

## Enrollment drops 26 in a year

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**  
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The Oberlin School District dropped 26 students in the overall count from last year to this year, a decline of about 6 percent.

Superintendent Pat Cullen said on the official state count day, Monday, Sept. 22, Decatur Community High School had 178 students. Last year the school had 202 students, for a decrease of 24 kids, or 12 percent.

"That's a pretty good drop," he said.

At Oberlin Elementary School, however, the numbers just about stayed the same with 207 students last year and 205 this year.

The grade school lost some kids over the weekend just before count day, said Dr. Cullen, but that's just how it goes sometimes.

This year's budget, he said, was done with the idea the district would have 370 students. The district actually has 380, 10 more than projected.

Where the drop of 26 kids is really going to hurt is during budget time next year, he said. The district uses a three-year average to figure the budget, and the drop of 26 kids is going to hurt. For every student, said

Dr. Cullen, the district receives at least the state minimum of \$4,400. Depending on the needs of the child and the weight that goes along with that, the district gets an average of \$7,000 each.

A drop of better than 20 students, he said, depending on the weighting of each one, it could mean \$100,000 less in state money come next year. Or more.

Dr. Cullen said a lot of the decline is from the district graduating bigger classes than it brings in. The positive news is that it looks like things might be leveling out a little.

When the kindergarten class is the same size as the district average of 30, he said, that's good news. This year the kindergarten has 29 students, said Dr. Cullen.

Besides graduating large classes, last year the district had 40 graduates in May, one of the largest classes in recent years.

This trend isn't anything new, he said. It's typical of rural America and rural school districts. There just aren't the jobs and other elements in the economy to attract people who have kids to come live here, said Dr. Cullen.

## Men make plans for training spot at former ranch

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**  
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A retired colonel and an active National Guard member are working on a plan to turn the former youth ranch at Sappa Park into the Northwest Kansas Multi-Agency Training Center.

Randy McHugh, Decatur County undersheriff and a National Guard sergeant, and retired Col. Gary Allen held a meeting about the idea to build a first-responder training center last Tuesday.

The meeting brought out Sheriff Ken Badsky, county Commissioners Stan McEvoy and Ralph Unger, ambulance director Linda

Manning, Connie Grafel of the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp., City Council members Marcia Lohofener, Jay Anderson and Rhonda May, business owner Rusty Addleman, state Rep. John Faber, the Rev. Doug Hasty of the Oberlin United Methodist Church, Patti Skubal, county emergency management director, and Lee "Doc" Franklin, a candidate for county commissioner.

The Kansas National Guard, said Mr. McHugh, is putting a training hub in Salina and then will build four "spokes" to the hub around the state. The Oberlin site could be a (See MEN on Page 10A)

## Crops not ready for county harvest

A trickle of fall crops has been harvested and brought to elevators in Decatur County in the past few weeks, but with wheat drilling going on and Monday's rain, officials think harvest won't really start for at least a week.

At the Decatur Co-op, General Manager Kurt Anderson said they've had one or two loads of corn and a few soybeans. It's still early for fall harvest to start, he said.

Most farmers are still trying to get their wheat planting finished up before they start harvesting the fall crops, he said.

Before Monday's rain, Mr. Anderson added, he would have thought fall harvest would have started in a week to 10 days. Now it will be later.

At the co-op, said Mr. Anderson, they have made a little room for the fall crops by shipping out quite a bit of wheat. Also, he said, they have added a bunker at the crop production site east of town, on the south side of U.S. 36, to hold the fall crops. A new facility at the Danbury elevator should be ready for harvest, said Mr. Anderson, and the co-op recently purchased the elevator in Norcatour.

Janice O'Hare with Hansen Mueller Grain in Oberlin said the firm got in a little bit of milo before it rained. Some of the farmers commented last week that it would probably be two more weeks before things really start rolling, she said, but that was before the rain.

## Lions to celebrate 60 years of service

By **MARYLOU OLSON**  
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Past District Gov. Marvin Greenberg of Smith Center will speak when the Oberlin Lions Club celebrates its 60th anniversary on Sunday at The Gateway.

Mr. Greenberg is a 25-year member of the Smith Center Lions

Club, but originally joined Lions at Brewster, where he served as president in 1968. He is a native of Selden, where he graduated from high school, and a retired elementary principal and math teacher. In Lions International, he has served two terms as district governor and (See LIONS on Page 10A)



**FIGHTING THE WIND**, Don Lafferty (above) tried to start his tractor to load it Sunday after the Mini Sappa Antique Thresher and Engine Show ended early because of bad weather. On Saturday, a man (below) shopped with one of the vendors. Sarah Orr (bottom) wiped off her Chevy Corvette on Sunday before she headed home.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

## Crowd attends show

By **MARYLOU OLSON**  
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A crowd of antique lovers enjoyed old engines, machinery, automobiles, crafts, demonstrations and much more on Saturday and Sunday at the 28th Annual Mini Sappa Antique Thresher and Engine Show at the Decatur County Fairground.

Entries were up this year, with 118, 28 more than last year's show. There were 32 tractors, 35 engines, 16 mowers, 29 cars, one motorcycle and five equipment displays.

Danae West sang the National Anthem before the parade on Saturday. The colors were presented by the Rawlins County Veterans of Foreign Wars Post of Herndon. Jim Plotts spoke at a nondenominational church service in the 4-H lunchroom on Sunday morning.

Displays included machine threshing, a sawmill, corn shelling, stationary hay baling and burr mill demonstrations. Merl Moler of Denver won a quilt in the raffle and Chuck Wagner of Colby won a pedal combine.

The top five tractors on Saturday included a John Deere binder and 1947 John Deere D, owned by George and LaDonna Brown, Jetmore; a 1938 John Deere B, Raymond and Ruth Griffith, Phillipsburg; 1951 Minneapolis/Moline, Dan Lippelmann, Oberlin; 1957 IHC 450, Everett Shuler, Oberlin; and a 1943 Allis Chalmers, Norman Wendel, Alma.

Top five tractor winners on Sunday included a 1959 Allis Chalmers D 17 owned by Gary D. Orr, Oberlin; a 1942 Farmall H, Toby Griffith, Glade; a 1947 Farmall M, Everett Shuler, Oberlin; a 1948 Case D, Lowell Holmberg, Oberlin; and a 1956 Ferguson TO 85, Elden Huff, Lebanon, Neb.

The top five cars/pickups on Saturday were a 1947 Ford pickup, Bill Farland, St. Francis; a 1972 Ford Mustang, Kevin Butts, Goodland; a 1939 Ford pickup, Pete Jensen Jr., St. Francis; a 1950 Ford F-5 truck, Tom J. Solko, Herndon; and a 1929 Ford Model A, Joe and Jill Samson, Ludell.

The Sunday winners were a 1981 Chevy Corvette, Sarah Orr, Oberlin; a 1965 Chevy Corvette, Gary Orr; a 1928 Whippet Coach, Jim Marshall, Oberlin; 1941 Ford Business Coupe, Ray Kircher, Oberlin; and 1991 Cushman Truckster Police Car, Tom J. Solko, Herndon.

Winners in the Card Cruise were Griffin/Green Machine, first; Gary Orr, second. In the Stock Garden Tractor



Pull, Glenn Hoffman, Hays, placed first and second, with Nolan Draper, Atwood, third.

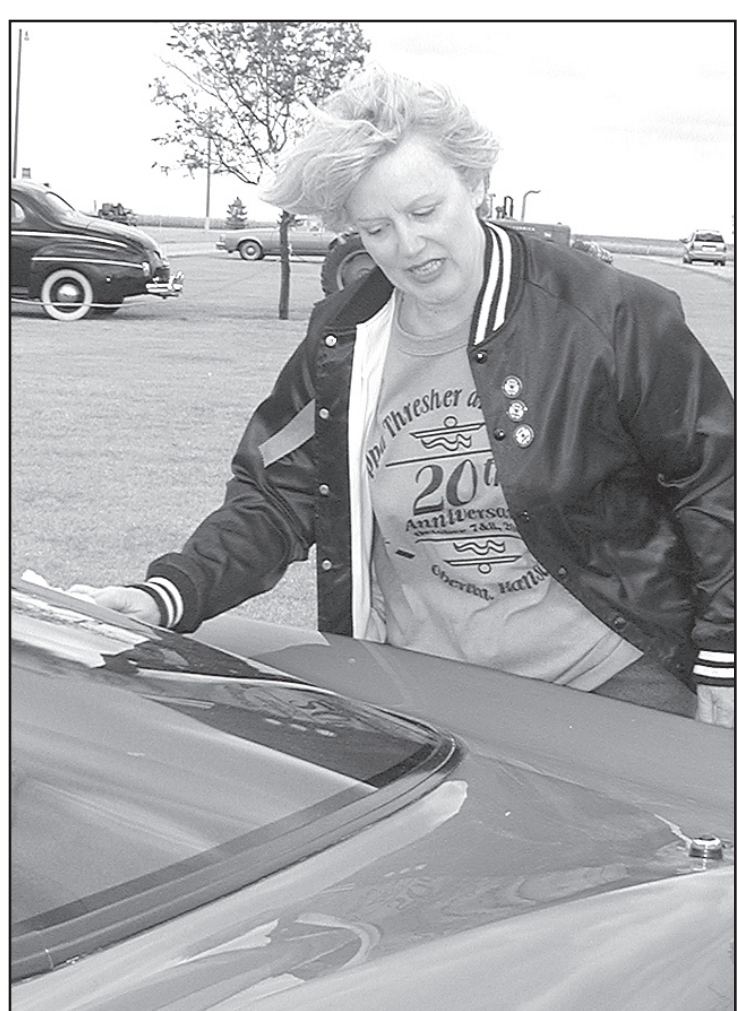
Brandon Vacura, 3, won first in the Kids Pedal Tractor Pull for ages 3 to 6, with Brynna Addleman-Gillund second. Matt Vacura took first for ages 7-9. Danae West was first in the 10-11 category with Kolton Griffith second and Cassidy West, third.

Twenty-one quilts were entered in the quilt show, along with 10 wall hangings and three miscellaneous. Maxine Wright won "Best of Show" with a lavender cross-stitch entry pieced by her mother, the late Avilda Frick. Her prize, quilt batting, was donated by Kristi's Quilt Farm of Atwood. Mrs. Wright also won second place with a double wedding ring quilt, also pieced by her mother. She won a quilt puzzle from Country Quilting Keepsakes of Oberlin.

There were seven vendors with 15 tables indoors and two outdoor vendors and 10 tables, with representatives from Kansas and Nebraska.

"We introduced a new show favorite, ham salad sandwiches," said Penny Fringer, who was in charge of the concessions. "The pork feed (Saturday night) prepared by Gordon and Del Hawkins of Atwood, went well.

The Capella Nova Brass Quartet, part of the Oberlin Community



Band, played during the feed. The event is held the first weekend of October each year. Officers are Elden Huff, president; Doug West, vice president; Reva Marshall, secretary; and Maxine Wright, treasurer.

# \*Men want local spot for training

(Continued from Page 1A) spoke down the line, he said. The center here would provide a place for first responders in the 18 county region to train, Mr. McHugh said, and that would cut down on travel for people who have to head to eastern Kansas today. The facility, he said, could be used for all first responders, including law enforcement, fire fighters, ambulance crews and fire and those who serve in another emergency office. Mr. McHugh said he thinks the National Guard is looking for a town that will take an interest and help build the center. The main question is will the city and the county work together on this? said Ms. Grafel. Will the city give a minimal-cost lease for the land? she asked, adding that this project can't really move forward without both the city and county being on board. This plan includes just the area around the former youth ranch and those buildings, said Mr. McHugh. He said he could see other parts of the park being used for training sometimes, but said the group isn't about taking over the park. This training center would be something that everyone in the area could use, he said. Another thing the county needs to do, he said, is get the fire reports from Decatur County sent to the state. Without those reports being sent in, said Mr. McHugh, it could be hard to get grants for the project. There's a concrete pad at the ranch that could be used for metal containers for training, he said, and other areas that could and would be used. The buildings have a dining hall and sleeping quarters. Mr. McHugh said the facility could be used for camps for kids as well as a training center. In the first 36 to 48 hours of any emergency, said Mr. McHugh, it is going to just be the local people handling things, and they need to be trained for that. Right now, the youth ranch area is going to waste, said Mr. McHugh, but it should never be sold. There is some question, said Mr. McHugh, about needing to do an environmental impact study for the project. Ms. May suggested he call the city's engineers, Miller and Associates. Rep. Faber said he would also help in any way he can, as he is familiar with economic and environmental impact statements.

## A day at the park



AT SAPPAPARK on Saturday, Robert Groneweg checked some of the meat he was cooking during the Up in Smoke barbecue cook-off sponsored by the Oberlin American Legion Post on Saturday. The meat was sold that evening for dinner at the park. Ten teams signed up for the cook-off.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

# \*Lions Club to celebrate 60 years

(Continued from Page 1A) is a Melvin Jones Fellow and a Key member.

Dr. Arris Johnson of Hays, a charter member of the Oberlin club, also plans to attend. He is a native of Kanona, a 1939 graduate of Decatur Community High School and a former band instructor in Oberlin.

A chicken fried steak meal with all the trimmings will be served at 6 p.m. for \$12. For an additional \$3, a 60th anniversary souvenir key ring will be available. Other clubs are invited to help members celebrate. Call Jack Benton by today to register.

The Norton Lions Club sponsored club in Oberlin when it was formed. Meetings are held the first and third Mondays of every month.

Annual activities of the Oberlin club included a \$1,000 scholarship to a high school senior; sending two band students to Kansas Lions Band (this year they sent four); working the merry-go-round at the Decatur County Fair; serving the Christmas opening supper downtown after Thanksgiving; buying candy for kids who visit Santa; serving hot dogs and apples at the high school Halloween Cleanup; putting out Easter candy for the Easter Egg



A. Johnson



M. Greenberg

Hunt in City Park; distributing Prairie Land food; doing highway clean-up; operating a concession stand at the summer recreation ball park; serving dinner at the Oberlin Invitational Wrestling Tournament; selling and taking tickets at home athletic events (saving the school district \$1,100 to \$1,400 each year); and upkeep on the ball parks. The club has purchased three bleachers, built a 24-foot bleacher for the small ball diamond, replaced the back stop fence at the big diamond and 12 feet of the outfield fence, helped with the purchase of the scoreboards and painting and repairing fences each year.

Among major projects are building and keeping up the Oberlin sign south of town, building a ramp at the 4-H building at the fairgrounds,

building the picnic shelter in City Park near the swimming pool and helping insulate and sheet rock the Bohemian Hall after it was moved to the museum.

In addition, the club helps people around the world by collecting eye glasses and hearing aids for developing countries, giving money for the Leader Dog School for the Blind and Disabled and contributing to Kansas Sight First, which has a mobile bus that has come to Oberlin for screenings.

Present officers are Boyd Wilson, president; Connie Miller, secretary; and Jack Benton, treasurer. Other members are Chris and Karen Bailey, Frank Black, Marilyn Gamblin, Wayne Goltl, Steve Hirsch, Eldon Huntley, Gaylen Huntley, Brad Marcuson, Charlotte Strecker-Baseler and Mory Zodrow.

The club was chartered Sept. 23, 1948, when 160 men and women met at the Masonic Temple in Oberlin. Dr. Don McCoy was master of ceremonies and Mayor Earl Sproul welcomed the club to Oberlin.

Guest speaker was International Lions President Eugene Briggs of Enid, Okla. Dr. Johnson led group singing, accompanied by his wife, Virginia, and Ted Adleman sang a

solo, "Without a Song." The Rev. Donald Hobbs gave the invocation.

H.W. "Barney" McClure was the first president and Guy Allen was secretary. The charter was presented to the club president by District Gov. Glea Gillum.

Charter members included Ward Sauvage, Jack Miller, Dr. McCoy, Alvin Wenger, Frank Golden, Harold Robison, Joe Corcoran, Lyman Kathka, Don Claussen, Jim O'Toole, Everett Chastain, Frank Cameron, Ralph Claar, Elmer Carman, Wilbur Hunter, Joe Brown, Arris Johnson, Dean Fringer, Elmer Brown, Charlie Corcoran, Roderick Avery, Don Fredrickson, Francis Anderson, Donald Anderson, Mr. McClure, Mr. Allen, Aldevered Metcalf, Keith Nicodemus, the Rev. Douglas Barnes, James Logan, Dr. John Rummel, Keith Sauvage and Jeff Woodruff.

Lions International is the world's largest service club organization, with nearly 1.4 million members in 190 countries who volunteer their time and energy to serve their communities.

# County to pay debt for only 10 years

The Decatur County commissioners talked with a lawyer from the bond firm, Gilmore and Bell, about general obligation bonds to pay for a new senior center during their meeting last Tuesday, agreeing that the county will only be in debt for 10 years.

Garth Herrmann said the county won't actually make a payment on the bond issue until November 2010, although a \$15,000 payment will be due next year for interest.

"If the county can't swing that," said Commissioner Ralph Unger, "we're in trouble."

Later, commissioners opened bids for a truck for the noxious weed department and road and bridge to share to spray weeds along and on roads. They decided to buy a 2008 Dodge pickup for \$26,978 from Taylor Motors of Colby. After a call to the company, though, the commissioners found out the truck had been sold.

A representative from Taylor called after lunch with a different 2008 Dodge truck that met the specifications for the same price. Mr. Unger called Commissioner Stan McEvoy and the men approved the purchase.

The other bids came from:

- Brooks Ford of Oxford, Neb., for a 2009 Ford for \$21,900.
- Faw Motors of Cambridge, Neb., for a 2005 Chevy at 19,454.
- Faw Motors of Arapahoe, Neb., for a 2008 Dodge at \$34,450, a 2008 Dodge at \$31,350 and a 2008 Dodge at \$26,700.
- Hays Chevrolet for a 2009 Chevy at \$21,228.
- Lewis Toyota Ford of Hays for a 2009 Ford at \$24,549.
- Matteson Motors of Phillipsburg for a 2009 Dodge at 24,750 and a 2009 Dodge at \$30,000.
- Money Chevrolet of Hill City for a 2009 Chevy at \$21,068 and a 2009 Chevy at \$27,536.
- Ralph Baird Motors of Larned for a 2006 Ford at \$22,800, one at \$26,395 and one at \$29,081.
- Stellar Sales for a 2006 Dodge at \$17,900.
- Tubbs & Sons Ford Sales of Colby for a 2008 Truck at \$21,619.

Although the pick-up cost a little more than some of the other bids, it comes with a new flatbed installed, which is what the department heads wanted on the truck. It is also the diesel, standard transmission, which was wanted, said Mr. Unger.

# People can vote for top art

People have the chance to vote for the top "8 Wonders of Kansas Art" until next Wednesday.

The 16 finalists were released in the *Kansas Traveler* news sheet's fall edition. On the list are all of Pete Felten's work statewide, including

the Pioneer Family statue on Main Street in Oberlin. The limestone statue is the piece by Mr. Felten shown in the news sheet.

People can vote until midnight next Wednesday at 8wonders.org.

# Horse enthusiasts plan a trail ride

By KAREN KRIEN

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Round up your horse and saddle up for the 17th Cheyenne County Trail Ride, which starts at 2 p.m. sharp on Sunday and will last about 2 1/2 hours at the Kelly and Penny Gienger farm, 10.2 miles north of St. Francis.

Last year, the weather turned cold and the ride was rained out. The coordinators say they hope for better weather this year. If the weather is bad on Sunday, though, the ride will be held the following Sunday, Oct. 19, same place, same time.

Gary Cooper, one of the coordinators, said this ride will cover more rough terrain than some of the others.

"There will be very little flat land and one water crossing," he said.

Those on the ride will also be able to donate to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

"Donations will be accepted for the kids who would like to saddle up but can't," said coordinator Sharon Olofson.

Two years ago, a ride northeast of St. Francis drew fewer people, but Mr. Cooper said that was probably because of the cool, damp weather and the price of fuel. He said he is hoping for

more people this year — anywhere from 90 to 124 riders.

To reach the starting point from St. Francis, turn north on Benton Street off U.S. 36 and travel 3 miles to a set of transformers, go around the curve northeast, then north 7.2 miles to Road H, about 10 miles. Turn east for half a mile, then turn left and follow the lane to the parking area.

From Benkelman, Neb., go 13 miles west on U.S. 34 to Road 15 (Mills Hereford Ranch sign), then south 7.8 miles to Road Y, turn east and go half a mile, then turn left and follow the lane to the parking area.

From Haigler, Neb., go 8 miles east on U.S. 34 to Road 15 (Mills Hereford Ranch sign), then south. Signs will be posted at various points.

During the ride, members of the Cheyenne County Historical Society will provide refreshments. Afterward, the 4-H Horse Club will serve a barbecue with the meat prepared by Doug Ross.

For information, call Mr. Cooper at (785) 332-2904, Mrs. Olofson at 332-2248, Gail Yonkey at 332-2488, Joe Hoffman at 332-2154 or Todd Krien at 332-3246.

# People still have time to register to vote here

The last day to register to vote in the upcoming November election is coming right up, and if you're not registered, you only have about 10 days to get on the list.

The registration books will be open until 9 p.m. Monday, Oct. 20, in the Decatur County clerk's office.

Clerk Marilyn Horn, who is also the county election officer, said anyone who has moved needs to re-register, even if they have previously been registered. Anyone who changed their name because of marriage don't have

to re-register, she said, but those who have changed their last name in court do. For example, said Mrs. Horn, if someone got a divorce and went back to their maiden name, they need to re-register.

If you have never registered to vote, you need to bring in a Social Security card or driver's license, she said.

Advance ballots for the general election will be available on Tuesday, Oct. 21, and people can go to the clerk's office to vote early or have the ballot mailed to them.

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