Man killed in crash

Fourejected when vehicle rolls

A utility vehicle driven by a 15-year-old girl rolled into a field south of Oberlin about 6:15 p.m. Saturday, throwing four of the five occupants out and killing the girl's

Firemen arriving at the scene a few minutes later asked dispatchers to call out all available emergency medical technicians, and three ambulances — two from Oberlin and one from Jennings — responded.

Trooper Charles Boydston of the Kansas Highway Patrol said none of the five occupants had been wearing

The driver, Ashley Anne Coronado, was flown to Wesley Medical Center in Wichita with a possible broken leg, chest injuries and other possible injuries. She was listed in ??? condition Monday night.

Dwayne R. Dickinson, 34, her stepfather, was pronounced dead at the Decatur County Hospital.

Chad Lee Salem, 33, Oberlin, also was flown to Wesley.

Another passenger, David Royan Vick, 36, Redondo Beach, Calif., went by helicopter to a Denver hospital.

Troy Gregory Rush, 29, Almena, was treated at the Oberlin hospital, but released by Monday. He was not ejected, and had been able to walk to a nearby farmhouse to get help. Trooper Boydston said the driver

was going west on County Road 6 South when she lost control on loose gravel. The truck went into the north ditch and rolled several times, winding up in a stubble field on the driver's side.

People in town heard about the wreck on police scanners, he said, and the victims' relatives were waiting by the time they got to the

"It was a very violent collision," he said. "It rolled several times."

The trooper, who serves as an emergency medical technician in his hometown of Phillipsburg, said the response from emergency crews here was good. The fact that one person survived was almost a miracle, he said, but despite the crushing impacts, the roof of the vehicle held up. He said he could tell how fast the driver was going.

Mr. Rush probably owed his life to the fact that he was not ejected,

"It shows would could have hap-

(See MAN on Page 6A)

Getting ready for Easter

20 Pages, 2 Sections



CLUTCHING A PALM BRANCH and his blanket, Rojelio Loya was ready for Mass at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Selden on Saturday night. Many area churches celebrated Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem the week before he died with palms and the Passion reading. - Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

Cinema needs cash, moviegoers

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

c.haynes@nwkansas.com

Oberlin's volunteer-run Sunflower Cinema is drowning in a sea of red ink and empty seats that not even top-flights movies seem to be able to drain.

Despite \$3 tickets, reasonably priced popcorn and fairly new movies, the movie house isn't able to pay its bills from what it is bringing in, board members say.

Sunday, theater board member Bev Reiter said that "Juno," a teenoriented movie that won critical acclaim and four academy award nominations, had pulled fewer than 50 people for a two-day run.

The theater pays either a flat rate, usually \$150 to \$200, or a percentage of the gross ticket sales, whichever is greater, to get a movie,

With "Juno," the price was \$150, she said. At \$3 a ticket and less than 50 people, that equals a loss.

The only way the theater makes any money to pay overhead is through concession sales, she said. some can run up to \$500 mini-

She said the theater relies on a booking agent, Brad Bills of Kansas City, to find and set up the delivery

Usually, the board has no choice in what film it gets, she said, but with Juno, she got a call asking if Oberlin would like the film. Since she had heard good things about it and it was rated PG13, she said yes.

Still, no matter how good the movie is, the lack of customers and a sales tax problem inherited from a former board are driving the theater near the edge.

"Unfortunately, we're circling the drain," Mrs. Reiter said.

Besides the cost of films, supplies and overhead, the theater board was hit with a \$16,000 back sales tax bill about six months ago. After some negotiation, Mrs. Reiter said, the state Department of Revenue decreased its demands to \$4,700, or the amount the theater supposedly owes from 2003 when the new board took over.

The board makes \$800 monthly payments on the debt, which would be great, Mrs. Reiter said, except the theater doesn't have that much.

"Personally," she said, "I've A few movies only cost \$100, but never gone off and left anyone hanging owing money in my life, and it really, really bothers me."

But for now, the shows will go on while the board tries to figure out (See MOVIES on Page 10A)

Annualegghunt set for Saturday The Oberlin Lions Club will

hold its annual Easter-egg hunt for kids in City Park this Sat-Jack Benton, with the Lions,

said the hunt for candy will start at 1 p.m., with youngsters divided into four age groups, 1-2, 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8.

The Lions will "seed" the area near the picnic shelter with candy before each group is let loose to pick up whatever they

The candy is being donated by Mountain Slope Masonic Lodge of Oberlin, he said.

School could house alternative classroom

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

kldavis@nwkansas.com

The Oberlin School Board heard a plan to start an alternative classroom at the high school to help students who might be flunking a class, transfer students and others who might need a different way of learning during a meeting last Monday.

Superintendent Pat Cullen said he has worked on the idea for some time, trying to find a use for the former youth ranch. The first

idea for the ranch, vacated two years ago by King's Achievement Center, was a boarding school. Then the idea of using a trailer classroom the district owns for an alternative school came up.

After some discussion, said high school Principal Charles Haag, they decided the district could serve these kids in one classroom. The operation would cover not just the boys from the 180 House, an alcohol and drug addiction treatment program in Oberlin, but students transferring into the district or others who need help.

At a recent board meeting, members talked about the fact that the boys at the 180 House now use the Internet for schooling. That way, if they leave or come in the middle of the school year, it's easier to pick up where the

The board agreed to help the house with computers for the program, since the 180 House didn't have one for each boy.

What if a student transfers into the district and they took psychology at their old school? asked Mr. Haag. The high school doesn't teach that course and an alternative classroom would give that student the opportunity to finish it online.

There are kids who are flunking a class now, said Mr. Haag. This could help them.

The classroom would need a teacher and maybe one helper, he said.

 $(See\ C\bar{L}ASS\ on\ Page\ 10A)$

Couple married at old Hall

By MARY LOU OLSON

ml.olson@nwkansas.com The Old Bohemian Hall on the Decatur County Museum grounds came to life Saturday as Rhonda Workman of Wichita and 1st Lt. Brent Jennings of Topeka were married at 11:30 a.m. in the first wedding since the hall came to town, maybe the first ever.

Officiating was the Rev. Larry Parrish of Falls City, Neb., a retired Army chaplain.

"Since we both had Czech heritages, we decided it would be fun to have our wedding in the hall," said the bride. "My greatgrandfather, Charley Vacura, was on the board when the building was constructed."

The former Rhonda Fringer, she is the daughter of Rod and Pat Fringer of Oberlin. His parents are Lawrence and Lila Jennings of Jennings, and Lee and Joyce Ploussard of Oberlin. Grandmothers of the bride are Clara Fringer and Margaret Vacura of Oberlin.

"This is the first wedding held



RINGBEARER BRENDAN JENNINGS (left) watched the petals Kourtney Brumley dropped from her basket before the wedding of his father, 1st Lt. Brent Jennings, and Rhonda — Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes Workman at the Old Bohemian Hall on Saturday.

in the building since it was moved to Oberlin, but no one is sure if any weddings were held there in the early years," said museum Direc-

tor Sharleen Wurm. Frances (Coleman) Bader of

rural Jennings, who was reared near the hall, said it was the community gathering place for many years and she recalled funerals, dances, lodge meetings, church services and fiery Democrat and

Republican meetings, but no wed-

Lila (Harris) Jennings said that her two great-uncles, Henry and Williby "Bud" Harris, were the (See MARRIAGE on Page 10A)

Old burn goes wild as wind whips area

Winds whipping out of the northwest at up to 50 m.p.h. last Wednesday apparently fanned the embers of a controlled burn from three days before, sending flames racing into stubble, grass and the timber along Prairie Dog Creek.

Smoke got so heavy in Clayton, just southwest of the fire, that people were calling dispatch in Oberlin asking if they would have to evacuate, but the flames did little

Jennings Fire Chief Kerry Green said the blaze apparently began near some old hog sheds a mile north and a mile west of Clayton owned by Leonard Harris. He figured manure in pits under the shed had smoldered until the wind came up.

"I went out there and checked it Tuesday and there wasn't any smoke," he said.

The fire raced through corn stubble owned by Harold Mizell and grass belonging to Max Ward. Some of the Conservation Reserve

grass was over three feet tall and thick from years of growth, Mr. Green said. The first call on the blaze came in about 11:30 a.m., said Decatur County Chief Bill Cathcart. Oberlin volunteers went home about 7:45

p.m., but Jennings firemen were out

past 10 p.m. Chief Green said it got to bed about midnight after hours of putting out hot spots in downed and dead trees along the creek.

Firemen had the flames contained within a half hour, he said, but it took much longer to put the smoking trees out. A county bulldozer operator pushed them over so firemen could spray them.

You hate it when it gets into the creek like that," Mr. Green said, "but that does slow the wind down.'

While firemen fought the blaze, he said, farmers used disks and a bulldozer to create fire breaks, holding the blaze to the timber. In all, Chief Cathcart said, 14 trucks from Oberlin Norcatur, Jennings and Norton turned out. Water tankers were set up in Mr. Ward's yard along the county line north of Clayton.

Both chiefs said Clayton was never in any danger, though smoke blowing in from the creek was heavy at times.

Ironically, when dispatchers called to get the forecast for the fire crew, National Weather Service officials in Goodland said they were just issuing a "red flag" fire warning because of the sudden wind. It was a little late, Chief Cathcart said, but accurate.

*Movies need viewers

(Continued from Page 1A) what to do.

This weekend, the schedule will change with "The Bucket List" starring Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman showing three times, at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday night and at 2 p.m. on Sunday. Then next week, the theater will go into summer hours of 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and no Sunday movie with "Jumper," an action adventure popular with young people.

Mrs. Reiter can be found at the theater at almost every showing, as can board member Duane Dorshorst. They help the volunteers, mostly from area clubs, deal with ticket sales and pop popcorn and run the projector.

Other board members are Kala Bose, Jan Badsky, Susan May and Butch Rittmann.

Groups that volunteer at the theater include the Oberlin Rotary Club, the Maverick and Stick-to-It 4-H clubs, St. John's Lutheran Church Youth Fellowship, Monday Evening Club, the National Honor Society, Decatur Co-op, the Oberlin Swim Club, the Decatur County emergency medical technicians and U.S. Department of Agriculture

Health Fair to provide **blood tests**

The Decatur County Health Department will be drawing blood next month for cut-rate tests offered along with the county Health Fair at the beginning of May.

Administrator Marilyn Gamblin said workers will draw blood from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, April 1 and 2, at the department office on West Columbia Avenue, next to the medical clinic.

Anyone interested in the tests should call the department at 475-8118. Anyone who wants to have the tests needs to be fasting - eat nothing, drink only water after midnight the day they come

The department will do a blood profile, which will test cholesterol,

The results will be given out during the health fair on Thursday, May 2, at The Gateway.

Club sponsors poker tourney

Have you ever wanted to try your hand at the wildly popular game, Texas Hold-em Poker?

If so, the Oberlin Mavericks Corp. will give you a chance in a tournament starting at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 5, at the Oberlin American Legion Hall. The tournament is the first for the organization, founded by Bert Cool, Jeanne Pachner, Barb Beisner, Larry and Marilyn Mack.

Adonation of \$30 to enter is suggested, with prizes to be announced. The group plans to give the money raised to a local charity or charities, said Mr. Cool.

Anyone 21 or older can join in by making a reservation. Call the American Legion at 475-3207 and give your name and number, call Larry Mack at 475-2495 or register online at www.oberlinmavericks.





EXCHANGING VOWS during their wedding Saturday at the Old chaplain. The service may have been the first for the historic hall, and Bohemian Hall were Rhonda Workman and 1st Lt. Brent Jennings. certainly was the first since it was moved to the museum. Officiating was the Rev. Larry Parrish of Falls City, Neb., a retired Army

- Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

*Marriage could have been a first for Bohemian Hall

contractors who built the hall in 1906. Lodge members helped with the project. The two men also built and sold numerous houses in Jennings, she said.

Judy (Mangold) Ploussard, mother of the bridegroom, was reared at Allison and she said that she and her sister Bobby often accompanied their parents, John and Anna Mangold, to the hall and they learned to

Among Czech ancestors of the bridal

couple are the Krizek, Fiala and Vacura

Margaret (Krizek) Vacura of Oberlin, grandmother of the bride, said she remembers well the fun they had when she was growing up attending dances, lodge meetings and other events at the hall.

"I especially remember the Christmas parties, which followed the lodge meeting in December, and also the time Lawrence Welk played there," she said.

The bride said that both she and her hus-

band graduated from Decatur Community High School but they really never started dating until they met at the alumni banquet in May 2007. He was stationed at Fort Riley at the time and she lives in Wichita, so they did most of their "courting" with telephone calls and e-mails. This is the second marriage for both.

The bride's daughter and son, Andrea and Morgan Workman, walked her down the aisle. Kourtney Brumley, a niece of the bride, was flower girl, and the bridegroom's

Andrea Workman and her friend, Jacob Locke, of Wichita sang "The Gift."

A luncheon and reception followed the ceremony. The bridegroom's sister, Tammy Musgrave, and her daughter, Erin, cut the cake. Others helping with the serving were Kim Brumley, sister of the bride, and Janell Slater and Kris Ruge. That night, the bridegroom's brother, Brett Jennings of rural Oberlin, honored them with a barbecue at his farm home.

Tree board to ask for money for nursery

The Oberlin City Council will hear from the city Tree Board when it convenes at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the downstairs meeting room at The Gateway.

City Administrator Gary Shike said that Gary Walter from the tree board wants to ask the council for money to start a small nursery and plant more trees around town.

At 7 p.m., he said, Mayor Joe Stanley hopes to recess the meeting so that the council members and audience can attend a regional meeting downstairs of the Kansas Association of Counties.

Decatur County Clerk Marilyn Horn said that the meeting is one of several being held around the state. This one will include officials from the 15 northwest Kansas counties, she said.

Decatur County officials also plan to take a little time to go over local issues, such as the airport,

City OKs use of lot for sale

After some discussion, the Oberlin City Council decided to allow an Oberlin woman permission to use the land at the old port of entry at the U.S. 36-U.S. 83 intersection, but not the building, for a garage sale for a \$20 fee.

City Administrator Gary Shike said at the meeting March 6 that a woman whose daughter-in-law wanted to use the site for a garage sale on Friday and Saturday, March 21 and 22, had called, and he told the woman he needed to talk with the council.

Mayor Joe Stanley said he didn't see a problem. Mr. Shike said the only problem he could see was that others might want to use the land as well.

It could be a continuous garage sale, said Councilman Rob McFee. The city could charge rent, said Mayor Stanley. In the past, the council has said

it doesn't want people parking cars for sale on the land, said Mr. Shike. That was continuous use, said Councilwoman Rhonda May, and this is for a two-day sale. The woman did say they would

set up the items on Friday, said Mr. Shike, clean them up that night and then reset the sale on Saturday.

Maybe, said Ms. May, the city should try it and see if it works. She said she isn't excited about the idea, but doesn't really have a reason to sav no.

Councilman Ray Ward said he'd go for the plan with the stipulation that the women clean everything up afterwards and the sale is strictly outside, not in the building.

A motion was made to allow the sale. Ms. May made an amendment that no event could last more than three days and there will be a \$20 fee for each event at the old port, once used as a state weigh and inspection station for motor carriers.

thyroid, blood count and liver function, and a prostate cancer test for *Class could help problem students

(Continued from Page 1A)

with the students in fifth through seventh grade, but high school students want to have jobs over the successful. summer. These students need help today, not six weeks later.

Cullen, the plan was to use the they need to be in the alternative ranch, but with transportation and the cost of getting the building ready, it might be better to set up in on students with in-school suspenthe high school.

There are some kids who just can't go to a school with rigorous academics and make it, he said.

Are these students with behavioral problems? asked board President Dewayne Jackson.

That's the old definition of an alternative school, said Mr. Haag. "So this would be more of a

glorified at-risk room?" asked Mr. The school has the special education students identified, said Mr. going, she said. Haag, and they can go to the special

help in another area. So the students wouldn't need an individual education plan? asked member Dan Grafel. No, not with at-risk kids, said Mr. Haag.

education room. Maybe this would

The district needs to bring staff Summer school, he added, helps into the plant to get active in this, said Dr. Cullen. That is the only way something like this can be

The students could take some of their classes in the regular class-When this idea started, said Dr. room, said Mr. Haag, but maybe room for a couple of classes.

> Mr. Jackson said he was still stuck sion. Is this where they would go, too? he asked.

> No, said Mr. Haag, those students go in a windowless room behind his office. This is not the same thing, he said. It wouldn't be a punishment. This class would be a place the students could go to learn.

It sounds a little broad, said member Barbara Olson, but if you can make it work, it sounds good. It also makes sense not to put money into the buildings at the ranch to get this

Dr. Cullen said the district is looking at 10 to 12 students that the alternative class would serve all the time, with possibly 30 total who would get help through this class. The money will have to come out of general or at-risk funds, he said.





















07 CHEVY UPLANDER EXT #9886 3.9 V6, LS













Bernie



96 CHEVY 1500 EXT. CAB #3458 Silverado, 5.0, V8



GMC We Are Professional Grade! 866-534-1422 **CAMBRIDGE, NEBR.** LOCAL 308-697-4661 · www.berniejonesgmc.com



