

Winner shares her wealth

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

A woman with a big heart took the opportunity of winning \$1,000 in scrip last week to help out family members and give to her church.

Judy Ockerman bought things for her family and friends and gave some to her church. She had a little left over for herself, but she said it was fun shopping for those she loves.

Miss Ockerman said she entered *The Oberlin Herald's* \$1,000 Shopping Spree just once, at Adleman Drug Store. She said she had no idea that she would win.

At the Back to School picnic last Tuesday night Breanna Davis, 10, drew Miss Ockerman's name out of a trash can full of 2,572 entries from all over, including Texas, Colorado, Nebraska and many towns in Kansas.

To enter, people had to fill out a form at sponsoring businesses in Oberlin. They included Hansen's Plumbing, Heating and Air Condi-

tioning, Dale's Fish 'N' Fun, the Carpet Center, Ward Drug Store, Prairie Petals, the Dresser, Raye's Grocery, Stanley Hardware, Rocking R, R&M Service Center, Ray Jewelry, Culligan Water Conditioning Co., Countryside Veterinary Clinic, Adleman Drug Store, the LandMark Inn, Flowers by Lee, Home Planning Center, and Fidele Electric and Woodcrafting.

Miss Ockerman said she found a message on her phone to call the newspaper. She said she had been out of town and wasn't sure if she had missed the drawing.

Her initial reaction at hearing she had won the \$1,000 shopping spree was "Wow!" She then called her mom, Doris Black.

In the time between calling her mom the first time and then calling the paper back, she said, her mother had called two of her friends.

The first thing she thought of, said Miss Ockerman, was tithing 10 percent to the Assembly of God church,



AT RAY JEWELRY, Judy Ockerman, winner of the Oberlin (Ockerman) Higgley's rings sized and also bought her great-niece, Kayla, a pair of earrings. — Herald staff photo by Kim Davis

where she attends.

Then, she said, she thought of

helping her family and getting them in a good position.

The family knew pretty quickly that's what she wanted to do, she

said. (See SHOPPER on Page 10A)

City approves pool evaluation, hires company

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The Oberlin City Council requested \$500 from the pool commission Thursday night to add to \$2,850 the city has set aside to hire a company to do a pool evaluation.

Anna Shaw, Sue Glodt and Jeanie Gawith, with the pool panel, were at the council meeting to report what the group has found out recently about the pool.

The group had collected three proposals from Water's Edge Aquatic Design, Paddock Enterprises and Ohlson Lavoie Collaborative to do an evaluation of the pool, which they saw as the next step in the process. Those had been given to the council earlier in the month.

Mrs. Shaw said she thought Water's Edge out of Lenexa had been the fastest with responses and been the most professional of the three companies. They seem willing to work with the community, she said. This is the same company the city sent the pool blueprints to when they needed to fix a leak at the beginning of the summer.

The evaluation would cost \$3,350, said Mayor Ken Shobe.

Mrs. Glodt said they looked at Paddock's proposal, but even if the city doesn't proceed with the process after the evaluation, the city would have to pay 10 percent of

what it would cost for a new pool and the company is saying that would be \$800,000. That would mean the city would have to pay the firm \$80,000 no matter what.

Councilman Stan McEvoy said the city has been carrying over money for a few years now and would like to see something done about the pool.

A motion was made to request \$500 from the pool committee to make up the difference using the \$2,850 from the city to hire Water's Edge to do an evaluation. The council approved.

Mrs. Shaw said she talked with two communities that have used the company. The first one was Harper, where a new pool was built three years ago. She said the cost was \$700,000. The town did a 1 percent sales tax increase with half the money going to the pool and the other half to the general fund.

The other community was Plattsburg, Mo. She said they suggested going with a design/build project so that everyone works together from the beginning. The man there said to scrimp and save on the changing and shower area, but make sure there is a big enough concession stand, because that is where they can make some money.

(See POOL on Page 10A)

Jennings Fun Day to be held Saturday on Main Street

(Editor's Note: The following story contains the correct schedule and events for Firemen's Fun Day in Jennings this Saturday. A story in last week's Oberlin Herald inadvertently contained information from the 2003 schedule. The reporter (at another newspaper) failed to check with the organizers.)

There will be something for young and old alike, from a parade to kolaches and a health fair, at the 13th annual Firemen's Fun Day in Jennings on Saturday.

Activities will begin with a health fair from 8-10 a.m. at the Senior Center, sponsored by the Decatur County Hospital, Oberlin Medical Arts Clinic, Cottonwood Home Care and Decatur County Emergency Medical Services. This year's lab will, for the first time, include a hemogram which tests for thyroid problems, anemia and other medical conditions in addition to the 28

tests done in past years. Cost is \$22. The hemogram requires participants to be fasting. A test for prostate cancer (PSA) is available for \$16.

Kolaches and coffee will be offered following the lab draw, compliments of the Jennings United Methodist Church. Dr. Elizabeth Sliter will be on hand to do free screening for skin cancer and to promote awareness of hypertension (high blood pressure) and osteoporosis. Free blood sugar tests and blood pressure checks also will be offered.

Activities on Main Street will begin at 10 a.m., with the Jennings Boy Scouts hosting a cake walk in the City Hall; mini-train rides for youngsters by Greg Otter; the New Almelo Catholic Youth Organization baseball toss; and two carnival rides, including Buckets of Fun. (See FIREMEN on Page 10A)



AT HER LOCKER, Molly Coleman, (left) put away her government books before she went to homeroom the first day of school. Liz Boyd has the locker next to hers. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Senior ready to return to school

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Molly Coleman knows what she wants to accomplish in the next 270 days of her life.

She wants to learn as much as she can, make new friends and make it to state with the cross country team.

Miss Coleman, 17, said she also knows what she doesn't want to do, which is catch "senioritis," which she said is what happens when seniors get fed up with being in high school.

Miss Coleman is one of 27 members of the class of 2005 who will graduate from Decatur Community High School on Sunday, May 22.

She said she was ready for school to start on Thursday. She worked this summer at the Good Samaritan Center, and was ready for a change of pace — and to see her friends.

As the Student Council president, and a member of Kayettes, National Honor Society, D Club, choir and DCHS Singers, she'll be busy. Plus, she's taking phys-

Principal challenges high school kids

Principal Charles Haag challenged Decatur Community High students Thursday morning to try their hardest, do their best and be positive leaders this year.

Mr. Haag met with all the students in the auditorium to welcome them back to school. He said new students are invited to stop by the office for a gift they have for them.

Mr. Haag said he wanted to brag about the students from last year for a moment, mentioning the outstanding jobs done by the volleyball team, students, speech team, music, cross country and more.

All of this is part of the school's tradition, he said, and the reason why Decatur Com-

Coleman reported to home room.

Students were sent to the auditorium for an assembly, and Miss Coleman's first act as Student Council president. She was in charge of starting the flag salute and welcoming the students back to school. She said she was excited about starting school because of her speech.

She said she isn't sure what her other jobs will be as president. The first council meeting (See SENIOR on Page 10A)

Benefit to help teacher

Pack up the kids and come to town for a benefit hog roast for shop teacher Jim Andersen Thursday night, then stay for the Soap Scrimmage or attend the Oberlin Elementary School parent night.

The dinner will start at 6 p.m. in the parking lot between the high school and the football stadium. The annual Soap Scrimmage for the football team and cross country runners will start at 7:30 p.m. Parent night at the grade school will start at 7 p.m.

Mr. Andersen, who teaches industrial arts and is the assistant high school football coach and junior high wrestling coach, was in an accident while riding a four-wheeler on Aug. 2. The injuries have kept him from starting school this semester.

Principal Charles Haag told the student body that Sarah Fredrickson would be taking over Mr. Andersen's job until he returns.

At the livestock auction on Thursday, Aug. 5, one hog was sold several times to raise money for the Andersen family, bringing in around \$6,000.

Thursday night, two hogs will be cooked one, which is donated by Farm Credit of Western Kansas and the other by Mr. Andersen's friends.

Athletic Director Randy Olson said A&W will donate buns and condiments, the Re-Load will donate the soft drinks and Ron Montgomery will roast the pigs.

Mr. Olson said the meal will be served for a donation. Everyone is welcome to come and eat. All of the money raised will go to the Andersen family.

Water use rises

With warmer weather, water use in Oberlin crept back up towards 800,000 gallons a day last week. That was the trigger to start the even/odd watering schedule, though the city has never gone off the restrictions put in place last spring.

The city pumped:

- 518,000 gallons on Monday, Aug. 16.
- 785,000 gallons on Tuesday, Aug. 17.
- 737,000 gallons last Wednesday.
- 541,000 gallons on Thursday.
- 738,000 gallons on Friday.
- 709,000 gallons on Saturday.
- 603,000 gallons on Sunday.

* Firemen day has activities for all ages

(Continued from Page 1A)
Bingo will begin at the Senior Center at 11 a.m.

Liz and Grizz, the Hatmakers from Hill City, will hold presentations under a tent on Main Street, and Terri and Bodie Cooper, Hill City, will be roaming the streets with their ice cream wagon.

A new addition this year is a truck show. Awards will be given for Firemen's Choice and Most Used and Abused. Entries are \$20 and include a ticket for a free meal (lunch counter and a \$5 gift certificate toward a purchase at the evening auction. BuffaloAmerica, the business that recently purchased the Morland school, will be available in the City Hall with demonstrations and items promoting buffalo.

A wobble trap shoot is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Kenny Wildeman farm a mile north of town on the Jennings Road. Bring your shotgun and shells.

Kolaches with seven varieties of homemade fillings (apricot, apple, cottage cheese, cherry, peach, poppy seed and prune) will be sold individually or by the dozen until all 75 dozen are gone.

Once again, the McCook Fire Department will provide a storm and fire safety trailer to promote fire

safety education. The Norton National Guard unit will have a "humvee" on display and also provide an interactive shooting gallery.

The Czech museum will be open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the foyer of the old Jennings United Methodist Church. It offers a complete history of the area. Admission is free, but donations are accepted.

The parade will begin at 1:30 p.m. Line-up will be at the school yard on the west side of town, beginning at noon. There is no entry fee and everyone is welcome to participate. The theme will be "Voting, like Volunteering, Makes a Difference."

A dunk tank with volunteers on the platform, a coin search sponsored by The Bank, a children's tractor pull and a tug-o-war will follow the parade. Teams from area fire departments, including Norton, Colby, Oberlin and Jennings, will compete in the firemen's team barrel competition. It will be followed by a hog roast and an auction of donated items. The evening will conclude with a street dance with music by Kent Brown and the Night Owls.

Proceeds from the day's event are used to purchase fire fighting and safety equipment for the volunteer fire department and to support local organizations and projects.

* Senior gives her first speech

(Continued from Page 1A)
isn't until Monday. The school, she said, is split into two parties, the Federalists and Nationalists.

Each year they nominate someone from each party to run for student office. She said she was elected last year by her fellow students to fill the top job.

Miss Coleman has spent the last 12 years of her life in the Oberlin school system.

"It doesn't seem like I'm starting my final year of school," she said. "It seems like I just started high school."

She said not seeing any kids older than she is in the school is a little different.

Her brother Matt graduated last year, she said, and this summer the family moved him to Kansas State University. She said she liked the campus and thinks she would like to go there also.

Miss Coleman said she isn't sure what she will study, but she has thought about going to junior college to get some of the undergraduate classes taken care of. She said she has considered nursing or education as possible careers.

Without knowing what she wants to major in, she chose to take classes her senior year that could help in anything. She said she would rather be over prepared.

Miss Coleman said she thought



MOLLY COLEMAN HAS attended school in Oberlin since kindergarten, when this picture was taken.

that physics and calculus were needed to complete the Board of Regents college prep curriculum. She said she will be trying for scholarships.

She attended all of her classes the first day and then went straight to cross country practice after school. By about 3 p.m., the day was over and it was time to go home and get ready for the next day.

She lives west of town with her parents, Mike and Mirla Coleman.

* Kids are challenged to be good leaders

(Continued from Page 1A)
munity High is one of the strongest in the state.

"Will we continue that?" said Mr. Haag. "I am betting on it."

The leadership to make that happen will come from the students, he said, either positive or negative. The teachers and coaches will give each student what it takes to excel, but it will be each student's decision what they will do with it.

Mr. Haag dismissed all the classes but the seniors. He told them that this is their year. Yes, he said, each senior has a lot of tough classes, but this is the year to have some fun.

Anyone with ideas can come to him, he said.

Each senior will have the decision to make on whether to be a positive or negative leader. It takes nothing to be a negative leader, he said.

"I have a lot of faith in you and think we are going to have a great year," said Mr. Haag.

He said he knows this year's senior class is small, but if they work together they will be great.

The end will be here before any of you know it, he said, so have fun and be positive leaders for the school.

"I wish you the best year you've ever had," said Mr. Haag.



AT RAYE'S GROCERY, Judy Ockerman helped her mother, Doris Black, shop for pickles.

—Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

* Shopper has fun spending money

(Continued from Page 1A)
Miss Ockerman said she and her mother started talking pretty quickly about bills they could pay, and she called her niece, Moni (Ockerman) Higley and her husband, Mitch Higley, to tell them to make a grocery list. She said her niece, Kristen, was visiting too and they talked about things they could do.

After signing paperwork at the newspaper, her first stop was Stanley Hardware, where she bought an angle grinder for Pastor Royce Leitner, and some primer and paint for Edwin Black, her step-father. She said he is going to trim their house. Miss Ockerman said Pastor Leitner is going to use the grinder to finish some work at the church. She spent \$161.

Down the street at Addleman's, she said she paid off bills for herself, her nieces and her mom for a total of \$115.83.

Then it was on to Prairie Petals, where she paid a bill, and picked up a cash-and-carry bouquet for Edith Tate, who is recovering from an accident. She and Kristen also bought some chocolates.

At Ray Jewelry, Miss Ockerman spent \$35.08 to size Moni's rings and bought a pair of earrings for her great-niece Kayla.

The final stop for the day, she said, was Raye's Grocery where the family shopped with three carts. Miss Ockerman and Kristen had one, Mr. and Mrs. Black had another and Moni and her kids, Kevan and Kayla, had another.

Miss Ockerman said they purchased a lot of staples, including diapers. The total came to \$322.20.

On Thursday, she said, she went back and purchased \$32.20 worth of steaks.

On Friday, she went to *The Oberlin Herald* to purchase five months of Internet service for \$98 with the sixth month free. She said she was

planning on going next door to Ray Jewelry to buy an Apollo pin for Kristen. Miss Ockerman said she planned to take Kristen to lunch at the LandMark Inn on Saturday. She said they were also going to get a gift certificate for the women to go out to lunch and at Stanley Hardware get some keys made. She also was giving \$50 to Vickie Leitner so she could get something at the Dresser, Rocking R or go to the grocery store.

She planned to have the spree money spent by the end of the weekend.

"I always think of other people," she said. "I love helping; it's as much fun as getting things for myself."

She said she was also planning on getting a birthday gift from Addleman Drug Store for her friend, Sharon Mockry.

Two or three people told her to do something for herself, she said, but her big thing was getting the Internet for herself. She said she was also going to ask the LandMark to make a quiche for her. She could eat some and freeze some.

Miss Ockerman said she was born in Oberlin, although she grew up in Farmington, N.M. She said she taught on an Indian reservation and taught college in Durango.

In 1999, she said, she moved back to Oberlin to be close to her parents. She said she also does computer work for the church and goes to TOPS and ceramics in Norton.

Miss Ockerman said she feels like the shopping spree has been a blessing from God. She thanks everyone, but above all, God. That's how she lives her life, she said, and this was an opportunity to give back.

* Pool committee asks for evaluation

(Continued from Page 1A)

Mrs. Shaw said they are still getting in surveys and need more people to fill them out. She said they are available at Raye's Grocery by the exit door.

Mayor Shobe said only about 10 percent of the county has responded to the survey. He said he would like to see more of a response and

wouldn't feel comfortable making a decision on what the people want without hearing from more of them.

Mrs. Shaw said they are talking about getting the surveys in church bulletins and the city office has them, too. She said if someone can't get one, they can call her.

So far, she said, the committee has raised \$1,251. The committee also

has received over \$2,000 from the Carl Frickey Fund and \$600 from the swim team.

Those people have asked that the money be used to build or renovate the pool.

She said they have received some complaints which she thought she needed to pass on to the council. One of the complaints was on the rule

that the pool needs 10 people to stay open and the other was from the lifeguards, who have only made half the money they normally do this summer because the pool was closed so much.

Mrs. Shaw said the committee wants to look for grants and the members have started to look into what they may be able to get.

Officials check out a window sample

The Decatur County commissioners looked at a sample replacement window for the Good Samaritan Center at their meeting last Tuesday, but held off making any decisions.

Administrator Janice Shobe and Maintenance Supervisor La Vern Burtis brought in a sample from Marvin Windows. Good Samaritan has a contract with the company.

Mr. Burtis said it is a fiberglass window. Mrs. Shobe said they want to replace 25 windows. There will

be two on each side that open and then one in the middle that is pre hung and doesn't open. They said through the Marvin company, it would cost around \$1,100 for each room.

Commissioner Doyle Brown said that would be around \$35,000 to \$40,000 for the new windows. Mr. Burtis said they contacted Pella windows too.

Mrs. Shobe said the roofing material is in and she thought the company would start to work on it in

another week. Mr. Burtis said they have had some of the natural gas pipes and cable lines moved.

The center has been looking at putting in a fire sprinkler system which the state fire marshal says is required. Mrs. Shobe said a letter was sent out from the central office since the firm has five centers that need the sprinkler systems. She said the deadline for companies to turn in information is Thursday, Sept. 23.

Mrs. Shobe said the nurses' station on the north side of the build-

ing has been taken out, and they will put in some new carpet.

"We are doing a lot of things that will really improve the facility," said Mr. Burtis.

The group talked briefly about paying for the changes at the center. Mrs. Shobe said there is some money the center has from the county budget that they get each year. The commissioners said they might have to use some of the money they received from the Cochran estate.

Tie in township primary decided by coin toss

The Decatur County commissioners broke a tie vote for the Democrat nomination for Center Township trustee with a flip of the coin at their meeting last Tuesday morning.

Both Ron McDougal and George Ruzicka received four votes for the position in the Democrat primary

election. Both men had been notified about the tie and tie breaker, but neither came for the meeting.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman called tails for Mr. Ruzicka as Commissioner Ralph Unger flipped the coin. It came up heads, so Mr. McDougal won.

Mr. Ruzicka knows that he can

have a write-in campaign for the general election. Mr. McDougal was the treasurer before. Mr. Ruzicka has served as the clerk in the past.

Ambulance Director Patrick Pomeroy was in to talk briefly with the board. Mr. Unger asked if the department has the billing on the

computer like the auditor wanted. Mr. Pomeroy said they still need training to get the Quick Books program to work, but the files should have all the information needed.

Mr. Pomeroy said he and Sharla Ritter, who is the Jennings area assistant director, will be attending a meeting in Wichita.

Decatur County Fair Board wishes to extend a BIG Thank You to all of the Livestock Buyers!

Fredrickson Insurance	Custom Trophy
Raye's Grocery	Hi Plains Co-op
Tri-State Livestock	Countryside Veterinary Clinic
Market Data	Wasson Farms
1st National Bank, FDIC	Farm Credit Services
Decatur Co-op	Pauls Funeral Home
The Oberlin Herald	Mary Anderson CPA
Farmers Bank & Trust, FDIC	Johnson Realty
Oberlin Livestock Auction, Inc.	Oberlin Clinic
E&R Trucking	May Family Farms
Stockman's Feed and Supply Co.	E & S Meats
Ron's Applying Service	Prairie Dog Creek Cattle
High Plains Veterinary Service, P.A.	Decatur County Feed Yard
Emig Farms	Willcoxson & Brown
	Anderson Land and Cattle

Decatur County Fair Board wishes to extend a BIG Thank You to all of the Food Sale Purchasers!

Oberlin Livestock Auction, Inc.	Oberlin Clinic
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Oberlin Automotive, Inc.	Oberlin Speedway
Decatur County Feed yard, LLC	Hansen-Mueller Grain
Decatur County Title & Abstract Co.	Loyd & Fern Moore
Fredrickson Insurance Agency	1st National Bank, FDIC
Gaylord & Shirley Shields	Shear Creations
Photos by Jeanie	Jerry's Seeds
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Kenneth & Julie Carter	Ultimate Fertilizer
The Bank, FDIC	Countryside Veterinary Clinic
Raye's Grocery, Inc.	Harmony Farms
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	Farm and Ranch Realty
	Bob Ruf

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