

High school has new football coach

By **JIM MERRIOTT**
jimmerriott@nwkansas.com
 Jacob Donald "J.D." Johnson of Minneola has been hired as head football coach and social studies teacher at Decatur Community High School, replacing Trevor Williams, who is leaving for an assistant coaching job at Chapman High School.

Johnson has been an assistant coach and social studies teacher in Minneola, in Clark County just south of Dodge City, for seven years.

He said he had coached all seven years in Minneola, and was defensive coordinator five years for the Wildcats. The last two years, he has been the junior high head football coach. This will be his first high school head coaching position.

Johnson said he attended Es-kridge/Mission Valley High School southwest of Topeka. He attended Dodge City Community College, where he played football, and re-

ceived a bachelor's degree in education from Newman University in Wichita.

He and his wife Rachel have been married 10 years, he said, and have two daughters, Madelaine, 7, and Gabberial, 4. Madelaine will attend Oberlin Elementary School in the fall.

The family will move to Oberlin after summer school in Minneola, he said, some time after the first of July.

"I am very excited," said Johnson. "(Principal Charles) Haag and (Athletic Director Joe) Dreher have told me we have a great bunch of kids."

"I plan on bringing enthusiasm to the program. I would like to teach smart, aggressive football. Hopefully we will run the veer-option offense and spread things out."

"As a defensive coach, I want to teach aggressive, hard-nosed football with hopes of running a 4-4 and 5-3 defense. I look forward to the challenge."



AT THE MUSEUM last week, Daniel Smith, 83, and his daughter, Nora Love, looked at a map of the Last Indian Raid.

Mr. Smith is a great-grandson of a survivor from the raid.
 — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Man's great-grandfather survived raid

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
kldavis@nwkansas.com
 The great-grandson of a man killed in the Last Indian Raid visited the Decatur County Museum last week to look at pictures of his relatives, relive the stories he heard as a child and check out a map of the raid.

Daniel R. Smith, 83, of Long Beach, Calif., came through Oberlin last Tuesday on his way to Colorado with his wife Daisy and their daughter, Nora Love.

Mr. Smith said his great-grandfather, James Smith, had been killed in the raid, when a band of Cheyenne led by Chiefs Dull Knife and Little Wolf passed through the area in September 1878. His grandfather, Watson Smith, survived and passed down stories about the day to his family.

Mr. Smith said his grandfather died before he got to know him, but that didn't mean he didn't have a chance to tell about what happened that fall day.

According to the family, said Mr.



Daniel Smith

Smith, his great-grandfather and grandfather were in the hay field that day with John C. Hudson. The men were putting up hay, said Mr. Smith, adding that he figures it was a pretty good sized field.

The band of Indians was coming towards the men, said Mr. Smith. His grandfather went to jump on one of the horses in the extra team. (The men working had two teams of horses, one to use and one to let rest.)

Watson Smith, said Mr. Smith, was met by an Indian coming at him with a gun. He was shot in the face, but wasn't killed and put a pitch fork through the chest of the Indian.

"I guess he had that wound on his face forever," he added.

Watson Smith died of cancer on a farm outside of Lebanon years later.

Mr. Smith said his great-grandfather and Mr. Hudson were killed in the field that day.

He said his father was born in Traer, but then the family moved to Colorado. His father's youngest sister gathered up all the history on the family, he said, adding that this was the family's fourth time to stop at the Last Indian Raid Museum in Oberlin.

City wants state to add to highways

The Oberlin City Council approved a resolution urging Kansas legislators to approve a new statewide transportation program and making some recommendations on road issues.

At a meeting Thursday, April 17, Mayor Joe Stanley said the Kansas League of Municipalities had sent the proposed resolution to the city. It had areas to fill in, including what the council would like the state to do on the roads in this area.

The resolution, said City Administrator Gary Shike, will then be sent on to the area's legislators, Rep. John Faber of Brewster and Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer of Grinnell.

The council approved the resolution, with priorities for the city including airport improvements, geometric improvement projects to finish rebuilding U.S. 36 from Penn Avenue on east and turning both U.S. 36 and U.S. 83 into four-lane highways.

School board hires firm for energy audit

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
kldavis@nwkansas.com
 The Oberlin School Board hired a consulting firm to do an energy audit on the buildings in the district, hoping to save some money on power and heating bills.

After hearing presentations at its regular meeting Tuesday, April 15, from three firms, the board decided to hire Johnson Controls, which sent representatives from Omaha, Lenexa and Topeka, for a \$10,000 fee, though the work proposed by the firm will cost closer to \$1 million.

The other firms were TAC Americas of Lenexa and Custom Energy Services of Overland Park.

The district's energy consumption is around \$100,000 a year. A 25 percent savings would be around \$25,000.

After hearing similar presentations from each of the companies, all of which proposed changing lights to help save money, the board voted to choose Johnson.

Each presentation, said member Dan Nedland, was different. Really, said member Barb Olson, the board isn't choosing a project, but a company to work with.

Ryan Freed with the Kansas Energy Commission from Topeka, said it's obvious that Kenny Black, district facilities maintenance supervisor, has done a good job.

said Mr. Black, adding that his crew could replace the lights.

So the district doesn't need an energy audit? asked Member Chris Bailey. No, said Mr. Black, the crew can do the work.

Dr. Cullen said he thinks the district needs to do the energy audit. The consultants know things that the administration doesn't, he said. For \$10,000, said Dr. Cullen, the district is paying for a lot of expertise. With the size of this project, he added he would rather have a consultant come in.

The district could do this work over the next five years, said Mr. Black.

The board didn't want to put a porch on the high school without a plan, said Dr. Cullen, and the board shouldn't take on a half a million-dollar project without a plan.

In the past nine years, he said, he's done two of these projects, said Dr. Cullen.

Mr. Nedland said he was most comfortable with Johnson. The company, noted member Dan Grafel, has an office in Kearney, Neb., only a couple of hours away.

Dr. Cullen said he has worked with Johnson before, but it was with different people. The company has a good reputation, he said.

students of the week

We've nominated these students because: A student here could not afford a prom dress and when I asked these girls if they had any extra dresses they could let her borrow, they both came through without question or judgment.



Name: Kenzie Fisher
Parents: Kendal and Angie Fisher
Grade: 12
Age: 18
Student Comment: I am very excited and honored that I was chosen for Student of the week.
Activities involved in at school: STUCO, Drama

Club, TACT, Science Club, Spanish Club, Kayettes, Music, Volleyball, Basketball, Golf, Band, Senior Class President.

My choice of movies, books, and games: Movies: Drama, action, romance and comedy. Books: Pretty much anything fiction. Games: Guitar Hero, Singstar.

After I leave Decatur Community High School I intend to ...: go to the University of Nebraska at Kearney to major in Music Performance.

And 10 years from now, I think I'll be ...: at a job I love, with a husband and kids.

Favorite Quote: "A man is only as big as the dreams he dares to dream."

student of the week



Name: Alex Ortiz
Parents: Debra Lohoefer (Foster parent)
Grade: 10
Age: 17
We've nominated this student because: She is a hard working, always has assignments turned in and very serious

about doing well with her work. She also works at Addleman's after school. She manages her time well.

Student Comment: I am very excited to be picked as the student of the week!

Activities involved in at school: Volleyball, Spanish Club, Track and Kayettes.

My choice of movies, books, and games: I like scary and funny movies. I like mystery books and I like action sports like volleyball, dodgeball and hockey.

After I leave Decatur Community High School I intend to ...: To go to college and hopefully start my own business.

And 10 years from now, I think I'll be ...: Be done with college and have a good job.

Favorite Quote: "Live today as if it were your last."



Name: Rebecca Helm
Parents: Michael and Debra Helm
Grade: 12

Age: 18
Student Comment: I was just happy to help a friend.

Activities involved in at school: Cross Country, TACT, Drama Club, Scholar Bowl, National Honor Society, Kayettes.

My choice of movies, books, and games: Catalyst - book, Card games.

After I leave Decatur Community High School I intend to ...: Go to K-State and major in Chemical Engineering.

And 10 years from now, I think I'll be ...: A drug researcher.

Fund raiser planned for park

Mark your calendars for Monday to help support improvements at Sappa Park at a planned Cinco de Mayo picnic.

Decatur Tomorrow will host a community forum and picnic started at 6 p.m. in Centennial Park downtown.

People will have a chance to hear from all of the committees working at Sappa Park, including what's been done already and the future plans.

The picnic, celebrating the tra-

ditional Mexican holiday, will also be a fund raiser for park efforts, featuring "walking tacos" and live music.

Everyone is invited to bring their lawn chairs, sit and listen to the music and have a bite to eat, said Kem Bryan with Decatur Tomorrow. For the kids, the Decatur Tomorrow park committee will provide piñatas at 7 p.m.

The event will run from until 8 p.m.

DRUG STORE
Addleman
 137 S. Penn - Oberlin - 785-475-2661

DRUG STORE
Addleman
 137 S. Penn - Oberlin - 785-475-2661