

School count stays about even

Preliminary estimates show neither gain nor loss

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Tentative enrollment numbers for the Oberlin School District are about the same as the end of last year, give or take one or two kids.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt said they knew the district would break even or at least be within a few students, mainly because of the small senior class last year.

The grade school has 204 students enrolled so far and a full time equivalent of 187, counting kindergartners as half, he said. The full-time equivalency number is what state aid is based on.

Last year at the grade school there were 224 kids in May, which is down, but the overall enrollment for the district is up.

At the high school, said Mr. Glodt, there are 248 students enrolled, nine of whom are coming from Jennings under the cooperative agreement. The full-time equivalency number there is 248.

That gives the district a total head count of 452 students with a full-time equivalency of 426 and a three-year average of 433.5.

At the end of last year, Mr. Glodt said, the head count was 448 and full-time equivalency was 442 because of the three-year average.

Mr. Glodt said it is just a guess, but he thinks the district will have one or two more students than last year in both counts. It could be one or two students less, too.

There will be more students in the high school this year, he said. Last year there were 224, 24 less than enrolled now. There were only 25

seniors last year, said Mr. Glodt, and the sixth grade class moving in had 32 kids. Along with the nine gained from Jennings, he said, a handful of students moved into town.

At the high school, he said, the budget is only for 239 students because the district can't claim the nine from Jennings. Those students, he said, are here under a cooperative agreement, which means that the Jennings District enrolls them, then pays the Oberlin District to educate them and give them a ride.

After this year, said Mr. Glodt, if the Jennings District dissolves, those students can just enroll here.

Although it looks like the numbers are close to the same this year, he said, most likely it won't be this way next year.

The class of 2006 is big, he said. When they graduate, the district will lose around 25 kids. The next year will be the same.

That means, said Mr. Glodt, the district has the possibility of dropping 50 students in the next two years.

It is time to prepare for that now, he said. The district doesn't want to get into the situation where it has to let a bunch of staff go because enrollment drops. He said the goal is to cut the budget through attrition, which means not replacing teachers as they retire. Of course, some of those who retire or resign have to be replaced because they teach subjects the district needs.

Basically, said Mr. Glodt, the district has to prepare for more cuts in the future.

Fun at the car wash



SPRAYING WATER ON CARS AND HER FRIENDS, Tamara Ketterl was one of 11 Decatur Community High cheerleaders working at a car wash on Monday. The girls made over \$500, working out in the sun, which they will use to help buy uniforms.

— Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

School to start early to avoid heat

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

There will be a little more traffic in town next week as school buses, parents and teens try to get to school before 7:20 a.m.

The first day of school in Oberlin is Thursday, Aug. 18, which means teenage drivers will be set loose, kids will be up earlier and the buses will be out.

Since the district is on its heat schedule until after Labor Day, students need to be at the schools and ready for classes to start at 7:20 a.m.. Although that may seem early to

many who haven't gotten up before 9 a.m. or later all summer, the good news is that classes are over at 1:30 p.m.

On the first day, said Principal Charlie Haag, students at the high school need to report to the cafeteria so they can pick up their schedules. By the time school starts, he said, many of the students will have either lost their schedules or they have been changed.

He said teachers will be set up in the cafeteria to hand out new schedules.

With the heat schedule, he said, there is no "zero hour," which means there isn't any weight lifting.

There are three new teachers at the junior and senior high, said Mr. Haag. Maria Campo from Spain will be teaching Spanish, Jason Ketterl, an Oberlin graduate, is teaching vocational agriculture, and Christie Morris, a longtime teacher at the grade school, will take over the band.

All three were hired over the summer.

Johanna Mason, the new part-

time nurse, will work one-quarter time at the high school and a quarter at the grade school.

Mr. Haag said the district was able to create one new position with money from the state. Tina Williams, he said, will be a full time tutor-teacher, if the board approved her hiring when it met Monday night.

The program is designed so that Mrs. Williams can work with students who need extra help in the classroom and those who didn't do very well on the state tests.

(See SCHOOL on Page 10A)

Council gives nod to start planning for park wetlands

A wetlands and fishing pond at Sappa Park are a step closer after the City Council approved a contract for the Watershed Institute to work up plans for the project.

At a meeting last Thursday night, the council looked at the contract again. The contract states that the work will cost \$6,000, but the institute had half of that as \$3,500 when the council looked at the contract at the end of July.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch said the figure in the contract has been changed and the price does include engineering costs. The institute had said that there won't be any extra fees, he said.

Basically, said Mayor Ken Shobe, the contract is the same as what the council looked at last week, minus the typo. A planned Aug. 10 groundbreaking, he said, was canceled because the contract hadn't been signed.

The contract, said Councilman Rob McFee, means that the institute will show the city where to put the lake. Yes, said Mayor Shobe, it is for

Council Roundup

At a meeting last Thursday, the Oberlin City Council:

- Approved a contract with the Watershed Institute to work up plans for a wetlands project at Sappa Park. Story at left.

- Increased the city power rate by one cent per kilowatt hour, about 10 percent, for September bills. Story at right.

- Approved a notice to proceed on the re-drilling of well No. 9 contingent to state approval. Story on Page 3A.

- Sold 22 feet of city property along Buffalo Street to the owner of an adjacent property. Story on Page 3A.

the plans and engineering required. Councilman Jay Anderson said (See PARK on Page 10A)

Following the sun



OUTSIDE OF TOWN Friday morning, a field of yellow sunflowers stretched out toward the sun. The field is just south of town on U.S. 36.

— Herald staff photo by Dave Bergling

Power cost to increase next month

City power customers will see a 10 percent increase, a penny per kilowatt hour, on their September bills.

The Oberlin City Council decided last Thursday to raise the rates since the city is paying more for power and the city's revenue is down.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the Kansas Municipal Energy Agency is doing a cost-of-service study, but it won't be finished until next week.

He suggested a one-cent-per-kilowatt-hour raise until the council can look at the study.

At that time, the city might adjust the increase.

Mr. Shike said he would hate to get through one of the highest months of electrical use, August, and know the city is losing revenue.

The penny increase, said Mayor Ken Shobe, would have brought in an additional \$5,000 income last month.

What does that mean for big customers like the hospital, nursing homes and schools? asked Councilman Patrick Pomeroy.

There is a tier system, Mr. Shike said, so that customers pay 11 1/2 cents for the first 25 kilowatt hours, 11 cents for the next 75 and 10 1/2 cents for anything over 100.

Mr. Shike said the increase isn't 10 percent of the total city bill, just for electric rates. The city isn't actually losing money now, he said; it's just not making as much as it used to.

The last time the city increased the electric rates was in 2002, when it added half a cent per kilowatt hour to pay for power line and plant improvements.

The council agreed that the penny increase would be across the board.

An ordinance was approved and it is published in *The Oberlin Herald* today.

One million gallons of water pumped

Oberlin water customers used more than a million gallons of water last Wednesday, but demand then dropped back down.

Under the city's water emergency plan, if use stays about a million gallons a day, the mayor can ban outdoor water use.

There is no outdoor water use on Mondays, said Gary Shike, city administrator.

Last week the city pumped:

- 608,000 gallons on Monday, Aug. 1.

- 932,000 gallons on Tuesday, Aug. 2.

- 1,056,000 gallons last Wednesday.

- 792,000 gallons on Thursday.

- 834,000 gallons on Friday.

- 847,000 gallons on Saturday.

- 702,000 gallons on Sunday.

County fair offers lots of fun

Don't forget to head up to the fair-ground this week for rides, food, games and entertainment during the Decatur County Fair with its Home Owned Carnival.

Tonight, the carnival will open at 7 p.m., with tickets costing a quarter and most rides costing three tickets, with the exception of the kiddie rides. The 4-H Centennial barbecue will be served from 6 to 8 p.m. on the east side of the 4-H building. At 8 p.m., there will be a local gospel group singing in front of the grandstand. Thursday night, the annual livestock auction will be held at the Oberlin Sale Barn at 6:30 p.m. 4-H

kids will be selling hogs, cattle and sheep that they have raised and earned prizes for during this year's fair. The sale will be broadcast live by KFNH radio.

The carnival opens at 7 p.m. and the Colgate Country Showdown, sponsored by Coyote Country, will start at 7 p.m. in front of the grandstand.

On Friday, don't forget to take your favorite pet to the Good Samaritan Center at 1:30 p.m. for the annual pet parade. All pets are welcome. The public fashion revue and centennial celebration alumni tea is scheduled at 5:30 p.m. at The Gate-

way.

That night at 7 p.m., the carnival rides will open. In front the grandstand will be the first Demo Roller Derby at 7 p.m.

On Saturday, the carnival will open at 7 p.m. and there will be a tractor pull at 7 p.m. sponsored by the Decatur County Fair Board at the grandstand.

If you want to volunteer for the carnival, you still have a chance. Time slots that are still open are on Page 8A of this week's *Oberlin Herald*. Anyone interested in working should contact Vickie Ray at Ray Jewelry, 475-3351.

* Class starts soon

(Continued from Page 1A)
She also will be helping with some ideas for extended learning opportunities either after school or during the summer, he said.
Mrs. Williams has been teaching at Sappa Valley Youth Ranch. Most of the other changes are in general maintenance, said Mr. Haag.

The school has a new trophy case which will hold student achievements. Those will be changed weekly. Mr. Haag said the school wants to celebrate the students and show off what they have done.

At the grade school, Principal Duane Dorshorst said the playground has a new hard surface. The work isn't done yet, but will be before classes start. A basketball and volleyball court were added, along with sidewalks next to the parking lot and next to the kindergarten building for kids to be picked up and dropped off.

Students in the sixth grade have new laptop computers in the classroom, said Mr. Dorshorst. There isn't one for every student in sixth grade, but there is in fourth and fifth.

This year, he said, there is just one section of sixth grade while all other grades have two.

Students in the grade school will have art class outside the classroom this year, with teacher Terri Woolsey. The students will be with her once a week. With budget cuts, students had been doing art with their classroom teachers.

Mr. Dorshorst said there might be some new teacher aides, but he doesn't know for sure who they will be.

JENNINGS

Fall classes will begin at 8:25 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 22, at Prairie Heights School at Jennings for kindergarten through grade 6.

Breakfast and lunch will be served.

An all-day inservice and work day for teachers is scheduled at the school on Aug. 18.

Emery Hart is superintendent of schools at Jennings.

GOLDEN PLAINS

Golden Plains School, Selden and Rexford, will start school with a full day of classes on Thursday, Aug. 25. Breakfast and lunch will be served.

Enrollment for pre-school through fifth grade at Selden is expected to be around 75. Golden Plains School will have some 120 students in grades 6-12 at Rexford. Enrollment was scheduled from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. yesterday and today at both schools.

New teachers include: Julie Ziegelmeier of Gem, fifth grade; Margaret Houtz, Colby, middle school language arts; and Judy Rogers, Selden, high school business teacher and computer tech. Nichole Schiltz of Selden will be a new para-professional.

Dr. Roger Baskerville is superintendent with his district office at the Selden School. Administrative assistant is Travis Smith, who is at the Rexford school.

There will be a teacher and staff inservice beginning at 8 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 22, at the Shepherd's Staff in Rexford.

Football and volleyball practices will begin next Monday. A volleyball soap scrimmage is scheduled at 5 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 26. The Rexford Lions Club and Golden Plains Booster Club will sponsor the annual school picnic after the scrimmage, then the football soap scrimmage will follow at 7 p.m.

Potluck picnic planned

Everyone is invited to the back-to-school picnic at 6:30 p.m. next Tuesday in City Park.

The picnic will be just two days before school starts in Oberlin, giving everyone a chance to meet new teachers and catch up after the summer.

The event is sponsored by the Oberlin Business Alliance, the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce and the Oberlin School District.

Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share, but the chicken will be provided by the sponsors.

If you're coming, call the Chamber at 475-3441 with a head count.



AT THE FARM BUREAU annual meeting last Thursday, of Jess Sutton, the guest speaker. Kelly Olson tried her hand at the trivia wheel with the help — Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

Members eat, earn 100 year farm awards

Four Decatur County farmers were honored for having Century Farms during the Farm Bureau annual meeting last Thursday.

Dianne Bremer, with the bureau, said to have a Century Farm, the family needs to have at least 80 acres of the original family land that has been farmed by the same family for 100 years.

This year, Century Farms belong to Wesley

and Eulaine (Erikson) Benda of Oberlin, Ruth Laidig of Oberlin, Bob and Kaye Strevey of Decatur and Eugene Wurm of Herndon.

Each owner received a Century Farm sign and license plate. Mrs. Bremer said the owners will be recognized at the Kansas State Fair if they choose to attend.

To have a farm recognized as a Century Farm, the owner has to be a Farm Bureau member. Mrs.

Bremer said the bureau has been recognizing farmers like these for years.

She said around 103 members and guests attended the annual dinner meeting at The Gateway.

Jess Sutton, Kansas Farm Bureau agriculture education and safety manager, had the program. He ended his talk with the trivia wheel, letting audience members play.

Stand-off lasts seven hours, ends in arrest

By TOM BETZ

The Goodland Star-News

A standoff at the Country Trader Gun and Pawn Shop south of Bird City ended after seven hours Monday afternoon with state troopers and sheriff's deputies arresting the owner on a felony warrant.

Teams of specially trained troopers backed up by Cheyenne and Sherman County sheriff's deputies and a Highway Patrol helicopter surrounded the house and arrested Vertie Earl Bolyard, 69, as he was walking along a tree line east of the house about nine miles south of Bird City.

About two dozen officers were involved, and members of the Highway Patrol's Special Response Team had been rushed in to handle the situation.

Once the team members arrived, a squad of four to six officers was dropped behind a tree line on the north side of the property about 4 p.m. Mountain Time. They moved into position to be able to see the house and surrounding buildings.

An hour later, a second group was taken to the house, followed by sheriff's deputies from both counties and more troopers.

The officers could see Bolyard outside of his house, and he went out by a shed to the west of the house. About 30 minutes after the second team and officers went down Country Road 28, officers reported the team had arrested Bolyard near the tree line.

After the arrest, Bolyard was being taken to the Sherman County Batille in Goodland when he complained of chest pains. He has a history of heart problems and has a pacemaker. The Cheyenne County, Sherman County and State Patrol vehicles pulled over on County Road D and asked for a Cheyenne County ambulance.

The ambulance took him to Goodland Regional Medical Center about 5 p.m.

Highway Patrol officers remained at Bolyard's home to secure and search the house, gun shop and outbuildings.

St. Francis Police Officer Norvin Anderson said the incident began when he tried to stop Bolyard outside of St. Francis about 8:30 a.m. Mountain Time to serve a felony warrant.

Anderson said Bolyard took off, but then stopped when Anderson turned on his siren and lights.

"I thought this was going to be easier than expected," Anderson said. "When I got out to serve the warrant, he took off in a white Chevy pickup."

Anderson said he and a state trooper gave chase and the speed was up to 85 mph at times on the county roads.

Shortly after 9 a.m., there was a report that Bolyard was headed back to his home.

The trooper asked the Sherman

County sheriff's office for assistance about 8:50 a.m., and a deputy was sent to block Sherman County Road 28 at the county line.

The house is about four miles north of the Sherman county line and nine miles south of U.S. 36 on the main Bird City-Edson road, known as Road 28 in Sherman County. It is nine miles east of K-27.

Troopers at the scene asked for the Special Response Team, and the squad was organized and officers were on the scene by mid-afternoon. Some had to be flown in; others came by car and special vehicles.

Officers were told to keep their distance because Bolyard reportedly had a 50-caliber gun.

At the courthouse in St. Francis,

officials said there was a warrant for Bolyard, but it wouldn't be in the public file until it is served. That is standard procedure.

Bolyard's gun shop, north of his house, is stocked with rifles, shotguns and pistols of every size and caliber, plus ammunition for most of the guns.

* Park plan started

(Continued from Page 1A)
the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service should provide the soil tests and core boring needed for the project.

Gary Shike, city administrator, said he had talked with the federal agency to see how much free or discounted help the city could get for the project.

Best case scenario, asked Councilman Patrick Pomeroy, when will the ground breaking be?

The contract, said Mayor Shobe, says construction will be done from November 2006 to January 2007 if it was signed in July, he said, but a groundbreaking could be done in late October.

The city can capture 15 acre feet of water, said Mr. Pomeroy. Can the city keep that or does a water source need to be found to keep it full? The city can't pump water into the wetlands, said Mr. Shike, without buying a water right.

There are some statues about that, said Mr. Hirsch. The city could do some basin transfers, but that would be tougher.

The council waited to make any decisions until after its engineer, Thaniel Monaco with Miller and Associates, made his presentation.

Later in the meeting, the council approved the contract.

Internet tonight!
Call 475-2206!

Wagner Ford Mercury
OH/ADV
4 x 10 1/4
Full Color in both papers
Ad printed to GSN