



Firemen provide fun day

IN JENNINGS SATURDAY, fire fighters from around the area (above) participated in the barrel contest as part of the Firemen's Funday activities. One of the firemen (right) sat on the dunk tank plank as he watched kids and adults throw balls at the target. He went swimming several times.

— Herald photos by Veronica Monier



Author talks about right to die

Hospital personnel hear about sensitive topic

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**

The right to die. A person's right to decide to no longer take medical treatment. A family's choice to pull the plug. A family's right to follow instructions their loved one has left behind. What that piece of paper means in the medical field and how to use it to treat a patient.

Each of these sensitive topics were discussed last Wednesday at the Decatur County Hospital when author and lawyer Bill Colby talked with nurses, doctors and other medical personnel during a luncheon.

Mr. Colby is on a nationwide campaign to promote the book, "Unplugged," and Oberlin was one of his stops. The author, a lawyer, represented Nancy Cruzan in the first right-to-die case heard by the U.S. Supreme Court.

His first book was "Long Goodbye: The Deaths of Nancy Cruzan." Mr. Colby donated copies of both books to the hospital and the Oberlin City Library.

He said Oberlin was one of his stop between New York and Hawaii. He talked at Colby Community College on Tuesday night and planned to be in Phillipsburg last Wednesday night.

The luncheon and talk were sponsored by Decatur Health Systems and Caring Connections, a program of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

Mr. Colby said he feels blessed that he got that call back in the 1980s

and was able to defend Nancy Cruzan's family all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

He said questions about a person's right to die have only really come up in the last 30 years. Before advances in medical technology, it just wasn't a question years ago, he said, not like it is today.

People are hard on themselves, he said, because all of the questions haven't been worked out.

The best thing for people to do, in their families and the medical field, is to talk with patients and others about these issues before they come up, he said.

His parents' generation, he said, were the first ones to really question doctors about things medical experts told patients to do.

Mr. Colby talked about some of the changes in medicine over the years, including the heart defibrillator, which used to be massive and now can be put into a person's body.

Though the law is involved in how we go into this technological world of medicine, said Mr. Colby, the law has no black-and-white answers on how to deal with patients, especially seriously ill or dying patients.

The law is of no use to those patients or for making those tough decisions, he said.

In the Nancy Cruzan case, said Mr. Colby, it was established in the end that we all have the right to decide about our lives.

(See AUTHOR on Page 10A)

Three killed in car wreck near McCook

A white cross decorated with flowers stands just south of McCook, placed by relatives of three young people killed in a car accident last Wednesday.

The cross, which went up the next day, can be seen by travelers on U.S. 83, on the west side of the road.

The accident claimed the lives of three young people, including a 19-year-old from Oberlin and a 15-year-old who formerly lived here.

The Nebraska State Patrol said Jason Lee West, 23, of Limon, Colo., was driving, with Fallon Dyer, 19, of Oberlin as a passenger in the front seat. Jessica E. Bovee-Gammuto, 15, of Cheyenne, Wyo., formerly of Oberlin, was in the back seat.

Miss Dyer is the daughter of Masoyna Lasiter of Oberlin and Ms. Bovee-Gammuto is the daughter of Rick and Linda Chambers, formerly of Oberlin.

The three were found around 7:04 a.m., although no one knows for sure when the accident happened.

The State Patrol office said the car apparently was southbound on U.S. 83 about 1.2 miles south of the U.S. 34 intersection in McCook when

Mr. West drifted off the road on the west side and onto the grass. He attempted to get the car back on the road, but lost control. It flew into the west ditch and struck a tree. The office didn't know how fast Mr. West was driving, the dispatcher said.

Neither the driver nor the passengers were wearing seatbelts.

Patrol Sgt. Joel Smith worked the case, but was not at the office Monday.

Friday morning friends, family and co-workers attended a memorial service for Miss Dyer at the Assembly of God Church in Oberlin.

She attended school at Decatur Community High for a short time and had recently started working at Raye's Grocery.

Owner Kurt Brown said Fallon was a good worker, friendly, had a great personality and a beautiful smile. She got along well with the customers and her co-workers, she said.

"This was a sad deal," he said. "She had a lot of potential and we all are going to miss her."

Friends said the Lasiter family was in Texas for the funeral and could not be reached.

Students win Washington essay contest

One fifth grader and one sixth grader from Oberlin Elementary School won first and second place for essays they wrote about "Digging Deeper" last school year in a contest sponsored by the Decatur House Museum in Washington.

Miki Dorshorst, daughter of Duane and Pat Dorshorst, took first place. Nolan Henningson, son of Robbie and Jeni Henningson, was runner up.

Each year, the museum sponsors an essay contest for students in counties or towns named after the naval hero Stephan Decatur. The museum is in his house, near the White House in the capital.

The students wrote the essays last year, under the supervision of Merlou Robinson, who is a gifted-educator.

The essay topic was about what archeologists would find if they dug up the students' houses in the distant future.

The students, said Mr. Dorshorst,



AT THE DECATUR HOUSE MUSEUM in Washington, Miki Dorshorst signed a winning essay she wrote last year in school before it was framed for display.

principal at the grade school, had to have an idea about what kind of artifacts would survive and what kind

of interpretations people in the future might make from them.

The essays were judged by a panel

of historians, educators, museum curators and an archeologist.

(See KIDS' on Page 10A)

After years of guilt, thief sends in cash

The letter, in a white envelope with no return address, showed up in the morning mail last Monday at Addleman Drug Store.

The envelope was hand addressed to Addleman Drug, Main Street, Oberlin, Kan., 67749. The postal cancellation said it came from "Central Neb. 688," a mark used at the regional post office in Grand Island.

Rusty Addleman, owner of the store, opened the envelope to find \$1

and a handwritten letter, which read: "When I was about 7 years old, I stole a 1-cent Tootsie Roll from your store. I have been ashamed ever since. Please accept my payment of \$1. Thank you, Older and Wiser."

Mr. Addleman said he has no idea who sent the letter, although it has his curiosity piqued. He added that he rang up the \$1 into the cash register.

Football fans can win scrip money here

Football fans will once again get to try their hand at picking the winners of college and high school games with the return of the Pigskin Pick-'Em game in *The Oberlin Herald*.

The game kicks off this week with the ad on Page 7B. Thanks to area merchants, this will be the second year for the game.

Anyone who wants to enter the game can fill out the form in today's paper, or pick one up at participating businesses, and re-

turn it to the newspaper office, or come into *The Herald* and fill one out. All entries have to be returned to the newspaper office by 5 p.m. on Friday each week. All mailed entries must be postmarked by 5 p.m. on Friday and arrive at the office in the Saturday mail.

The Herald's address is 170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749.

Official entry blanks must be used; no reproductions are allowed.

The contest will run during the

season for high school and college football.

Each week, contestants will have a chance to pick winners and the score of a tie-breaker game. Winners will be announced in the paper each week.

Each week, \$30 in scrip will be given away. First place will win \$15, second \$10 and third \$5. The scrip may be spent only at participating merchants.

The person who selects the most correct games during the 12-week

contest will win \$50 in scrip and a trophy.

Here is how it works:

- Find the games listed in the sponsors' ads, which will run in the paper each week.

- Pick the team you think will win each game and write the winners on the entry blank beside the corresponding sponsors' names.
- Then pick the score of the tie-breaker game.

You are only allowed to enter (See FOOTBALL on Page 10A)