

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

The Oberlin School District will see a small increase in its property tax levy next year due to a 1.44-mill increase in the local option budget, about 3 1/2 percent.

The district's overall levy will go from 40.328 to 41.774, including both the general fund, where the increase is, and capital expenditures, which can only be used for building and equipment repair and improvement.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt said the increase was necessary mostly because the state had changed the tax payment date last year, not because the schools are spending more. He told the board the state had made a real mess of the tax situation.

Some other districts are looking at raising their tax rate by up to 10 percent. However, since the Oberlin district cut more than \$558,500 in spending last year and spent \$101 less per student than the state average, the state is picking up part of the bill.

This is the first year in a long time that Oberlin has been below the state average in spending per pupil, Mr. Glodt said. Most small schools spend more per pupil than the average, which was \$8,628 last year.

Because Oberlin did spend less, he said, the state is giving the district an extra \$35,000 this year.

"When you spend under the average, you get more state aid," Mr. Glodt said. "That's their way of keeping things equal."

In the general fund, which is what the district uses for salaries, textbooks, utilities and most everything but equipment and major building maintenance, the district has budgeted \$3,070,699, about \$120,000 less than last year because there will be fewer students. The local option budget, which comes from the property tax levied by the board, is budgeted for \$599,093, with \$491,679 to come from the tax levy next year.

The rate will be 17.774 mills, up from 16.334 this year and 15.590 in 2002, when voters authorized an increase in the budget. A second increase was turned down last year, and the board cut staff and expenses to match shrinking enrollment.

After doing all the figures and working to keep the tax levy down, Mr. Glodt said, he was thankful that the district should have plenty in the general fund to get it through the next school year. Last year, he said, he wasn't too sure there would be (See SCHOOL on Page 10A)



OUR POLISH FRIENDS sent us this picture by e-mail and a short description of their start into Kansas. If anyone can read it, let us know: "Po jednodniowym wycieczniku u panstwa Agaty i Ryszarda Kozlowski, pelni nowych sil ruszyliśmy w dalsza droge. Wyruszyliśmy z Watkins droga nr 36 w kierunku Saint Francis. Etap 182 mil zakonczyliśmy

juz o godzinie 15:00 mimo zmiany czasu. Na nocleg wrociliśmy do Saint Francis (tego dnia dotaraliśmy do Bird City) gdzie jeden z naszych samochodow odmowil posluszenstwa. Okazalo sie ze mamy do wymiany rozrusznik i musimy czekac na jego naprawe do ranka dnia nastepnego."



TED DOMANSKI was one of nine Polish runners headed from Los Angeles to New York.

— Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

Polish runners travel across plains in remembrance

They were strung out along the highway, each running a stretch by themselves.

Nine Polish runners came through Oberlin on U.S. 36 last Tuesday, headed from Los Angeles to New York.

Their spokesman, Jacek Domanski, said that the group was not trying to raise money for anything. They were running to commemorate the Polish uprising of 60 years ago and the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

Many of the runners do not speak English, including Ted Domanski, who had stopped between Oberlin and Norcatour to adjust his gear and wait for the van carrying equipment and supplies.

He wanted to explain what he and his friends were doing, but his English was limited, and "car", "five" "English," with gestures toward the west were the best he could do.

Within a few minutes, the van arrived carrying equipment and his son, Jacek, who spoke English. He said the runners left Los An-

Runners look back

By late summer 1944, the Germans had occupied Poland for five years. The Polish Home Army, loyal to an exile government in London, started an offensive on Aug. 1, 1944. The soldiers attacked the German garrison at Warsaw with Molotov cocktails, outdated rifles, captured German guns and a few Allied weapons which had been smuggled into the country.

The Russian army was advancing, but stopped on the outskirts of Warsaw and stayed there without going (See PAST on Page 10A)

gles on Aug. 1, and plan to arrive (See RUNNERS on Page 10A)

Council may change zoning to allow for new vehicle park

The Oberlin City Council may get to decide if zoning can be changed to allow owners to develop a recreational vehicle park north and west of the hospital when it meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday.

Phyllis Godwin said Monday that she and her husband Charles have owned the mobile home park near the hospital for a little over a year.

They hope to add a recreational vehicle park with 14 sites to the west of the mobile home park for people driving through town. It will be a way to bring in outside money, she said.

There are no recreational vehicle hookups there now, she said, but there is a dump site for people coming through.

She said they have done a lot of improvements to the area and would like to keep it up.

They have good renters in the mobile home park and it is a family place.

Mrs. Godwin said the park will bring in outside money and be good for tourism.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the city's planning commission will meet Tuesday, and depending on what they do, the council may have to take action on the zoning issue. The commission is looking at whether to add a recreational vehicle park as an additional special use in the MHS zone, which is for mobile home parks.

Mr. Shike said there will also be a report from the swimming pool commission, a presentation from Mapes and Miller on the 2003 audit and a hearing to vacate the plat for land in the field south of Wheat Ridge Terrace apartments.

Mr. Shike said the request is from the owner, Ernie Fowler.

The meeting, upstairs at The Gateway, will be open to the public.

Water use up and down

Water use in Oberlin was all over the map last week, from low to almost the trigger for a "water warning."

With a little summer left, though, the city is still on water restrictions.

The city pumped:

- 552,000 gallons on Monday, Aug. 9.
- 379,000 gallons on Tuesday, Aug. 10.
- 530,000 gallons last Wednesday.
- 497,000 gallons on Thursday.
- 783,000 gallons on Friday.
- 639,000 gallons Saturday.
- 357,000 gallons on Sunday.

School Roundup

At its regular meeting last Monday night, the Oberlin School Board:

- Set goals for the year, including addressing the financial situation, reorganizing to meet enrollment needs, maintaining staff morale and keeping the philosophy of "Success for All." Story on Page 3A.
- Agreed to help students

from Jennings and St. Francis who want to play and practice with Oberlin sports teams. Story on Page 3A.

• Hired the developmental kindergarten teacher to teach first grade next year. Story above.

• Set the 2004 budget with a small tax increase. Story above.

* Staff set for schools

Working up high



WITH A BELT AROUND HIS WAIST and his feet placed firmly on a ladder, Mike Kolar, with Cebridge Connections, fixed a break in the cable 12 to 15 feet above Dave Nichols' house on U.S. 36 last Wednesday. — Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

(Continued from Page 1A) because the service center teachers have meetings on Mondays.

Other changes in the grade school, Mr. Dorshorst said, will be in the fourth grade and computer lab. Sherri Ruf will teach math to all fourth graders while Steve Cullen, the other fourth-grade teacher, will do all the health and science.

In the computer lab, Cynthia Matson will be a Title I teacher and teach some sixth-grade classes.

Mr. Dorshorst said he has talked to his teachers about the changes and everyone thinks the new schedule is OK.

"We hope it works as good as it sounds," he said.

The high school is moving teachers around so that, even with the loss of several teachers, students will

have lots of opportunities, said Principal Charles Haag.

The only classes that will be lost this year are psychology, sociology and one section of family and consumer science.

Counselor Nita Lavielle, who was reduced to half time status, will teach in the afternoon and several teachers will have two classes during the same period.

"We're combining PEs (physical education) and offering two classes together," Mr. Haag said, adding that girls and boys will be together in physical education and health classes most of the time.

Terri Woolsey will take anyone during any of her art classes, so she will have students at several levels during each period.

Since the schedule often is dis-

rupted in the afternoon, Mr. Haag said, he has tried to schedule the higher mathematics classes in the morning.

"But of course these teachers have to teach freshmen, too, and everything can't be taught in the morning," he said.

Tutoring is becoming more important, he said.

"I looked at the kids that did poorly in state assessment tests and are not in special ed and tried to work them in for tutoring," he said, adding that the students get credit for the time.

Tutoring also will be offered during home room periods, with Brenda Breth for English and Pat Dorshorst for math.

Tina Williams is moving to the Sappa Valley Youth Ranch, Mr. Haag said. School there runs from 8-11 a.m. with three subjects and noon to 3 p.m. with three more.

Most teachers work only part-time at Sappa Valley, and many have classes in town as well.

Teachers work from 7:50 to noon or from 11 a.m.-3:10 p.m. From 11 a.m.-noon, all ranch teachers have a common planning period.

Keith Grafel will be teaching at both the ranch and the grade school.

* School taxes will rise

(Continued from Page 1A) enough.

The district has budgeted \$585,000 for capital outlay but, the superintendent said, it won't all be spent. The levy for that fund is 4 mills, which should bring in \$110,654 this year. The rest comes from carryover, essentially the district's savings account.

At the monthly school board meeting last Monday night and again at a public hearing on the budget on Friday morning, Mr. Glodt said that the district will not spend everything it has budgeted for in capital outlay unless there is a major emergency.

"I doubt we're going to spend \$585,000," he said, "but we have to have the authority in case all the boilers go out or something."

Actually, Mr. Glodt said, he is thinking of spending more than the \$161,000 the district spent last year.

Since there aren't going to be any building projects in the district's near future, he said, it is important keep fixing up the ones we have.

Mr. Glodt said he expects the district to continue to have to cut staff

if enrollment keeps going down, but hopes that it can be done by attrition as people retire rather than having to let people go, like the board had to do last year.

"Our expenditures are going to go down again next year," he said, adding that the district can't spend a cent it hasn't budgeted, so it has to be prepared for emergencies.

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Rally set on Sunday for Democrat candidates

The Kansas secretary of agriculture will be in Oberlin on Sunday at a rally for Democrat Tim Peterson's campaign for the state Senate and Bob Streyve who is running for representative.

The rally is being hosted by the Decatur County Democrats. There will be refreshments served and candidates will answer questions.

Adrian Polansky will attend events as part of the "Rally for the Kansas Family," sponsored by the Peterson for State Senate campaign.

He will be in Oberlin at 1 p.m. Sunday at the City Park, next to the swimming pool. Oberlin will be the last stop in a four-city tour for the secretary.

On Saturday, he will appear at 9 a.m. in Scott City at the city park, at noon in Leoti at the senior center and at 7 p.m. in Colby at the veteran's club.

Secretary Polansky will speak about current issues facing family farms and will be available for comments and discussion.

The secretary owns a 1,900-acre farming operation near Belleville as well as a grain and certified seed production and sales operation. Prior to becoming secretary of agriculture, he was executive director for Kansas of the U.S. Farm Service Agency. He received a bachelor's degree in agronomy from Kansas State University in 1972.

Disaster draws area people

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Red Cross Chapter's emergency response vehicle is on its way to Florida to help with relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Charley that struck over the weekend.

This time, though, Molly and Jim Oliver of Colby aren't the drivers.

Mrs. Oliver, a Colby real estate agent, said two new drivers trained earlier this year — Frank Powers of Gove and Amanda Schmidt of Colby — are on their way to Tallahassee for three weeks of volunteer efforts.

They will help feed relief workers and people affected by the storm. The two were part of a group that trained to help with disaster relief around the country.

She said the truck left early Saturday morning for Montgomery, Ala., but they were told to go on to Florida because the new relief headquarters are now in Tallahassee to be closer to the coast. Once there, Ms. Schmidt and Mr. Powers will be as-

signed an area to work.

"They could go anywhere, and they'll work out of that disaster site," she said.

This is the first disaster in quite some time the Olivers haven't had to respond, but Mrs. Oliver said they're glad the area has more volunteers qualified to drive the emergency response vehicle.

"We have mixed emotions," she said. "We are elated and excited for them and grateful more people in the community came forward."

She said Ms. Schmidt called Sunday night and asked her if it would be possible to stay longer than three weeks to help.

Se said their supervisor might let them because the hurricane is one of the biggest disasters since the call up for the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack.

Because of the scope of the disaster, she said more volunteers from the area might be called on to drive emergency response vehicles already in Florida. If they are needed, she said, they'll have to fly.



STANDING NEXT TO THEIR VAN, Jacek and Ted Domanski showed off their running T-shirts. — Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

Runners pass through Oberlin on way to city

(Continued from Page 1A) in New York on Sept. 11. Each of the nine runners is expected to do 25 miles a day.

There had been a few problems, however. A second equipment vehicle had broken down and was still

in St. Francis while repairs were being made.

Still, there were a lot of miles to be made, so after a quick picture, a handshake and a wave, the van was off to find the rest of the runners. Someone might need an interpreter.

Past remembered on run

(Continued from Page 1A) further for most of two months while the fighting continued between the Germans and Poles.

By October, according to "The Second World War" by John Keegan, the Germans had pretty much destroyed not only the Polish Home Army, but also much of Warsaw.

Scholars believe that Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin wanted the Polish army out of the way and let the Germans take care of the problem for him.

This is believed to have caused one of the first breaks in the Soviet-American-English alliance, which eventually led to the Cold War.

Foster care agency expands

Cindy Kinyon, a native of Phillipsburg, has been hired as foster care worker for The Farm, a behavioral health and child welfare agency with 23 offices in Kansas.

Her hiring will expand the agency's foster care, behavioral health and child welfare services to include Phillipsburg and the surrounding area. She will be responsible for recruiting foster families and supervising foster-care youth in

the region. She received a bachelors degree in social work from Fort Hays State University. She previously had been a foster care worker with United Methodist Youthville and an adoption social worker with the Kansas Children's Service League. She and her husband are licensed foster and adoptive parents.

The Farm, Inc. has more than 500 licensed foster families.

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