

## New leader starts work in district

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**  
kldavis@nwkansas.com

The Oberlin School District's new superintendent started work last week, although his contract didn't actually begin until the first of July.

Dr. Pat Cullen, who had been superintendent of the Brady School District in Brady, Neb., was hired in May to take on the position of Dr. Kelly Glodt, who left to take a job in South Dakota.



Dr. Cullen

Dr. Cullen said he went to Chadron State in Nebraska, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in physical education and business education. He also received his master's and specialist in school administration degrees from the college, in northwest Nebraska. In 1998, he went back to the University of Nebraska at Lincoln to earn a doctorate.

For 16 years, Dr. Cullen said, he taught physical education and coached football and wrestling. For the last 18 years, he has been an administrator, starting as an assistant principal and moving up to superintendent.

Almost all of his career, he said, has been in rural schools. Oberlin

has a strong tradition, said Dr. Cullen, and he wanted to live and work here.

Dr. Cullen said he doesn't know why he went into education, except that when he went to college, he had a brother who was a coach and teacher, and that influenced him to get a degree in education.

He has eight years experience as superintendent. Before moving here, he worked in Brady, which is between North Platte and Gothenburg. Dr. Cullen retired from the position at the end of the year.

Dr. Cullen said the Oberlin School District is bigger and he is excited to get started here.

Although he didn't actually start the two-year contract until Sunday, he said, he wanted to come in early and get organized.

This is a great opportunity, said Dr. Cullen; it is an exciting place to serve as superintendent. This district has a great reputation and it is a great place to be.

As the superintendent, said Dr. Cullen, he hopes he is open and inviting to all people. He said he wants to make himself available and familiar. (See SCHOOL on Page 10)

## Highway costs soar, as money decreases

By **HOWARD KESSINGER**  
The Marysville Advocate

Highway costs are soaring, especially in urban areas, Pete Rahn, director of the Missouri Department of Transportation, Jefferson City, told about 45 people at the U.S. 36 Highway Association annual meeting in Mankato.

At the same time, he said, state and federal highway money — raised mostly by the cents-per-gallon motor fuel tax — is shrinking as people look for fuel economy and alternate fuels.

Urban road redevelopment is especially expensive, he said, noting what in 1964 cost \$1 million a mile for a four-lane freeway now costs \$50 million a mile. Rural highways can cost \$2.6 million or more per mile.

The Kansas Department of Transportation has built and maintained roads well for many years, Mr. Rahn said at the meeting Friday, June 22, and Secretary Deb Miller, who heads the Kansas department, is a national leader. Mr. Rahn will become president of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials in September.

There are always rural-urban issues on roads, Mr. Rahn said, and no one is satisfied. State departments can see the results of their efforts and have for a hundred years, he said.

Modern roads save lives and create economic opportunities, he said, but roads wear out and are costly to maintain. While a four-cent federal fuel tax built the Interstate system, inflation has pushed costs to the point where that should be 31 cents today. Instead, Mr. Rahn said, the federal tax is 18.4 cents, just a little more than half what it should be. And today, people don't want to raise taxes to build roads.

If our parents and grandparents had had this attitude, he said, there would be no Interstates today.

Highway officials know they need an alternative to the fuel tax, he said, and many states put some money from other sources into their highway funds.

"We're working on it," he said, adding that taxes remain a nasty word. Nonetheless, Mr. Rahn said, citizens must think of their future and the future of their children and grandchildren.

During the association's business meeting later, Steve Haynes of Oberlin was re-elected as president of the group, which represents highway users in 13 counties of northern Kansas, plus Missouri and Colorado.

Vice President Jim Erickson, Scandia, will share the leadership duties of the 471-member association for next year, joined by Chad (See FEDERAL on Page 10)

## Fireworks show planned for tonight

Snaps, cracks and booms started a few days ago in Oberlin, announcing that fireworks stands were open and the Fourth of July almost here.

As the holiday approached, the fireworks displays seemed to get bigger as people started to light off aerial fireworks on Sunday night, although apparently most saved the big ones for today.

Although most stores and offices around town will be closed today for the holiday, the city pool staff will

have games from 5 to 6 p.m. for kids. Before that, the pool will open for swimming.

At 5:30 p.m. today, the Decatur County Chamber of Commerce board plans to sell ice cream floats in City Park.

At dusk, the fireworks display at the fairgrounds will start, sponsored by the Oberlin Business Alliance.

Mike Dempewolf is in charge of setting the fireworks off at the fairgrounds.



**IN THE FIELD** Friday, Gail Marcuson (above) sat in the truck as he waited for his son to dump a load of wheat. Brad Marcuson (below) watched as the grain went from the combine into the truck before (bottom) he started to cut again.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

## Father and son harvest

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**  
kldavis@nwkansas.com

The wind blew gently, rustling the wheat left in the field and making a soft swooshing noise on the top of the hill.

The half-cut field offered a view in every direction, houses in the distance, three crosses on a nearby hill, a barn that had been destroyed in a storm.

Then a red harvest truck pulled off of U.S. 83 to get another load to take to the Decatur County Co-op elevator in town.

The silver-gray Allis-Chamber Gleaner combine turned for its last pass in the field. The alarm inside was sounding, telling the operator the bin was full. Brad Marcuson pulled up to the edge of the field, turned off the motor and climbed down, waiting for his father Gail Marcuson to get the truck back to the field.

Mr. Marcuson joked that he didn't mind stalling a little bit. The men were almost done with harvest for the year and his son Jared was returning home that night from 4-H camp and a trip out of the country. Mr. Marcuson said Jared would be sad that he had missed out on harvest, so he was trying to keep some of the last field, six miles south of town and about 13 miles



east, for him to cut.

It was Friday, just before lunch, and despite one of the trucks breaking down, the Marcuson men were making good time. They had been harvesting one day shy of a week, including cutting the acres next to the Lund Covenant Church.

The yields so far, Brad said, have been in the high 50s, which is good. He said he looked back at the yields since 1988 and that is above the average and probably is the sixth-best year they have had.

The crop had a little hail damage, said Mr. Marcuson, but so far he hasn't seen any insect or leaf rust problems. He said they have been pretty fortunate, really.

Mr. Marcuson said he has been



farming all of his life. In high school, he was involved in the Future Farmers of America, now (See MEN on Page 10)

## Harvest yields better than last few years

Combines and trucks are rolling all over the county bringing in this year's wheat crop, with yields on average better than the last few years.

Doug Claussen, manager at the Decatur Co-op, said all of the test weights have been 60 plus and the yields have varied from 40 to 70 bushels per acre. He said he doesn't know if any specific varieties are yielding better than others, but there probably are some.

So far the co-op at all locations have taken in approximately 3 million bushels of wheat. The biggest harvest the company has had recently was 3.6 million bushels and this one has the potential to meet that or surpass it. The company,

said Mr. Claussen, can store 5.3 million bushels.

In Ludell, he said, they are having to put grain on the ground. The co-op is going to shift some wheat around at different locations so that doesn't have to happen. As harvest comes closer to an end the co-op might also offer some kind of incentive to producers to take wheat to locations with storage room.

Mr. Claussen said they will try to do whatever they can before putting the grain on the ground. That is a pretty inefficient way to store it. It takes a lot of effort to put grain on the ground and get it back off.

Harvest is going very well, he said, with about half of it done. By today, he said, he thinks their trade

area will be about two-thirds done.

The price for wheat is well over \$5 a bushel, at \$5.22, although it lost \$.10 today. The market might see some harvest pressure as combines continue to roll through areas of the country that actually have wheat.

Other parts of the state, said Mr. Claussen, are seeing 10 to 15 bushels per acre and substandard test weights.

It seems that with the price the co-op is seeing more cash sales going on now and saw more new crop contracts in January than past years.

At Hansen Mueller, Janice O'Hare said things are looking pretty good and people are sur-

prised with the yields and quality although she doesn't know what the yields have been. Farmers seem to be happy with the price too.

The elevator has brought in about 250,000 bushels of wheat in Oberlin and Cedar Bluffs.

At Norcat Grain, Clint Johnson manager, said they are 75 to 80 percent finished with cutting in the area. Yields are around 45 bushels per acre on average with test weights at an average of 60.

So far the elevator has brought in a little over 300,000 bushels and is close to full.

Mr. Johnson said he thought they would be done cutting today or tomorrow.