

City to own wreaths

(Continued from Page 1A)
 Agency to fix them, the agency wouldn't pay because the city didn't own them.
 Mrs. Nichols said she received a phone call from Neal Russell, director of the community band, who wanted to know if anyone had anything planned for the Fourth of July, suggesting maybe the band could play. The group discussed the idea of having a fund raiser that day in the park.
 Steve Haynes, publisher of *The Oberlin Herald*, said it would be a good idea to have everything in one location. If the fireworks show is at the fair ground, he said, then the band would need to play there, too.
 Mrs. Nichols said it would be hard for the band to play up there, since there isn't really a spot. Mr. Haynes suggested using the slab outside The Gateway for a concert before the fireworks show.
 No decision was made.
 The group discussed paying the bill for the fireworks, since the alliance hasn't received a bill for at least the last four years. Rusty Addleman, owner of Addleman Drug Store, said he would call County Attorney Steve Hirsch and ask for legal advice on the fireworks issue.
 In other business, the alliance:
 • Decided to see if downtown businesses with planters want to order flowers for them. The alliance will order the flowers through Flowers by Lee this year with the Modern Woodmen and the Girl Scouts planting them. Any business that wants to have the flowers can call Kimberly Davis, second quarter chairperson, at 475-2206.
 • Paid the \$500 first quarter bill to the Chamber for administrative and office work by Mrs. Nichols.
 • Heard that *The Herald* will hold the monthly coffee hour from 9 to 11 a.m. on Friday.



WORKING AT HIS COMPUTER, Brady Koch showed off the skills which have allowed him to open KochSystems, a vinyl graphics and lettering, sign and design, and computer business and service center at the corner of U.S 36 and 83. — Herald staff photo by Dave Bergling

Firm offers computer work

By MARY LOU OLSON
 Brady Koch has opened KochSystems, a vinyl graphics and lettering, sign and design, and computer service center at 601 W. Frontier Parkway, in the office building of Stellar Sales at U.S. 83 and 36.
 A native of Cambridge, Neb., Mr. Koch said he graduated from Cambridge High School, then completed a degree at the University of Nebraska in Kearney in 2005, major-

ing in computer networking. Before moving to Oberlin, he worked in the computer department at Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney.
 He said the business offers graphics and lettering for just about every application, including vehicles, store windows, signs, high school logos and banners, as well as business cards and printing media.
 In addition, he has a computer repair center and provides web page

design and consulting services.
 Besides his computer business, he said, he has been associated with his brothers, Jason and Aaron Koch who farm near Cambridge, in racing stock cars since 2002.
 He can be reached on his cell phone at (308) 340-0501, or e-mail brady_koch@hotmail.com. He has samples of his work at kochsystems.com.

* Consultant to help find superintendent

(Continued from Page 1A)
 band. The school is really strong and competitive in those areas, said Colleen Rittmann.
 • The high school has a strong alumni association and lots of scholarships. There is also a school foundation.
 • Pride in the facilities.
 • The school has a lot of academic success, said Mr. Unger.
 • The community supports the students, said Abby Hissong. The community is 100 percent behind any and all youth.
 • People of all ages attend school activities, said Mr. Nedland.
 • Employers want to hire students who went to small schools because they've been taught a strong work ethic, said Kristi Smith.
 • There's lots of camaraderie in the community, especially when it's something to do with the kids, said Norma Unger.
 • The kids here will excel, said Roger May.
 • It's a great place to raise a family, said Dr. Olson.
 The kids here, said Mr. Nedland, have more freedom. It's an incredibly safe place to grow up. Rhonda Barth said that can also be a downfall because it seems the kids are more trusting when they leave.
 Mr. Mansfield asked what skills, qualities, values and characteristics are needed to be a successful superintendent here?
 The answers included:
 • Be straight forward, said Mr. Unger, and involved in the community, not just the school district.
 • Get to know the kids and their parents, said Mr. Nedland, an incoming school board member.
 • Be a good communicator, said Mrs. Hissong.
 • Financially strong, a person who knows the budget, said Mrs. Hissong.
 • An advocate for small rural schools and willing to go to Topeka to go to bat for us, said Mr. Nedland.

• A good listener, honest and have integrity.
 • Be open to new ideas and new teaching methods, said Miss Smith.
 Bring six to eight kids to the district, said Mr. Nedland. How tall and how fast do you want the kids to be? Mr. Mansfield asked with a grin.
 Joking aside, said Mr. May, it's important for the superintendent to have kids in school. That helps keep them involved, he said.
 The last question, said Mr. Mansfield, is what potholes might there be to becoming a successful superintendent here? The answers included:
 • Be aware the buildings aren't new and need maintenance.
 • The district has had to reduce the staff by several teachers, said Mr. Nedland. With declining enrollment, he said, it might be an issue that has to be looked at again.
 Several teachers have also asked for early retirement, he said.
 • The district has unique traditions, said Mrs. Rittmann, that the community and school don't want to change.
 • Wednesday night is more or less church night and school activities aren't planned then, said Mr. Unger.
 • The district has FFA and vocational agriculture classes that the community wants to keep.

Fair Foundation rules changed

The Decatur County commissioners discussed changes in the county Fair Foundation bylaws last Tuesday which include putting the foundation board back to the original members, with the commissioner chair, the president of the fair board and county treasurer.
 The other changes include requiring two people from the foundation to sign all checks, and in order to change the bylaws, the foundation needs the commissioners' approval.

At the meeting on March 27, the commissioners agreed that Commission Chairman Ralph Unger, Fair Board President Greg Long and County Treasurer Jean Hale would sit on the foundation board.
 All three members are now on the signature card at the bank, said Mr. Unger.
 The bylaws were changed in the past few years to include five fair board members on the foundation board, but the fair foundation and

fair board are actually two separate entities, said Mr. Unger.
 He said the foundation board will probably meet once a month on Tuesday mornings for about 10 minutes at the courthouse, during the commissioner meetings.
 County Attorney Steve Hirsch put in the check rule for two signatures needed because, he said, that's a county practice.

Annual ArtFest planned

It's just about time for the annual ArtFest and gala next week at The Gateway.
 Connie Grafel, Gateway marketing director, said they have 169 art pieces by adults and college students and 55 pieces by students from nine high schools. Over 200 pieces of art and 100 artists.
 The gala is scheduled for Friday, April 20, at The Gateway, and then the ArtFest show will open to the public on Saturday and Sunday.
 "This is a unique event for our area," said Ms. Grafel. "It's a time to get out and meet the artists and mingle with your neighbors."
 Ms. Grafel said the cost for the gala is \$100 for two people. Although the reservation deadline has come and gone, she won't turn anyone away.
 So far, the gala's guest list includes 150 people, she said. Patrons will vote on the best of show and people's choice awards for the student and professional artist categories.
 Cheryl Metcalf and the Twice as Nice jazz duo from Norton will entertain. There will be food and wine served.

Fund raiser to help with medical bills

The Smokey Hills Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will hold a pancake, sausage and egg supper from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday for Chanelle Scott and Kyle Glodt, both recovering from recent accidents.
 The benefit, sponsored by St. John's and Faith Lutheran churches, will be at the Decatur Community High School cafeteria.
 Miss Scott, daughter of Lee Don and Melanie Scott, has returned

home after being in the hospital in Wichita and Kearney, Neb.
 Mr. Glodt, son of Kelly and Sue Glodt, is at Craig Hospital in the Denver area, recovering from a snowboarding accident. Write to him at 3425 S. Clarkson St., Englewood, Colo., 80113.
 A donation will be taken for the meal. Containers also will go out at the banks in Oberlin, Addleman Drug Store and Ward Drug Store.

Luncheon set for assistants

Mark your calendars for the annual Professional Assistants Day lunch on Wednesday, April 25, sponsored by the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce.
 Business owners and operators can send their secretaries and assistants to lunch at The Gateway. Tickets are \$14 per person. Make reservations with the Chamber office at 475-3441 by Friday, April 20.

Blood drive here today

The American Red Cross will hold a spring blood drive from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. today at The Gateway.
 If you didn't call in for a time, walk-in donors are welcome.

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