



AT THE KOERPERICH BOOKBINDERY in Selden, brothers Chris and Don Koerperich (above right) looked at color options for book covers. Dallas Koerperich (below) worked on putting a hard cover together. This maroon sign (bottom) hangs next

## Books bound in Selden

By KIMBERLY DAVIS  
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What may look like stacks of papers to some looks like books in the making to the Koerperich brothers.

Near the front door of Koerperich Bookbindery on Main Street in Selden are stacks upon stacks of white paper, waiting to be stitched together, covered with a hard front, back and spine, labeled and shipped out.

For 40 years, the family-owned business has operated in the Selden area. Chris Koerperich, who now runs the business with his brother Don, said it all started in their father Richard's garage. Chris said his Dad's uncle had a book bindery in New Mexico, and he decided to start one at the family farm north of Selden.

The business was run out of the garage and then a building opened up in town, said Don, and the operation was moved to Main Street in Selden. It's been operated from there ever since.

Chris, who lives in Oberlin, said he worked at the bindery throughout college and then started full-time in 1987. He said he decided to work at the family business full-time because it's a good one and it doesn't cost a lot to live in northwest Kansas. It's also a good place to raise a family, he said.

Don said he too worked at the business throughout high school and started full-time in 1995. He said he enjoys working and living in Selden.

All of the books start up front, said Chris, where the over-sewing machines are. The paper is stitched together, he said. If it's a book being rebound, the old binding is taken off first and then the paper is stitched together.

Threading the paper together, said Don, makes the book more durable.

End sheets are stitched on the front and the back of he book so



the cover can be glued on. Glue is put on the edges, which fill in the holes, and a piece is folded over to cover the thread. Chris said they use a rubberized glue which doesn't crack with age like others.

The edges are trimmed, too, before the book is put into a machine that makes a rounded back where the spine is going to be attached.

Then the front and back covers and the spine are put on the books and the cover is wiped down. The outside is then labeled in a different area of the shop and the books are packaged and ready to be shipped. United Parcel Service stops at the business daily to pick up orders.

**Koerperich Bookbindery Inc.**

104 N. Kansas Ave.  
Selden, KS. 67757  
785-386-4392  
www.kbindery.com

People have a choice of several hundred colors, different grains and different materials for (See FAMILY on Page 12)

## Principal takes top job with district

By KIMBERLY DAVIS  
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Oberlin Elementary School Principal Duane Dorshorst will be the next superintendent of the school district after a 7-0 vote at the board meeting Monday night.

Mr. Dorshorst sent a letter to board members last Thursday telling them that he would accept the job of principal and superintendent of the district starting July 1.

Although the letter went to board members last week, nothing was official until the board voted Monday night.

Mr. Dorshorst said the board talked to him about combining the jobs of principal and superintendent and they thought he would be the best candidate for the combined job.

At the December meeting, the board asked him if they offered him the spot if he would consider it. He said he would, but made no commitments. The board asked for a decision by the Monday meeting, although it hadn't formally offered Mr. Dorshorst the job.

As the superintendent, he said, he will be in charge of the budget, facilities in the district, the staff — including transportation, technol-

ogy and food service — to name a few items.

Mr. Dorshorst said he and his family have lived in Oberlin for 26 years. There are some challenges coming, he said, and it will take someone who knows the district to meet them. He plans to keep moving the district in a positive direction.



D. Dorshorst

He started in the district as a science teacher in 1983, then was the assistant principal and athletic director at the high school for two years before moving to the grade school principal's spot for 14 years.

The biggest challenge coming up, said Mr. Dorshorst, is providing the same level of education and better with a major decline in the budget over the next few years.

Mr. Dorshorst said he had interviewed for a superintendent job with the Bridgeport (Neb.) Public Schools this year. Last year, he interviewed for a superintendent's spot in Colby.

He and his wife Patricia, who teaches math at the high school, have four daughters Dani, Kelsey, Tricia and Miki, all of whom have gone to school here.

## Schools look to combine sports leagues

By CYNTHIA HAYNES  
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The Northwest Kansas League is falling apart, so Oberlin and other area schools are looking to join forces with the MidContinent League.

Both Colby and Goodland have announced that they are planning to leave the Northwest Kansas League and join with other schools to form a new league with more Class 3A and 4A schools.

While neither Goodland nor Colby has grown recently, the other schools in the league — Oberlin, Atwood, Hoxie, Quinter, Oakley and St. Francis — have all shrunk and now are in Class 1A or 2A for most sports.

Superintendents from Goodland and Colby met in December with representatives from Scott County, Holcomb and Ulysses to form the new Great Western Activities Conference.

In response, athletic directors from the smaller Northwest Kansas League schools met with members of the MidContinent League on Thursday in Hill City in the hopes

of uniting the two. "We're thinking of combining with the MidContinent League," said Oberlin Activities Director Joe Dreher. "It's hard to break tradition, but, we have to do what's best for our kids."

Many schools that Oberlin already plays are members of the Midwest Contient League, Mr. Dreher said, including Norton, Phillipsburg, Scott City, Hill City, Stockton, Ellis, Osborne, Plainville and WaKeeney.

Larry Gabel, Colby activities director, said that one of the reasons for the break is to give his students access to more activities.

Former Decatur Community High School Principal and coach Gordon "Buzz" Matson said that he wasn't surprised by the breakup of the league.

"I was surprised they didn't go earlier," he said.

The Northwest Kansas League, he said, is probably the oldest continuously operating league in the states.

Mr. Matson estimated that the (See LEAGUE on Page 12)

## New administrator settles into Gateway

By KIMBERLY DAVIS  
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With experience in state government and a week on the job as the Oberlin city administrator, Austin Gilley said thinks he possesses some of the qualities the city needs.

Mr. Gilley said he had a good career in state government and received several awards over the years. While working in Oklahoma, he said, he learned mediation and management skills which will help him as the city administrator.

By not heading to a smaller community right after college, said Mr. Gilley, he had the opportunity to learn things that he might not have learned otherwise.

With a degree in journalism and a minor in political science from the University of Oklahoma, he said, he wrote for *The Daily Oklahoman*

## Administrator has history

Oberlin's new city administrator has been up front with the City Council and others that he was fired from his last job with the Oklahoma Merit Protection Commission and had a lawsuit filed against the state.

Austin Gilley, who was hired last month, said he told the council up front about the pending lawsuit. He said the council (See SUIT on Page 12)

and the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* before he headed back to school to get a master's degree in public ad- (See CITY on Page 12)

## Sports section inside

The annual Winter Sports section is inside today's Oberlin Herald. The section includes team pictures from Decatur Community Junior and Senior High School and Golden Plains High, and individual pictures of the Oberlin Red Devils basketball players and wrestlers.

THE OBERLIN HERALD'S  
*Winter Sports '09*

Decatur Community High School — Golden Plains High School

## City sidesteps large bid for Gateway roof redo

By KIMBERLY DAVIS  
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The Oberlin City Council put off a decision Thursday on a bid from a Hays firm to replace the roof on The Gateway for \$600,000 to \$700,000, rather than to ask for more bids.

After looking at the proposal from Luke and Jake Harms with Roofmasters Roofing and Sheet Metal Co., Mayor Joe Stanley said the city needs to get more bids for the job.

The first bid was for \$572,882 for a new rubber roof over the entire building and the second bid was for \$698,890 for a new rubber roof over the office area and a retrofit (metal framing system) roof over the gym and auditorium. Both bids mean a new roof for the building.

Additional bids handed out included one for \$38,427 to install a skylight on the cupola and one for \$32,686 to power wash the build- (See ROOF on Page 12)

# \*City chief has experience in government

(Continued from Page 1) ministration. He said his journalism career included working in the sports department and as a copy editor.

While in Texas, he said, he looked around and everyone was working crazy hours, people were bitter, miserable and divorced. He decided to return to Oklahoma and start on his master's degree.

He met his wife Katrina, who is a chef and baker, when he went back to college. The couple has two daughters, Savanna, 2 1/2, and Ella, 10 months.

Mr. Gilley said his career with the state included work with the Merit Protection Commission, the Office of Personnel Management, the Public Employees Retirement System and the Institute of Public



A. Gilley

Affairs. He said he taught American Government part-time at the college level in the evenings as well.

He and his wife were active in their church in Oklahoma, which was a Community Bible Church. Mr. Gilley said his wife's father was a social worker for the Cookson Hills organization, so she's been to Oberlin before when the youth ranch was run by Cookson Hills. Mrs. Gilley plans to be a stay-at-home mom, he said.

Mr. Gilley said he thinks moving to Oberlin will be good for his career. He added that he's always been interested in city government, whether covering it or being around it.

# \*Suit troubles administrator

(Continued from Page 1) "hammered" him about the suit and he answered the questions.

An article on NewsOK.com from July 2008, says he was fired from the commission for alleged "misconduct, inefficiency, conduct unbecoming a state employee and insubordination."

Mr. Gilley said he was fired for sending an e-mail about an incident at the Grand River Dam Authority, where he worked for four days, then left and returned to the commission.

At the commission, he said, one of his jobs was storing backup material and passwords at his home. He said he got a letter asking for the information back.

He returned the documents, he said, but he was arrested for allegedly refusing to leave the state attorney general's office.

Mr. Gilley said he hasn't been charged with any crime. He has filed a lawsuit for wrongful termination and false arrest.

Mayor Joe Stanley said the council grilled him and the members were satisfied with the answers he gave. They also did a background check and everything was in order.

Of all the candidates, said Mayor Stanley, Mr. Gilley was the best qualified for what the council was looking for. Mayor Stanley said he feels that Mr. Gilley will do a good job for the city and comes with a strong financial background.

## Making a hole in the wall



LAST WEDNESDAY, men with Doak Construction cut out a brick wall between the Last Indian Raid Museum's gift shop and the newly purchased building to the south, which will house the office.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

# \*Roof at Gateway could put big hole in budget

(Continued from Page 1) ing, remove the existing caulk at the control joints which are every several feet and re-seal them.

Luke Harms, who was at the meeting with his brother, said the company is insured, bonded and has the appropriate licenses.

He said they took some time recently to walk around the building and on the roof taking pictures, which were put together in a presentation for the council.

The roof has been hit by big hailstones and has areas where heat is escaping through the material, he said. At one time there was one air conditioning unit, he said, but it must have gone bad so someone

came in and put up smaller ones with duct work coming out the side instead of underneath it. Water is leaking into that duct work, he said, and air is escaping.

Also, said Luke, some of the units aren't blowing hot air, just cold. The air ducts are supposed to go down from the units into the building, Mr. Harms said, not to the side.

Is there insurance money to pay for any of the roof damage? asked council member Rhonda May. Mayor Stanley said he thought there was some insurance money collected already. Later in the meeting, they agreed that the city hasn't received the insurance money yet.

On the cupola, Mr. Harms said, all

of the windows leak. Mr. Harms said he isn't sure if the windows can ever be fixed. The men suggested putting panels on the windows, with the option of putting in a skylight.

Ms. May asked if the building has never been tuck-pointed. Not since it was new, Mr. Harms said, but it doesn't need to be tuck pointed now. It needs to be cleaned and the expansion joints need redone.

The men suggested a new roof, new curbs for the units on the roof, new duct work, new metal flashing, new metal wall panels with insulation and vapor barriers, new tapered roof panels, sealing the joints and building a roof with a slope over the arena and auditorium.

If the council wants windows that don't leak, they just need to find a contractor who can work with them, Mr. Harms said. Most people don't put windows on a round surface.

If the project is done, he said, the color of the metal on the building can be changed.

Can the project be done in phases or does it have to be done at the same time? asked City Administrator Austin Gilley.

"We would probably come in and do it until it's done," said Mr. Harms, "but it could be broken into phases."

So there's no reason to evacuate the building? asked Mr. Gilley. No, said Jake Harms.

But it isn't getting any better, added Councilman Jay Anderson.

If the project is broken into phases, said Foreman Dan Castle, wouldn't it be better to do the office area and cupola first. Yes, said Jake Harms, because the most damage has been in those areas. If the project is broken down, he added, some things would have to be done twice.

The council will have to talk about the project, said Mayor Stanley, and the city has to get more bids, two or three. A bid sheet needs to be made up and sent out to other companies. Jake Harms said if the council needs help writing up the scope of the project, they would be willing to provide their services.

# \*League will see changes

(Continued from Page 1) league formed somewhere between 1923 and 1926 with Oberlin, St. Francis, Atwood, Hoxie, Norton, Colby and Goodland. Since then, he said, Oakley and Quinter have come on board, Norton has left and Scott City has come and gone.

Football is the deciding factor, he said. It's hard for a small school to play a larger one in football. With most of the districts shrinking, it's gotten even more difficult.

Mr. Matson said he thought that Oberlin and any school thinking of changing leagues should be careful to look at both size and travel time. It might be better, he said, that the schools form a league or leagues based on specified sports, such as a football league, basketball league and wrestling league.

"It would give you a little more flexibility," he said. "It's not a time to be rigid."

He also suggested joining with schools from Colorado and Nebraska, if that could be worked out, or seeing what has worked elsewhere.

Mr. Dreher said that he and the other activities directors will be looking at a lot of things, but that on Thursday they all seemed to be on the same page.

"We'll all have to work together to help each other out," he said.

In any event, Mr. Dreher said, the schools still have a couple of years since, that is how far out football schedules are set.

# \*Family binds books

(Continued from Page 1) binding. The leather is a genuine lambskin that comes in different colors. Just recently, said Chris, they recovered a Bible in pink.

Things kind of slow down in March and April, he said, which is when they generally bind the newspapers. The men receive newspapers from the area and bind a year's worth for several of the county courthouses.

Right now, the biggest contract is for law books which are shipped out to New Jersey.

The men said they haven't really ever stopped to just figure out how many books they bind in a year.

Before their Dad died, said Chris, they had their busiest three months and probably did 10,000 books in that time.

The men also do public service four-fold poster holders. The posters on binge drinking, inhalants, club drugs, smoking and other topics are attached to large black four-fold boards, then sold to police and others.

The business has two full-time employees and three part-time, said Chris.

In the middle of December the men received a phone call notifying them that the business had been nominated for the Kansas Sampler Foundation's "8 Wonders of Kansas Commerce" award. The business was among the top 104 nominations and then the 24 finalists.

Don said the foundation wanted to make sure they were accessible to visitors, which they are. The men called Judy Rogers, with Golden Plains School, and asked her to come take a few pictures of the operation to be sent in.

Now, said Don, people have until Tuesday, Feb. 17, to vote for the Bookbindery to put the business in the top eight. People can vote by calling (620) 585-2374 or online at 8wonders.org, he said.

He said people can't get on the website and vote just for them. Voters have to pick eight businesses.

Others in the top 24 include Baxter's Bait and Tackle in Stockton, Big Brutus (the world's largest power shovel) of West Mineral, the Bowersock Mills and Power Co. of Lawrence, Brant's Meat Market of Lucas, Brookover Feed Yards of Garden City, Cloud Ceramics of Concordia, Cobalt Boats of Neodesha, DessinFournir furniture of Plainville, the El Dorado Oil Field, the Frontenac Bakery, Hemslojd Inc. of Lindsborg, MarCon Pies of Washington, Mill Creek Antiques of Paxico, Millers of Clafin Furniture, Moon Marble Co. of Bonner Springs, RANS Inc. of Hays, Ringneck Ranch of Tipton, Stafford County Flour Mills of Hudson, the Grasshopper Company of Sylvan Grove, the Wichita aviation industry, Winter Livestock of Dodge City and the Wolf Creek Generating Station in Burlington.

## Cover Your Acres Winter Conference

### January 20 and 21, 2009 at the Gateway in Oberlin, KS

**Kansas State University and the Northwest Kansas Crop Residue Alliance**

Discussing the latest technology, methods, and conservation practices to improve crop production on the High Plains

Time	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4	Room 5	Exhibit Hall
7:45 - 8:15	Registration					
8:15 - 8:35	Welcome in Exhibit Hall					
	University Sessions			Industry Sessions		
8:45 - 9:33	Weed Strategies in Grain Sorghum <sup>1,2</sup>	Wheat Residue Management <sup>1</sup>	Crop Insurance <sup>1</sup>	Grain Marketing Strategies	Advances in Breeding Technology <sup>1,3</sup>	Sponsor
9:40 - 10:28	Carbon Credit Trading	Eye in the Sky, Yield Forecast from Satellite Images? <sup>1</sup>	Glyphosate Resistance <sup>1,2</sup>	Plant Nutrition	Advances in Breeding Technology <sup>1,3</sup>	
10:35 - 11:23	Glyphosate Resistance <sup>1,2</sup>	Limited Irrigation and No-till <sup>1</sup>	Pros & Cons of UAN with Herbicides for Wheat <sup>1,2</sup>	Oilseed Production Storage, and Marketing	Advances in Breeding Technology <sup>1,3</sup>	
11:30 - 12:30	Farmer Panel: Things to do before you start No-till <sup>1</sup>	Sprayer Setup: Improve Efficacy & Reduce Drift <sup>1,2</sup>	Noon Meal	Improvements in Corn Traits	Noon Meal	
12:40 - 1:40	Planter, Drill Closing & Press Wheel Options <sup>1</sup>	What do you want from KSU agronomy? (help us, help you)		Mechanics of Strip-till		
1:50 - 2:38	Managing Rust on Wheat <sup>1</sup>	Crop Insurance <sup>1</sup>	Carbon Credit Trading	The State of Fertilizer in 2009	Advances in Breeding Technology <sup>1,3</sup>	Sponsor
2:45 - 3:33	Farmer Panel: Summer Crop Plant Population	Grain Marketing Analysis & Strategies	Weed Strategies in Grain Sorghum <sup>1,2</sup>	Sunflower Production	Advances in Breeding Technology <sup>3</sup>	
3:40 - 4:28	The Value of Nitrogen Testing <sup>1</sup>	Wheat Residue Management	Limited Irrigation and No-till <sup>1</sup>	National Sorghum Check-off Update	Advances in Breeding Technology <sup>1,3</sup>	
4:35 - 5:23	Pros and Cons of UAN with Herbicides for Wheat <sup>1,2</sup>	Planter, Drill Closing and Press Wheel Options <sup>1</sup>	Eye in the Sky: Yield Forecasts from Satellite Images? <sup>1</sup>	Goss' Wilt in Corn	Advances in Breeding Technology <sup>1,3</sup>	
5:30 - 7:30	Industry Sponsored Bull Session (refreshments and heavy hors d'oeuvres provided) in the Exhibit Hall and will be held on both nights of the conference.					

CEU credits for CCAs have been applied for. <sup>1,2</sup>CEU credits for 1A for Commercial Pesticide Applicators have been approved. <sup>3</sup>Advances in Breeding Technology is sponsored by Monsanto and will be in the mobile lab in parking lot.

**Diamond Sponsors: Hoxie Implement, Lang Diesel, National Sunflower Association**

**McCook National Bank, Pioneer Hi-Bred, Producers Cooperative Oil Mill, Monsanto, & Farm Credit of Western Kansas**

**Registration** - The conference will be held for two days with the same program each day. **Early registration must be postmarked by January 13. Please register early.** \$22 Tues 20 Wed 21 Early Registration - Attend all the sessions for one day. Please mark which day. \$40 Early Registration to attend both days which will have the same program each day. \$45 Registration per day after January 13 or at the door. All registrations include proceedings for conference along with refreshments and meals. For questions, please call 785-462-6281. Mail registration and check, payable to KSU to the following address: Northwest Area Office, Attn: Brian Olson, PO Box 786, Colby KS 67701. **Program will be held regardless of weather.**

Please include the following information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_