

# Airport backers visit K.C.

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**  
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The Oberlin City Council talked briefly Thursday about a recent trip to Kansas City to talk with officials at the Federal Aviation Administration about plans to lengthen the runway at the Oberlin Airport to 7,500 feet to handle business jets.

City Administrator Gary Shike said Brad Weisenberger from Bucher, Willis and Ratliff out of Kansas City, the city's airport consultants, gave a presentation with around 29 people at the meeting, including those from Oberlin.

Mayor Joe Stanley said he thought the federal officials were impressed with the number of people interested in the project and those who showed up at the meeting.

The mayor said he thought everyone returned with a positive attitude about the session.

The officials said it could take a while to get the money for the project, said Councilman Jay Anderson. At this point there isn't an estimated price for the project, said Mr. Shike.

The important thing is to not to give up, said Councilwoman Rhonda May.

Mr. Weisenberger gave a good presentation, Ms. May said, and so did Larry Brennan, vice president of Bus and Coach International of Jennings, which needs the longer runway.

The aviation officials, said Ms. May, did say that Bus and Coach International can't buy land at the airport to build a hangar. The city should keep ownership and lease it to the firm, she said.

The bus company has talked about putting a building west of Bob Fraker's hangar at the airport, said Mr. Shike. Officials with the business also talked about putting in a jet fuel pump and storage tank.

Mr. Fraker said he doesn't understand why they would put in jet fuel now when jets can't land on the runway right now. It's kind of like a chicken-and-egg thing, said Ms. May.

Councilwoman Marcia Lohofener said she asked if the city would make money off of things at the airport like jet fuel. Mr. Fraker said the city could take a percentage of the fuel sold.

The city spent about \$700 on the trip, said Mayor Stanley, for fuel and food. The group took a bus provided by Bus and Coach International, but the council didn't think it was right for the company to pay for expenses.

It is more than appropriate that Bus and Coach International doesn't pay for any of the council's expenses, said Ms. May.

The group left Oberlin at about 5 a.m. on Wednesday, June 13, and returned at 2:30 a.m. Thursday.

# District puts ramp on hold

The Oberlin School Board decided to put plans for a ramp from the front door of the high school to Commercial Street on hold until after the alumni association checks into getting the school on the state historical registry.

At a meeting Monday, May 14, the board had approved a plan to put in a heated ramp, meaning there wouldn't be any stairs, in front of the high school. The project would cost around \$20,000.

At the meeting Monday, June 11, Dan Nedland, a board member-elect, said his wife, Rhonda May, asked him on behalf of the alumni to bring up the idea of getting the school on the historical registry. The building was built in 1938, by the U.S. Works Progress Administration. Superintendent Kelly Glodt said if the school gets on the registry, there is a possibility that they could get some financial assistance for maintenance and projects.

Although the board gave the association approval to check into the registry, they did not make a final decision about whether to put the school on it.



**FIVE MILES** east of Oberlin on U.S. 36, Katherine Leksander (above), 23, of Wisconsin pedaled away with the Bike and Build ride. The group stayed in Oberlin on Friday. Their trailer (below) told where the group was headed. — Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

# Cyclists ride for housing

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**  
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Twenty-seven bicyclists rolled into town Friday afternoon, just in time to take a quick nap, go to the pool, get showers and eat a potluck dinner at the United Methodist Church.

The riders, age 17 to 27, said they started in Virginia Beach on May 20 and plan to finish a ride across country about an hour and a half west of Portland, Ore., on July 23.

Kevin Dulaney, 25, St. Louis, is one of the team leaders for the ride, called Bike and Build. He said the group plans to raise money and awareness for affordable housing.

Along the way, said Mr. Dulaney, the teams stop nine times to help build housing, usually working with collegiate chapters of Habitat for Humanity.

The effort isn't necessarily about affordable housing for young people, he said, but getting youths involved in affordable housing for those who need it. Part of the concept, said Mr. Dulaney, is youth empowerment.

The team has already stopped to help build in Norfolk and Lynchburg, Va., twice in St. Louis and in Cincinnati, he said. The next stop to help build is in



Estes Park, Colo., then the team will stop in Steamboat Springs, Colo., Boise, Idaho, and Idaho Falls.

Before the riders started the trip, he said, they each had to raise \$4,000. At the end of the project, the team will give away \$150,000 to youth-oriented affordable housing groups.

As a team leader, he said, he has helped find groups to get money from the Bike and Build project.

Every summer, said Mr. Dulaney, six groups bike across the country under the program, and next year they plan to have seven.

For the last few years, he added, the team has stopped in Oberlin and stayed at the Methodist Church. The Rev. Doug Hasty, said Mr. Dulaney, has everything set up before the team gets here, which is nice. Without people willing to help, he said, the team couldn't make it across town, let alone across the country.

He said this is the first cross-country trip for all the riders. Mr. Dulaney said he became interested in the Bike and Build because he likes the outdoors and is interested in community service.

# High school benefactress dies

Lorraine Love, who gave money for scholarships and renovation of the library at Decatur Community High School, died Sunday, June 24, 2007, in California.

Her family said Mrs. Love, 88, a native of Cedar Bluffs and a 1935 graduate of the school, died at Cloisters of Mission Hills Convalescent Home in San Diego.

She established scholarships for Oberlin students attending the University of Kansas, as well as providing money for improvements at the high school library.

Miss Love was born Dec. 18, 1918, in Cedar Bluffs, the daughter of John Ranie and Hattie (Hawkins) Love. She grew up in Oberlin and attended Oberlin schools.

Her father left Vichy, Mo., in the early 1900s and homesteaded 160 acres in Oklahoma. He later traded the homestead for a general store in

Cedar Bluffs, which he called the J.R. Love General Mercantile Store. The family later moved to Oberlin, where her father sold equipment and cars for J.C. Nitsch.

She attended Oberlin schools and was homecoming queen and a member of the National Honor Society at the high school.

She graduated from KU in 1940 as a certified dietician and worked at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston and the State Hospital in Chicago.

She joined the Women's Auxiliary Corps during World War II and served in England with the 192nd General Hospital.

After her discharge as a first lieutenant at the end of 1945, she was a dietician with the Veterans Administration for 38 years, with her last job in Topeka.

She was an accomplished pianist. After her father's death, she took care of her mother for 15 years. She helped found an investment club and served as a docent at the Topeka Public Library for two decades. She also was president of her chapter of the American Association of University Women and the American Association of Retired Persons.

Survivors include a niece, Karen Love Dale, and husband, Don, Coronado, Calif.; two grandnieces, and two great-grand-nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and brother, Ranie Love.

Services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday at Pauls Funeral Home in Oberlin with the Rev. Doug Hasty officiating with burial in the Oberlin Cemetery.

Memorials were established to the Love Scholarship Fund. Contributions may be sent to the funeral home, 121 N. Penn, Oberlin, Kan., 67749.



L. Love

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# Gymnastics club would like to use arena at Gateway

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**  
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Board members and a parent with Creative Movements Gymnastics asked to use The Gateway for classes during the school year at a City Council meeting Thursday night, but left without an answer. Where to store the group's mats was the main question.

Robyn Rouse, Abby Hissong and Kasey May asked the council to use the arena for weekly classes. The group had been meeting at the Bohemian Hall at the Last Indian Raid Museum, but since the floor has been resurfaced, she said, the museum staff doesn't want the gym mats in there.

The group has 53 students from Decatur County, she said. If they don't find a place to practice then they will have to go back to Atwood.

The classes were held in Atwood until two years ago. Now classes are held in Oberlin on Fridays.

In the summer, said Mrs. Rouse, they use the grade school gym and then during the school year they were using the Bohemian Hall.

Councilman Jay Anderson asked what they would do with the mats if there is something else being held.

They would need a place to store the mats, said Kent Ploussard, Gateway manager. In the summer, the gymnasts use the grade school gym, said Councilwoman Rhonda May,

noting that summer is a busy time for The Gateway because of weddings. Actually, said Mr. Ploussard, weddings are scheduled all year long nowadays.

He said he would like to see the gymnasts stay in Oberlin. If they are willing to move the mats two to three times a week, he said, he'd see no problem.

Councilman Anderson suggested storing the mats on the stage in the Morgan Theater. He said the gymnasts will get bumped for another event for sure.

"We don't have to bump them," said Mr. Ploussard. "If you want to lock down their time, you can."

That doesn't make sense from a business standpoint, said Councilwoman Marcia Lohofener. Using The Gateway would probably mean a lot more mat moving.

Is there a night that isn't as busy? asked Mrs. Hissong. Wednesday, said Mr. Ploussard. He said he would check and see if any other nights aren't as busy.

Mrs. Rouse said they didn't mind the council giving the decision some thought. She said they will start the fall/winter program the first week in September.

Mayor Joe Stanley reminded the council that if they let the gymnasts store mats at The Gateway, other groups might ask for the same thing and space is limited.

# Motorcycle wrecks kill one, injure one

A motorcycle accident west of Atwood on Sunday killed a Herndon oilfield worker, and a Clayton youth was hurt when his cycle flipped near Dresden on Saturday.

The Kansas Highway Patrol reported that Jason Allen, 27, Herndon was driving a 2007 Yamaha cycle east on U.S. 36 when he leaned forward and the bike tipped over at 3:38 p.m. Sunday.

The report said the bike veered to the left and tipped over onto its left side, hitting a guard rail about 7.4 miles west of Atwood.

The motorcycle landed on top of Mr. Allen, who landed on top of the guard rail, the patrol said. He was not wearing a helmet.

At 3:15 p.m. Saturday, the patrol reported, Blake Wolf, 18, Clayton, flipped his 2003 Honda when he braked too quickly about 3.3 miles east of Dresden on K-383. He told the trooper he was going west when he saw a vehicle on a county road and didn't think it was going to stop. He was thrown from the bike.

He was taken to the Decatur County Hospital by ambulance and

later transferred to the Hays Medical Center. On Monday, a representative of the Hays hospital said they didn't have him listed as a patient.

Mr. Allen was a production employee for Murfin Drilling. A vigil service and rosary will begin at 7 p.m. tonight at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in McCook.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Herndon. The Rev. Galen Long and the Rev. Gary Brethour will officiate, with burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Mr. Allen was born Nov. 27, 1979, in McCook, the son of Patrick and Diana (Kummer) Allen and graduated from Herndon High.

Survivors include his wife, Tasha, and two children, Max and Angel, McCook; his parents, Patrick and Diana Allen, Herndon; a brother, Joshua Allen, McCook; and a sister, Kara Ann Allen, Herndon.

Memorials may be made to the Jason Paul Allen Memorial Fund in care of Williams Funeral Home, 109 N. Second St., Atwood, Kan., 67730.

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