

School items saved

Pictures, yearbooks, class sweaters, band uniforms and more from Decatur Community High School decorate the walls in the back corner of the Last Indian Raid Museum.

Curator Sharleen Wurm said a lot of the old class pictures were on display in the Addleman School House on the museum grounds, but recently the staff decided to have the pictures framed.

A lot of the pictures came from the old high school, where the Good Samaritan Center is now. When the building was torn down, said Mrs. Wurm, the pictures made their way to the county landfill. Someone rescued them and brought them to the museum.

Last year, she said, the Class of 1936 wanted to frame its class photo. Since then, other classes and family members have paid to frame theirs. Those are hanging now in a section dedicated to the school.

There are a few left to frame, said Mrs. Wurm, for anyone who wants to take on the task.

On the walls beside the framed pictures are old football pants, band outfits, letter jackets and other memorabilia. Mrs. Wurm said the museum has a few plates with the school on them and even a spoon.

Over the years, the museum has collected the yearbooks from Decatur Community High School and now has almost all of them except for 1992. Mrs. Wurm said they are also missing some from the early 20s, but she doesn't know if the school always had a yearbook in those years.

The museum boasts pictures from as early as the 1800s, she said, and some of those still need to be framed, including some class pictures and some sports pictures.

On the ceiling hang several class pennants. In a photo album, Mrs. Wurm has collected the programs from most of the annual alumni banquets.

A book sitting next to that one has pictures of the first graduating class. For the first 49 years of the school, said Mrs. Wurm, the museum is missing five class pictures.

She said the museum could use some help to identify a few of the loose individual class pictures from the early years.



AT THE POST OFFICE on Monday, Postmaster Steve Schultz, who took over the job earlier this month, weighed a package before he put it in the outbound pile. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

New postmaster takes over Oberlin office

With more than 23 years of experience in the U.S. Postal Service, Steve Schultz has started as Oberlin postmaster.

Mr. Schultz said he was supposed to start in February, but he was in Omaha doing route inspections for the district. He didn't start here until Monday, July 9.

He said he does a lot of extra work and actually served on the National Route Inspection Team. Mr. Schultz said he decided to

take the test to get into the Postal Service and started as a relief clerk and carrier in Goodland. Since then, he has worked as postmaster in Goodland, St. Francis and Winona and held other positions with the service.

He said his wife is also a postmaster in Benkelman, Neb. The couple lives in Bird City and both commute. Mr. Schultz said he has three daughters and a step-daughter and step-son. All of the kids are

out of high school, he said.

Mr. Schultz said he grew up in St. Francis and said he knows quite a few people from there who live in Oberlin now.

Besides working for the Postal Service, he is also a certified referee for football and basketball. He said he did call the school district here and let them know if they need help for junior high or junior varsity games, to call.

In his free time, he said, he likes

to fish and golf, although he said he hasn't played much golf in the last few years. With all the kids out of the house, said Mr. Schultz, he and his wife would like to do some traveling.

Mr. Schultz said the transition to Oberlin has been good, mainly because of the excellent employees at the post office here.

He said he wants to get involved in the community and always has an open door.

Superintendent learns his top four goals

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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The Oberlin School Board set up four goals for the new superintendent to work on in his first six months, asking him to focus on student performance, staff evaluation, public relations and board operating principles.

After six months, the board will evaluate his progress and possibly set some new goals.

Dr. Pat Cullen, who started in July, asked the board for some direction during his first meeting on

Monday, July 9. He suggested asking Charlie Mansfield, with McPherson and Jacobson, the consulting firm which helped find superintendent candidates, to help with goal setting noting that the board had already paid for those services.

The board, Dr. Cullen and Mr. Mansfield met last Monday to talk about some ideas. Board Member Dewayne Jackson said he thought the meeting went well and he thought Dr. Cullen felt positive about it. Each board member was asked to write down items that they

wanted him to concentrate on in the next six months.

They came up with 24 different points, Mr. Jackson said, which Mr. Mansfield wrote on a large notepad.

The board then narrowed those down to the top four.

All of the items are positive things, said Mr. Jackson. The most important thing is to do the best job they can for the kids and provide the best education possible.

This is very similar to the process the board used when they first hired Dr. Kelly Glodt, said Mr. Jackson.

Dr. Cullen should work on the items over the next six months, Mr. Jackson said. Then the board will evaluate his progress and set new goals.

The goals include:

- Evaluation of student performance to address the success of all students.
- To handle staff and administration evaluations according to the district policies and state law.
- Improve public relations.
- Research and development for a set of board operating principles.

Oberlin residents want to raze ratty old buildings

By **CYNTHIA HAYNES**
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Oberlin citizens are looking at rundown property in their neighborhoods and asking that it be fixed up or removed.

The city's Minimum Housing Standards board, meeting July 16, upheld a City Council ruling that a house at 107 N. East Street should be removed by Sept. 19.

The owner, Francis Wahrman, had asked for a hearing on the city's order to demolish the structure.

According to records of the hearing, Mr. Wahrman has owned the property for 15 years. About seven years ago, the city asked him to re-

pair it. Some work was done, but not enough so that the house could be rented.

This year, neighbors circulated a petition asking that the structure be repaired or removed and Mr. Wahrman met with City Administrator Gary Shike on June 21. At that time, Mr. Wahrman got an order to remove the building in 90 days. Under city ordinance, he was given an opportunity to appeal and did so.

At the hearing last Monday, Mr. Wahrman said that he thought it would cost about \$2,000 to repair the building, which has a hole in the roof, broken windows and falling plaster. Property taxes are delin-

quent, he said.

The board unanimously agreed that the house should be removed.

At a City Council meeting July 19, Mr. Shike said that since then Helen Gee has come in asking about a petition on a house owned by Sam Farr at 906 E. Commercial St., which is in disrepair.

Mr. Shike said that Mrs. Gee told him that she has been mowing the yard occasionally because it looks so bad, but he advised her not to because then the property owner would never do it.

"We will be proceeding on this one," he said.

Mr. Shike said that another person

came into the city office on Wednesday asking about the process.

"I hope we don't have a stack of these," Mr. Shike said. "It's expensive."

He said that if the property owner doesn't remove the building, the city usually will do so for the health and safety of the town, but it seldom can recoup the cost of the demolition unless someone will take the building down for the scrap lumber.

Councilwoman Marcia Lohofener said she thought it would be good to get rid of some of the eyesore buildings around town, as it would make things look better.

She also asked if something could

be done about plantings on the northeast corner of Cass Avenue and Maple Street and the southeast corner of Cass Avenue and Ash Street, across from the grade school, saying that in both cases the plants obstruct the view of the intersections.

Councilman Rob McFee noted that at Cass and Ash, the steps of the grade school are a bigger obstruction to seeing into the intersection and there's not much that the city can do about them.

Required hearing held on water treatment plant

The Oberlin City Council held a public hearing required for a U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development loan to finance a water treatment plant.

Chris Miller of Miller and Associates, the city's engineers, said he was at the meeting July 19 to answer any questions about the plant or the government requirements for a loan.

The plant is expected to cost \$4.3 million, he said, and it looks like the city can get a 45 percent grant from the government. The rest will be paid by increased water rates and by grants from the state of Kansas.

While no one from the public had any questions, Councilwoman Marcia Lohofener said that she wanted people to understand that the plant will not help the taste of the water or get rid of the all nitrates.

"We'll spend all this money but it won't change how your coffee tastes," she said.

City Manager Gary Shike said

that the city had looked at the possibility of softening, but anything they did would have almost doubled the cost of the new treatment facility.

The new water plant is designed to remove arsenic and uranium, Mr. Miller said. These occur naturally in the soil and water, he said, and almost every town in this area has the same problem since the federal government lowered the amount it allows in public water supplies.

In other business, the council:

- Learned that The Gateway will be used for three family reunions, two wedding receptions, a birthday party and a baby shower in the next month in addition to the weekly Rotary meeting. Also, during the month, the Decatur County Farm Bureau will hold its annual meeting, Decatur Health Systems plans a benefit supper and the county extension will hold a 4-H fashion revue.
- Agreed to confirm the mayor's appointment of Tom Mullen, who

works part-time at the Decatur County appraiser's office, to the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp. board to fill the unexpired term of former Superintendent of Schools Kelly Glodt, who

has moved to South Dakota.

- Agreed to increase the amount the city gives the Northwest Kansas Domestic and Sexual Violence Services out of Hays from \$600 to \$750 next year.

USED EQUIPMENT

1-2006 New Holland BR 780A Round baler w/net wrap	\$33,500
1-Hesston 565A Baler w/net wrap	Coming in
1- 1992 New Holland 9030 Bidirectional Tractor with Loader grapple	\$27,500
1-98 New Holland 116 Swather	\$35,000
1-4750 Dual Loader w/ Grapple	\$37,500
2-Used NH 56 Rake	\$1,000 each
1-Used A&L Hay Fluffer (like New)	\$3,000
1-Used JD 21' Field Cultivator 726	\$7,500

USED SKID LOADERS

2-2006 New Holland L190 w/cab	\$37,425
1-New Holland LS 190	Just in
2006 New Holland LS180B	\$16,500
2002 New Holland LS160	SOLD \$14,500
2001 New holland LS 160	SOLD \$13,500
2005 JD 320	\$22,500
NH Backhoe attachment for Skid Loaders	\$2,500

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It's Time to Schedule Your Child's Back-to-School Eye Exam.

Did you know 1 in 4 children has an undetected vision problem that may affect learning?

Since nearly 80% of everything children learn depends on healthy vision, a comprehensive eye exam by a board certified optometrist is essential to their scholastic performance.

At Lifetime Eyecare, we'd like to remind you that back-to-school time also means time to have your child's eye health and vision examined.

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Water meeting planned

Farmers can get cash for rights

Anyone with water rights on the Prairie Dog Creek who might like to make a little money by retiring those rights can attend one of the two informational meetings this month in Norton.

Both meetings start at 7 p.m. at the Norton Public Library, the first on Tuesday and the second on Wednesday, Aug. 15.

Steve Frost, project manager with the Water Right Transition Pilot Project Program, said the idea originated many years ago when water management groups wanted a way to retire water rights and bring flows downstream back into balance.

Mr. Frost said the goal is to put more water back into the creeks and ground water, or take less out. Basically there are more water rights than there is water.

Last year, he said, the state Legislature passed a law creating a way for the state to retire rights.

This is a voluntary program, he said, and people can choose to retire their water rights or not.

They are looking for people who have water rights to do irrigation, said Mr. Frost.

These farmers could retire some water rights and farm that same area with dryland crops.

Owners who retire rights will be paid for the water for up to 10 years, he said. Basically, the state pays them to give up their water rights permanently.

This project might be good for some people and might not for others, he said.

That is why they are planning informal meetings, so people can learn a little more about the project and see if it would help them.

Six counties, including Decatur County, have people with water rights out of the Prairie Dog Creek and 10 counties have part of Rattlesnake Creek, a tributary of the Smoky Hill River in Northwest Kansas.

The program is mainly targeted at people who have water rights for irrigation, Mr. Frost said.

On both creeks, they are interested in both surface and ground water rights.

Irrigation, said Mr. Frost, provides the most amount of water back into the creek.

The Legislature, he said, thought this program would be a way to relieve some of the stress and it is a win-win situation really.

With the program, said Mr. Frost, it could avoid some of the need for regulations in the future.

There is no cost for the meetings, he said, and everyone is invited.

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& Norton Co. Kansas
Platmaps

By Western Cartographers

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Also available Counties in KS, CO, WY, SD, and OK