



**CLEANING THE HIGHWAY**, fireman Jerry Stein (above) used a hose to wash glass and bits of metal and plastic away after a wreck north of town last Wednesday. Oberlin businessman Brady Koch was killed in the wreck. Below, firemen checked Koch's wrecked car. — Herald staff photos by Steve Haines

## \* Crash kills man on north U.S. 83

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farther over,” Mr. Miller said. “I was on the horn and everything. I just couldn’t get far enough.”  
Sheriff Badsky said there were no signs of alcohol use. Mr. Koch, who suffered head injuries and a wrist fracture, was wearing his seat belt. When the first officer arrived on the scene, he said, Mr. Koch was out of the vehicle, apparently getting out

Sheriff Badsky said that he had talked to Mr. Koch about 12:30 p.m., a short time before he left McCook.

The young man graduated from Cambridge High School and has family in McCook, as well as a girlfriend in Oberlin.

He was born Oct. 9, 1982, at Cambridge, the son of Kurk and Carol (Moore) Koch. He was reared on a farm northwest of Cambridge and attended Cambridge Public Schools, graduating from high school in 2001. He received a bachelor's degree in computer technology in 2005 from the University of Nebraska at Kearney, where he

## Call to eat at free picnic

Anyone who wants to attend the Back-to-School Picnic in City Park needs to make a res-

Call the chamber office at (785) 475-3441 so they will know how many people to order chicken for. The meat is being provided by the Chamber, Oberlin Business Alliance and the Clinton School District.

Everyone should bring a salad or dessert to share and table service. The picnic will begin at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 15. In case of bad weather, the picnic will move inside to

People will have a chance to meet new teachers and staff in the Oberlin School District. It will be the first big event for new Superintendent Pat Cullen.

**\* District**  
**on table**

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process, he said.

Once the extension program goes into a district, said Mr. Unger, the commissioners lose any control over the budget. There is a procedure for a county to withdraw from a district, too, said Mr. Hale.

It takes about a year to form a district, said Mr. Onstade, and about a year to get out of one. The commissioners don't have control any more, he said, but the board is made up of taxpayers from the counties.

What problems have other counties had? asked Commissioner Stan McEvoy. It depends on the county, said Mr. Onstade, but things that have come up include personality conflicts and communication problems. The 4-H program, he said, is pretty much static local

Both Mr. Unger and Mr. McEvoy said they couldn't make a decision



**\* Thief  
takes  
purses**

(Continued from Page 1A)  
been removed from a vehicle parked at 104 N. Elk between 7:15 p.m. on Saturday and 8:30 a.m. Sunday. Again, a credit card was stolen, but Ms. Wessel told police she'd had no cash in the billfold.

Earlier that morning while on patrol, Chief Lockhart said he had noted a blue bag, similar to a purse, near a curb by the Sappa Valley Manor. The bag, which was empty, belonged to Karen Padgett and had contained darts and a few dollars. The chief said that Ms. Padgett told him the bag had been taken from her vehicle, which had been parked in a driveway at 703 W. Mill.

The chief said that someone was finding easy pickings stealing things out of cars and trucks.

"You do not want to be leaving purses and valuables in vehicles," he said, "because they could just disappear."

Not that there aren't still some honest people in town.

The chief said he was able to return a billfold containing \$120 to Matthew Linebarger, a 15-year-old from the Sacramento, Calif., area visiting Oberlin.

Gary Guinn found the billfold, with no identification, and turned it over to the police, the chief said. A phone number inside turned out to belong to Mr. Linebarger's grandmother. With her help, he was located and his money and billfold returned.

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