

A total loss



NINE MILES west of Oberlin on U.S. 36, the Decatur County Rural Fire Department put out a truck fire last Wednesday. Chief Bill Cathcart said the call came in just before 7 p.m. and the firefighters worked for about 45 minutes. He said he thought the fire started in the back from a

discarded cigarette. The truck belongs to James Weigel of Benkelman, Neb. He said he had just moved back from Arizona and had many of his household possessions in the truck, including a computer.

— Herald staff photo by Steve Haynes

Teachers take new assignments at grade school

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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Some teachers at Oberlin Elementary School will change jobs next year as some grades have two sections and others one.

Principal Duane Dorshorst told the Oberlin School Board about the changes last Monday night, saying he had waited to talk to the teachers before he announced the assignments.

He said all-day kindergarten will have two sections with 27 students, and there will be two first-grade sections with 33. Second grade will have one section with 18, third grade two with 31, fourth grade one with 23, fifth grade two sections with 34 and sixth grade two with 28.

This year the grade school has 32 in kindergarten, 18 in first, 32 in second, 24 in third, 34 in fourth, 29 in fifth and 30 in sixth this year.

All of those numbers, said Mr. Dorshorst, can go up or down depending on what happens over the summer.

Teaching assignments for next year as they stand now are Diana Steinmetz and Tim Thornton in kindergarten, Sherri Ruf and Cindy Sattler in first, Kathy Tacha in second, Judy Elwood and Carol Wason in third, Steve Cullen in fourth, Jeri Buchholz and Kimberly Witt in fifth and Sandy Kettler and Carol Dixon in sixth. Marty Olson will have reading and math with Sheila Jansonius as a part-time reading and math teacher and part-time counselor.

Mrs. Ruf taught fourth grade this year. Mrs. Steinmetz taught first,

School Roundup

At a meeting last Monday, the Oberlin School Board:

- Approved retirement requests from two teachers at the high school and then hired the men back to work part-time at the school. Story at left, below.
- Heard that some of the teachers at the grade school will move to different jobs next year, as some grades will have one section and others two. Story at left.

Mr. Thornton fifth, Mrs. Sattler second and Mrs. Witt was at the youth ranch at the beginning of the year and at the grade school at the end of the year, said Mr. Dorshorst.

At the high school, said Principal Charles Haag, there still will be two sections of seventh and eighth graders.

With the recent resignations of teachers Dick Ahlberg and Randy Olson, who were then hired back part-time, some things might change a little in the social studies department. Science will stay the same, with Mr. Olson still teaching, but no longer the athletic director, he said.

The athletic director's position will need to be filled, said Mr. Haag.

Carol Brown, who teaches kindergarten, will take over the Spanish classes at the high school. Mr. Haag didn't say there were any other changes.

Council approves emergency plan

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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The Oberlin City Council adopted a revised emergency operations plan for the city at the meeting Thursday night.

The plan, which the council started to work on in a special meeting on Thursday, May 10, covers what needs to be done to assess the damage after a disaster, isolate it and restore services.

City Administrator Gary Shike said he had gone thorough the rough draft and took out the actual names of department heads and crew mem-

bers and listed job titles for the tasks each one would be in charge of.

The idea on the policy is that the council will revisit the plan each year and approve it again, he said.

Does the city keep fuel on hand to run the power plant? asked Councilman Jay Anderson. City Foreman Dan Castle said the city can store 15,000 gallons of fuel and keeps about 3,000 gallons of diesel in an underground storage tank. He said he hasn't had any problems with the fuel going bad.

How much of the city can the power plant run? asked Mayor Joe

Stanley. The whole town, if necessary, said Mr. Castle, as long as it isn't the hottest day in the dead of summer. With that kind of demand, he said, the plant would have to run intermittently.

The council briefly discussed that in the past they have talked about buying another radiator for the plant. That has been an idea for years, said Mr. Castle, since a previous council sold one of the radiators, limiting capacity, but they will just have to see what happens in the future.

In the past, said City Administra-

tor Gary Shike, the hospital and Good Samaritan Center didn't have their own back-up generators. That will make a difference.

What about a backup for city records? asked Dr. Anderson. Mr. Shike said City Clerk Deanna Castle is working on that.

The computer billing is backed up weekly on a Zip drive and stored in a fireproof safe, said Mrs. Castle. She said they are still talking about the paper documents that need to be backed up. The council approved the plan, with each member signing the policy.

Two teachers resign, hired part-time

The Oberlin School Board accepted resignations from two teachers at the high school who want to retire and then hired the men back to work part-time.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt said both Dick Ahlberg and Randy Olson want to retire through the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System but are interested in working part-time.

Both asked for early retirement from the board, but that was denied.

Mr. Ahlberg teaches in the social studies department and Mr. Olson is the athletic director and teaches science.

Mr. Glodt said he has talked with both men and both want to keep teaching in their departments. The district can't pay either one of them more than \$20,000 a year, including benefits, he said.

By retiring and being hired back part-time, said Mr. Glodt, the teachers will no longer be covered by the union contract.

Before the board approved the resignations and re-hired both, it called a closed session for 15 minutes, extended twice for 10 minutes each.

"This will obviously open some spots in the district," said Mr. Glodt.

The athletic director position is open, said Mr. Glodt.

It will first be posted to all the current personnel, if no one is interested then the district will start advertising outside.

Mr. Glodt said he called the Kansas Association of School Board to see if the district can sell some excess items to free up storage. He said with the association's help, the district could probably do a silent or live auction, but if something has a price on it, then they can't bargain on it.

In other business, the board:

- Heard from Heather Williams,

who went on the Student Council trip to Washington. She thanked the board for its support of the trip. Sponsors Greg and Mary Jo Lohofener also thanked the board for the opportunity.

The students have a video presentation about the trip which the board members said they might watch at the June meeting.

• Voted 7-0 to approve the employment contract for Dr. Pat Cullen as superintendent.

• Approved the resignations of Gloria Schultz, a custodian at the high school, and Pat Dorshorst as the volleyball and track coach.

City to write airport endorsement letter

The Oberlin City Council agreed Thursday to write a letter endorsing the airport expansion project for state and federal officials.

The letter will be gathered with others, then be sent to public officials who serve the area. Other boards and groups, said Councilman Jay Anderson, have also written letters.

After the city gets money from the Federal Aviation Administration to build a longer runway, asked Coun-

cilman Rob McFee, who pays to maintain it? It'll be the city's responsibility, said Mayor Joe Stanley.

"We build it and they will come," said Mr. McFee, "or we build it and it will break us. We will pray for the first, and I will motion to send the letter."

Councilwoman Rhonda May said she had gotten some comments from people about needing to paint the crosswalks at the grade school. City Administrator Gary Shike said

the city normally paints those right before school starts.

City Foreman Dan Castle said they just got the yellow paint in and some of the summer staff will be painting.

In other business, the council:

• Agreed to pay \$242,090 to Midlands Contractors for the new waste water treatment plant south of Sappa Creek. David Blau, with Miller and Associates, said most of that is for the liner in the three ponds. He said

the demolition of the old facility is next, then the ground there will be graded and seeded.

• Talked briefly about recreational vehicle parking on Main Street, which Dr. Anderson said he is still working on.

• Talked about the street sweeper. Mayor Stanley said he has had some questions about the sweeper moving sand from the edge of the street to the middle. Mr. Castle said it is a street sweeper, not a street cleaner.

Businesses to close for holiday; some stay open

Most Oberlin businesses will be closed Monday for Memorial Day, including federal, state, county and city offices and all banks and financial institutions.

The Oberlin Herald will be closed. The paper will print a day late next week, so copies may be

picked up on Wednesday afternoon, with mail delivery mostly on Thursday.

Deadline for the Country Advocate will be at noon on Friday as usual. Other deadlines will be noon Tuesday for ads and news.

Raye's Grocery will be open from

9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday and Monday. The Frontier Restaurant, Crossroads Express, D & M Service, Ampride, Pizza Hut and A&W Restaurant will be open on Memo-

rial Day. The LandMark Inn will have a breakfast buffet from 8 to 10 a.m. on Monday. The senior meal site will be closed.

Painting class scheduled

T.R. Mathews and Sandy Seasmone of Arriba, Colo., certified instructors, will lead a Bob Ross painting classes on Saturday and Sunday, June 2 and 3, at the Dane G. Hansen Museum in Logan.

They will entertain and instruct, step by step, revealing how easy and fun it is to paint the Bob Ross way. No experience is necessary and anyone can do it. Participants may enroll for one or both days.

On Saturday, the class will be painting "Wheelbarrow with Flowers" and on Sunday "Landing Duck." Classes will run from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m.

This class is brought to the area at reduced rates through the Hansen Museum Continuing Education Program.

For details or to register, call (785) 689-4846. Bring a roll of paper towels; other supplies are provided.

City of Topeka Police Officer



The City of Topeka is accepting registration for the Police Officer entry-level examination to be conducted on Saturday, June 9, 2007.

For full details and to register for the test, please visit the City's website at www.topeka.org and click on Employment.

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Pool opens Saturday

The Oberlin city crew is gearing up for the opening of the city swimming pool on Saturday.

Two weeks ago, crew members started painting the pool, said City Administrator Gary Shike, and they hoped to finish this week. This week, he said, the crew should start to fill the pool.

The city still needs lifeguards for the summer, he said, so anyone interested can pick up an application at the city office in The Gateway.

Pool Manager Rusty Grafel, who started in the position last summer, will be in charge again. A 2002 graduate of Decatur Community High School, he is a stu-

dent at Fort Hays State University.

Season passes, \$60 for a family or \$30 for an individual, can be purchased at the pool.

The daily rate is \$2 for adults and \$1 for kids 12 and under, Mr. Shike said. The kiddie pool is free.

The pool will be open from 1 to 5 p.m. and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. for open swim Monday through Friday.

During the week, ladies' swim will be at 11 a.m. and lap swim from 6 to 6:30 p.m. The pool is open from 1 to 6 p.m. on Saturday and from 1 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. on Sundays, but closed Saturday nights.

CHECK OUT THESE LISTINGS!



223 S. Buffalo. Recently remodeled! 4 bdr., 2 bath, new dbl. car garage, priced for quick sale!



216 S. East. Spacious double-wide mobile home sited on several lots! 3 bdr., 2 bath, 2 carports.



411 N. Wilson. Totally remodeled in 1995! 3 bdr., full basement, laundry facilities on both levels, lg. back yard.

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