

## Schools to get some sprucing up

### Board gives permission for several small projects

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The Oberlin School Board gave the superintendent permission to pursue some smaller improvements at the schools and asked him to investigate some larger items, like a new phone system, windows, air conditioning units and a boiler.

At the beginning of the board meeting last Monday night, the group toured the grade school and high school. At each building, the board had the chance to see things that changed over the summer and items that are on wish lists to get done.

Back at the district office, Superintendent Kelly Glodt had a list of items that need immediate attention and things that need to be done in the future.

The list was compiled by the superintendent's advisory council made up of administrators, all directors and supervisors.

The immediate list included the phone system, windows at the grade school, fence around the air conditioning units in the kindergarten building, window shades in the junior high gym, pads on the south wall of the wrestling room, enhancing the sound system in the high school gym, concession supplies in the cafeteria and a mat to the drinking fountain for the football players. The mat would go from the exit door to the

### School roundup

At its meeting last Monday, the Oberlin School Board:

- Gave the superintendent permission to pursue some smaller improvements at the schools and asked him to investigate larger items, including a new phone system, windows, air conditioning and a boiler. Story to left.

- Approved hiring a part-time custodian. Story on Page 10A.

- Heard that the school at Sappa Valley Youth Ranch would get three official enrollment count days and the district could use the highest number instead of having to take an average over a week. Story on Page 10A.

drinking fountain for half-time so that the cleats aren't on the waxed floor.

Future items included air conditioning, the boiler at the high school, auto flushers on the toilets at the high (See PROJECTS on Page 10A)

## Gymnastics class ready to tumble in museum hall

Kids wanting to take gymnastics no longer have to travel to Atwood each week, because the program has grown so much that Friday afternoon classes will be taught here, in the Old Bohemian Hall at the Last Indian Raid Museum.

Robyn Rouse, one of the gymnastic moms, said 17 kids were enrolled to travel to Atwood weekly for classes. She said they decided to ask the sponsor, Creative Movements, if they could send a coach here instead. That is exactly what the group decided to do, so a coach will be here on Fridays.

Now there are 44 kids enrolled in the program just from Oberlin.

Mrs. Rouse said they can take eight or nine more, but they have to be second graders or older because the younger sections are full.

Mrs. Rouse said classes are split by age and ability. There is a preschool group, one for kindergartners to first grade, one for beginners and then one for older students with previous gymnastic experience.

The group is borrowing mats from Creative Movements for the lessons, but would like to raise money to purchase some.

Mrs. Rouse said they looked

around here at the school and county to see if they had any mats they could borrow. She said they are going to check with schools that have shut down to see if they have anything. Sometimes, she said, grade schools have mats that they have used for gym class.

They are using six panel mats from Creative Movements. Each panel costs around \$120. The mats are then connected together to form a run. The mats on loan allow them to have two runs, but that is just a minimum.

Just for those mats, the group needs \$720.

Mrs. Rouse said they would like to buy other equipment, including a balance beam, low bar, trapezoid mats and a vaulting board. A full compliment, she said, would cost up to \$3,000. Currently they have \$395 raised.

The group practices at the Bohemian Hall, she said, and pay a minimum price to the museum.

She said the museum is doing this as a community service to help the kids out.

The equipment, she said, can be stored in the hall and if they have an (See GYMNASTS on Page 10A)



ON MAIN STREET Saturday morning, Carolyn Burtis (above) auctioned off several items to raise money for the Last Indian Raid Museum and Oberlin swimming pool.

Edwin and Lila Holsman (below) were among the shoppers.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

## Auction helps charities

There wasn't a big crowd, but the auction to celebrate Rocking R's anniversary and the grand opening of Fidele Electric and Woodcrafting's lumber yard raised over \$1,500 for the swimming pool and museum.

Greg Fidele, owner of Fidele Electric and Woodcrafting, said the money will be split between the swimming pool committee and the Last Indian Raid Museum. Each will received a little over \$750.

The museum, said Mr. Fidele, has been raising money to move the old Lutheran church from Norcatur and to work on the Bohemian Hall. The swimming pool group has been raising money for an evaluation and then for either a new pool or to rebuild the old one.

Mr. Fidele said they thought it was a good idea to tie everything together and have a fund raiser at the same time. The crowd was pretty small, he said, but they did a good job.

Mr. Fidele said the items were donated by businesses, individu-



als who bought items and then gave them to the auction, and suppliers for the two stores. Carolyn Burtis donated her time as auctioneer and members of the Friends of the Pool Committee and the museum board

were there to help.

Free hot dogs were given away along with Pepsi products, and for those with a sweet tooth they could buy carrot cake, brownies or just about anything they could think of

at the bake sale.

Mr. Fidele said his business gave away several door prizes which he had received from suppliers. Overall, the day went well, he said.

## Film makers scoot through town at 10 mph

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Three young filmmakers traveled through Oberlin last week on their way to Boston.

The road is full of people walking, running, biking or skating with a cause, but this group is traveling at 10 miles per hour, filming with one member on a Segway Human Transporter, basically a motorized scooter.

The Segway has two wheels on opposite sides of the platform. A handle bar comes up from the platform, and the rider has to balance himself on it.

The trio — Gannon Weeks, his

sister Hunter Weeks and Josh Caldwell, all 27 — started their journey in Seattle on Aug. 9.

Both of the men had worked for Best Software in Phoenix, but quit and moved to Denver, where they started Spinning Blue, the company sponsoring the film.

Ms. Weeks said she has had a corporate job in the past, but most recently worked as an assistant to a behavioral counselor. She quit the job to help make the film although she said she would be interested in going back.

The idea is to cross America while making a documentary and

meeting people along the way, said Mr. Weeks. They didn't say what they were planning on doing with film.

They said they are using the Segway to slow the trip down a bit.

Mr. Caldwell said the Segway lets them meet a lot more people. Mr. Caldwell, who rides the scooter, says he is able to talk with people along the road while traveling at 10 miles an hour.

On Thursday, the team pulled into Oberlin. They said they met a young police officer in Atwood who was related to Gary Anderson, owner of the LandMark Inn. He

suggested the group stay at the inn.

On Friday they pulled out, heading to Norton.

The idea is to get to Boston sometime in October. Mr. Weeks said the journey might be stretched out some depending on weather and opportunities. Total mileage is 4,200, with 1,700 of that done and 2,500 to go.

Each place the group has been, said Mr. Caldwell, has been different. There are unique aspects about each part of the country. The most interesting thing, though, is the people they have met along the (See JOURNEY on Page 10A)

## Theater changes to wintertime hours

The Sunflower Cinema has changed to winter hours to accommodate school activities, offering shows at 7 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday.

Over the summer, the shows were Saturday and Sunday evenings.

Board Member Jennifer Auxier said the theater had a rough summer. The volunteers were few, although that didn't hurt much because the crowds weren't very big, either. Ms. Auxier said she thought the crowds were smaller because people weren't used to the theater being

open in the summer, since it hadn't been in previous years.

There were two big movies for the summer, she said, "Shrek 2" and "Spiderman 2," one in each month.

Ms. Auxier said the theater has been open for over a year now, and a lot of customers are regulars who come every weekend or every other weekend.

The board still needs to reach the surrounding areas like Jennings, Norcatur, Dresden and Selden, she said. When the board first formed (See THEATER on Page 10A)

# \* Theater in red, but will keep serving public

(Continued from Page 1A) and reopened the theater, she said, they talked about doing a bulletin about upcoming movies. That never happened because people didn't have the time. Ms. Auxier said she thought it was time to do that.

Over the year, she said, the board has found that kid movies are the money makers. Outside of some movies geared at an older audience like "Sea Biscuit," the kid movies carry the theater.

Although the theater is still operating in the red, the board has no intention of changing its price. It will still be \$3 a ticket.

Ms. Auxier said the theater has received one bid and is waiting on a second one to purchase a speaker system with money raised last year. She said they are also waiting on warranty information, and hope to have it in for the holiday movies.

Down the road, she said, the carpet in the theater needs to be replaced. It has started to unravel on

one spot and is starting to lift up.

The board thought they were going to have to do something about the air conditioning, but Hansen's Plumbing Heating and Air Conditioning fixed it at no cost to the theater.

Ms. Auxier said they are pursuing a few fund-raising ideas for this year. Besides the carpet, the board has a wish list to replace the seats and get a bigger screen. She said that they will be looking at grants.

Ms. Auxier said they are looking for volunteers, including any school organizations that may be interested.

Upcoming movies include "A Cinderella Story" showing Saturday and Sunday and "Without a Paddle" the last weekend in September. In October, said Ms. Auxier, they are hoping to get "The Incredibles," "Mr. 3,000," "First Daughter," "The Forgotten" and "The Sky Captain."

# Oberlin schools to resurrect job for custodial help

The Oberlin School Board approved adding a part-time custodian at its meeting last Monday night.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt said they had moved some custodial staff around, but they are spread too thin. Last year to help save money, he said, two positions were cut.

This is one of the areas, he said, that they may have cut a little too deep.

If the board doesn't hire a custodian for 20 hours a week, he said, the district will be paying too much in overtime.

Mr. Glodt said indoor facilities supervisor Kenny Black came in and asked for some help. Mr. Glodt said he is convinced this is the best thing to do.

The board agreed and said that Mr. Glodt should talk with the two people who were let go last year and see if either of them would be interested in coming back.

Board Member Barb Olson said she would like the board to review the smoking policy for the district. She said she doesn't think people are allowed to smoke in the football stands and would like to see that enforced.

Mrs. Olson suggested having it announced before the game and at half time that people aren't allowed to smoke there.

Mr. Glodt said they received a letter from Spanish teacher Maria Sanden asking for early retirement.

He said she didn't expect an answer that night, but the board will need to look at it and let her know.

The board decided to table the issue.

The board approved its goals for the year.

There are four performance goals, including that the superintendent will continually direct, evaluate and oversee the fiscal management of the district, the superintendent will work to evaluate and improve the district facilities and grounds, the superintendent will work to improve public relations within the district and neighboring districts, and the superintendent will continue to explore and implement the philosophy of "Success for All."

The board also approved the superintendent's evaluation form and did the first reading of the principals' evaluation instrument.

In other business, the board:

- Approved the first reading of the preschool handbook, asking that the typos in it are fixed.
- Discussed the Kansas Association School Boards state convention in December.

The board decided not to attend last year to save money. Mr. Glodt said there were some good agenda items this year and the board may want to think about attending.

- Heard that the school web page is up and running. Mr. Glodt said he encourages everyone to check it out.

# Ranch to count on 3 days

Although board members had heard rumors that the school at Sappa Valley Youth Ranch was going to have to average the number of kids enrolled this week for the state count, the ranch school actually will get three count days.

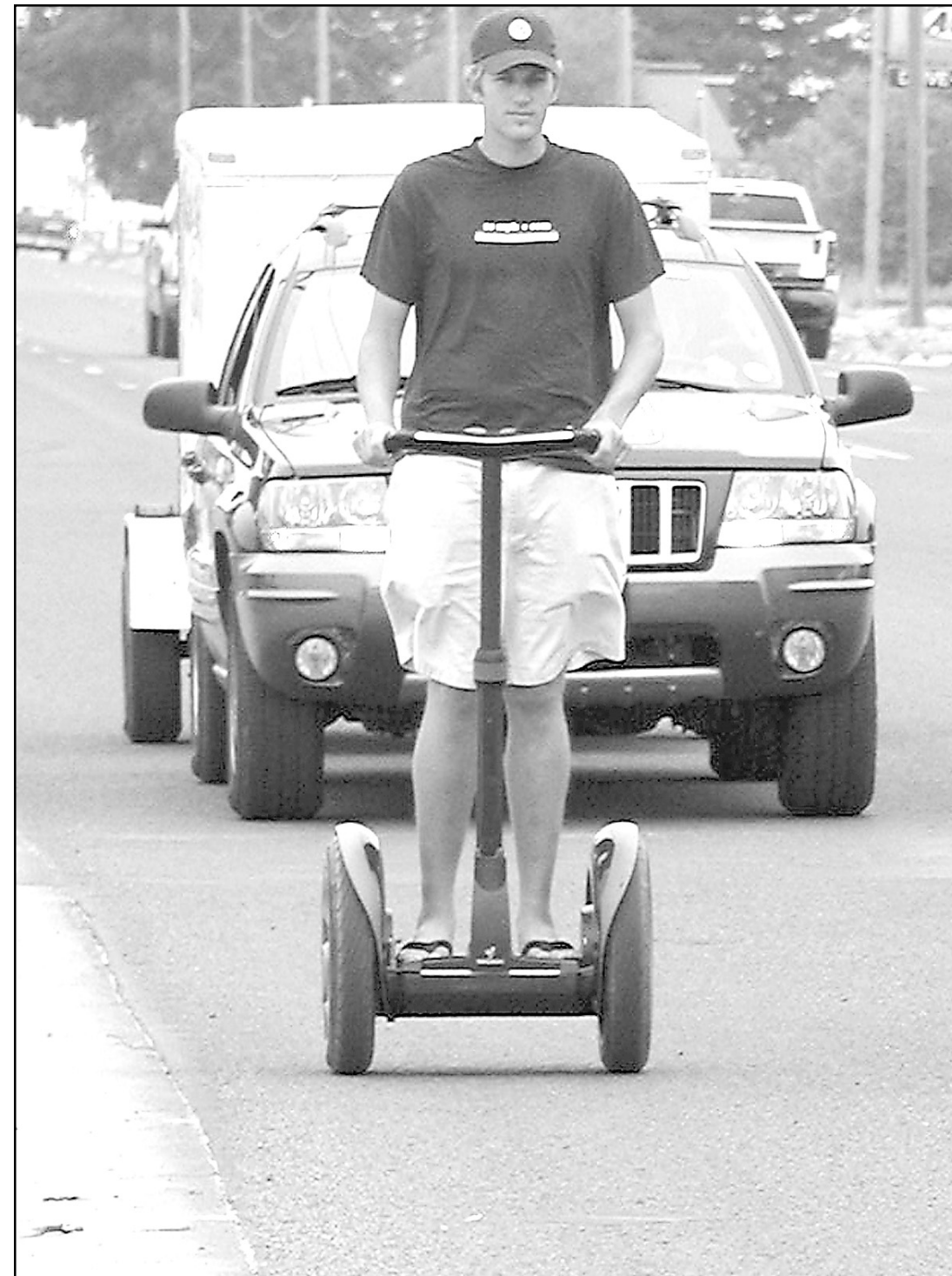
In past years, said Superintendent Kelly Glodt, the school at the ranch had three days to do official counts. Those days are always Sept. 20, Nov. 20 and April 20. This year, there was a rumor that the Legislature was saying the school would have to average the number of kids enrolled the entire week starting with Sept. 20.

Mr. Glodt said he checked with the state and found that they would be getting the three days as usual. The district can then take the highest number for budget purposes.

That number will determine the state aid the district will get for the school. As of last Monday the ranch had 29 to 30 students enrolled.

In town, said Mr. Glodt, they just got four more kindergartners and two pre-schoolers since school started, but the high school numbers are down two since the beginning of the year. The total enrollment is 448.

Mr. Glodt said he still plans on using last year's full time equivalency number for budget purposes, since it is a little higher.



**RIDING HIS SEGWAY**, Josh Caldwell started out of Oberlin with a support vehicle behind him. The team headed east on U.S. 36 toward Norcatour.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

# \* Journey takes trio across land

(Continued from Page 1A)

way. He said they met smoke jumpers, farmers and others. It is great to hear how they enjoy what they are doing.

Mr. Weeks said the most interesting area to him has been the Yakima Valley, east of the Cascades in Washington, where the group was first introduced to farm country. It was neat to see the different kinds of farming, he said.

People in the cities, said Ms. Weeks, don't grasp the idea that they can move to a small town. Both Mr. Caldwell and Mr. Weeks live in Denver and Ms. Weeks lives in Seattle.

The group said the smallest town they have been through was in Wyoming. The state sign outside the town of Highland said the population was 10. Ms. Weeks said they stopped and the population actually was three, all in the same family. She said they had one building which housed a bar, grocery and post office.

"They all thought the team was crazy," she added.

The biggest cities they've visited have been Denver and Seattle.

Mr. Caldwell said he grew up in a small town, but the other two are from the city. None of them had been to Kansas before except driving through.

Ms. Weeks said she expected it to be flat, but it hasn't been. The towns in eastern Colorado weren't very exciting, she said, and they expected Kansas to be that way, but it hasn't been that, either. She said Oberlin has a charm about it. The group got a kick out of the "cobblestone" streets.

By traveling at 10 miles per hour, said Mr. Caldwell, he has had the chance to notice all the little things. When driving through, a person doesn't notice those.

The team planned to stop in Norcatour and possibly have lunch on Friday, and then whiz on to Norton.

Along the way, the group has been interviewing people in the towns. Mr. Weeks said the whole project is independent. Total cost is \$100,000.

# \* Gymnasts to train in Oberlin

(Continued from Page 1A)

event, it can all be moved to Gorman Tarps.

Mrs. Rouse said gymnastics helps the kids with coordination and body awareness, helps prepare them for strength activities later in sports and teaches them to practice. It also

helps build their self-motivation, self-esteem and flexibility. Kids can advance at their own pace.

The cost is \$25 a month for an hour a week or \$20 a month for pre-schoolers, who practice 30 minutes.

She said the kids show off what they learn at basketball half-time

shows, have one meet on a Saturday and then are available for other community events.

Anyone who wants to donate for equipment can give money to Mrs. Rouse or Sheila Jansonius. Checks should be made out to Creative Movements.

# \* Projects will help schools

(Continued from Page 1A)

school, repairs to the landing at the kindergarten building, high school rooftop exhaust fans, florescent lighting, panels on the south side of the high school on the outside, a new bus or van, new fence at the grade school play ground, gates on the south side of the football field, an electric motor for an irrigation well, fixing the front entrance steps of the high school, fixing fire safety issues in junior high gym and the curtains in the auditorium.

Mr. Glodt said he needed some direction from the board. On the smaller items, he said, he thinks they need to take care of them as they go.

For instance, he said, they could start installing window air conditioning units one at a time. Board Member Chris Bailey noted that if window air units are going to be put in the grade school, the windows may need to be fixed first.

Board Member Monte Moore said the community facilities advisory council probably has some bids on windows from when they were researching renovation at the schools.

Mr. Glodt said he would like to keep as much as possible of the work on the local level and have contractors here in town do it.

Some of the other items that can be done a little at a time include the automatic flushers on the toilets. Mr. Glodt said he thought they should do six to eight of them a year.

The board approved a recommendation that Mr. Glodt investigate a new phone system, windows, air conditioning units and a boiler and go ahead and pursue the smaller items.

# Doctor to talk on cancer

Dr. Charles Damico will speak on "Prostate and Other Urinary Tract Cancers" to 55Plus members and the cancer support group at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Community Hospital meeting rooms in McCook.

Dr. Damico, who has a private practice in Hastings, Neb., will discuss prostate cancer and the new cryotherapy, as well as other cancers of the urinary tract. He specializes in treating diseases and disorders of the urinary tract in men, women and children.

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