



ATTORNEY GENERAL PHILL KLINE talked about Jessica's Law and fielded questions Saturday afternoon at the Decatur County Courthouse.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Official talks about new laws

Attorney General Phill Kline discussed how the law is supposed to work and what he has been working on in office over the past three years with about 30 people at the Decatur County Courthouse Saturday.

Mr. Kline said when the Kansas Supreme court got involved in school finance it altered the government. They legislated, which they aren't supposed to do.

Education happens when a parent, teacher and child react, he said, not in a courtroom.

When the supreme court stepped in, said Mr. Kline, it eliminated political accountability, which is dangerous in a representative government.

The court should have said that school finance wasn't for them, that it was political, but that isn't what happened.

Mr. Kline said he is pro-life. He believes the nation should have room at the table for a woman fac-

ing an unwanted pregnancy and that the nation should protect the powerless.

At the same time, he said his job as the attorney general is to uphold the law and it is legal for a woman to get an abortion up to a certain time in the pregnancy.

What he is trying to do is investigate child rape. In the three years, said Mr. Kline, that he has been in office there have been 700 cases of adults sexually exploiting kids.

There are websites that link these adults to kids. The adults pose as other kids in chat rooms and hook up with these kids.

Mr. Kline said he thinks someone with Social Rehabilitation Services should be called if a 10-year-old shows up pregnant. He said he doesn't want the kids' names released, but most likely this is a case of child rape.

Actually, said Mr. Kline, he doesn't even ask for the woman's

name.

"For two years," he said, "I have been unable to do what I need to do to protect these kids."

There are over 4,000 registered offenders in the state.

He said he is trying to pass Jessica's law. It isn't about two kids who hold hands on the playground but about an adult with a kid and child prostitution.

This is about those offenders getting 25 years to life on the first conviction, instead of getting back on the street.

Mr. Kline said he spends a lot of time in prosecution of crime and working on water issues. He said he has worked with Nebraska on the Republican River and gotten them to reduce pulling out water by 30 percent.

He said he also spends time issuing attorney general opinions for people.

* Men discuss school finance

(Continued from Page 1A) I am also a realist to know there will never be enough money."

The post audit report was a wind-fall for large districts, said Mr. Ostmeier. The report took money from small schools and gave it to larger districts.

If someone wants to talk consolidation, the post-audit report would have meant mass consolidation because counties would have had to get together to make one school.

Mr. Ostmeier said he thinks he has a good repore with the school superintendents in his district. Oberlin has a good superintendent. He has to balance the budget and if it doesn't work he has to go to the local option budget, which means taxes. It isn't easy.

Pastor Bill Duncan said he appreciated the vote against gambling. He said he wanted to know what was going on with the child safety restraint bill and unattended kids.

Mr. Faber said there won't be a conference on the bill so it will be dead.

Gary Walter of the Bank asked about a bill that will affect local banks. Mr. Ostmeier said he voted yes on the bill to protect local banks, most of which are homeowned, in smaller communities.

Mr. Walter said he thought a no vote would protect the banks more.

Mr. Ostmeier said the vote he made protected the local banks,

City to look at cemetery ordinance

The Oberlin City council will look at an ordinance that would not allow vehicles in the cemetery after dark at its meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at The Gateway.

City Administrator Gary Shike

said he had the request from the caretakers for the ordinance because vehicles have bumped into some headstones.

Mr. Shike said the council will discuss the situation at the former

Sappa Valley Youth Ranch and they also need to talk about the national incident management training which the council and city department heads need to take.

* School building up for sale

(Continued from Page 1A) needed, he said. He said the men looked at land in the area of the school.

The company has already purchased 240 acres south of Oberlin from a private individual, Mr. Brown said, adding that the firm could provide 12 to 20 jobs and maybe more.

The men said they will have a follow-up meeting this week and have an answer by today. Commissioner Brown said they had to return to California to talk with their board.

The men wanted to know how much the county could get involved.

Commissioner Brown said they will do what they can to make the sale a reality.

He said the company hasn't asked for a dime from the county or a break in taxes.

* Crops need rain

(Continued from Page 1A) drought, severe or extreme in some places. The last seasonal drought outlook issued Feb. 16 says that the whole area is in a possible drought, he said, but if La Niña weakens, the area could get moisture.

Temperatures go hand in hand with moisture. Normally, when the area is getting lower precipitation, it means higher-than-normal temperatures, which is what is going on now.

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