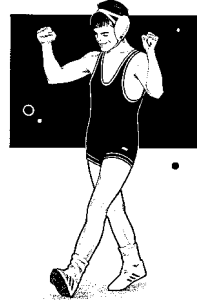




# Good job, grapplers!



Story and photos on pages 5A, 6A.

## THE OBERLIN HERALD

75¢ (tax included; 54¢ delivered at home)

24 Pages, 3 Sections

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

127th Year, Number 9

### Council will discuss sewer rates

#### User fees may increase in May to pay for project

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The Oberlin City Council will get a look Thursday night at different plans to increase sewer revenue to help them pay for a new treatment plant and build up a reserve for future projects.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the city doesn't read water meters in December, January and February. Employees read the meters in March, and the winter use is averaged to figure new sewer rates. Those go into effect in May, and will be in place for 12 months.

Even if water use stays the same as the previous winter, Mr. Shike said, rates could change depending on what the council decides for the next year.

Up until the last couple of years, he said, rate changes were driven by the expenses in the sewer department. Now the rates need to cover the cost of the new lagoon system.

In February, the city had 941 users who paid \$23,869 in sewer fees. Last year, he said, there were 919 users and the city brought in \$14,485. That means the city brought in \$9,384 more this February.

Mr. Shike said the revenue varies month to month. Any excess money is being set aside for the lagoon project.

There isn't a set amount of revenue required, he said, but the city has to prove that it is able to repay of a 20-year federal loan.

The council talked about raising \$300,000 a year at the last meeting in February without deciding how to get to that amount.

Mr. Shike said he isn't sure when construction on the project will start, but he hopes to see it by late spring or early summer. The whole thing is supposed to be done by the end of this year, he said.

The city received a written archeological report from Dan Walston with Historical Archaeologist in Nebraska with the University of Nebraska State Museum. The report, required for the federal loan, said two artifacts were found, a scraper and a retouched flake of stone. There was nothing else found, so the city got a go ahead.

The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the Morgan Theater at The Gateway. It is open to the public.

### Herndon School will be for sale in online auction

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The old Herndon School will be listed for sale on the e-Bay online auction service in the next few weeks.

Rawlins County school Superintendent Mark Wolters said the district had listed the building with Midwest EServices out of Salina. The firm has listed several old school buildings around the area, he said, and has a list of contacts who are interested in this kind of buildings.

Mr. Wolters said they want the building to continue to be useful. Hopefully, he said, the board will be able to find someone through e-Bay who is interested in bringing in a business that will provide jobs in Herndon.

He said potential buyers will have to submit a proposal on how they plan to use the building. Mr. Wolters said the board isn't just looking for someone who can come up with the money, but want the sale to benefit the town.

Several Kansas schools have sold

in this way. The Morland school was sold to a buyer from Florida as the home of the American Bison Institute.

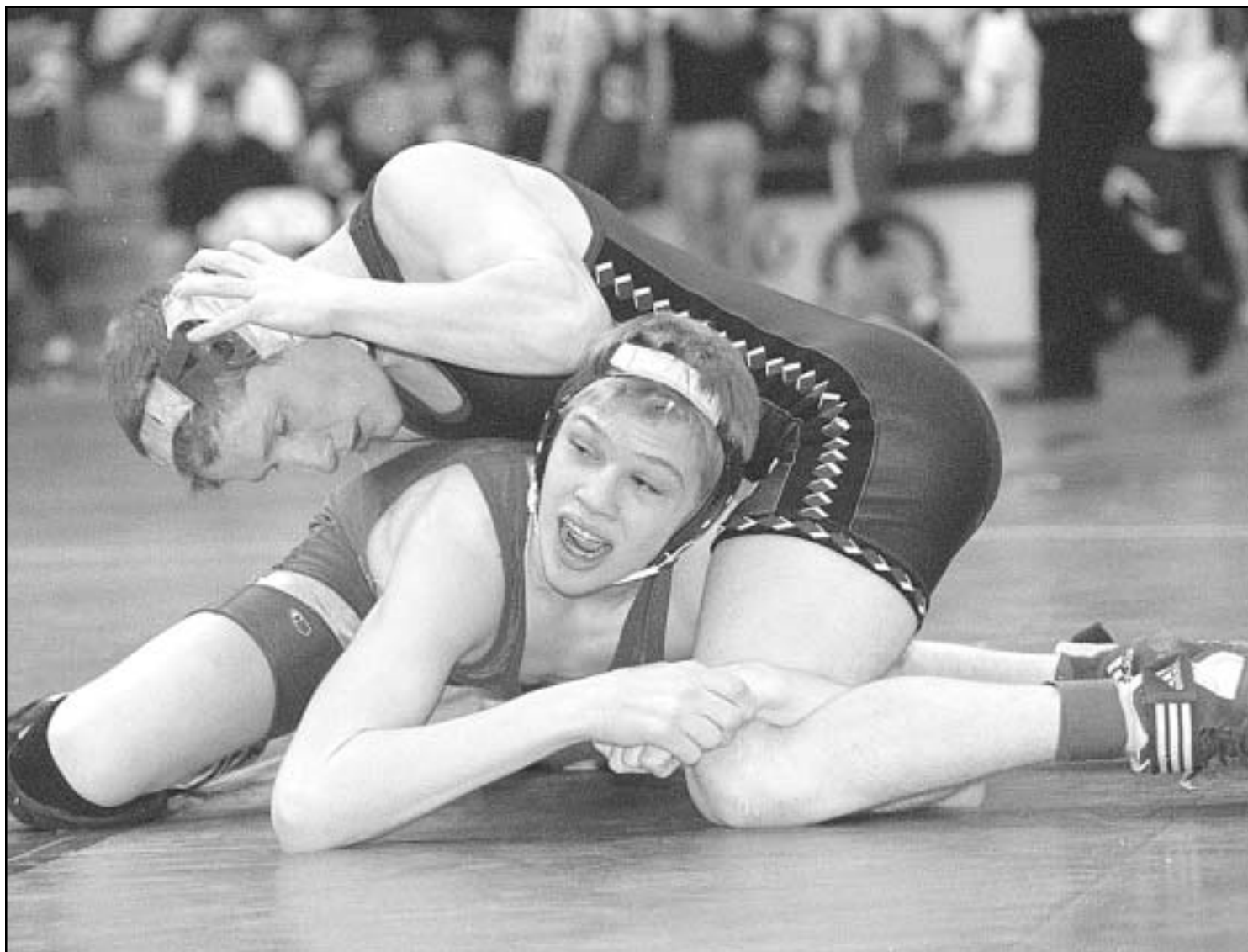
The school in Herndon has been empty since the beginning of the school year. Buildings, said Mr. Wolters, deteriorate a lot quicker from not being used than from being used.

Mr. Wolters said some items in the building will be listed separately for sale, but all of that will be negotiable. If the buyer isn't interested in the contents, he said, the district will probably have an auction.

The money will probably be put in the district's capital outlay fund.

One thing the board wants to do, said Mr. Wolters, is work with the people in Herndon to have a place to store and display the memorabilia from the school, like trophies and pictures. These are part of the town's history and tradition that is important to keep, he said.

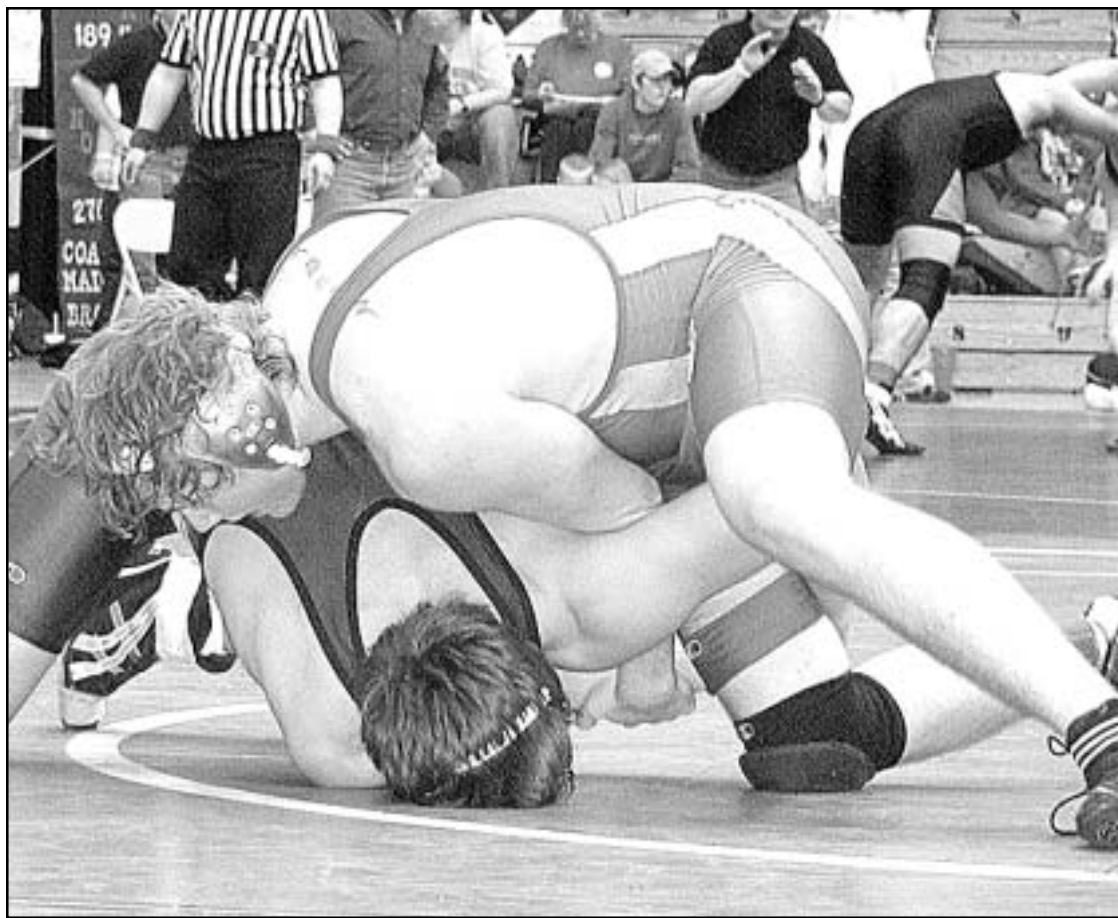
The superintendent said he isn't sure what the asking price or the address for the website will be yet.



### Devils take eight to state

**AT THE STATE** meet in Hays, Gage Reichert, at 112 pounds, wrestled against Paul Berry, of Cherryvale (above). Reichert lost the match by a pin. Jake Padgett, 215 pounds, (right) lost three matches at state and won one. For a complete story and photo, see Page 6A.

— Herald photos  
by Patti Richards  
and Joe Stanley



### Dentist volunteers tools, time and skills

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The woman from Tennessee sat down in the old dentist chair.

She said she had driven more than 500 miles to Salina from her home to have her teeth fixed. She said she wanted to be able to smile again.

Dr. Gary Fredrickson said he and his colleague, Dr. Thomas Barlow of Colby, and their assistants spent extra time on the woman. They fixed all six cavities in her front teeth so she could not only smile again, but didn't have any pain.

The woman was one of the 15 to 20 patients Dr. Fredrickson saw while volunteering for the Kansas Mission of Mercy dental clinic last month in Salina.

There were around 2,000 volunteers, he said, and 2,326 people received free dental care. Some had been in pain for years.

The Mission of Mercy was started in Virginia in 2000, mostly to help people who couldn't afford dental work. A few dentists from Kansas flew to Virginia to work on that mission and learn how to set on up.

In February 2003, the first Kansas mission was held in Garden City, helping 1,743 patients, then in August 2003, a mission in Kansas City helped 2,659. In April 2004, a clinic was held in Pittsburg, with 2,159 patients, and then this one in Salina. That means 8,887 people have been spared pain or tooth loss over the last couple of years.

The Salina mission started at 7 a.m. on Friday, said Dr. Fredrickson. Patients began lining up outside the day before. Then the Bicentennial Center was open on



**MONDAY AFTERNOON**, Dr. Gary Fredrickson worked on a patient in his office in Oberlin. He volunteered last weekend at the Mission of Mercy free clinic in Salina for people who can't afford dental care.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Friday and Saturday.

Dr. Fredrickson said he and Dr. Barlow got to the center early Friday morning for orientation and to

get set up.

There was only one chair left, he said with a laugh, an old manual (See DENTIST on Page 10A)

### Working Women featured this week

Inside today's copy of *The Oberlin Herald* is the 2005 edition of Working Women.

Stories highlight women who work on Main Street, in education, in music and some who have retired from their professions.





# County discusses charges

## Plan would set fee for standby service

The Decatur County commissioners and ambulance director talked briefly on Tuesday about rates for having the ambulance and crew stand by for an event. Ambulance Director Patrick Pomeroy asked if the commissioners had a chance to look at the rate sheet he had brought them at a previous meeting. The commissioners had not.

He said the schedule was for runs, standbys and out-of-town trips. For standbys, he said, he thought a flat fee of \$25 would work for the ambulance and the crew.

Mr. Brown said he talked with the race promoter, and he said that the people who are actually manning the ambulance are the only ones who will be able to get into the races free.

Do the crew members stand by at the vehicles or are they up in the stands? asked Commissioner Patricia Glenn.

Mr. Pomeroy said there are times at races when the crew members sit in the stands with their families, but they also sit with the vehicles. Normally, he said, they bring two ambulances and the first response vehicle.

Would the charge be \$25 a vehicle? asked Commissioner Ralph Unger. Mr. Pomeroy said he thought it should be just the flat \$25.

He said he hasn't talked with the school district yet about the fee, which would be charged for games and athletic events. The commissioners didn't make any decisions on the rates.

Mr. Pomeroy said he assembled a committee to look for a new ambulance. The group has met once and they planned to meet again on Tuesday.

If they try to get a grant, he said, the money won't be awarded until October. If the county decides to go that route, he said, there will have to be a survey to see if the county has enough low-to-moderate-income residents.

Mr. Pomeroy said the sirens on the newest ambulance are broken. They had a one-year warranty, but the county has had the ambulance for a year and a half.

The ambulance department, he said, got its annual license from the board. All four ambulances have been in the shop and got a clean bill of health.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard Emergency Medical Services week is May 19-24. Karen Eskew and Brenda Arnold are on the committee for it.
- Heard that the new computer in the ambulance department is working well. They still have the old information on the old machine, Mr. Pomeroy said.

# Representatives to be here Saturday

State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer and Rep. John Faber will tour the area Saturday to talk about issues in the 2005 Kansas Legislature.

They will be at the courthouse in Oberlin from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., sponsored by the Decatur County Farm Bureau. Other stops include: 8-9 a.m., Dusty Farmer

# College to stay open late

The Northwest Kansas Technical College will keep its doors open late Thursday for anyone who wants to increase their skills or seek a career change.

The college, at 1209 Harrison in Goodland, will be open from 5:30-8 p.m. (Mountain Time) Thursday. Instructors and staff will be on hand to answer questions and give people information about programs, housing, enrollment and how to pay for



**FIRES EAST OF TOWN** along U.S. 36 (above) kept the Decatur County Rural Fire Department busy Monday evening. A fireman (below) leaned out the side of a truck as he sprayed water on one. — Herald staff photos by Kim Davis

# Flames burn up shoulders

Decatur County rural firemen put out several fires on the north side of U.S. 36 Monday evening apparently caused by a westbound vehicle or trailer with a hot bearing which sent sparks into the grass.

Fire Chief Bill Cathcart said they received several calls about the fires on the highway about 5:40 p.m.

The first fire was about a mile east of town and the farthest one was about eight miles out. He said



he wasn't sure how many there were, but at least a dozen. Several of the fires had spread and joined

together, he said.

Chief Cathcart said there was no crop damage since the fires stayed

mostly in the ditches. He said he thought the driver took the vehicle to town to get it fixed.

# \* Dentist volunteers two days for clinic

(Continued from Page 1A) model that didn't have any hydraulics. Every patient had to sit in the same position the first day because they couldn't figure out how to move the chair.

All of the equipment was donated, said Dr. Fredrickson, which meant that some of it was outdated.

Everything ran really smooth, though. He said he and Dr. Barlow seated their first patient at 7 a.m. and then traded off all day.

There was even a lab at the center which provided temporary plastic flippers, which is like a partial plate, for missing teeth.

The men had to be at the center by 6 a.m. Friday for orientation. Dr. Fredrickson said by that time, there were already 1,200 people sitting in the stands waiting for care.

Each patient was brought down from the stands and sent to triage for a medical history. Then a dentist would look at their teeth and determine what kind of priority they were. The people were seated under banners depending on what they

needed done, teeth cleaning, fillings, surgery or children.

Then another dentist administered shots and then they were sent to the dentists who actually worked on their teeth.

Dr. Barlow worked on a man on Saturday, said Dr. Fredrickson, who had been a bull rider. He was on a morphine patch for pain. In the end this man had 14 fillings and three teeth pulled.

Dr. Fredrickson said organizers suggested the dentists only work on two teeth once the person was seated. He said he and Dr. Barlow couldn't just work on two teeth and then send the person back to the streets, though.

"We wanted to give them back their smiles and get them out of pain," he said.

He said he had never been around a group of patients who were so grateful. They couldn't stop shaking the volunteers' hands and saying thanks.

It was a good feeling to help so many people, he said, although what

they did was only a small dent in the tip of the iceberg.

The whole thing was unbelievable, he said. Everyone had their own job. It was one person's job to fill up the water jugs at every station, another's to empty trash cans and so on. The crew was well organized.

He said everyone donated their time. Salina charities had to raise around \$50,000 just to help pay for the expenses.

Dr. Fredrickson said he not only donated his time but he also took hand tools as a donation.

He said five restaurants donated food to patients and staff for three days.

It was fun, he said, to work with the other dentists, and kind of interesting to see them work. Dr. Fredrickson said he had wanted to take part in one of the missions before, but hadn't been able to. It is important, he said, to give back to the community, but there aren't a whole lot of ways to give back dentistry. He said he does what he can with his private practice in Oberlin, but this

was amazing, being able to help so many people in such a short time.

"It was emotionally and physically exhausting," he said, "but what a great feeling."

The scariest thing, he said, was that the dentists were working without x-rays. Dentists always use x-rays, but there was no way to do that at the center, so the workers just had to keep going on the patient until done.

Dr. Fredrickson said there were enough doctors there that they could specialize. It was really the cream of the crop of dentists in Kansas.

The patients received the highest quality of work for free. Dr. Fredrickson said the clinic counted up \$1.1 million of dental care in those 2 1/2 days.

He said he plans to do the Mission of Mercy in 2006, probably in Wichita. There is some talk of Hays getting one, too, he said.

Dr. Fredrickson said Kansas is the third state to have this program, but he hopes that at some time all of the states have a Mission of Mercy.

# Board visits schools

Members of the Oberlin School Board visited classrooms at the grade and high schools last Monday to see what the students have been doing with new computers and other equipment.

The board tours the schools at the beginning of each class year, but always after classes are over.

The board started at the grade school, where they toured the fifth grade classes of Sherri Ruf and Jeri Buchholz. The students, said Superintendent Kelly Glodt, showed the board members what they can do with their technology rich classrooms. Each classroom has 15 wireless laptops, with devices which allow a student to be at their desk and display answers on the screen for everyone to see.

At the high school, Teacher Wendy Scott demonstrated the performance system, which allows students to use a hand-held transmitter to click on the answer on the board. The system is used for quizzes, notes and example problems. The teacher can do a timed quiz or can check the progress as the student is working on the programs.

Principal Charles Haag gave each member a class schedule and let them go to any class they wanted.

Mr. Glodt said a lot of the members checked out the vocational agriculture class and teacher Brenda Breth's English class. Teachers Leigh Davis and Marlene Moxter also use the system.

# Hearing will be Thursday

The Oberlin City Council will hold a hearing at its meeting Thursday night for three people about junk and inoperable vehicles.

The Oberlin Police Department sent around 13 letters out to people in Oberlin who had junk, untagged or inoperable vehicles at their homes, giving them 20 days to get rid of, fix or remove the cars.

Rob McFee, Jerry Miller and Willa Urban requested hearings. The council members might go to each of the homes to see the vehicles.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the sign committee plans to be at the meeting to bring in recommendations for graphics for a sign for The Gateway.

Engineers with Miller and Associates are also scheduled to talk about prices for pilot studies for the water project for treatment.

The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Morgan Theater at The Gateway. It is open to the public.

## Notice of Personal Property Assessment

Personal property renditions must be filed between January 1 and March 15. Renditions filed after March 15 will have a penalty for late filing. Taxable personal property includes: Business and shop equipment, computers and printer, boats, motor and trailers, aircraft, mobile homes, camping and travel trailers, flatbed and car trailers, mopeds, ATV's, golf cars, trucks, non-tagged and non-highway vehicles and improvements on leased land. The Decatur County Appraisers's Office need to be notified of the sale of any personal property during 2004. All taxpayers must file before the March 15 deadline. All new businesses in Decatur County are required to contact the Decatur County Appraiser's Office to report business equipment for tax purposes. If you have no personal property to report, please call us to verify that you are in the county for census purposes.

### Personal Property Penalties:

March 15 through April 15 .....	5%
April 16 through May 15 .....	10%
May 16 through June 15 .....	15%
June 16 through July 15 .....	20%
On or after July 16 through <u>May 14</u> of the following year .....	25%
Failure to File .....	50%

Decatur County  
Appraiser's Office  
785-475-8109

Watch for our next special section:

# Rural Health

This special edition will feature health care for Northwest Kansans with advertisers ranging from Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado.

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### PUBLIC NOTICE TO THE CUSTOMERS OF AT&T COMMUNICATIONS OF THE SOUTHWEST, INC. KANSAS

Effective March 1, 2005, AT&T Communications of the Southwest, Inc., Kansas will increase its prices for the following plans:

Prices per minute	Current	Proposed
AT&T One Rate Calling Card Plan	\$0.25	\$0.30
AT&T One Rate Connections Optional Calling Card Plan	\$0.35	\$0.40
AT&T One Rate Calling Card	\$0.10	\$0.15
AT&T Easy Reach 800 Option 1	\$0.25	\$0.30
AT&T Easy Reach 800 Option 2	\$0.10	\$0.15

For more information, please call your AT&T representative at 1 800 222-0300.