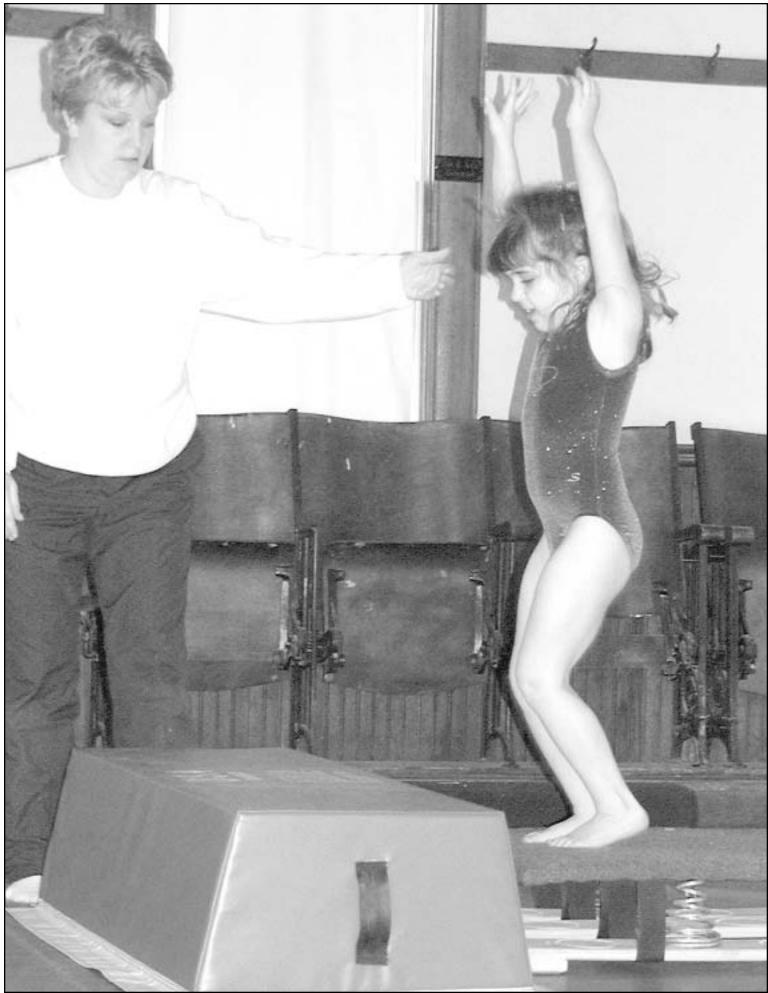


The feature page about interesting people, places and things to do

Wednesday, January 12, 2005



WITH THE HELP of coach Gay Leitner, Madison Macfee Haylee Hileman (below) got help from Coach Robyn Rouse (above) jumped from the springboard onto the practice vault. to do back somersaults at practice Friday.

Young girls and boys learn how to tumble during gymnastics

Every Friday, Oberlin girls and gymnastics is \$20 a month for preboys get together to learn somersaults, cartwheels, back bends, round offs, stretching, and the basic vault and balance beam.

This is the first year that Oberlin has had a gymnastics team in recent years. In the past, parents car pooled their sons and daughters to Atwood to classes sponsored by Creative Movements.

This year, coaches and parents found a place to hold gymnastics practice here. The team uses the Old Bohemian Hall at the Last Indian Raid Museum, which gives them room to stretch out their tumbling mats.

Classes start after school and go into the evening.

There are two coaches, Robyn Rouse and Gay Leitner. Mrs. Rouse said they have 50 kids from age 3 to 13.

The Oberlin team now has more kids than the Atwood program. She said they have more than they expected and she hopes they can retain the kids for next year.

Although they are full in the preschool age group, they could take a couple of older kids. The cost for

schoolers and \$25 a month for the equipment. They have had good older kids.

flexibility, body control and spatial money to the program. Right now, awareness through the sports, she she said, they could use more floor said. They are also having fun.

Mrs. Rouse said the team did a show at a wrestling match in December.

In February, they plan to perform at the Seeds of Hope Telethon and teach the kids coordination, includthey have a meet in March.

She said they still need some luck so far getting equipment be-The kids are learning self-esteem, cause of those who have donated mats.

> The classes are mainly teaching tumbling, but they do work on a little bit of beam and beginning vault.

> Mrs. Rouse said tumbling helps ing hand-eye, and body awareness.



ONTHE MAT, Albany McDonald took her stance for a front somersault.



Story and photos by Kimberly Davis