

Search begins to replace football coach

By JIM MERRIOTT
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Decatur Community High School has begun its search for a new head football coach to replace Trevor Williams, who resigned to take a job in Chapman, near Abilene.

Principal Charles Haag said he posted the opening on the state Department of Education website listing the vacancy as a history/head football coaching. The school also might hire a full-time basketball coach to fill a position which has been covered by outside coaches the last two years, he said.

"We just put it out last week," Mr. Haag said of the job listing.

Haag said the school will be looking for a full-time social science teacher and coach who will be able to teach American and world history and junior high American history.

Mr. Williams' wife Tina has also turned in her resignation. She taught American history and family and consumer studies (formerly known as home economics) at the school. That leaves just Dick Ahlberg, a

part-time teacher and coach, in the Social Science department. Ahlberg, who coached boys basketball for a 27 years, still teaches American government and economics and has coached the cross country team for 29 years.

"Our goal is to find a full-time quality teacher and coach," said Superintendent Pat Cullen.

Mr. Haag interviews candidates for teaching jobs, the principal said, and Activities Director Joe Dreher interviews for coaching vacancies.

"Mr. Dreher will concentrate in his area of expertise and I will concentrate in mine," he said. "We will work together to provide our community with a top-notch teacher and coach."

"Ideally, we would also like to find a full-time teacher who could also coach boys basketball," Haag said.

"We just put the coaching and teaching job on the internet last week, so we will have to wait and see what happens," said Dreher.

One tests positive here for influenza

One person in Decatur County has tested positive for influenza over the winter, county health officials say, but it's not too late to get a flu shot which could keep you from getting this deadly illness or at least moderate the symptoms.

Marilyn Gamblin, administrator of the county Health Department, said with influenza cases, the patient has a higher fever, sore throat, muscle aches and nonproductive, or dry, cough. It can turn to pneumonia and is quite contagious, she said.

People are the most contagious 24 hours before they actually develop the symptoms, according to information from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Ms. Gamblin said everyone needs to take precautions to avoid getting sick. If you are sick, said Ms. Gamblin, stay home. Remember to wash your hands, and cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing.

Information from the state, said Ms. Gamblin, says people should use a tissue when coughing or sneezing, but if one isn't available, cough into the upper part of your sleeve.

The department says flu is widespread in the state.

People can take a flu vaccine to help prevent the disease. Even if the vaccine doesn't match the strain of the flu rampant this year, said Ms. Gamblin, it will lessen the symptoms. Some people here have taken the vaccine, she said, but many haven't.

Ms. Gamblin said she still has several of the shots left. It isn't too late to get one, as the state says that this is the peak time for influenza here.

People who should get vaccinated include kids from 6 months to 5 years, pregnant women, people 50 and older, people with chronic medical conditions, those living in a nursing home or long-term-care facility, caregivers for kids and adults and health workers.

The cost is \$20, and several insurance plans will pay for it. Anyone who still wants a vaccine shot can call the health department at 475-8118 or stop by. The department is in the west wing of the clinic building, just west of the county hospital on W. Columbia Street.

Telethon committee gives groups \$600 each

The Oberlin Seeds of Hope Telethon at the beginning of the month raised just over \$12,000 in all, which means 16 organizations will receive \$600 checks and two will get \$300 each.

At the end of the evening on Saturday, Feb. 2, the tote board at the telethon read \$9,310. By the following Monday, that number had climbed to \$9,693 and the total has steadily inched up since then, reaching just over \$12,000.

The money is raised through purchases of donated auction items throughout the day, a concession stand and donations in general.

The Seeds of Hope committee met last Wednesday to wrap things up for the year. Members, including Jack Benton, Bill Duncan, Brenda Ulery, Regina Stanley, Peg Smith, Kristi Smith and Tim and Kimberly Davis, decided on \$600 gifts for each of the groups.

Groups receiving \$600 include Teens for Christ, the Decatur County Museum, the City of Jennings, the

City of Norcat, Kansans for Life, Oberlin Area Concert Band, Oberlin Lions Club, Salvation Army, Relay for Life, Decatur County Ministerial Association, Triple Creek Riders, Decatur Professional Women, Oberlin Girl Scouts, Creative Movements, Awana Club, the Golden Age Center and the Decatur County Fair Board. Receiving \$300 each are the Decatur County Summer Recreation Program and Frogs Day Camp.

The committee also had to pay some expenses out of the money raised, including paying for sound work, soda and a few other things.

Without the public, including volunteers, people who buy items on the auction, talent and donations of every kind, the telethon wouldn't be possible, members said.

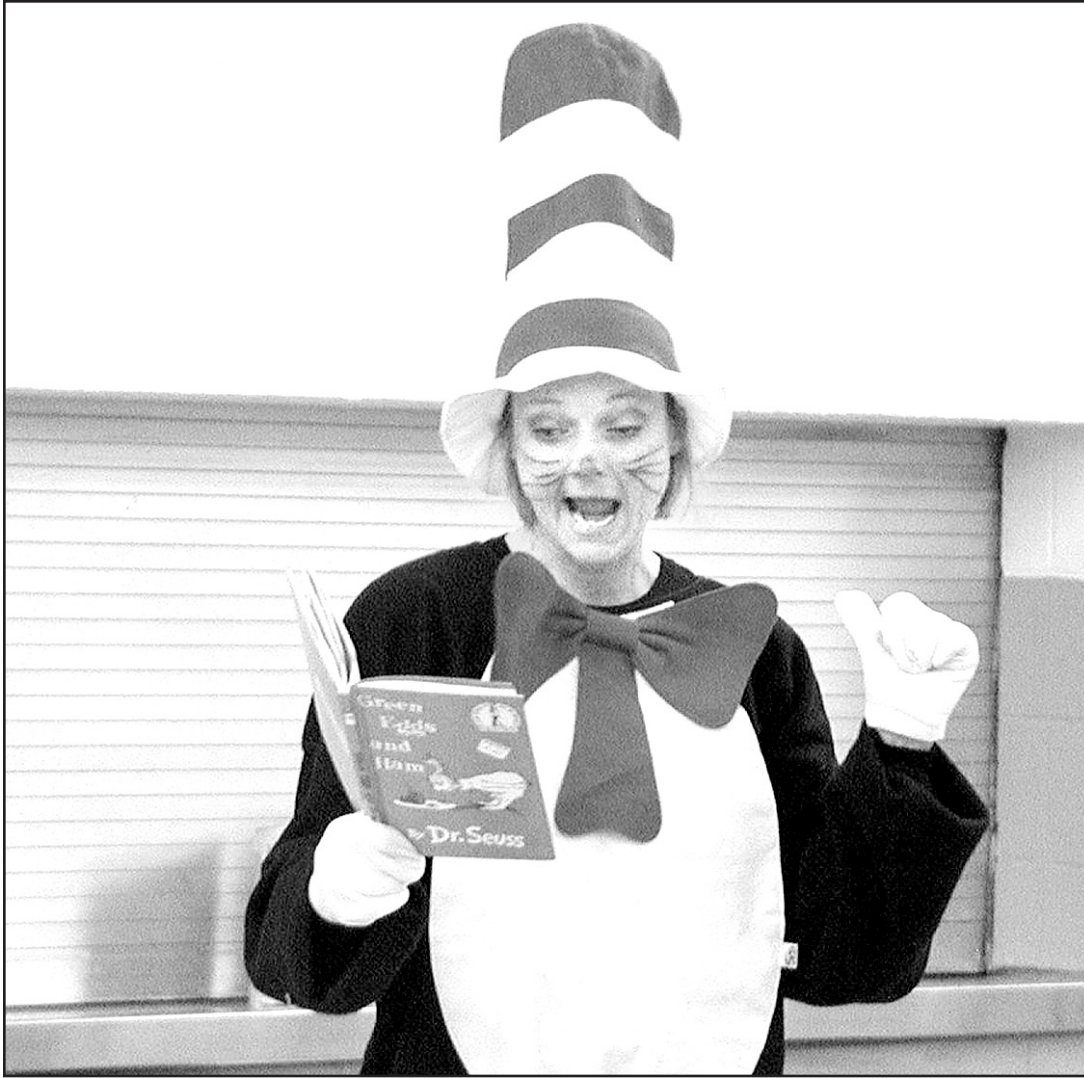
Some of the committee members said they are talking about stepping down. Anyone interested in serving on the telethon committee should contact any of the current members, said Mrs. Davis.

Museum benefit planned

The Last Indian Raid Museum plans a porkburger-and-sausage supper from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday at the Old Bohemian Hall, the third fund raiser since the beginning of

the year for the museum. The money raised will be used to help with maintenance and operational expenses.

Just for fun



IN THE LUNCHROOM at Oberlin Elementary School, Cindy Sattler, dressed in a Cat in the Hat costume, read "Green Eggs and Ham," to the students for reading day.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Water is safe to drink

Oberlin's water is safe to drink, city officials say, no matter what you might read elsewhere.

A front-page story in *The McCook Gazette* last Thursday reported, "The city says its customers do need to use an alternative water supply like bottled water."

The word not was accidentally left out of the story, which the newspaper corrected on Friday.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the water in Oberlin is safe to drink though levels of a couple of metals are higher than new federal standards. The city sent quarterly notices about the water having over the legal limit for uranium to all water users, he said, but people don't have to drink bottled water. Everything in the notification, said Mr. Shike, was approved by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment before it was mailed.

The mailing isn't something that the city office editorializes or that was made up, Mr. Shike said.

The McCook paper, said Mr. Shike, just left out a word. He said he hasn't heard a lot of comment about it.

Guests from McCook who ate at the LandMark Inn over the weekend did ask if it was safe to drink Oberlin's water or if the restaurant had bottled water, however.

Board accepts resignations

The Oberlin School Board accepted the resignations of two teachers at Decatur Community High School at the February meeting, football coach Trevor Williams, who teaches social studies, and his wife Tina, who teaches social sciences and the at-risk program.

Board President Dewayne Jackson read the letters of resignation.

The board approved a gas and oil lease for a 6.25 percent interest on 4.15 acres the district owns off of the Rexford Road. Board Member Dan Nedland said there hasn't been any seismic shock testing in that area.

Basically, said Board Member Dan Grafel, the district will get one-eighth of 6 percent if there is any oil or gas on that land, which isn't very much.

The board had a letter from Jonathan Fateley, writing on behalf of Fred Hambright of Wichita,

seeking the lease. He that he leases properties for oil and gas exploration for Mr. Hambright, who then assigns these leases to developers who perform seismographic inspections, and develop available oil and gas fields.

"The 6.25 percent mineral interest in this 160-acre section equals 10 net mineral acres," wrote Mr. Fateley. "I have produced a draft for these 10 NMA (net mineral acres) for \$100."

Mr. Nedland, a retired geologist, said they need to look at the length of the lease, since this is in an active exploration area. The district needs to protect the tiny interest it has and shouldn't sign a lease for more than three years, he said.

The board approved the lease. The district owns the land and mineral interest because it was a gift to the district.

In other business, the board: Approved the calendar for the 2008-2009 school year. This is the

one the teachers approved, said Mr. Jackson. School will start on Friday, Aug. 15, and end on Friday, May 22. Christmas break will start with a half day on Tuesday, Dec. 23, with classes starting back up on Friday, Jan. 2.

Approved Superintendent Pat Cullen buying a snow plow for the maintenance department to make it easier to move snow. The plow will attach to the front of the pick-up. The cost would be around \$3,000 to \$4,000.

Approved a standard agreement with the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center, which hires all of the teaching assistants. The district signs the agreement every five years.

Tabled a discussion on the heating system at the high school until a special meeting set for Tuesday.

Discussed that the board's committee for teacher negotiations needs to get started.

County talks about deer

The Decatur County commissioners found out last Tuesday that the state hadn't contacted the emergency management director about deer blood and waste going into the city sewer system during a test for chronic wasting disease.

Director Patti Skubal said Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks officials told her tests on all 35 deer came back negative.

Did the waste and blood go in the city sewer without anyone contacting the city? asked County Attorney Steve Hirsch. Yes, said Mrs. Skubal, but when she found out where the state planned to take the samples and about the stuff going into the sewer, she passed the information on. Mrs. Skubal said they told her that it wasn't really an emergency management problem. Health Administrator Marilyn Gamblin said she wasn't notified by anyone either. There just needs to be better communication in the future, said Mrs. Skubal. People need to think of the big picture, said Ms. Gamblin.

Council plans to meet on Thursday

The Oberlin City Council will hold its first meeting of the month Thursday night at The Gateway.

The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room. City

Administrator Gary Shike said he didn't think the session will be on the local cable access channel 7, even though it is the first meeting of the month, because the person who

normally does that isn't available.

student of the week



Name: Kayla Zodrow
Parents: Leo and Carolyn Zodrow

Grade: 12

Age: 17

We've nominated

this student because:

Kayla does everything from cross country to FFA District officer, and is a great student taking a full schedule. Kayla is just a nice young lady with lots of personality.

Student Comment: I am honored to be nominated.

I enjoy school and my activities, but also am ready to go on to my next challenges.

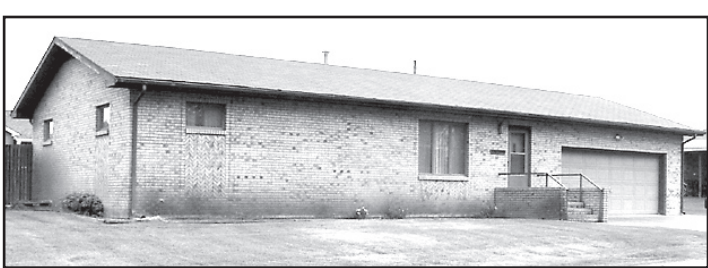
Activities involved in at school: FFA, Scholar Bowl, National Honor Society, Kayettes, Drama Club, Science Club, Stuco, and all school play.

My choice of movies, books, and games: 10 Things I Hate About You, Solitaire and anything by Danielle Steele.

After I leave Decatur Community High School I intend to ... Attend Colby Community College to get business and dental hygiene degrees. Also, I will be running cross country track for Colby.

And 10 years from now, I think I'll be ... Working full time as a Dental Hygienist...somewhere.

Favorite Quote: "Your worries for today will be your successes for tomorrow."



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