

Publisher to lead national news group

NORFOLK, Va. — Steve Haynes, publisher of *The Oberlin Herald*, has been elected president of the National Newspaper Association, representing more than 2,700 "community" newspapers in small towns, cities and suburbs across the country.

Mr. Haynes, who has served on the organization's board for seven years, was elevated to the presidency at the group's national convention Friday, Sept. 30. He takes the place of Jerry Tidwell of Texas for a one-year term.

"It's an honor to stand here as your president," he told the members, adding that he was tired of hearing negative news about the business based on the troubles of a few publicly held companies which own big-city



Steve and Cynthia Haynes

newspapers — and thought they were, too. "When you talk to community newspaper publishers," he said, "you find out that most of us are doing pretty well."

Circulation is growing for community newspapers, mostly weekly or daily and in smaller towns, he noted, and they are growing even while city dailies are in trouble.

"Community newspapers have been around for nearly 400 years," he noted, "and we're here to stay."

"No 'new medium' has ever replaced newspapers, not radio or television, and that's not going to happen with the Internet."

"Community newspapers are the primary source of local news in their towns, and as long as we remember that, we'll grow and prosper."

He told the group that newspapers need to get more involved with the Internet as a way to serve their customers and preserve their place as the prime local news source

in their towns.

Later, Mr. Haynes said the president's job will keep him on the go this year. He noted that Mr. Tidwell made 25 trips during his term, about one every two weeks, to talk at state press conventions and attend other meetings. Already, he said, the group has meetings scheduled in Missouri, Nicaragua, Washington, D.C., New Mexico and Minnesota. It advances publishers' interests with the U.S. Postal Service and with Congress, dealing with all federal issues, and helps members with management, insurance and circulation issues.

He said he's planning to visit Colorado, Kansas, South Dakota, Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Mississippi and New England for starters, but the calendar has

just begun to fill.

"Cynthia and I will be on the road a lot," the new president said, "and we're going to miss being home in Oberlin this year, but this is a tremendous honor and a great opportunity for service."

Mr. Haynes is president of Nor'West Newspapers, which owns six newspapers in northwest Kansas including *The Herald*. He is president of the U.S. Highway 36 Association, which represents 13 counties along the northern tier of Kansas.

The couple, who have lived in Oberlin for 14 years, have three children, daughters Felicia and Lindsay, who live in Augusta, Ga., and son Lacy, Lawrence, Lindsay and Bradley Blake were married Saturday in Augusta, Ga.

City pays last bill for sewer plant

The Oberlin City Council paid the final pay request for \$172,386 to Midlands Contracting at a meeting Thursday night for the new waste water treatment plant south of town.

Councilwoman Rhonda May asked about liquidated damages of \$6,800 the city claimed against the company for not completing the project on time. Dave Blau, with Miller and Associates, the engineering firm which planned the plant, said the money will be subtracted from the check sent to the contractors, even though the pay request is for the full amount.

Midlands, said City Administrator Gary Shike, knows about the damages the council decided on. The contractor didn't think it was fair, said Mayor Joe Stanley, but they accepted the council's decision.

The contractor was invited to the

meeting to talk to the council about the decision, said Mr. Blau, but did not send anyone.

Is everything at the plant working correctly? asked Mayor Stanley. Yes, said Mr. Blau. Once this paperwork is signed, he said, the project is done.

There is a one-year warranty on things like the pump, Mr. Blau said, adding that he wasn't sure if that started on Sept. 17 when the project was completed or on May 3 when the project reached partial completion. He said he will find out.

The total project cost was \$1,594,520, with part of the money coming from a Community Development Block Grant and part from a loan through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

The council also approved a request asking for \$60,544 from the grant to go to the final payment.

Oberlin man picks 10 right in contest

Only one person guessed all 10 football winners correctly in this week's Pigskin Pick'em contest.

Todd Ketterl of Oberlin predicted that Kansas would upset K-State, Missouri would beat Nebraska and Colby would down Oberlin last week to outguess all other participants in this week's contest.

For his first-place entry, Mr. Ketterl will receive \$15 in scrip money.

Six people were right on nine out of 10 games, but most got tripped up on the KU-K-State contest and a couple dutifully picked Oberlin over Colby.

A high-scoring Colorado team whipped Baylor, 43-23, and that gave most people fits in the tie breaker. While almost everyone picked Colorado to win, most scored the game too low.

However, Vernon Ketterl of Herndon was closest to the tie breaker and he takes second and wins \$10 in scrip.

Rodney Solko, McCook, came in third to win \$5.

Others who guessed right on nine out of 10 were Randy Wilson, Colby, and Travis Raile, Zach May and Valisha Raile of Oberlin.

Guessing eight right were Cheri Kastens and Kari Ketterl, Herndon, and Owen Wilson, Ivis Hanson, Kenny Gee, Norm Wendelin, Linda

Hollowell, Ron Solko, Kimberly Solko and Gary Anderson, Oberlin.

Coming up with seven out of 10 were Brock Benson, Smith Center; Jim Hollowell, Jacob Gee, Mabel Zimmerman, Kelly Brown and Kade Brown, Oberlin; and Billy McCoy, Danbury, Neb.

Contest rules are on Page 8A of today's paper with an entry form. Forms also are available at the sponsoring businesses, Home Planning Center, Farm Credit of Western Kansas, Fredrickson Insurance Agency, Wagner Chevrolet, Buick, Pontiac and Cadillac of McCook, Raye's Grocery, *The Oberlin Herald* and *The Country Advocate*; Prairie Petals, the LandMark Inn and Ward Drug Store.

Only official entry blanks will be accepted; no copies.

This week's games:

- Hoxie over Atwood, 20-14.
- Brewster over Cheylin, 54-6.
- The University of Kansas over K-State, 30-24.
- Norton over Stockton, 49-14.
- Missouri over Nebraska, 41-6.
- Colby over Oberlin, 41-0.
- Oakley over Goodland, 36-0.
- WaKeeney over Hill City, 14-12.
- McCook over Lexington, Neb., 48-8.
- Wallace County over Golden Plains, 52-14.

Firefighters get raise for time spent training

Oberlin volunteer firefighters received a raise of 70 cents an hour for training time at a City Council meeting Thursday night.

City Administrator Gary Shike said minimum wage has changed, so he talked to Chief Bill Cathcart about suggestions for pay. Chief Cathcart sent information for the council, but said he didn't feel comfortable making a suggestion.

"I don't feel comfortable doing this because if you ask me what it is worth for someone to be on call 24/7," said Chief Cathcart, "to answer a call which very well may endanger their lives, but most certainly will take valuable time away from their job, business and family..., my answer would not be anywhere close to the minimum wage standard. That's why we call it volunteer."

Currently, he said, a firefighter makes \$5.15 an hour for training, the assistant chief \$5.50 an hour and the chief \$6 per hour. City Clerk Deanna Castle said the firefighters also are paid \$10 a call.

The information Chief Cathcart provided includes a 70-cent-an-hour increase for training, which would have the firefighters up to the new minimum standard of \$7.25 by July 2009.

Mayor Joe Stanley said he thought they should raise the pay to whatever the firemen are asking for. They aren't asking for anything, noted Councilwoman Rhonda May.

The suggestion is 70 cents an hour, said Mr. Shike.

It may cost more in gas for the firefighter to drive to the station and back home, said Councilman Rob McFee, than they get paid to answer a call.

Obviously they aren't in it for the money, said Mr. Shike.

How many firefighters does the city have? asked Mr. McFee. Around 12, said Mrs. Castle.

The council approved a 70-cent raise for all firefighters for training hours.

"Thanks to all the city and county firefighters," said Mayor Stanley, "and for all the work they do."



Young actors practice

SIXTH GRADERS practiced Friday after school for their upcoming musical. Nick Ashley (above left), Haley Schiessler and Jamie Soderlund ran lines for the musical "Romeo and Harriet" before they gave Hannah May (left) and Chris Anderson a chance. The production is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 23, in the grade school gym.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Telethon getting started

The Seeds of Hope Telethon committee is starting to prepare for the 2008 fund raiser in February.

The committee has letters in the mail to organizations that have been suggested to receive money from the event. Any group that would like to apply for money, even if it hasn't received a letter, can do so by writing the committee.

Send a letter with a brief proposal outlining the needs of the organization and how the group will use the money to "Seeds of Hope" Telethon, Box 305, Oberlin, Kan. 67749 by Wednesday, Nov. 14.



Immaculate Conception Fall Festival

October 14, 2007 - 3 p.m. To ???

Dinner
Roast Beef & Turkey 5-7 p.m.
Adults - \$8
5-12 - \$4
4 & under - Free

	Bingo
	Games
	Raffle
	Auction

All activities to be held at the Parish Center, Leoville

Everyone Welcome!