



## Kids learn music

**IN BAND CLASS** at Oberlin Elementary School on Monday, Kyleana Blau (above left) and Celianna Shobe played their flutes while Lily Marine (below) played the xylophone. Before class, Jacob Gee (right) set up his clarinet.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



## Donations steady for new alley

A little bit at a time, money and some grain donations are adding up for the new bowling alley on Penn Avenue.

As of Monday morning, the effort had \$80,445 in the pot to finish the facility, \$5,445 over the halfway mark for the \$150,000 needed.

That figure doesn't include the money raised during the Philadelphia orchestra presentation Sunday, Oct. 10, at Sunflower Cinema, from the showing of the University of Kansas-Kansas State game at the cinema Thursday night or from the Good Samaritan Center's Rock-A-thon Sunday.

Greg Lohofener, with the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp., said he's not sure how much those events raised yet.

The corporation is starting to get quite a few grain donations for the bowling alley, he added, which is a great way to contribute to the

project. Grain can be donated at the Decatur Co-op, Hansen Mueller or the Hi Plains Co-op elevators in Decatur County.

Mr. Lohofener said he plans to get in touch with Jayhawk Bowling of Lawrence to set up a schedule to get the project done.

Of the needed \$150,000, he said, \$50,000 is for the electronic scoring system. As the amount raised nears the \$100,000 mark, he said, he thinks maybe they could move forward with a schedule and start the work while still raising money for the scoring system.

It looks like they could possibly start work near the beginning of December.

Anyone who wants to make a donation should call Mr. Lohofener at 475-3322 or Connie Grafel, marketing director for the corporation, at 475-2901.

## Board members approve list of goals for entire district

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**  
k.davis@nwkansas.com

The Oberlin School Board approved goals for the current school year under three categories, provide, instill and expect.

Each year the board revises and approves goals for the district.

Goals under provide include:

- The most modern resources for teachers and students to ensure that all students have the technological, academic and social skills needed for success in the future.
- Continue board and stakeholder committees to help facilitate board goals and to provide support for the combined position of superintendent and principal.
- Provide facilities that are mod-

ern and conducive to teaching for learning. Continue to work with the building committee to develop a long-range plan for facilities wants and needs.

• Establish a committee of stakeholders to review curricular areas and schedule. Those areas should include course offerings, prerequisite classes, length of school day and year, and number of class periods. This committee should include board members, parents, teachers and high school students.

Goals under instill include:

- Accumulate data from the last four graduating classes, including attrition rates, academic preparedness and the correlation between

(See GOALS on Page 8A)

## Jennings School sells to local family

The former Jennings School building, which had been remodeled as a headquarters and plant for a bus firm, now belongs to two Jennings couples.

The school closed in 2004 and was sold to Bus and Coach International in March 2006. The California company bought the building from the City of Jennings and the Jennings Heritage Association for \$150,000.

The company planned to establish its headquarters in the former school.

Connie Grafel, marketing direc-

tor for the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp., said she hasn't had any contact with anyone from the firm recently. While she said she had heard some things about what could happen with the building, those apparently didn't come to fruition.

Leonard and Doris Fleckenstein and their son Eric and his wife Melinda bought the old school. Mrs. Fleckenstein said they plan to use it as a shop for their farm and for D&L Trucking. They are brainstorming ideas for some of the office space, she added.

## Council to decide on administrator salary

The Oberlin City Council will need to vote on salary for the new city administrator at its meeting Thursday.

Interim Administrator Karen Larson said Joseph Gaa from Fort Smith, Ark., has accepted the council's offer. The council will need to vote on the salary and accept his hiring.

Mrs. Larson said Paul Hawkins of Norcat, who is a certified building inspector, will talk to the

council about building codes.

The agenda will also include: • An oil and gas lease offer from Hambright, which the council has been looking at for the past few months.

• Voting on an ordinance changing the due date of the city bills from the 10th of the month to the 15th.

The meeting will start at 7 p.m. in The Gateway. It is open to the public.

## Belarus man here learning about teen group

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**  
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A young man from Belarus is spending nine months stateside learning more about Teens for Christ, including two months in Oberlin.

Ilya Phoenix Davidovich, 23, plans to spend all of October and November learning about and experiencing the evangelical youth

group. Mr. Davidovich, who goes by Phoenix, is staying with Pastor Doug and Johanna Mason, sponsors of the Oberlin youth group.

Mr. Davidovich said he received a teaching license in 2007 from the Teacher Training College in Minsk, capital of the former Soviet republic. He also has a bachelor's degree in English, French and English literature earned this year from Minsk State Linguistics University.

During his education, he said, he has become a certified lecturer in aids, health care, education and

training. Mr. Davidovich said he can speak on three areas, including life in Belarus; love, sex and dating for grades seven to 12; and the six effective principles of raising children.

He said he first became interested in activities like Teens for Christ when he attended an English camp with the help of Campus Crusade. At that time, Teens for Christ was doing mission trips to Belarus.

He said he had never really been around real Christians before. Although most people in Belarus consider themselves Christians and

go to church twice a year, he said, it's not the same.

At camp, said Mr. Davidovich, he met a totally different kind of Christian. These people, he said, were sincere, and he wanted that life. So on July 3, 2002, he gave his life to Christ. He said it was ironic, since it was Belarus' Independence Day.

Mr. Davidovich said he became active in Sunday school, but that wasn't enough, and helped start a summer camp for teenagers. After (See MAN on Page 8A)





**AFTER** painting at a Teens for Christ event, Ilya Phoenix Davidovich held up his hands.

## \*Man learning the ropes

(Continued from Page 1A)  
 a lot of thinking, praying and planning, he said, they started a club for teenagers.  
 For years, he said, he's also been doing lectures for grade school and teenage kids. The summer of 2009, he said, they held the teen camp again. Mr. Davidovich said one of his American friends came to help. There were around 60 kids at the camp. The village where the camp was held, he said, now has a small church.  
 Mr. Davidovich said he felt God was calling him away from his country. At the beginning of the year, he talked with a friend here with Teens for Christ, who asked him if he wanted to come to the U.S. for a year.  
 Mr. Davidovich said he thought it was a nice dream, but never thought he could get the visa or the money he'd need. Months later, an invitation arrived from the teen group.  
 He went to Kiev to be interviewed by U.S. officials

for a visa. He said he was asked three questions: why he was going, where his parents live and what he plans on doing when he comes back.  
 He's been here since July and was able to take part in the second week of a teen camp. He spent two months in Oxford, Neb., then here, then moved on to Scott City and Phillipsburg. Before returning home, he said, he plans to visit some friends.  
 Mr. Davidovich said he wants to learn about the teen organization and be able to take it back to Belarus.  
 In Belarus, he said, Sunday school is held for kids from 6 to 12, then there is a young adult program for those 19 and above. Those in the 13- to-18 age range don't have a God-based activity, and Teens for Christ would answer that.  
 Mr. Davidovich said he is available to speak for organizations. Call Pastor Mason at 475-2599 to reach him.

## \*Goals set by school board

(Continued from Page 1A)  
 American College Testing scores and success in college.  
 • Work toward better board-community communication. Engage parents and all stakeholders in conversations about providing a quality education for all students.  
 • Provide ongoing professional development for all district personnel, including the board, so that all members model the importance of

lifelong learning.  
 Goals under expect include:  
 • Demonstrate fiscal responsibility in a time of reduced economic resources and develop a long-range plan to deal with declining enrollment and shrinking budget.  
 • Promote the continued development of instructional technology to ensure that our district is a recognized educational leader in this area.

• Expect positive attitudes and professionalism among all district staff, administration and board members.  
 • Establish a committee of board and classified staff members to develop goals and an evaluation instrument for these vital areas.  
 • Encourage faculty and student leadership, reward excellence by those who achieve it and find ways to support those who need it.

## City accepts lawn mowing bids

The Oberlin City Council approved the bid for mowing for next year for city properties, including the parks.  
 At the meeting Thursday, Oct. 7, Interim Administrator Karen Larson said the city advertised for bids.

They got one bid back, from Larry Fought, who mows the grass now.  
 The bid includes everything but The Gateway and Sappa Park, which aren't contracted out. The price is \$150 higher per mow than this year, she said.

From April to the present, said Mrs. Larson, it has cost the city just over \$15,000 for those same properties.  
 The council approved the bid.

## Lunch set to raise cash

The Lund Covenant Church plans to hold a chili and soup lunch to help raise money to pay medical bills for a Dresden family.

The lunch is for Tony and Ramona Amlong, who own Mona's Market in Dresden and attend the church. Mr. Amlong had a five-bypass heart surgery this summer in Hays.

Pastor Doug Mason said everyone is invited to the lunch on Sunday, Nov. 7, at the Old Bohemian Hall on the grounds of the Last Indian Raid Museum.  
 Donations will be taken.

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## Crew needed for ambulance

Anyone interested in serving as a volunteer first responder on the Decatur County ambulance crew should sign up for class now.  
 Director Linda Manning said the class will start in November, although the dates haven't been set.  
 People interested in volunteering for the crew can call her at 475-4453 or Chris Koerperich at 470-7004.  
 The classes will be held two nights a week for three months at the ambulance barn in Oberlin.

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# School board accepts bid for depository bank

The Oberlin School Board looked at bids from two banks with offices here for the district's deposits at its meeting last Monday, choosing to stay with the current one.

Board president Monte Moore and member Dan Grafel had met earlier to open the bids from The Bank and First National Bank. The interest rates offered were .19 of 1 percent from The Bank and .21 of 1 percent from First National Bank.

Superintendent Duane Dorshorst said the rates from First National Bank, which are a little higher, are based on published rates. The Bank's rates are based on the 90-day Treasury rates.

The district has used First National for deposits for the past six years, he said. The bid award is good for three years.

One of the things she likes about First National, he said, is that they offer a cash management system, allowing more than one person being able to electronically access the account. Each one of those people has a digital access code that constantly changes.

With the bid from The Bank, said Mr. Dorshorst, they would have to take everything to the bank on a flash drive.

The board approved the bid from First National Bank.

Board member Dan Wasson said

## School Roundup

At its meeting last Monday, the Oberlin School Board:  
 • Approved a handful of policies on first reading. Story on Page 3A.  
 • Approved goals for the current

school year. Story front page.  
 • Looked at bids from two banks, approving one, for the district's deposits. Story at left.

he went to a Northwest Kansas Technical College board meeting in September. He said the 216 students in the college were tested and a good number of them couldn't read or do math past a ninth grade level.

Mr. Wasson said schools may need to be doing something more about this. Maybe something needs to be done differently, he said.

It seems like districts are teaching more remedial classes in subjects, said member Dan Nedland, and not as many normal or above normal-average classes. Statistics show that if a student can't read at a third-grade level by the third grade, that they will most likely never catch up.

How do these students who can't read or do math above a ninth grade level graduate high school? asked Mr. Moore.

Students have to pass the the classes, said Mr. Dorshorst, but that could be with a D. Also, some

students are turned off by education. Some would rather learn a vocation.

In other business, the board:  
 • Watched the recap of the series on education news NBC did. It was interesting, said Mr. Dorshorst, that nowhere in the broadcast did they talk about rural America.

• Approved Mr. Nedland as the voting delegate and Mr. Wasson as the alternate for the upcoming Kansas Association of School Boards state convention in December.

• Heard that the district was up four students on count day, Monday, Sept. 20, from last year to this year. In the last two weeks, Mr. Dorshorst said, the district has lost six students, leaving the grade school with 194 and the high school with 170.

• Held a closed sessions for 30, 15, 5 and 10 minutes to discuss the superintendent's evaluation with just the board. There was no action taken afterward.

## Loans haven't been paid back

The Decatur County commissioners briefly talked about the microloan program, noting that the majority of the loans given out have not been paid back.

At a meeting Tuesday, Oct. 5, county started with \$100,000, which was supposed to be repaid. Six businesses have taken out loans, including Edgerton Auto Repair, Gorman Tarps, H&B Construction, Beaver Creek Kennels, E&S Meats and To Be Creative.

Edgerton is the only business that has paid off the loan, said Clerk Colleen Geihlsler. Some are paying back the money owed, commissioners said, while others aren't.

Mrs. Geihlsler said there's \$51,000 in the loan account now.

The commissioners talked about having the county attorney send

letters to the people who aren't paying.

Weed Control Director Gaylen Huntley said he's had two trucks break down, a 1998 Chevy, which had a transfer pump out, and the 2001 Dodge which had a turn signal out.

All the vehicles, said Mr. Huntley, are serviced every 3,000 miles. There's a checklist the guys go through to make sure everything is running properly.

It's good to keep them in good shape, said Commissioner Stan McEvoy. The trucks might have to run for a while.

Mr. Huntley said they took a load of recycling to Colby at the end of the September. There are still a few people dropping electronic waste items at the recycling building,

although that's not allowed. He said he thinks the recycling group is going to start charging for those items.

In other business, the commissioners:

• Signed six letters to be sent out to collect ambulance bills.

• Approved transferring \$5,000 from the general fund to the transportation bus fund.

• Held a 15-minute closed session for non-elected personnel with the county attorney, clerk and commissioners. No action was taken.

• Gave the OK for extension agent Byron Hale to put the top of the 4-H float on the lawn of the courthouse. The commissioners suggested talking with Custodian Bob Berls before putting it up.

## Farris Farm Partnership Real Estate AUCTION

### 600 (+/-) Acres Decatur County, Kansas Cropland

### Mon., Nov. 8, 2010 - 11:00 a.m.

Land Location: From Jennings, Kansas - 2 miles North.  
 Sale Location: Community Building - 133 S. Kansas - Jennings, Kansas.

**Legal Descriptions & Tract Information ~ All in Decatur County, Kansas**

**Tract #1 Legal Description:** Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) of Section Twelve (12), Township Four (4) South, Range Twenty-seven (27).  
**General Description:** Approximately 80 Acres of growing wheat with the balance of the cropland wheat stubble.

**Tract #2 Legal Description:** North Half of Southeast Quarter (N1/2SE1/4) and Southeast Quarter of Southeast Quarter (SE1/4SE1/4) Section Twelve (12), Township Four (4) South, Range Twenty-seven (27).  
**General Description:** Approximately 48 acres of growing wheat with the balance of the cropland wheat stubble.

**Tract #3 Legal Description:** Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) of Section Seven (7), Township Four (4) South, Range Twenty-six (26).  
**General Description:** Approximately 30 acres of growing wheat with the balance of the cropland wheat and corn stubble.

**Tract #4 Legal Description:** South Half of the North Half (S1/2N1/2) of Section Seven (7), Township Four (4) South, Range Twenty-six (26).  
**General Description:** Approximately 41 acres of growing wheat with the balance of the cropland corn and wheat stubble.

**Tract 1**

**Tract 3**

**Tract 4**

**AUCTIONEER'S NOTE:** This is a rare chance to buy, at public auction, 600 (+/-) acres of choice Decatur County, Kansas Cropland. This land will be selling in 4 individual tracts. This acreage is some of the better cropland in Decatur County. Wheat has been planted on all the tracts and the stand looks good.  
 Buyer will receive 1/3 of the 2011 wheat crop. The wheat stubble has all been sprayed, at Seller's expense, in preparation for the 2011 spring crops, or summer fallow. See you at the auction. -Les

### FSA and Tax Information

Tract	Farmland Acres	Cropland Acres	Wheat Base/CC Tract Yield	Grain Sorghum Base/CC Tract Yield	2009 Taxes
#1	157.7	154.1	82.7/38	5.1/45	\$440.28
#2	120.0	111.1	69.6/38	3.7/45	\$330.22
#3	151.8	151.8	81.4/38	5.1/45	\$473.77
#4	147.3	143.4	76.9/38	4.8/45	\$459.73

**Terms:** Ten percent (10%) down day of sale, balance on approval of marketable title on or before 30 days from day of sale. Bidding is not contingent upon financing. Financing, if necessary, must have been arranged and approved prior to the auction so that Buyer(s) are capable of paying cash at closing.  
**Taxes:** Seller will pay all 2010 and prior taxes with the taxes for 2011 and subsequent years to be the responsibility of the Buyer(s).  
**Possession:** At closing on or before 30 days from day of sale on all idle ground.  
**Growing Wheat:** Possession to the cropland growing wheat will be after harvest of the wheat in 2011. In addition to payment of purchase price, buyer shall also be responsible to pay the Seller 1/3rd of the wheat fertilizer expense and in return shall receive 1/3rd share of the wheat which is harvested in 2011.  
**Title Insurance:** Title insurance shall be used to prove clear and merchantable title with the Buyer and Seller sharing equally the owner's policy expense. The mortgagee's policy, if required, will be the expense of the buyer.  
**FSA Payments:** Buyer(s) will receive 1/3rd of the 2011 Wheat payment and all of the 2011 Feed Grain payment.

**Acresages:** All acresages are based on U.S. Government measurements and are considered approximate. The statements, while not guaranteed, are from reliable sources. Any costs incurred in establishing boundaries shall be the responsibility of the buyer(s). Sale is subject to easements, rights-of-way, reservation and/or restrictions of record. Seller and Realtor make no warranties, either expressed or implied. Broker represents the Seller only and will not be considered an agent for the Purchaser(s). Announcements made day of sale shall take precedence over all printed material. For more information, contact the broker.  
**Mineral Rights:** Mineral rights are intact and will go to the Buyer(s).  
**Closing:** Date of closing will be on or before December 8, 2010.  
**Agency:** Pratt Real Estate is the Exclusive Agent of the Sellers.

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