

# \* Foundation has money for building

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Marilyn Horn said she would keep a copy in the clerk's office, too.

Mr. Unger said the foundation board paid \$31,787 of the building cost recently. That means the group still owes \$10,596, he said.

When the livestock building was ordered through Sappa Valley Construction, the foundation paid a deposit of \$10,596, Mr. Unger said. The total cost of the building is \$52,979, leaving \$6,754 in the account.

Mr. Long said after going over the financial records, the board now knows that there is enough money from memorials and fund raisers for the entire building.

The foundation will have some money left for a perimeter fence and electric work, said Mr. Long, but the cost may be higher. Mr. Unger suggested that if anyone wants to have a fund raiser or make a donation to complete the project, they need to go through the foundation.

Maybe, he said, the foundation could get some numbers about the costs for electrical work and fencing. That way, everyone would know how much needs to be raised.

The foundation has about \$6,700 left, said Mr. Long. He said he will continue to work on the financial reports to establish a paper trail.

Recent fair board minutes, said Mr. Hirsch, said the project was \$10,000 short and he was going to have to write a letter stating there wasn't enough money. That's null and void now, said Mr. Long.

Mr. Unger said the foundation board wants to try to settle any controversy about the livestock building and how much money is in the fund.

Mr. McEvoy said he would like to see a copy of the foundation's financial reports. The foundation could get its books audited, said Mr. Unger, if that would help.

Is the fair board account being kept better? asked Mr. McEvoy. Yes, said Mr. Long, the fair board books get audited when the county does its annual audit.

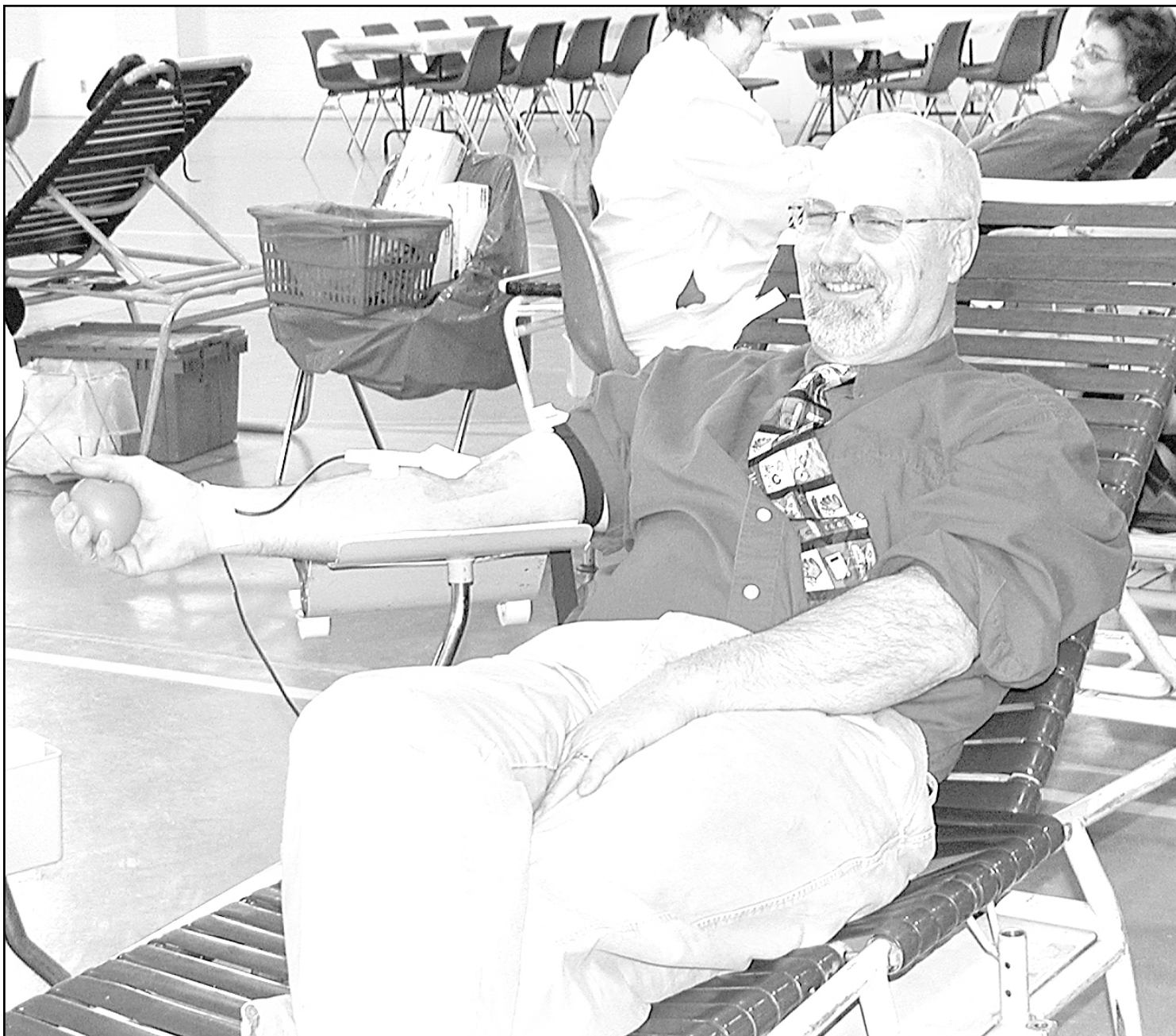
To be honest, said Mr. Long, this foundation financial report has changed from what was reported at the Fair Board meeting. He said the foundation board wants to get to the bottom of the records.

Mrs. Hale said they could get a printed bank statement, which would help with a paper trail.

Mr. McEvoy said he appreciates the current foundation board wanting to clear things up.

"This is a community project," said Mr. Long. "We are doing this for the community."

## Donating a few drops of blood



**GIVING BLOOD** on Wednesday at The Gateway was Oberlin Elementary Principal Duane Dorshorst. He was among dozens of people who responded to the Red Cross appeal.

— Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

# \* School will offer day kindergarten

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state at-risk money. The principal said he thinks maybe some of the problems the schools deal with now with at-risk money can be caught early with all-day kindergarten.

Educationally, he said, his recommendation is for the district to go to all-day kindergarten Monday through Friday.

Can parents opt out of all-day classes and keep their students in half-day kindergarten? asked Board Member Delayne May. Yes, said Mr. Dorshorst. In Kansas, schools have to offer half-day kindergarten. In that case, the student would attend class from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

He said he doubts many parents will want to do that, though, when their kid's classmates are in school all day.

What about transportation for

the half-day kids? Mrs. May asked. The three people who had concerns about all-day kindergarten live in town, Mr. Dorshorst replied, and the district wouldn't provide transportation for them anyway.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt said the board has talked about paying mileage for students who would have ridden a bus if they want to only go half-day instead of running buses.

Mr. Dorshorst said he has received phone calls from people against all-day kindergarten, but they weren't parents, they were day-care providers.

"All-day kindergarten makes sense to me," said Mrs. May. "It's educationally sound and saves the district money."

The board approved the change starting in the coming school year.

# Board says 'no' to early retirement pleas

The Oberlin School Board voted to deny early retirement requests from three teachers at Decatur Community High School at its meeting last Monday, sticking to a policy set several years ago.

At the March meeting, the board received early retirement requests from social studies teacher Dick Ahlberg, science teacher and activities director Randy Olson and half-time counselor and teacher Nita Lavielle. The board decided to table the decision because members wanted to see if they would get any more requests.

To qualify for early retirement, teachers have to have reached age 53 and not more of 64, taught for at least

five or more consecutive years with the district and a minimum of 20 years in education. They can then apply for early retirement and it's up to the board to decide. If they get early retirement, they are paid 95 percent of the average of three highest years salaries over five years by the school district.

At first, the board was quiet when it came to the agenda item about early retirement. President DeWayne Jackson said they needed to take action, though. This is a difficult decision, he said, but it needs to be done.

He said his recommendation was to deny the request. People he's talked to, said Mr. Jackson, want to

know why the district would pay people not to teach by granting early retirement.

Several people questioned how the board could give early retirement to teachers now, said Mr. Jackson, when it had denied others over the years. The board denied the three early retirements at the meeting.

The district gave early retirement to high school Principal Buzz Matson and teachers Sharon Addleman and Carol Morford. Mr. Matson and Ms. Morford received it in the 2001-2002 school year. Mrs. Addleman received it the year after. All of the early retirements have been paid.

The board has turned down requests from Maria Sanden and Nita Lavielle before. All of the early retirements have been paid.

Member Delayne May said the board tried to open discussion about

early retirement during negotiations to add new language to the teacher contracts for this school year, but that didn't work.

"You guys are a big asset to our district," she said, looking at Mr. Ahlberg and Mr. Olson, both in the audience.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt said he hoped the board and teachers would come to an agreement about early retirement.

The sentence about the board still having the final decision is still in the agreement, he said. The teachers wanted the sentence out and the board wanted it in.

As a negotiator, said board member Monte Moore, he's willing to talk some more about the issue.

The board voted to deny the three requests for early retirement.

# \* Officials in D.C. notice airport here

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ministrator Gary Shike said he thought they would, as the city isn't sure how much land is needed to extend the runway to 7,000 feet.

Mr. Shike said the city has started the work to bury the power lines near the airport.

Mr. Gallentine said he guesses that's his real question. Is the city moving forward? Yes, said Mr. Shike.

Will the project include a new runway or just an extension to the current one, asked Sen. Ostmeyer. Mr. Shike said the project calls for an all-new runway.

The current runway ends just short of a drop-off into a valley to the north.

So far, said Ms. Grafel, it sounds like the city is doing what they need to do. All the ducks are in a row. Mr.

Richard said the project is making lots of buzz in Washington and Congressman Moran's office is getting lots of calls about it.

Communication, said Mr. Richard, is the most important part of this project.

Bus and Coach International, said Sen. Ostmeyer, took an old school in Jennings and made it into a headquarters. It looks like a brand new building, he said. Now the firm is talking about expansion. The airport is just part of the puzzle, he said; it is economic development for the area.

The runway project, said Gaylord Shields, is much bigger than the bus firm. This is about economic development.

"That 7,000 foot runway," said Councilman Jay Anderson, "is the opening to the whole world for us."

# Fashion show rescheduled

With the threat of a spring blizzard Friday, the Dresser postponed its fashion-show until Friday, April 27, to raise money for Sunflower Cinema.

The show will start at 6:30 p.m. in the old Flowers by Lee building just south of the store. The store won't sell tickets, but will take up a donation for the volunteer-run theater.

## WELL PLUGGING DEMONSTRATION (Earnest Huff Farm — SW4 16-1-26 — Grant Township) Tuesday, April 24 - 10 a.m.

**Location is:** 15 Miles East of Oberlin on HWY 36; 9 miles North; and 1 1/2 miles West.

**\*\*In case of bad weather listen to KFNF Radio for additional announcements.**

**Sponsors:** Decatur County Conservation District — 475-3131 Extension 101; Decatur County Farm Bureau; Kelley Drilling Company; NRCS; and the Oberlin FFA.

**"Funding for the demonstration project was provided by the State Conservation Commission through (NPS) appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan Fund".**

# \* Search continues for school chief

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qualities people want in their next superintendent and hot topics or "potholes" for a superintendent to be aware of.

On the two days the board will interview candidates, he said, Tuesday and Wednesday, May 8 and 9, a community committee made up of teachers, staff, students and community members will meet with each of the people. Those meetings will be held at the high school auditorium from 11:15 a.m. to noon and 2:15 to 3 p.m. each day.

He said people who volunteered for the committee include teachers Brenda Breth, Sherri Ruf, Susan May, Carol Dixon, Carol Brown, Carol Wasson and Susan Nelson; community members Abby Hisson, Ralph Unger and Colleen Rittmann; staff members Linda Weber, Melissa Lippelmann and Carla Depperschmidt; Ron Jansonius from the central office and students Rebecca Helm, Nathan

Simonsson, Jared Marcuson, Haley Barrett, Kenzie Fisher, Kayla Zodrow, Rory Wendelin, Lacey Ream, Jessica Bremer and Heather Glodt.

Those are the people who volunteered to serve on the committee, said Mr. Mansfield. It's kind of heavy on the student side, he said, but he feels that they can never have too many students wanting to represent their school.

Mr. Jackson said he didn't want to turn down students who volunteered to help. The board agreed to ask Mr. Jansonius to chair the committee.

The meetings in the auditorium are open to the public.

Each of the committee members will fill out a short questionnaire after they meet the candidates, Mr. Mansfield said. Those sheets will be turned in to the school board.

Mr. Mansfield said it isn't the committee's job to rate the candidates, just to give some feedback.

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