

County discusses names for roads

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
While they haven't decided how, Decatur County commissioners are pretty sure they're going to name or number all the county roads.

At a meeting last Tuesday, there were more questions about the project, some that were answered, and others that will be answered once the process starts.

The current idea is to number the roads that run north and south and letter or name the roads that run east and west. The numbering and lettering or naming would start in the southwest corner of the county.

Commissioner Ralph Unger suggested designating the east/west routes "lanes" and the north/south ones "roads."

Commissioner Patricia Glenn said she wasn't sure if she liked lanes.

There are going to be some special circumstances, said County Attorney Steve Hirsch, including extensions of city streets. Mr. Hirsch said as they work on the project more of those will come to pass.

One the commissioners discussed was the east extension of Commercial Street, which turns into a gravel road and then dead ends about a mile east of town by Mr. Hirsch's house. The other is the south extension of Penn Avenue, which turns into a gravel road at the elevator and then dead ends at the top of the hill.

The commissioners didn't make any decisions about those roads.

It isn't going to matter what the roads are called, said Mr. Unger; a person is still going to need to know how to get to the homes in the country. Today, homes in the country just have rural route addresses, and it can be hard to get packages delivered to the country since most services need an address to go to.

There are few roads in the county that run from one end to the other, said Mr. Unger.

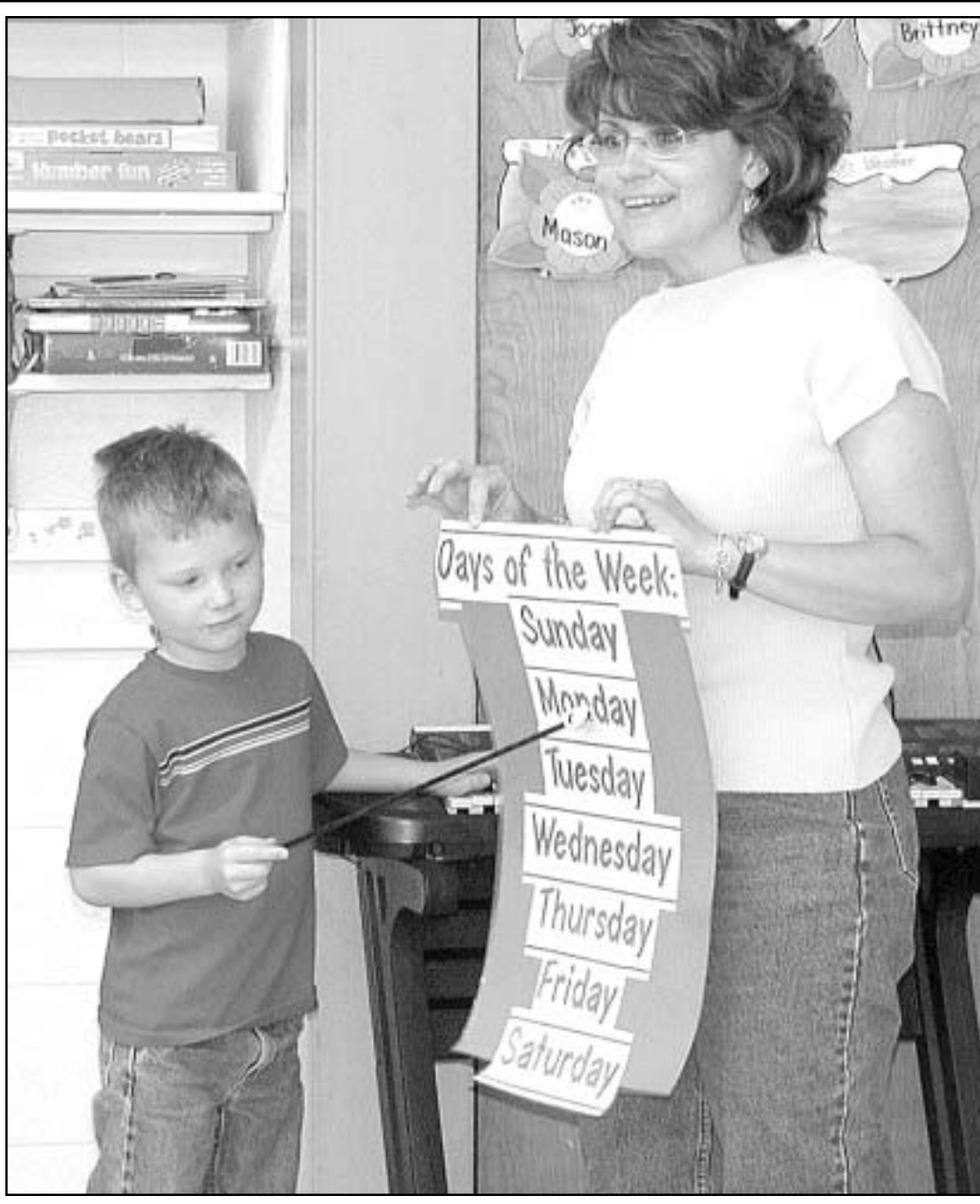
The commissioners said they aren't doing anything in the cities. Mr. Hirsch asked about unincorporated towns

Mr. Unger asked Appraiser Alan Hale what other counties have done in unincorporated cities. Mr. Hale said they could use the names from the old plats. That is a call the commissioners have to make, he said.

What about places like Kanona, where the mail comes from Jennings, but the address is in Kanona? asked Mr. Unger. Mr. Hale said he thought the zip code was according to where the mail comes from, but it can still be a Kanona address.

Commissioner Doyle Brown said he talked with a taxpayer who wanted to know why the county couldn't name the roads that already have a name with it. For example the Sappa Creek Road or Bohemian Hall Road would keep their names. Mr. Brown said they couldn't do it that way. It wouldn't make sense to everyone to keep those names, nor would be in the order of the other roads.

Mr. Unger said he would bring in a map with the addressing using the number and letter plan to the meeting next week, but the commissioners took no vote on that or any plan.



Little grads celebrate

AT THE GRADUATION ceremony Thursday Dayton Copeland (above) pointed to the days of week during a song while Cheryl Soderlund held the sign. Jeni Henningson, teacher, tied a hand made hat (right) on Kyleana Blau. Parents and family members watched as their little kids received diplomas and then the group had cake and refreshments.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



Horse events to be Saturday

The National Barrel Horse Association will hold a "doubleheader" barrel race on Saturday at the Decatur County Fairground horse arena.

Entries will be taken until the exhibitions begin at 12:30 p.m. Saturday.

The event will feature peewee barrels for kids 8 and under, youth barrels for those 9-18, and open barrels for adults.

In pole bending, a certain number of poles are lined up, then the rider directs the horse down in and out of them, then they race to the finish line.

In barrel racing there are three barrels. The rider starts with the one

on the right and they circle on the inside then they go to the one on the left and circle on the backside. The

last barrel is the farthest one in the arena. After circling in, the rider takes off for the finish line.

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Wednesday, June 1, 2005

THE OBERLIN HERALD 3A

State trooper to move to Salina

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

After eight years serving Decatur, Rawlins and Sheridan counties, Trooper Jerry Stritt is moving to Salina, where he hopes to rejoin the Patrol's air wing.

On Memorial Day, Trooper Stritt served his last shift here. That night, he said, the family was going to start moving stuff to their new home in Salina.

The main reason for the move, he said, is to get his son, Jerrod, 15, and daughter, Rachel, 8 in parochial school. Trooper Stritt said the kids are enrolled at Sacred Heart Catholic School. His oldest daughter Jessica is in the Marines, stationed in Okinawa, Japan.

He said he bought a house in Salina and sold his home here. The family plans to move Thursday.

Trooper Stritt and his wife Rose moved here almost exactly eight years ago. Mrs. Stritt died after a traffic accident 2003.

Mr. Stritt said being in Salina should give him a good chance to get back into the aircraft patrol. That will allow him to have more day shifts, which is better for the kids. He said now, his shifts are half days, half nights.

With the aircraft unit, he would be flying a plane on manhunts, doing traffic control and hauling blood. From the plane, he said, a trooper can time cars on the highway and then radio down to officers on the road.

Although he would like to get the

aircraft position, Trooper Stritt said he will be on the road for at least the first two weeks. He said he won't know about the new job until June 19.

Trooper Stritt said the family plans to continue with their hobbies in Salina, including remaining a member of the Goldwing Touring Association, a motorcycle group. He said he is now a member with the McCook group, but will probably transfer to the Salina chapter.

He said he isn't sure if there will be another trooper stationed here to take his place. Eight years ago, said Trooper Stritt, he chose to move here.

Capt. Kelly McGuire, troop commander in Hays, said they are going to try to get another trooper to the Oberlin area. He said the office will probably open up the position to see if any troopers are interested in moving here. If there aren't any takers, said Capt. McGuire, then a recruit from an upcoming class will be assigned to the spot.

The class for new recruits is 22 weeks long, he said. Those graduating on June 2 already have their assignments, as do those starting the program in July.

It could take up to a year to get a trooper to the Oberlin area, said Capt. McGuire, or it could be a few months.

That doesn't mean the county won't be covered. He said in the meantime, officers out of Norton or Colby will make regular patrols.

Car show to bring all kinds of vehicles

Classic, muscle and sports vehicles of all types will motor into Oberlin on Saturday for the fourth annual Museum Summerfest Car Show.

Although the show doesn't start until Saturday morning, the museum will hold a cruise-in at the south end of Main Street from 7 to 10 p.m. Friday night, with the museum serving hot dogs and sodas.

The next morning, there will be a pancake feed from 7 to 9 a.m. at the Old Bohemian Hall. Vehicles can be registered from 8 to 11 a.m. at The Bank drive through at the south end of Main Street.

A "Show and Shine" will be held all day on Main Street. Byron Hale said the group has around 30 cars registered so far. Normally, in the

last week, they get registrations every day.

Lunch will be sold near Farmers Bank and Trust from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be food and beverages available all day.

There will also be kids games all day including a fish bean-bag toss, can toss, plinko, temporary tattoos and hair braiding. This year, there will be some adult games, including a poker run at 1 p.m. and a starter throw at 2 p.m.

Around 3 p.m., there will be a burn-out contest with cash prizes donated by Fidele Building Supply. At 4 p.m., trophies will be handed out.

That evening, there will be a barbecued beef supper at the Bohemian Hall.

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