

## Voters will decide on chickens in city

The Oberlin City Council decided to send a proposed ordinance to a vote to allow chickens and other farm animals to live in town without the owner having an acre of land.

Melinda Enfield, who asked to keep chickens at her house in town, brought a certified petition for the ordinance to the council meeting last Thursday. She said the petition had 194 approved signatures, though it needed only 192, or 5 percent of the vote in the last city election.

People who aren't registered to vote or who don't live in the city limits but still signed the petition were crossed off, she said.

### Council Countdown

At a meeting last Thursday, the Oberlin City Council:

- Talked with a representative from Bus and Coach International about selling land at the Oberlin airport for a hangar and office. Story on right.

- Approved a resolution to allow angle parking in front of the Country Quilting on West Commercial with the business paying \$5,200

and the city \$800 for paving work. Story on Page 3A.

- Decided to send a proposed ordinance to allow farm animals to live in town without the owner needing an acre of land to a vote in early April. Story at left.

- Heard the city crew plans to pick up limbs torn off trees in recent storms over the last two weeks in March. Story on left.

Councilwoman Rhonda May asked if City Attorney Steve Hirsch has looked at the

petition.

Mr. Hirsch said he approved the language

before Mrs. Enfield circulated the petition. He said the county clerk, who keeps the voter rolls, validates the signatures. He said he heard from County Clerk Marilyn Horn that there were enough signatures.

Once the petition with the signatures goes to the city, said Mr. Hirsch, the council has 20 days to adopt the proposed ordinance as written or send it to a vote.

Will it show up on the April ballot? asked Mayor Ken Shobe.

If the council acts on it tonight, said Mr. Hirsch, it will probably get on the April 3 ballot.

Mrs. Horn said Friday the question will be on the ballot. Only voters registered in

the city will vote on the issue.

Mrs. Enfield presented the petition with the signatures to City Clerk Deanna Castle.

Mayor Shobe said he recommended the council make a decision at the meeting so if the proposed ordinance goes to an election, it can get on the April ballot.

Councilman Joe Stanley moved to not accept the ordinance as written, but to send it to election. The council approved, with Councilman Rob McFee voting against the motion.

If the proposed ordinance is approved, the council can't change it for 10 years unless it is changed by election, said Mr. Hirsch.

## City to get limbs

### Crews to haul late in March

The Oberlin City crew plans to pick up limbs torn off trees in recent storms over the last two weeks in March.

City Administrator Gary Shike told the City Council at the meeting last Thursday that he's working with Jason Ketterl, vocational agriculture teacher at Decatur Community High School, to coordinate adult volunteers, FFA members and National Honor Society members to help with the project. The volunteers will get the limbs to the front yards and cut them up into more manageable pieces, said Mr. Shike, then the crew will haul them off.

The city office will serve as the contact point, so anyone who needs help getting the limbs cut up and to the curb should call City Clerk Deanna Castle at 475-2217.

Mr. Shike said the city plans to pick up the limbs from Penn Avenue east one week and from Penn west the next. He said they haven't decided which side to start on yet.

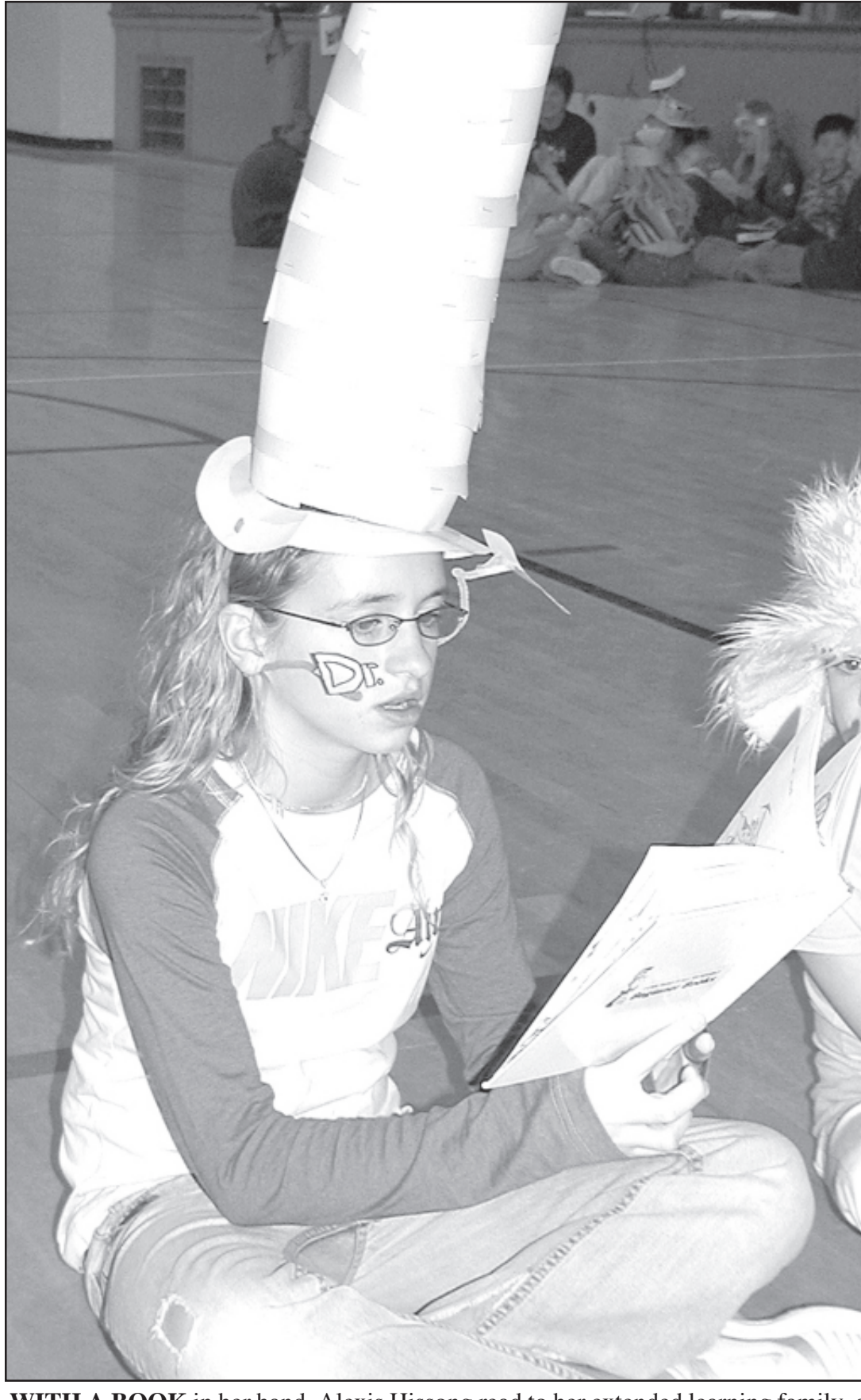
The landowner, said Mr. Shike, is responsible for any hanging limbs that need to come down, as long as they aren't over a power line.

What about anything hanging over the street? asked Councilman Joe Stanley.

Anything over the street or utility lines that's a danger, said Mr. Shike, the city will probably try to help with.

Councilwoman Rhonda May suggested calling on the young men from the 180 House, an alcohol rehabilitation facility for teens, as volunteers. She said they may want to clean the limbs up.

### Cat's hat goes over the top



WITH A BOOK in her hand, Alexis Hissong read to her extended learning family, a teacher and a business person for the last day of Reading Week on Friday at Oberlin Elementary School. The students read books all week at home and at school, trying to accumulate 600 hours of reading in a week. The school met the goal Thursday and by Friday had 873 hours. Some of the teachers agreed if the students read 800 hours, they would dance at the assembly Friday. The students also had a birthday party for Dr. Seuss with cake and singing.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

## Bus company wants to buy land for hangar

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The firm building a bus plant in Jennings, which has asked the city to expand the Oberlin airport to accommodate corporate jets, asked Thursday to buy land for a hangar and an office to be built this spring.

The City Council told the city administrator and city attorney to negotiate with representatives from Bus and Coach International, which wants five to 10 acres at the airport.

Larry Brennan, vice president of the firm, said he and Phillip Oldridge, chief executive officer; Bob Fraker, with the airport committee; and City Administrator Gary Shike had walked around the airport before the council meeting.

At the kick-off meeting for the airport project, said Mr. Brennan, he had said that the Jennings company wanted to buy some land at the airport to put in improvements. He said the company is ready to do that if the city is ready to sell some land at a fair market price.

Mr. Brennan said they staked out some spots that would work for the buildings, noting that the location could change as plans to extend the runway are finished.

There is some space available now, he said; for example, there's a grass runway, west and north of Mr. Fraker's hangar, which isn't being used. The runway is level, he said, so concrete could be put down and buildings erected on that.

"We want to be good citizens," said Mr. Brennan. "We aren't asking you to do anything for us."

What about water and sewer connections? asked Mayor Ken Shobe. Mr. Shike said the land has water lines, but not sewer. Mr. Oldridge said the company would install a septic system if that is OK with the city.

Mayor Shobe said the council would take the idea under advisement. He said he is for airport expansion, as he is a former Air Force pilot.

Mr. Brennan said the company has the land and improvements to it in the budget for this year and they would want to get the buildings in this spring. Any improvements made now, he said, the company will make compatible to the airport plans.

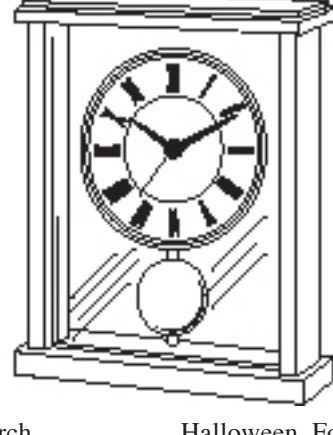
What would you put in? asked (See HANGAR on Page 5A)

## Set clocks forward on Saturday night

The evenings will seem a little longer starting Sunday, as Daylight Saving Time begins three weeks earlier this year.

That's right; clocks will spring forward an hour at 2 a.m. Sunday. Remember to set the clocks forward before going to bed Saturday night — or you might miss church.

The change means as the weather gets nicer, people will have more



time after work or school to enjoy.

Daylight Saving Time will end Sunday, Nov. 4, a week later than usual. Congress decided last year to include the new dates in the energy bill. One reason for the fall change in the bill was to allow Daylight Time to run past

Halloween. For years, the change has left trick-or-treaters in the dark by just a few days.

## Banquet set for Saturday

There's still time to make reservations for the Farmers and Ranchers Appreciation Banquet at The Gateway on Saturday.

Call Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce manager Glenva Nichols at 475-3441 by Thursday.

The Chamber sees the banquet as a way to say thanks to those in agriculture who support businesses here. The evening is free and everyone is invited.

So far, said Mrs. Nichols, around 150 people have signed up. A cream-can supper, sausage and vegetables cooked together, is on the menu. After dinner, Cal Siegfried, McCook, will entertain and then the band Clueless will round out the evening.

Mrs. Nichols said the Chamber will give away door prizes, including a John Deere power washer, patio furniture, a massage package, a pedicure certificate and seed corn. She said there will be more.

## Little girl becomes first baby born at hospital in 2007

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Born two months and two days into the year, Keirra Linn Tubbs is Decatur County's New Year's baby for 2007.

Her mom, Tisha Tubbs, gave birth to Keirra at the Decatur County Hospital at 2:30 p.m. last Friday. Keirra weighed 4 pounds, 14.6 ounces and was 17 1/2 inches long. She wasn't scheduled to arrive until Wednesday, March 21, but made her appearance a little early. That made her the first baby born at the hospital here and winner of Oberlin merchants' New Year's baby contest.

Mrs. Tubbs said she was surprised to hear that she had the first baby here in 2007, since it was March.

She and her husband Josh, have three other children, including Jacob Tubbs, 5; Karlissa Shephard, 4; and Alyna Tubbs, 3.

Mrs. Tubbs said they got married three years ago in Oberlin. Keirra, she added, will be their last child.

The family moved to Wyoming in September, where Mr. Tubbs continued working in the oil business. While they lived in Oberlin and Hill

City, Mr. Tubbs also worked in the oil business.

In November, said Mrs. Tubbs, she and her daughters moved back to Oberlin and lived with her mother.

On Jan. 26, Mr. Tubbs was in a vehicle hit by a train in Wyoming. He's spent the last month in a hospital in South Dakota. On Monday, he was transferred to Hays for rehabilitation.

Mrs. Tubbs, a 2002 graduate of Decatur Community High School, said she plans to stay in Oberlin for some time.

Keirra's grandparents include Mrs. Tubbs' mom, Donna Masoner, Oberlin; her father and step-mom, Bradley and Gloria Masoner, McCook; and Mrs. Tubbs' grandmother, Barbara Matson, Scottsbluff, Neb. On Mr. Tubbs' side is his mother Kenda Hickert, Hill City; his father and step-mom Wilbur and Janet Tubbs, Arkansas; and Mr. Tubbs' grandparents, James and Ruby Tubbs, Goodland, and Martin and Betty McDowell, Iuka.

As the first baby born at the (See BABY on Page 5A)



AT HOME, Tisha Tubbs holds third daughter Keirra Linn Tubbs, Decatur County's New Year's baby for 2007. Keirra's sisters are Karlissa Shephard (right) and Alyna Tubbs.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis