

Football districts revealed

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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As Oberlin prepares to play Hoxie in its first high school Class 2A district football game of the season, the Kansas State High School Activities Association has given out the new district line ups for 2010 and 2011.

With three long-time opponents dropping down to eight-man football, and districts expanding to six teams from four, and it looks like teams in northwest Kansas will be spending more time on the road.

The Red Devils also will be in a much smaller Northwest Kansas League, with Goodland and Colby leaving to join a league with other larger schools.

"With the six-team football districts, we will basically be playing the other Class 2A league schools in district play," said Joe Dreher, Decatur Community High activities director.

Oberlin has been placed in District 7 of Class 2-1A along with three other Northwest Kansas teams, Atwood, Oakley and St. Francis, plus Ellis and Leoti.

"These will be the last five games of the season, with the top two teams going on in the playoffs," Coach Dreher said.

Three schools Oberlin played this year will start playing eight-man football next year. Hoxie, which will play the Red Devils on Friday; Osborne, which lost to Oberlin 18-15; and WaKeeney, which lost to Oberlin 54-12, will no longer be fielding traditional 11-man teams.

Those three schools will join Hill City, Lucas, Quinter and Stockton in District 7 of Eight-Man I football. Even smaller schools Cheylin, Wheatland, Golden Plains, Sharon Springs, Tribune, Brewster and Weskan will play in District 7 of Eight-Man II football.

"More and more schools are going to eight-man football, which also makes it more difficult for scheduling for the few Class 2A schools in northwest Kansas," Coach Dreher said.

"To play eight-man football, the school's enrollment for grades (See DISTRICTS on Page 8A)

Food pantry needs help to aid hungry

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
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The tough economy has driven more people to use the Decatur County Food Pantry, and while supporters have boosted their donations to match, the effort still could use some more help.

With more people using the pantry, said Melanie Anderson, who supervises the agency, there also has been an increase in the number of people donating items, which she said has been a huge help.

Lots of new families are using the food pantry this year, said Ms. Anderson. It seems like a lot more people are struggling.

From January to the end of September 2008, said Ms. Anderson, 97 adults and 61 kids used the pantry. Some of those returned for second and third visits, with a total of 190 adults and 109 kids using the pantry

in that time.

Since January, said Ms. Anderson, 154 adults and 85 kids have been helped by the pantry with some returning two or three times for 269 adults and 144 children.

The year isn't over yet, there's still two and half months to go, but the pantry has already helped 57 more adults and 24 more kids than all of last year.

From August 2008 to August 2009, added Ms. Anderson, the Decatur Ministerial Alliance has spent \$3,510 on food vouchers to pay for fresh food and bought \$6,052 in other supplies for a total of \$9,562.

The pantry, run by the alliance, is in the basement of the United Church at 109 N. Griffith.

Even with the increase in donations, Ms. Anderson said, the pantry (See PANTRY on Page 8A)

Clerk looks to set special elections

Dates have yet to be set for upcoming special elections in Oberlin about the airport runway expansion project and Norcat on where the clerk and treasurer have to live.

County Clerk Colleen Geihlsler, who serves as the county election officer, said she's received a letter from Norcat officials requesting the election to be a mail ballot. She added that she would like to have it on Tuesday, Dec. 15, but the plan has to be sent to the secretary of state for approval before anything can be set up.

The petition in Norcat was certified in September with the needed five signatures, or 10 percent of the

number of people who voted in the last city election. The petition actually had 10 valid signatures when handed in, she said.

The vote will determine whether the city clerk and treasurer have to live inside the city limits. Neither one does today.

In Oberlin, a petition with 189 signatures was certified in September. Ms. Geihlsler said she's received a phone call from the city that the council has voted to send the decision to a vote, but hasn't yet received a letter.

The vote will be whether to approve or not approve an ordinance (See ELECTIONS on Page 8A)

Group helps families with medical expenses

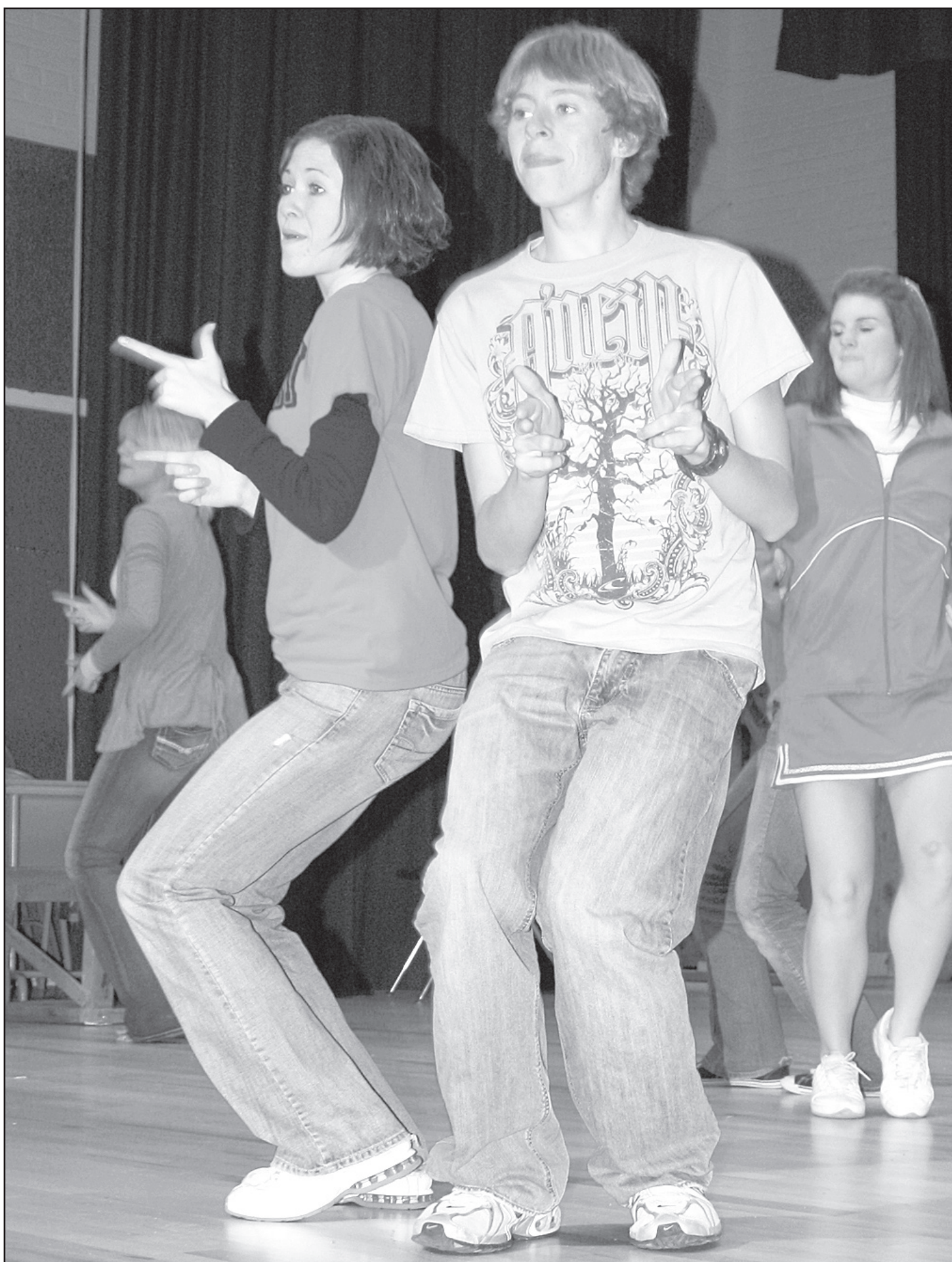
After numerous fund raisers over the past year and a half, the Decatur County Helping Hands group has started to help people in the county with medical expenses.

Chris Dempewolf, a member of the group, said it has raised around \$4,000 since it started in 2008.

So far, she said, the group is working with two families with medical

needs with money to help pay for medical bills, gas for out-of-town treatments or even help with hotel costs for those who have to travel.

A family can receive up to \$500 from the organization for medical expenses in a year, said Ms. Dempewolf. They have to fill out an application, available from her, housing (See FAMILIES on Page 8A)



ON THE STAGE, Ashley Horton and Nolan Henningson (above) practiced with the DCHS Singers for an upcoming show. Gregory Shaw (below) and Jacob Helm sang in

the vocal room on Friday, getting ready for the a vocal concert at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the auditorium at the high school. — Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Supper and concert set for same night

The Decatur Tomorrow steering committee plans a supper fund raiser Tuesday at the new community center on Main Street.

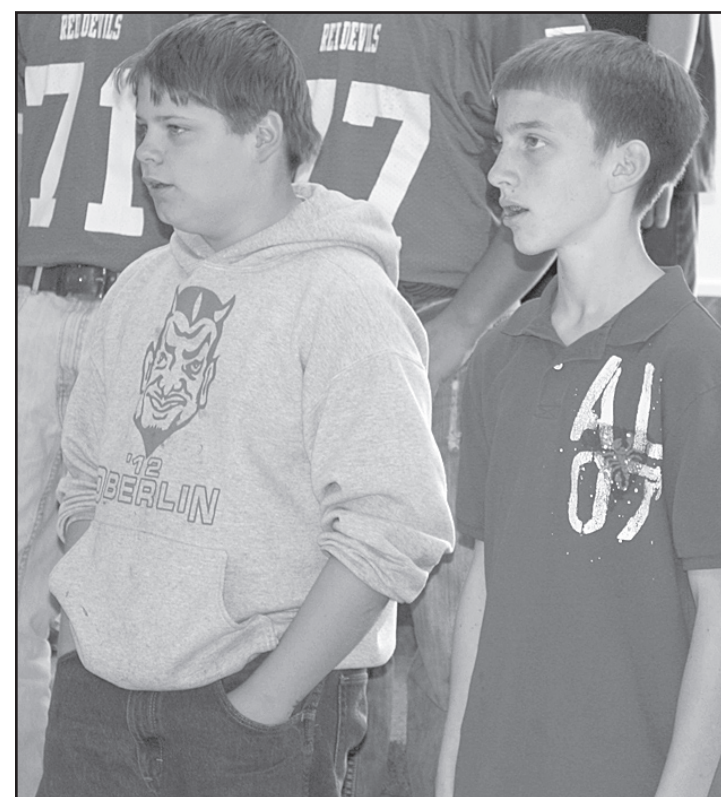
The supper will start at 5:30 p.m. with hamburgers, beans, chips and cookies on the menu. Everyone is invited to come, eat and tour the new building until 7 p.m., said Gary Anderson co-convenor of the steering committee. Donations will go to help finish the project.

The supper will end in time for the Decatur Community High School vocal concert at 7:30 p.m.

in the school auditorium.

Students in the concert choir, combined choirs, DCHS Singers and Chanté will perform during the concert, said Susan Nelson, vocal teacher. There will also be a girls quartet and two men's ensembles to perform.

The students will perform a variety of music including folk, spirituals and traditional choral pieces. Both Chanté and the DCHS Singers perform choreographed numbers to more popular pieces, said Mrs. Nelson.



Powerlifter takes third at international meet

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
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Oberlin's Jo Ann Lerew took third in her weight class and age group during the International Powerlifting Federation World Masters Championships in the Czech Republic, about what she expected in international competition.

But on the way and after her events, she got a world-class, whirlwind tour of the east European nation and got to meet a lot of people.

Ms. Lerew left Oberlin on Thursday, Sept. 24, for Denver, flying out at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 25, to Detroit, then on to Frankfurt, Germany. From there, it was on to Prague, capital of the Czech Republic, arriving at noon on Saturday.

From Prague, she took a train to Ostrava, in the far end of the country, to the competition.

At the world competition, she said, she was paired up with another lifter. She was that person's "gofer," she said, basically getting him water when he needed it, reporting his numbers and other items.

Ms. Lerew didn't actually lift until Thursday, Oct. 1, so the beginning of the week was filled

with being a helper and cheering on the other lifters. On Wednesday, she said, she hung out in her hotel room, resting for her competition.

She said she took second in her age group of 40-49 and weight class in the bench press, lifting 186 pounds. She was third in the dead lift, lifting 304 pounds, and third in the squat. She said it wasn't a very good day for her in the squat.

Overall in her group, Ms. Lerew said, she took third against lifters from other countries. The American women took first overall in the 40-49 age group and in the 50-59 group too.

It was awesome competing in a foreign country, she said. When she started power lifting, said Ms. Lerew, she never thought she would be in world and national competition. She just wanted to get in shape.

"It was an incredible experience," she said. Before returning to the states, Ms. Lerew said, she was able to do a little sightseeing. On Friday, a small group from the lifting event went to lunch at a castle, she said. It had a small courtyard and everything was paved in cobblestones.

That night, she said, 12 of them went to the

Moravian Chalupa, a restaurant in Ostrava. They sat at a large round table, said Ms. Lerew, which was great because it didn't limit your conversation to those next to you. As part of the decor, there was a knight's armor in the corner.

On Saturday, after watching lifting in the morning, she went to the town square to shop, but in Ostrava, stores close at noon on Saturdays, so she didn't get much shopping done.

By Sunday, said Ms. Lerew, it was time to get back on the train to Prague, where they stopped and shopped in the square.

That night, she said, they went to the oldest continuously operated brewery in the country, called Uflecka. It was started in 1499, she said, and not many places can say they have been open that long. It had huge wooden tables set up and then people walked around with platters of beer and food. Visitors could take what they wanted off the trays.

A man with an accordion and another with a tuba walked around playing.

On Monday it was back home, flying into Denver.

Ms. Lerew said her next competition will be Nationals in Cleveland in May.



J. Lerew

*Families can get help

(Continued from Page 1A)
 pital Administrator Lynn Doeden or Regina Stanley at the Bank. Ms. Dempewolf said they plan to have the applications available at the Decatur County Hospital and the city office in Norcatgur.

If someone needs help with gas or hotels for out-of-town treatment, she said, that is a different form.

The recipients don't actually get cash, she added. For instance, if they need help for gas, they get a gas card good at a local station.

If they are applying for help for

a medical bill, the recipient has to turn in a final itemized bill after insurance has paid. Then the group will make a payment to the doctor or hospital, said Ms. Dempewolf.

Recipients must have lived in Decatur County for at least six months. The group will help with any illness, she said, not just cancer.

Helping Hands members include Mrs. Doeden, hospital administrator, Mrs. Stanley, who works at the Bank, Ms. Dempewolf, who works at the Norcatgur City Council, County Treasurer Jean Hale, Carla

Depperschmidt, grade school secretary, Linda Hunt, who works at the Bank, Shanna Long, who works at Crop Production Service, Janice O'Hare, who works at Hansen Mueller, Leanna Bryan, who works at the Health Department, Tiffanie Farr, who works at Decatur Co-op and Alexis Hissong, student.

The group meets at 5:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month at the Business Enhancement Entrepreneurial Center. Ms. Dempewolf said anyone who is interested can come to a meeting.

*Districts increase travel

(Continued from Page 1A)
 nine to 11 has to be under 100," he said. "All schools under the 100 count have the option of going to eight man. The Class 2A schools in the Northwest Kansas League will remain 11 man as long as they have enough kids participating in football."

This year, Oberlin has 26 boys on its football roster out of 84 in the three grades.

Other traditional opponents Goodland, Norton and Phillipsburg will join Thomas More Prep

of Hays in District 15 of Class 3A. Colby will move to District 16 of Class 4A with Russell, Clay Center and Concordia.

Coach Dreher, who does the scheduling for Oberlin's many sports and academic teams, said that the new district system will make his job harder.

"Scheduling was more difficult because we are playing our league schools in district," Coach Dreher said. "But Colby and Goodland joining a new league also affected our scheduling, because they will

be playing their new league schools plus their district games. Scheduling across the state was more difficult than usual with this new system."

Next year, the Decatur Community High Red Devils football team will play Cambridge, Neb., Syracuse, Norton, Atwood and Leoti at home and Lacrosse, St. Francis, Oakley and Ellis on the road. That includes just three league games.

"We'll just have to travel more," said J.D. Johnson, Oberlin's head football coach.

*Pantry needs more food

(Continued from Page 1A)
 could use a few more items.

Needs on a list handed out at an area church include:

Laundry detergent, dryer sheets, dish soap, household cleaners, toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, tooth paste, tooth brushes, shampoo, men's personal items, women's personal items;

Canned peas, beets, mixed vegetables, corn, tomatoes, mushroom and chicken soup, all light fruits, pineapple, applesauce, mandarin

oranges, canned meat, sardines, salmon, chicken or turkey, macaroni, ramen noodles, Hamburger Helper;

Juice, hot-chocolate mix, tea bags, dry cereal, instant potatoes, oil or shortening, spices and flavorings, salt, pepper, sugar, baking powder, mayonnaise, mustard, smooth peanut butter, jelly, chocolate chips, raisins, pudding mix, marshmallows and any canned beans.

There are a few things that the pantry has a lot of, said Ms. Ander-

son, including crackers, salad dressing and crunchy peanut butter.

Each month except December, when Stanley Hardware does its big food drive, one church kind of adopts the pantry, collecting and bringing in items, she said.

Still, the pantry takes and can use other donations as well. Bring donations to the United Church between 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, she said. For questions, call her at 475-2280.

*Elections will give people a say

(Continued from Page 1A)
 about the runway which says that the city would be prohibited from spending "any federal, state, city or private funds for the purpose of studying, planning or building a new runway or acquiring additional land at the Oberlin Airport. Nothing herein shall prohibit the mainte-

nance and improvement required by the Federal Aviation Administrator to maintain the existing runway."

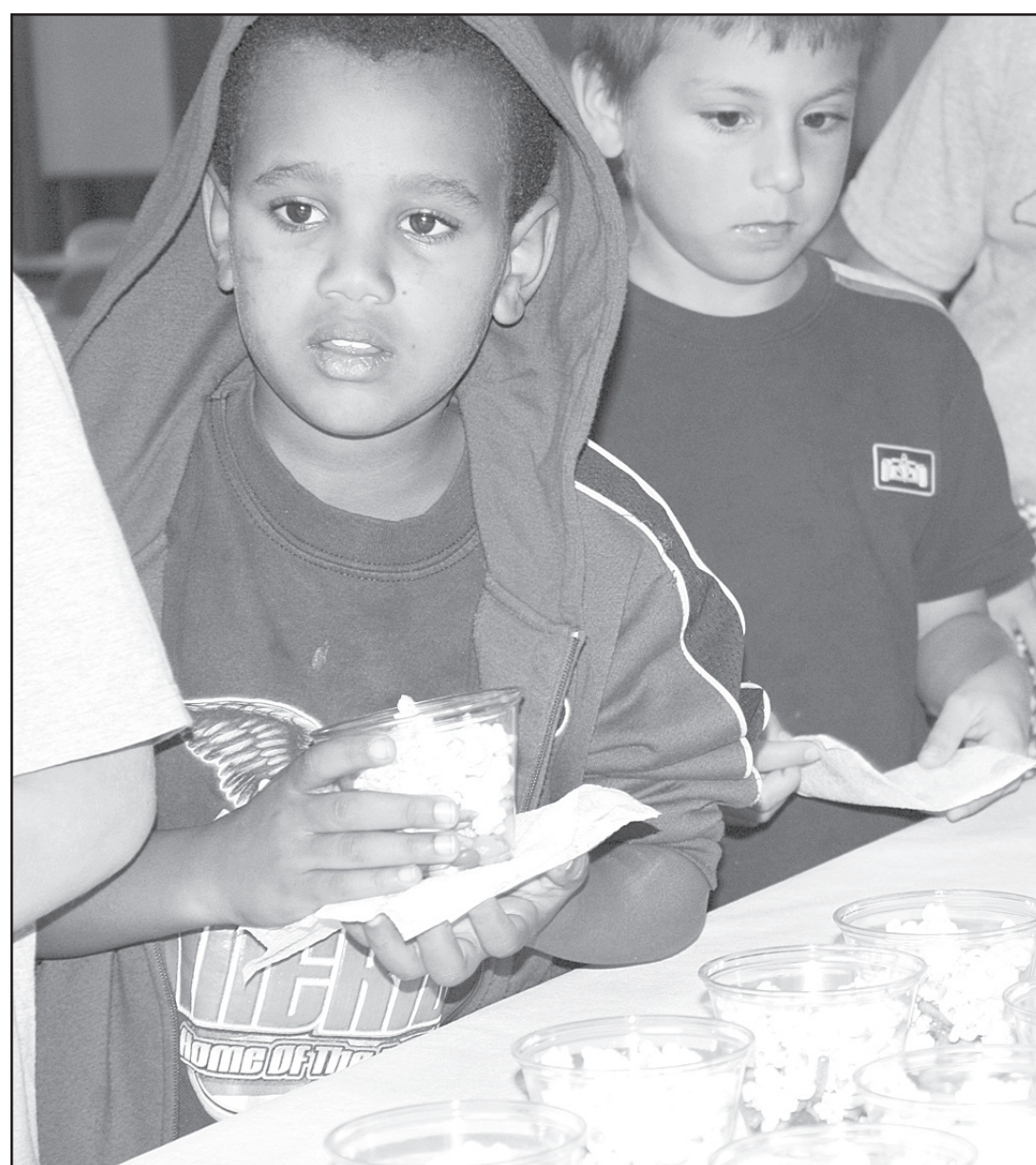
Ms. Geihlsler said the City of Oberlin hasn't specified whether the election should be a mail or regular ballot.

City Attorney Steve Hirsch told the council at the meeting Thursday,

Oct. 1, that it was up to the county election officer to determine what kind of election it would be or when it would be held.

Once the plan is sent to the secretary of state, she said, she's not sure how long it will take to get it approved.

Snacks and Bible verses



AFTERSCHOOL last Wednesday, Jesse Isbell and Gavon Cody got their snacks before learning about scripture verses and God during the Pioneer Club at the United Methodist Church. This is the first year for the group, held every Wednesday after school for students in first through sixth grade. During the afternoon, the kids have a snack, learn about God and do a group activity.
 — Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Residents clean up Jennings

By MAYOR MARGE HARTZOG

About 35 people, from teenagers to some in their 80s, turned out for the Jennings city-wide cleanup day.

Four work crews were assigned to specific areas on Saturday, Oct. 3. Their efforts resulted in two loads of trash collected and taken to the Decatur County landfill, enough trees and brush to nearly fill the brush site south of Jennings and a large pile of iron that will be sold for recycle.

Dave New provided lunch and

supper for volunteers at the Broken Wheel. While the event was successful, volunteers were unable to accomplish many of the planned projects, mostly due to a shortage of tractors and dump trucks, as many of the area farmers are still busy with wheat planting and fall harvest. The city hopes to schedule another cleanup in the spring.


Volunteers, city residents and property owners seemed to be pleased with the accomplishments and said they had enjoyed working together.

"This improves our face to the

world," one said, and that seemed to express the opinion of everyone.

The city is making an effort to clean up properties and is aware that it is difficult for absentee owners and local owners with health issues to provide the necessary upkeep. Property owners who would like help in cleaning up their properties should contact a member of the Jennings City Council or Mayor Marge Hartzog so the city can try to accommodate those requests when the next clean-up day is scheduled.

ANNUAL SCAVENGER HUNT
 October 24th at 6:30 p.m.
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Let's face it. Most folks don't have the time or interest to get too involved in the details of providing safe, reliable energy. Most are too busy with their own jobs or families to have the time to focus on these issues. So that's where Midwest Energy comes in. Our job is to be your advocate — to put you first — as we work in the energy industry on your behalf.

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