

* Capital fund will help pay to cool schools

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Mr. Glodt said he isn't sure if the district could ask for a bond issue for this work. There is no telling what the voters would say, he said, but it's hard for teachers to get anything done in the August heat.

"When it's that hot," he said, "it isn't good for kids."
The most important thing is a good education and learning environment for the students, he said, and when it is 110 degrees in a room, that isn't a good learning environment.

If the capital outlay levy is increased from four mills to six, he said, that will bring in a little more money.

Each mill means \$27,000 for the district, without whatever land the district will receive from the Jennings School District. Two more mills will mean at least \$54,000 more each year.

Mr. Glodt said his recommendation was to do the electrical and the air conditioning work now, because if they don't start, it will never get done. He said he thinks the district can do both projects without having to borrow.

Board member Barb Olson said she thinks it is embarrassing that the students have to try to learn in the heat.

If the board accepts the air conditioning and electrical bid, President Dwayne Jackson asked, are they willing to borrow money if it is needed? There was no answer.

Remember, with the previous bond issue for school improvements, said Principal Duane Dorshorst, that people saw the district with \$1 million in capital outlay money in the bank. That has changed, and now there is only about \$639,000.

Is it worth it to the teachers to do something like this? asked Board Member Delayne May.

Teacher Rhonda Barth said she can handle the heat, but her kids can't. Brenda Breth said her English students are writing essays now for the Decatur Tomorrow project, and buildings and lack of air conditioning are a hot issue with them.

Mr. Glodt said in April he will ask for an increase in capital outlay partly so the district can put in the air conditioning. It is just better for kids, he said.

The board approved the bid with the exception of the lunch room, gym and wrestling rooms, which will lower the cost by about \$6,000.

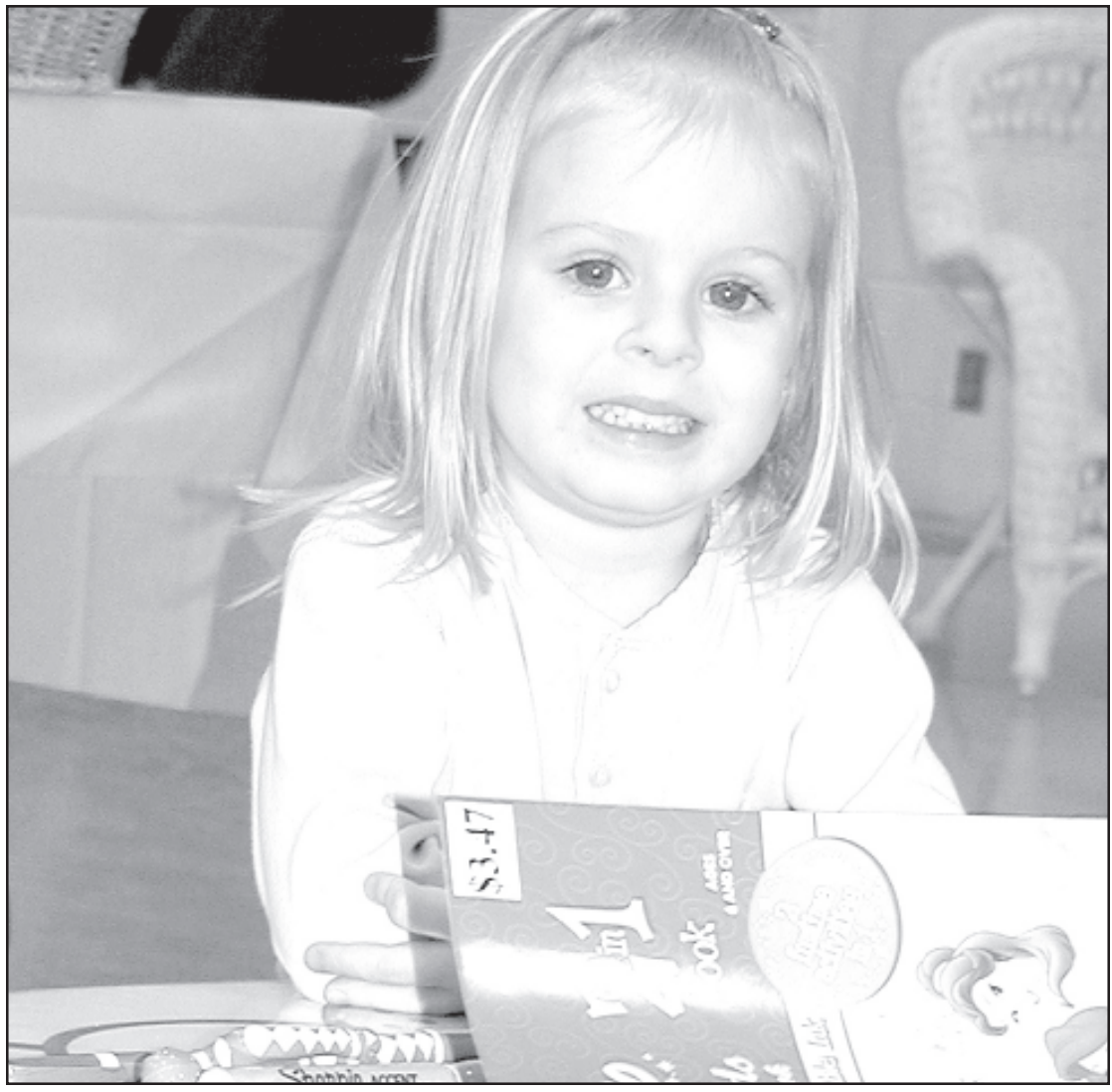
The bid includes all classrooms at both schools that don't already have air. The kindergarten building has already been done.



Show draws crowd

AT THE HOME AND GARDEN SHOW on Saturday, Bryan Loker of KFNF Radio interviewed Tiffanie Farr (above) about her Pampered Chef products. Payton Cox, 3, (right) colored while her grandmother, Sandy Fair, looked around at the show.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



* Change at Sappa may force board to switch contracts

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ever pull out like Kelley did.

Kings Camp has to give the city 60 days' notice, which is what the previous company did, he said. The thing is, said Mr. Glodt, Kelley gave a 60-day notice and had the kids gone in a week.

Any contract with Kings Camp from the district wouldn't be binding, said Mr. Glodt. He said he does need to send them a letter stating the district is equipped to educate the boys.

If there is a monthly contract in place, asked Mrs. May, how is the district going to handle health insur-

ance, retirement and other things?

The best way to handle this is to go through negotiations, said Mr. Glodt, and keep everything the same. He said he will know more by next month.

If the state hadn't agreed to pay for those contracts this year, he said, the district would have been in a bind.

Mrs. May said the teachers are excited to work with Kings Camp. She said the district has a lot to offer kids.

The teachers will have the option to go to Goddard for three days for training, said Mr. Glodt.

* Snowfall causes delayed business and closed roads

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some businesses decided not to open while others closed a little early.

Bill Cathcart said his crew did about a half a day of trash pick-up and then decided to stop when the snow got too deep. He said they would play it by ear on Tuesday.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman said the county crew had cleared the roads to the hospital, airport, courthouse and Good Samaritan Center on Monday afternoon. He said he was studying the weather on the Internet, which said it was supposed to let up a little in the afternoon.

Mr. Stallman said they would try to start cleaning the county roads when the sun came up on Tuesday. He said they wait to start plowing until the snow slows up or stops because if they don't, what they plow can be filled in as fast as they clean it off.

Undersheriff Randy McHugh said officers had helped a few people who had slid off the road Sunday and Monday.

There was one accident Sunday about eight miles south of town on U.S. 83 but there was no report available as of Monday. Two ambulances were sent to the scene, but

emergency medical technicians reported they did not take anyone to the hospital.

Undersheriff McHugh said he was advising people just stay home. The roads were slick, he said, and the snow was starting to drift.

Kristen Brands with the Kansas Department of Transportation said the state maintenance crews in Decatur County were on standby Sunday and started clearing the roads that night. They continued all day Monday and through the night, working two shifts.

The state closed U.S. 83 from Oberlin to McCook, U.S. 36 from the Colorado/Kansas line to St. Francis, I-70 between Goodland and Colby and U.S. 283 from Norton to Arapahoe, Neb. Later, I-70 was closed to through traffic at Hays.

Forecasters called for a 100 percent chance of heavy snow Monday afternoon with accumulation of two to four inches more and a 90 percent chance that night with one to three more inches of snow. The whole area remained in a winter storm warning.

And that's not all: the weather service was predicting a 50 percent chance of snow today.

Budget change will give schools \$11,000

The Oberlin School Board approved republishing the budget so it can spend an extra \$11,000 under state rules at its monthly meeting last Monday.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt said this is the first time in recent years that the district has had to republish the budget. The district got a few extra kids, he said, which means more money in state aid. The \$11,000 will go in the general fund, he added.

The board read a letter from teacher Cynthia Matson requesting

early retirement. She began teaching here part-time in 1969, 37 years ago.

The deadline for teachers to apply for early retirement, said Mr. Glodt, is April. He recommended that the board table their decision on Mrs. Matson's request until they see if any other teachers apply. The board agreed.

Mr. Glodt said Dr. Mark Olson had asked if the district wanted to give to the Decatur Tomorrow plan.

A steering committee has been organized to work on goals and accen-

tuate the positives in the county.

The board agreed to give \$250 if it hasn't reached the \$3,000 needed for seed money.

Mr. Glodt said he doesn't want the district to get in the habit of making donations, since it is the taxpayers money.

Board Member Barb Olson said if the group has their seed money already, then they can come back to the board to ask for money later.

The group discussed a bomb threat at the high school on Thursday, March 9. Mr. Glodt said the

district would never take anything like that lightly. He said elementary Principal Duane Dorshorst had done an outstanding job supervising the evacuation. Both the superintendent and high school Principal Charles Haag happened to be gone that day.

Disciplinary action against the student who made the threat is still pending, he said.

In other business, the board held closed sessions for nonelected personnel for 15, 10 and five minutes with Mr. Glodt and Mr. Haag. There was no action.

Commissioners OK tractor purchase

Decatur County commissioners gave their OK for the road and bridge supervisor to purchase four new tractors for \$193,876 from Southwest Implement.

Supervisor Tim Stallman said at a meeting Tuesday, Feb. 28, that the four-cylinder tractors start at \$46,000 each.

Options would be \$750 more for

each, including a second hydraulic remote.

There is a standard warranty on the tractors, he said, but the county could buy an extended warranty for \$1,700 for four years on the power train and three years on the engine.

As much as the department uses the machines, said Commissioner Doyle Brown, it would be worth it.

The county has six mowers now, said Mr. Stallman. He said he would like to keep one to mow at the landfill and trade off the other five for the four new ones.

Total price would be \$149,376. There weren't any other bids, he

said, because they went through the local dealer.

Mr. Stallman also said the 1999 Mack truck is running hot. He said he isn't sure why, but they will take it to Hays to be hooked up to a diagnostic machine.

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