

Chamber board faces will change after banquet

Six board members of the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce will end their terms at the annual banquet Thursday night as new members are elected.

Going off the board are Kem Bryan, Tami Shaw, Sid Metcalf, Beth Harmon, Kelly Wasson and Kari Ketterl. Ten people will have their names to show up on the ballot:

- Ken Shobe, former Oberlin mayor. Mr. Shobe, who has lived in Oberlin for the past five years and teaches computer programming and web design at McCook Community College. He is also secretary-treasurer of the Smick Memorial Scholarship Fund.

- Richard Kimble wasn't available. He helps his wife, Carolyn operate the Oberlin Sale Barn Cafe.

- Robert Groneweg, owner of R&M Service Center, has lived in Oberlin for 36 years. The Chamber, he said, is an asset to the community and in a lot of ways helps it grow. His wife is Judy.

- Kelli Dickinson recently opened Gifts 'N' Things inside Oberlin Tire. She's lived here for a little over two years, and before that lived in McCook. She is a member of the United Methodist Church.

- Adam Kadavy, who has lived in Oberlin for four years and worked at KFNF Radio just as long. He is operations manager at the station, which includes on-air broadcasting as well as advertising. He also coaches kid football.

- Cindy Shirley has lived outside Norcatour with her husband Patrick for the past year and a half. She is from Norton where she has worked in the Norton Schools. She has one daughter, who is 13. Mrs. Shirley serves on the Dresser board and helped fill in at the chamber office when there was no secretary.

- Amanda Anderson moved here about a year ago with her husband Kurt, who general manager of the Decatur Co-op. She is a stay-at-home mom who says it is important for people to get involved in the community. She is the assistant cheerleading coach at Decatur Community High School.

- Lisa Paulson, who has lived in Oberlin for the past 10 years. She is the activities director at the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center. She and her husband John have started the Working Man's Church.

- Martin Burton, who has lived in Oberlin since July and is a senior vice president at First National Bank. He moved here from Bird City.

- Cricket Steinmetz, was born in Oberlin, attended college and moved back home. She teaches first and second grades in Lenora.

The banquet will start at 7 p.m. at the Bohemian Hall at the Last Indian Raid Museum. The menu is hors d'oeuvres made by Gerry Neff.

The Decatur Area Theatrical Association will perform a melodrama they prepared for Mini Sapa.

One pint at a time



AT THE GATEWAY on Thursday, Brian Simonsson sat in a lawn chair as he donated during the American Red Cross blood drive sponsored by the Decatur County Hospital. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

City officials check out ranch buildings

With a general from the National Guard planning a trip here to look at the former youth ranch, Mayor Joe Stanley suggested a little clean-up work on the grounds.

The mayor said he and City Administrator Austin Gilley walked through the buildings at the former ranch, which has been empty for over a year.

Mayor Stanley said the buildings aren't that bad inside, but all of them need to be swept out. If the kids from the 180 House wanted something to do, he said, it will take just a couple of hours.

The buildings themselves are in pretty good shape, said Mayor Stanley.

Mr. Gilley said the city has received a letter from the owner of the house at 105 N. Antelope. He said a man from St. Francis had purchased the home and garage and plans to clean up the property.

Actually, the owner has already started working on the project, said Mayor Stanley.

Council countdown

At a meeting Thursday, the Oberlin City Council:

- Heard the mayor say he would sign a bid letter asking for prices for an Automated Weather Observation System for the city's municipal airport. Story to come.
- Decided to get more bids after receiving a single bid of \$600,000 to \$700,000 to replace the roof at The Gateway. Story on Page 1.

- Talked about some clean-up work needed at the former youth ranch before a Kansas National Guard general got here today. Story at left.

- Talked about getting the swimming pool sandblasted and painted before it opens this summer, but made no decision except for the foreman to get a new bid. Story to come.

After a brief five-minute recess where Mr. Gilley, City Attorney Steve Hirsch and Mayor Stanley talked briefly in the back room, Mr. Gilley addressed the audience and council.

Mr. Gilley said he wanted to share some observations about the past four days on the job, but no one was sure if he was going to do that

in open session or closed.

He thanked the council and staff for the warm welcome he received and especially City Clerk Karen Larson, Gateway Manager Kathy Brainard, Foreman Dan Castle and Police Chief Wade Lockhart for their help. Mr. Gilley said he's been listening, assessing and gathering information.

Although the city faces some significant problems, he said, none of them is insurmountable.

It seems that 2008 has been an especially difficult year for the staff, but nothing has been done in the past to harm the city or disadvantage it in any way.

Mr. Gilley said he would like to remind the council that although they hired him, he and his family chose the city as the place they want to live.

In other business, the council:

- Talked about a special work session at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, with Miller and Associates.

- Heard the Mr. Gilley had gone to meet the county commissioners last Tuesday. Mr. Gilley said Commissioner Ralph Unger brought up an idea of a reverse osmosis water treatment plant for the counties in the area, to be paid for with money from water lawsuits against Nebraska and Colorado.

Cinema to sell old seats to public

Sunflower Cinema board members plan to sell the seats in the theater on Main Street before demolition starts in the middle of February.

Member Duane Dorshorst said the demolition is scheduled to start the weekend of Saturday, Feb. 14.

That means the last movie shown at the old theater will be the weekend of Saturday, Jan. 24, he said.

There's about 180 useable seats in the theater, said Mr. Dorshorst. The board plans to sell them for \$5 each.

Anyone can buy them, but will have to come in and remove the ones they want starting Sunday, Jan. 25.

Anyone who wants to buy a seat or any number of seats can call Mr. Dorshorst during the day at 475-2122 or in the evening at 475-3049.

There's a possibility, he said, that they might be selling some other items out of the theater, but he isn't sure yet. Any money made off the items will go for furnishing the new theater.

Board holds closed sessions

The Oberlin School Board held a special meeting last Monday, entirely in closed session, to talk about personnel. No action was taken.

The board members started with a 10-minute closed session for

nonelected personnel. President Duane Jackson said they reserved the right to call Principal Duane Dorshorst in.

The closed session went another 15 and then 5 minutes before the

board called Clerk Vickie Lippelmann in to get information. They then had another 5 minutes, without Mrs. Lippelmann, before asking Mr. Dorshorst to join them for 15 and then 5 minutes in closed sessions.

Conservation conference next week

There's still time to register for the annual Cover Your Acres winter conference planned for The Gateway next week.

The conference is set for Tuesday and next Wednesday, with registration at \$45. Pre-registration, which ended yesterday, cost \$22.

The conference is designed for farmers and industry people in northwest Kansas and bordering states. It will provide information on low-till and no-till crop production practices for people with limited moisture, said Brian Olson, area agronomist with Kansas State University.

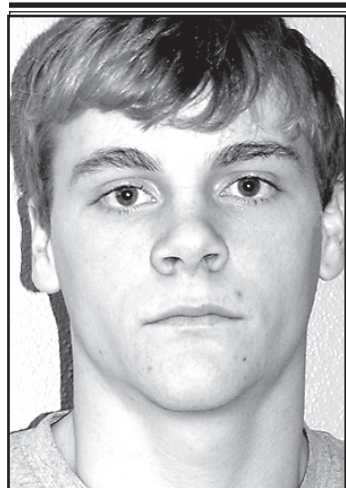
Lunch will be served both days. The conference starts both days with registration at 7:45 a.m., a welcome session at 8:15 a.m. and break-out sessions starting at 8:45 a.m. The program is the same both days.

The main sponsors for the event

include Hoxie Implement, Lang Diesel, the National Sunflower Association, McCook National Bank, Pioneer Hi-Bred, Producers

Cooperative Oil Mill, Monsanto, Farm Credit of Western Kansas, K-State and the Northwest Kansas Crop Residue Alliance.

student of the week



Name: Lucas Juene-mann

Parents: Dave and Joyce Juene-mann

Grade: 12

Age: 18

We've nominated this student because: Lucas selects projects that challenge him and his dedication to quality work is un-

matched. He's the hardest worker I have.

Activities involved in at school: Football, Basketball, D-Club, Weight Club, Track.

My choice of movies, books, and games: Movies-comedies; Books-sports, Games-hunting.

After I leave Decatur Community High School I intend to ...: Go to college. Play basketball somewhere and I'm undecided on what I want to major in.

And 10 years from now, I think I'll be ...: I hope to have a family and a good job.

Favorite Quote: Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith. Be men of courage, be strong.

Monday is federal holiday

Federal offices, including the post office, and all banks and financial institutions will be closed Monday for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Oberlin Schools, city and county offices will be open as usual.

Most businesses will be open, including *The Oberlin Herald*. There will be no mail service, so advertising and news may be left at the newspaper office, put in the slot in the front door over the weekend or brought to the office on Monday.

Oberlin Livestock Auction
N. Hwy. 83—Oberlin— 785-475-2323

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