

## Jennings enrollment drops to three

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The Jennings Grade School is well into its last year with three students enrolled and six pre-schoolers.

Though it's far fewer students than the district expected, the state Department of Education granted a waiver to allow the district to finish out its last year. Kansas schools are supposed to have a minimum of 10 students.

Over a year ago, the Jennings School Board members started to look into closing down the schools. Enrollment had declined

to by around 50 kids and there was talk about how long the school could stay open. Last year, with 31 kids enrolled in the fall, the board decided to contract with neighboring school districts for junior and senior high students and maintain a grade school.

At the end of this year, the board plans to dissolve the district, with the land, money, building and equipment being given to neighboring districts.

Superintendent Emery Hart said they thought the school would have around 24 students in the grade school this year. Par-

ents apparently decided to send their young students to other districts to let them get adjusted to their new schools as soon as possible. Mr. Hart said he understands that.

Last year, the district thought there was a possibility of 12 students, but it ended up with just three, one each in kindergarten, first and second grade.

Mr. Hart said as soon as he found out there was only going to be three students, he called the state. State officials told him they wanted the school in Jennings to stay open this year and close properly. That way, the

decisions that need to be made about the equipment, building and land can be made in time, he said.

"We just wanted to do what is best for the kids," said Mr. Hart. "With having school here this year, those kids who wanted to go here can."

The school has eight employees, he said, all contracted before they knew the enrollment would be just three kids. Those include Mr. Hart as part-time superintendent; Lois Heilman, board clerk and administrative assistant; Kathy Randolph, teacher and li-

brarian; Denise Carter, teacher, Diane Carter, elementary and music teacher; Mary Wahlmeier, aide; Carol Carter, cook and custodian; and Robert Schillig, custodian and driver.

Mr. Hart said the students have a home room together and then they break out into different rooms with different teachers for certain subjects. That way, he said, the teachers get to teach the subjects they want.

They are also running a preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds. There are six kids in pre- (See SCHOOL on Page 5A)



## Parent asks for crosswalks on busy streets

At the request of a parent, the Oberlin City Council is considering marking the crosswalks at Commercial and Cass, which are used by many students from Oberlin Elementary School a few blocks to the north.

At a meeting last Thursday, the council discussed the crosswalks. Shanna Long, mother of a first grader, had called Councilman Jay Anderson about the idea. There is a fair amount of traffic at that intersection, he said, so it couldn't hurt to mark the crosswalks.

There is a lot of traffic there, said Mayor Ken Shobe, and the lines would need to be painted frequently.

Cost of the signs and paint is minimal for the number of kids who walk that way, said Dr. Anderson. Mr. Shike said the crosswalk might have to be designated as a school crossing by ordinance.

The council discussed marking one crosswalk across Cass and one across Commercial.

Are the kids unable to cross the street without the crosswalk? asked Councilman Rob McFee. It seems like the marking and signs would be more for the drivers than the kids, said Councilman Ray Ward.

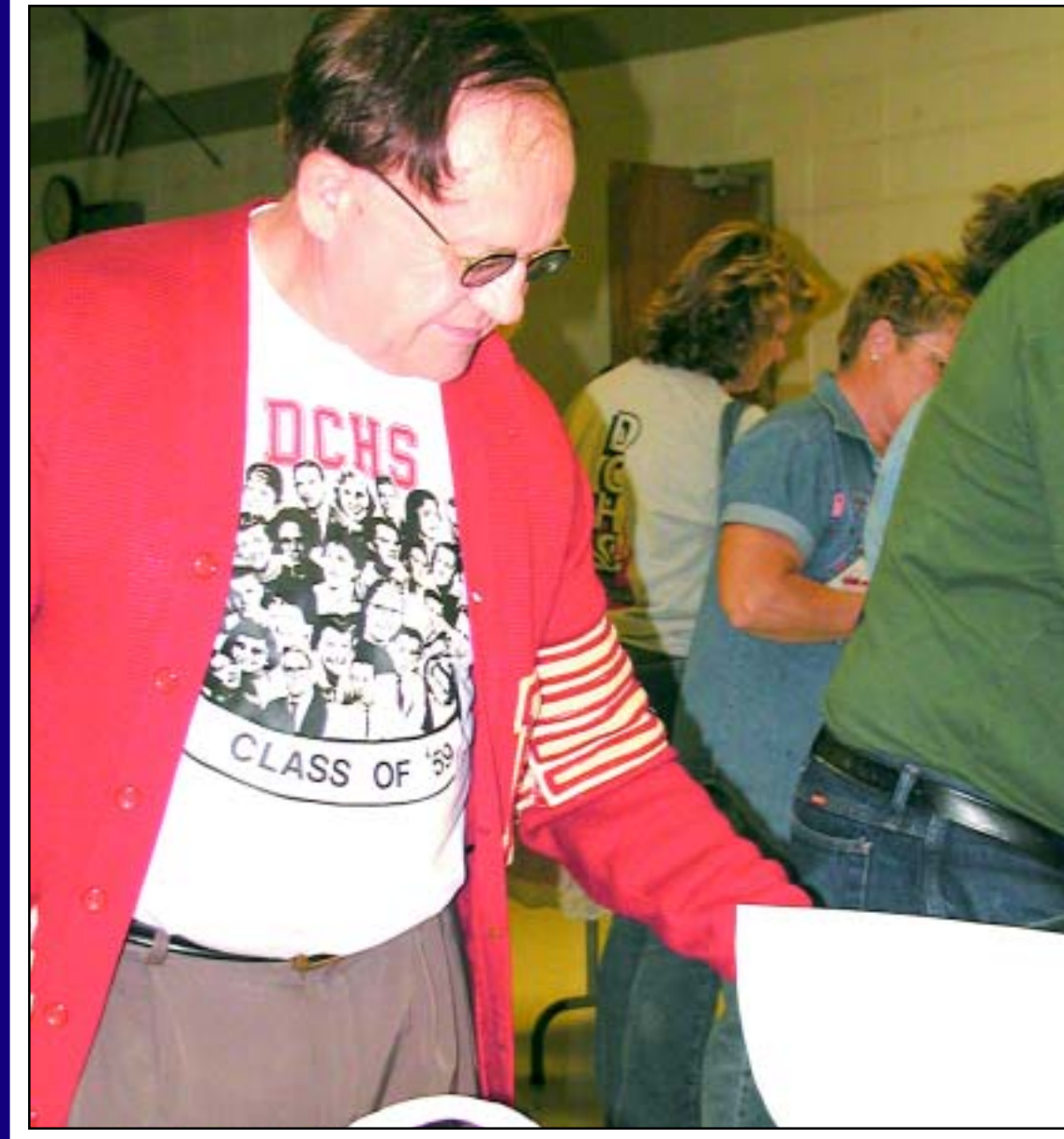
Mr. McFee said he isn't against marking a crosswalk, but why after all these years? Drivers seem to be getting t less conscientious, replied Mayor Shobe.

## Council Countdown

At a meeting last Thursday, the Oberlin City Council:

- Agreed to allow stores to sell beer and alcohol on Sundays, although the change was protested by one Oberlin pastor. Story below.
- Discussed marking crosswalks in at the intersection of Commercial and Cass. Story at left.
- Approved a bid of \$2,932 for soil samples to be taken in the area where the new waste water treatment plant will be built. Story to come.
- Talked with the county ambulance director about putting an external defibrillator in The Gateway, which the mayor said was OK. Story to come.
- Heard a request from one member to get information about condemning a building downtown. Story on Page 5A.

City Attorney Steve Hirsch said the police chief may designate an area for a crosswalk. The council decided to table the crosswalk request until the next meeting on Thursday, Sept. 22.



## Champs return home

**TEAM MEMBER** Gary Anthony showed his wife Cathy (above) a picture of the 1955 team at a reception at the high school Friday after the Red Devil football game. Clint Corder (left) looked at some team memorabilia. Twenty-one members of the original 1955 team returned Friday for a reunion. They were the last Oberlin team to be undefeated.

—Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

## Sunday sales OK'd by City Council; petition is possible

The Oberlin City Council said yes Thursday to Sunday sales of beer and alcohol, though one preacher protested.

Pastor Steve Smith said he was against selling alcohol on Sundays. He was the only opposition.

Sherry Brown, owner of Fine Spirits liquor store, asked the council to let stores sell alcohol on Sundays at the last meeting in August. The council decided to get some public comment and get an ordinance typed.

The Legislature decided this year to let cities and counties have a local option on Sunday sales.

City Administrator Gary Shike said he had one person call who didn't think selling alcohol on Sunday was necessary. Council mem-

bers said they had a few talk with them who were in favor of the Sunday sales.

Alcohol and beer could be sold anywhere that currently sells them. There is no extra licensing fee.

The council approved the ordinance, which will be published twice in the *The Oberlin Herald*. The ordinance will go into effect 61 days from publication, unless there is a petition against it with enough signatures to force an election.

City Attorney Steve Hirsch said Pastor Smith talked with him on Friday about starting a petition against Sunday sales, but nothing has been approved.

Any petition has to be approved by the city attorney before it can be signed.

## Water restrictions lifted as of today

The Oberlin City Council agreed Thursday to lift watering restrictions effective today.

Mayor Ken Shobe said City Administrator Gary Shike and Willard Perrin with the water department had recommended that the city end even/odd water restrictions. For the last few weeks, with several inches of rain, the city has used barely over 500,000 gallons of water a day.

The city has been on the restrictions all summer, meaning that residents could basically water every other day in the early morning or late at night. There was no outside wa-

tering allowed on Monday.

The city didn't give any tickets for those who watered when they weren't supposed to, police said, though there were several warnings.

In the last week of water restrictions, the city pumped:

- 447,000 gallons on Monday, Sept. 5.
- 394,000 gallons on Tuesday, Sept. 6.
- 417,000 gallons last Wednesday.
- 341,000 gallons on Thursday.
- 408,000 gallons on Friday.
- 493,000 gallons on Saturday.
- 393,000 gallons on Sunday.

## Student's work published in magazine

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

An English paper turned into a slot in a national group's magazine for a Decatur Community High School senior.

Jeremy Tally said his English teacher, Brenda Breth, assigned an autobiography last year.

One part was supposed to be about the happiest day of your life. For him, Jeremy said, the happiest day was when he purchased his first gun.

Mrs. Breth, said Jeremy, kept saying how good his piece was and how she wanted him to revise the story so it could be on the school website. He said he came up with the idea of e-mailing it to

### Boy writes about his first gun

**Editor's Note:** Jeremy Tally wrote this story for his English class at Decatur Community High School. It was published in the National Rifle Association's junior magazine.

I'm sure there are lots of happier moments in my life besides

the one I am about to talk about. I know I can name a few more Tally adventures. But, I will tell you of one story that changed my life.

It was mid-October, 2001, and Dale's Fish 'N' Fun was having its yearly sale. An anxious boy (See MONEY on Page 5A)

the National Rifle Association.

He sent the story during last school year, he said, and it took the group a long time to get back to him. Jeremy said he thought the associa-

tion had thrown the story away and then he received a letter saying they needed pictures.

The letter said that the story was going to run in the association's jun-

ior magazine, *In Sights*. Jeremy said he isn't a junior member and didn't know anything about the magazine.

"I was really excited," he said. "I didn't think they would even think twice about running it."

Jeremy said writing is something he enjoys and maybe something he will pursue in the future. He said he is also looking into engineering.

He said he enjoys hunting, starting when he was about 10 with his dad, Eugene.

In school, he is a member of the Drama Club, TACT, Science Club, National Honor Society and the robotics club.

# \* School will close

(Continued from Page 1A)  
 school. The school isn't getting any state money for the preschool, but Mr. Hart said they feel they are helping these kids get a start in life.

The school is still providing a hot lunch for the nine kids.

For sure, he said, this is the last year for the Jennings School. He and the board are going to finalize everything with the state to see where the building, equipment, land and money will go and they hope to have everything decided by February.

Although the school board can make recommendations on where everything goes, he said, the state board gets to make the decisions.

The school has a budget this year of \$881,000, with \$423,146 of that in the general fund budget.

If the district has capital outlay money or local option budget money left, it will be divided up with the land. He said there will be money left; he just isn't sure how much and which of the neighboring districts will get what.

With the students being contracted, they are enrolled in the Jennings District for budget purposes, then Jennings pays so much per student to the district they attend.

The Jennings District has a full-time equivalency of 12 1/2 students, which is what the state aide payment is based on, the superintendent said.

"We feel the schools in Oberlin and Hoxie who have contracted the kids have done a wonderful job," said Mr. Hart. "We haven't heard any complaints and the kids seem to be happy."

Some of the students decided to go to Norton this year, but they aren't contracted through the district.

The board has done a lot of work, listened to the patrons and tried to have all of this happen in a positive way, he said. So far, the year is going smoothly, thanks to the cooperation of everyone involved.

# Crew may get new dozer

The Decatur County road and bridge department might be getting a new dozer to help with blading the roads and other work.

At the meeting Tuesday, Aug. 30 Supervisor Tim Stallman said he is going to look at a 2002 D5M Caterpillar dozer with 2,300 hours on it. He plans to have the dozer brought here for a demonstration.

The dozer would have a year warranty. The blade on the machine is a new kind that will tilt, he said.

Mr. Stallman said this is the kind of dozer they are looking for.

The crew has been working on removing weeds, he said, but since it has been raining it has been hard to do. The county roads are in good shape, he said, but the crew has been spot blading. He said they have also been working on a soft spot on the Hall Road.

The crew is trying to get all of the roads in shape for the fall harvest, he said.

Mr. Stallman said he needed to purchase some diesel fuel and was hoping to have a supplier commit to a price, but was unable to get anyone to. He said he planned to continue to work on it throughout the week.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard that the Oberlin School District had decided not to rent space in the shop in Norcat to store a school bus.

- Heard that the bridge projects have been slowed down because of the rain last month.

# A Capella group to sing

The Denver A Capella Project will open the Western Plains Arts Association season with a program at 3 p.m. on Sunday at the Atwood High School Auditorium.

Featuring three sets of spouses, two sets of siblings and two sets of in-laws, Denver A Capella Project is a family affair. Their shows highlight the group's love for different musical styles, whether they are crooning jazz tune or belting out a gospel number.

Admission is by season ticket or \$10 for adults and \$5 for students at the door.



**WITH ONE EYE SHUT**, Jeremy Tally aimed his 110GLXP3 Savage rifle, the first gun he ever bought. Mr. Tally wrote an essay about buying the gun for his English class which was later published in a national magazine.

# \* Money saved to buy boy's first rifle

(Continued from Page 1A)  
 counted his money. There was some in a jar, some on the "you owe me board," and some in the bank. Just enough.

He had been dreaming about this moment. This was the first thing over 20 bucks he had bought on his own. He took one more look on the Internet to find the right one.

"Dad, Mom, can we go to Dale's now, please?" he asked.

So finally they left for the one place he had wanted so badly to go to for weeks.

When they got there, he sat quietly, waiting his turn in the busy store. Finally, Bob Woolsey said, "What will it be for you?" The boy unfolded the paper that was now almost wrinkled beyond recognition. There on the paper was a left-hand model 110GLXP3 Savage.

"Good choice," Bob said, as he looked it over. "What caliber would you like it in?"

The boy stopped; he hadn't thought of everything.

"Um, well, Dad, um, I guess in the .243 caliber. No. Yeah, .243," the boy said.

Bob replied, "Well what caliber would you like it in if I can't find that one? Maybe a .25-06 Remington would do?"

"Yeah, that will do," said the boy, looking

relieved.

A few days passed, and he waited by the phone for that call. Did he get that call? No, his Mom did. Dale's found one in .25-06. He later learned it was a pretty hard find. Savage makes only 1,000 of the same rifles before producing the next model. The boy gave the OK to get the rifle, and he went back to the waiting game. Time stands still when waiting. Minutes seemed like days. Soon those minutes added up to days and that call came in.

"We got it. Come pick it up when you are ready," said Bob.

The boy rounded up Dad and they headed out. They rode up to the peach building, casually walked inside, and waited for the box.

Now a box is just a box, like it was treasure chest. There it was, the blue steel attached to the walnut stock with a 3x9x32 mm Simmons scope on the top. It was perfect. Eyes gleaming, the boy said, "I love it."

Dad reached for the checkbook since the boy was not old enough to buy it on his own. Dad wrote the check for the gun and some ammo, another thing the boy forgot to consider. He got back into the pickup, holding the box like it was a safe with grandma's jewels in it. They got home; he took it out of the box, which he still

has today, and almost cried.

"Now you better go and clean it up just like I showed you," his dad said.

That was almost three years ago. If you didn't figure it out, that boy was me. I still have the rifle. A new Bushnell 5x15x40 mm scope, a Versa-Pod bipod, and a new sling have been added to the .25-06.

I really credit that gun for giving me what I have today. Back then I didn't have many friends. I wasn't good at much besides school-work. When I bought that rifle, it sparked something in me to want to know more about guns. Today, my knowledge has increased greatly. I am a member of www.gunandgame.com, where I talk to people just like me on different subjects. I have even thought of becoming a gunsmith when I grow up.

That rifle has taken me far. It put me where I need to be. Some say I should sell it, and I just laugh. I can't sell something with that much history, that much inspiration. I know I owe a lot to that rifle.

So when that day comes, when someone will argue that guns should be illegal, I will be there to fight. And fight I will, for my right, my love, my passion, and that one rifle that changed my life."

# Bridge plans redone to make it longer

Decatur County commissioners found out that the sixth bridge in the summer project needs to be longer to meet Kansas Department of Transportation guidelines.

The commissioners talked with Lloyd Johnson of Husker Steel, who said the sixth bridge is the last in the project for the summer.

The bridge will be 47 feet long, he said, instead of 40 feet. It is about three miles west and one and one-half miles south of Clayton.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman said the crew had finished the fifth bridge, which was 3.8 miles south and 3.8 miles west of Oberlin.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch presented a contract with SBC for 911 emergency telephone service which Dispatcher Jeanne Pachner had brought to the commissioners the previous week.

The contract is for the new program including new computers and everything. It includes \$120,000 in grant money that the county hasn't received yet.

# County Countdown

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Approved application for a matching grant for a new ambulance. Story to come.
- Found out that the last bridge in the summer project needs to be a little longer due to the Kansas Department of Transportation guidelines. Story at left.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said he wanted to wait to discuss the contract until Commissioner Doyle Brown was back, since he wasn't at the meeting.

In other business, commissioners:

- Approved flying the flag at half staff in honor of Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist.

# Hays Medical 2x4.5 printed to gsn

# AUCTION

Sunday, September 25, 2005 • 1:00 p.m.

Lamb Mercantile Building on Bellview Ave. (Main Street) Winona, KS

Food and Drinks provided by the Winona 4-H!

### Partial Listing:

- 2 Oak shelving units original fixtures in the Paul Jones Hardware owned by the Lamb family since 1934
- 2 Original Oak Bolt Bins
- Old Radios
- Antique Table Top Display case (needs glass replaced)
- Several long store counters - one bar height
- Parts of early day kitchen cupboard
- Kitchen cabinets (miscellaneous)
- Iron skillets and odds and ends dishes
- Children's chairs from U.M. Church
- Old Air Compressor
- 3 piece Aunt Jemima salt and pepper and pitcher. F&F Series

- Firestone store fixtures
- Old Burroughs Portable Adding Machine
- Old Coffee Grinder
- 5 Gal. LP Cylinders
- Cabinet Humidifier
- Small Speed Queen Clothes dryer (Used very little)
- Gladiron Ironer
- Used Siegler Furnace
- Used Lear LP Upright room heater
- New Dearborn Upright room heater
- New Infa Red Radiant Heaters
- New Dearborn Unvented Gas Heater
- National Biscuit Co. Covers used on bulk cookie boxes years ago.
- Used Corning Ware Cook Top
- 2 Used Bathroom lavatories (one to be built into a cabinet)
- Queen size Mattress and Box Springs
- Double Bed, Mattress and springs
- 1979 Cadillac DeVille (low mileage)
- Paper Back Books
- Puzzles
- Iron Skillets and Misc. dishes
- Old Sunbeam Mixmaster Mixer

Odd and End items too numerous to mention!!

Questions: Call Jean Lowe at 785-846-7637

