Board says 'yes' to patching steps at high school

By KIMBERLY DAVIS kldavis@nwkansas.com

The Oberlin School Board gave the superintendent permission last Monday to have the front steps at the high school patched and a new railing put in while he calls around to architects so see what a new design

The board has talked about repairing or replacing the front steps for some time, but held off because of a request to have the building listed on the state historical register. Despite suggestions that the it was time to get going, the board decided to get a more detailed plan.

The board got bids to remove the concrete and steps at the front entrance and replace them with a ramp, but Monday decided to contact an architect before any work is done so if they want to put in lights or new doors or a fancier railing, they can see what it will look like.

Superintendent Pat Cullen said he talked with John Nelson, owner of Nelson Concrete Construction Inc., about the work. The plan is to take out the entire platform and the railing in front of the school. A ramp would go from the top of the current steps to the curb. The bid came in at

The alumni association is still working on getting the building on the historical registry, but Dr. Cullen said the step work won't change

Dr. Cullen said the board talked about putting a heating system in the concrete for the winter. The board received a ball park idea of \$8,500, although they didn't receive an of-

The superintendent said his recommendation was to go ahead and replace the porch.

"Without a doubt," he said, "we need to walk out of here with a plan.".

As it is now, said Principal Charles Haag people in a wheelchair have to come in the back door and be wheeled up the hall.

It is worse when there is ice, said Board Member Barb Olson, adding him to call some architects.

that the railing on the steps is a little

If the district is going to replace the porch and steps, said Mr. Haag, it needs to be done right. Mrs. Olson said they want it to be attractive.

If the district does the entrance, said Mr. Haag, and leaves the old rusty doors, it isn't going to look good. The high school almost needs a whole new entrance.

Does the current plan meet the American With Disabilities Act requirements? asked board member Dan Nedland. Probably, said board member Monte Moore; Mr. Nelson checked into that on the amount of the slope for the ramp.

Mrs. Olson said the board needs a designer to draw up the project. It would be nice to see some of those old street lights put in, said Board President Dewayne Jackson.

If the district does the whole project with concrete, lights, doors and a new railing, it could cost \$40,000 to \$50,000, said Board Member Monte Moore and then you'd have to add the cost of an architect onto that.

Maybe there is an alumni who would want to help pay for the project through the school foundation, he said.

the entrance and everything but the concrete work could be put in later, said President Dewayne Jackson.

Will it be a problem to redo the entrance with the kids in school? asked Mr. Moore. That is less of a problem than it being a liability issue, said Dr. Cullen, since someone could get hurt on the steps.

Mrs. Olson said she would call her brother-in-law, who is an architect in Colorado and an alumnus, to see if possibly he has any ideas of who the board can call or what the cost might be.

In the meantime, the board gave Dr. Cullen the go-ahead to patch the porch and steps and have Jason Ketterl, vocational agriculture teacher at the high school, make some new railings. They also asked

Boarding school discussed for ranch

The Oberlin School Board heard a suggestion to start a boarding he said, and no one has made any school at the former Sappa Valley commitments. The only way for Youth Ranch at its meeting last anything like this to happen is if it Monday and agree to split expenses works for both the city and the for a \$500 evaluation of the idea school district, he added. with the city.

had talked with Rhoney DuQusen, a consultant in Longmont, Colo., about the idea. He said she will come look at the ranch and see if the plan will work. The evaluation will cost about \$500, he said, plus expenses.

He said they are trying to look at some different alternatives for the facility, which formerly was a juvenile detention center. If the school board and city, which owns the ranch, can find a healthy opportunity for both and bring in some more students for the schools, he said, that would be great.

Farmers Bank & Trust, FDIC

Rodney and Fonda Farr

This is just in the planning stages,

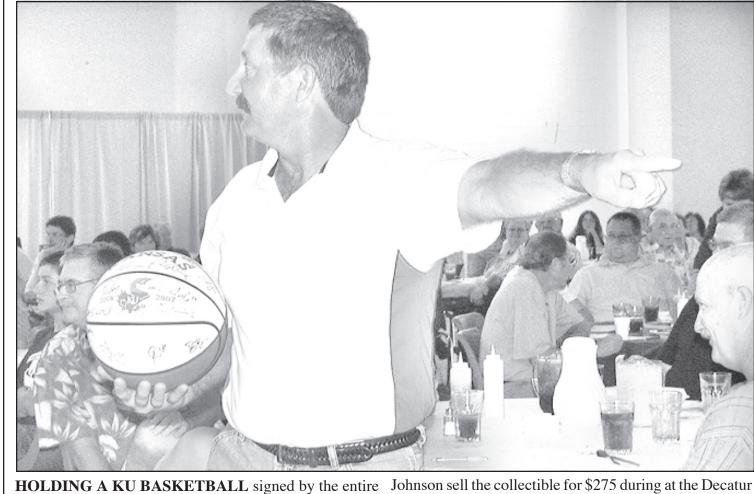
He said students could live at the Superintendent Pat Cullen said he ranch and come to school in town, but that is just one alternative that might work.

Dr. Cullen said he talked with City Administrator Gary Shike about the idea and asked if the city would pay half of the expenses.

Mr. Shike said he would bring up same poles as the traffic lights at the idea at a City Council meeting Thursday night to see if the council wants to get involved.

The school board approved Dr. Cullen bringing in the consultant, with a firm called Consultants to Small and Developing Independent Schools.

Raising money for hospital



Jayhawk team, Rick Doeden helped auctioneer Lynn Health Systems benefit Saturday. - Photo by Cynthia Haynes

Emergency director working on plan

Decatur County commissioners Maybe an architect could design talked with the new emergency preparedness director, who said she is working on a revised county emergency plan as well as other areas of the job, during their meeting last Tuesday

> Patti Skubal, who was recently hired as the director, said she is working on the county's plan on the computer. The plan was last revised in 1991, she said, so she is comparing the old and the new. Obviously, said Mrs. Skubal, some things have changed.

Mrs. Skubal asked about the sirens that normally go off Monday mornings. Since the former director, Bert Cool, has been out of the office. she said, the sirens haven't been tested. Mrs. Skubal asked how long the sirens should be sounded for the test, but none of the commissioners

The siren in Jennings, she said, has been replaced. It is just south of the fire station.

Mrs. Skubal had a bill for \$1,164 from DTN for the weather computer. The computer, in the dispatch office on the fourth floor of the courthouse, gives weather updates. Mrs. Skubal said the contract had to

major downtown intersections

The signs, which hung on the

Penn Avenue and Commercial, and

Penn Avenue and Hall, were taken

down by city Foreman Dan Castle a

couple weeks ago. Mr. Castle said

the signs were getting caught by the

wind and breaking the traffic lights.

and needed to be replaced anyway,

The no u-turn signs were faded

Tri-State Livestock Commission Co.

came down recently, with no plans

to replace them.

Andy May

Larue Trucking

Willcoxon & Brown

Market Data, Inc.

Frenchman Valley Co-op

Anderson Land and Cattle

Stockman's Feed and Supply

Decatur County Feed Yard, LLC

Decatur County Title and Abstract

County Roundup

At their meeting last Tuesday, the to come **Decatur County commissioners:**

• Sat in on a meeting of the Decatur County Fair Foundation where two bills for the new livestock building were paid. Story to come.

 Decided to continue with the costshare program for the noxious weed spraying as long as the county has the money to buy the chemical. Story

· Talked with the emergency preparedness director, who said she is working on the county emergency plan as well as other areas of her job. Story at left.

· Gave the chief dispatcher permission to apply for a grant to help with maintenance costs for a new computer system. Story to come.

goes to any meetings or do anything

Jennings 16th Annual

Firemen's FunDay

which would cost money.

Mrs. Skubal said she has one meeting coming up, but the commissioners have already approved

She said she went to Norcatur to work on a generator project for the town. She said an auto start generator would require an extra charge of \$50 a month to get a company to come out and check it.

Mrs. Skubal said she would like to get some more bids for the gen-

She said she is working on a list of duties for the emergency management director and will bring it to the

it had been sent July 20.

Do any other departments help pay for this, asked Mrs. Skubal, like County Clerk Marilyn Horn said

she should check with Colleen

Geishler, deputy clerk, to see who had paid the bill in the past. Mrs. Skubal said the National Weather Service offers a system,

too. She doesn't know what the cost would be. Commissioner Doyle Brown said he thought she should check into it. Commissioner Stan McEvoy said

the budget is tight, and she needs to be careful and hold down expenditures until the end of the year. He be signed by Wednesday, although told her she needs to ask before she

doesn't plan to replace them.

there is a sign posted to ban it.

Under city ordinances, however,

Police Chief Wade Lockhart said

whether it is legal or not, people

shouldn't make u-turns at the sig-

naled intersections because it's not

He said he would like to see the

signs go back up, since the ordi-

nance gives him the power to ban

turns at specific intersections.

it is legal to make a u-turn unless

Saturday, August 25, 2007 Always held the 4th Saturday of August Parade Theme ∼ "Welcome BCI" ~ 8:00-10:00 HEALTH FAIR - Senior Center - sponsored by Decatur County Health Systems, Decatur County EMS and **Oberlin Medical Arts.**

HEMAGRAM \$25 (Must be fasting) (includes thyroid tests and cholesterol breakdown as well as usual 27 screening tests)

PROSTRATE CANCER SCREENING \$20 FREE SKIN CANCER SCREENING EDUCATION - courtesy of Dr. Andreca/Dr. Sliter FREE BLOOD PRESSURE/BLOOD SUGAR CHECKS/DIABETIC EDUCATION

8:00-10:00 KOLACHE COFFEE – Senior Center — sponsored by the United Methodist Church.

KOLACHES SOLD ALL DAY - 75¢ each OR \$9⁰⁰ Dozen (Prune, cherry, apple, poppy seed, apricot, peach, cottage cheese) 8:00 - COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE — American Legion

Hall (1 Block East of City Hall) 10:00 - PONY RIDES - Main Street - Jim and Peggy Westmoreland, **Oakley**

10:00 - SNAKES - Main Street - David Nieves, Bellevue, NE 10:00 - 5:00 - WOBBLE TRAP SHOOT - Football Field (north edge of town - follow signs). Bring your own shotgun and plenty of shells!!

10:00 - TRAIN RIDES FOR KIDS - Main Street. (Courtesy of **Greg Otter, Lenora**)

10:00 - CAKE WALK - City hall (sponsored by Mary Wahlmeier)

11:00 - Noon - DUNK TANK (City Hall yard) 11:00 - 4:00 - CZECH MUSEUM OPEN - Free Admission

11:00 - 5:00 - BINGO - Senior Center (closed at noon until after the parade). Tickets 3/\$1 or \$.50 each

FIREMEN'S RAFFLE

TV ~ SURROUND SOUND SYSTEM ~ PORTABLE DVD PLAYER (Winners announced at auction - need not be present to win) 11:30 - LUNCH COUNTER OPENS - (Fire Station)

12:00-12:30 -LINE-UP FOR PARADE - South end of Pennsylvania Ave (aka School St.) Please be prompt ***** ALL ENTRIES APPRECIATED *****

(NO PRE-REGISTRATION) (NO ENTRY FEE)

1:30 - PARADE - MAIN STREET 2:30 - CHILDREN'S GAMES RESUME - Dunk Tank; Coin Search (Sponsored by The Bank).

FUNNEL CAKES, SNO-CONES (sold all day) 3:00 - CHILDREN'S TRACTOR PULL (City Hall yard) Ages 4-12; Registration at 2:30; sponsored by Decatur County Farm Bureau; sanctioned for State Fair

4:00 - FREE BIKE GIVE AWAY (with Helmet) 1 BOYS, 1 GIRLS Courtesy Jennings Fire Department/EMS

MUST BE 12 YEARS OLD OR UNDER ~ MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN 4:00 - FIREMEN'S TEAM BARREL COMPETITION

6:00 - HOG ROAST - Fire station (Barbecued pulled pork, beans, 7:00 - AUCTION - (Donated items from area businesses) Raffle

winners announced. STREET DANCE with MOBILE MUSIC EXPRESS D.Js,

Oberlin, to follow the auction.

For information please contact Kerry Green, 785-678-2647, Stann Hartzog 785-678-3020 or Marge Hartzog _785-678-3010 or any member of the Jennings Fire Department.

The Decatur County 4-H Council wishes to thank the 2007 Livestock Buyers

City crew takes down

most no U-turn signs

The "no u-turn" signs at the two he said, so he took them down and

Fredrickson Insurance Agency Farmers Bank & Trust, FDIC High Plains Veterinary Service, P.A. Farm Credit Service Pauls Funeral Home The Oberlin Herald Ron's Applicating Service Farm and Ranch Realty Raye's Grocery, Inc. Johnson Realty, Inc. Home Range Realty Mary Anderson, CPA Countryside Veterinary Clinic of Oberlin, P.A. McCook National Bank, FDIC Prairie Dog Creek Cattle Co. Wasson Farms, Inc.

Longs Herefords Pauls Funeral Home, Inc. Jerry and Marcia Lohoefener Duane and Patricia Dorshorst Decatur County Feed Yard, LLC Haynes Publishing Co. R.J. Metcalf Real Estate Financial Consulting Jack and Donna Fortin & Investigation, Inc. Rocking R McKenna Appraisal Countryside Veterinary Clinic Services, Inc. of Oberlin, P.A. Pat and Shelly McKenna The Bank, FDIC Fredrickson Insurance Agency Evan and Sheryl Unger Walter and Betty May Raye's Grocery, Inc. **Shear Creations** Harmony Farms **Decatur County Title**

The Decatur County 4-H Council

wishes to thank the Food Sale Buyers of 2007.

Anthony Farms

Keith Anthony

Total Business Integrations, Inc. Vince and Peggy Carswell and Abstract Co. Oberlin Livestock Auction, Inc. Mary E. Anderson, CPA Ralph and Norma Unger LandMark Inn and Oberlin Eugene and Beverly Witt Mercantile Co. Ultimate Fertilizer

Sappa Valley Construction LLC **Rocket Sales** Jerry Schuetz John and Henrietta Juenemann Custom Trophy and Engraving Gail and Kay Marcuson Marcuson Farms Ken and Julie Carter

Connie Grafel

Lee and Lora Arnold