

Candidates file for city/school spots

Time's up to file for seats in the upcoming city and school elections.

As of Monday, only a few spots had anyone signed up to run. Jim Miesner, Janice Guthrie and Tim Bowen have filed for seats on the Oberlin City Council. There are two seats open, currently held by Ray Ward and Rhonda May.

Bobbie Jo Johnson and Judy Scott have

filed for the mayor's seat, currently held by Joe Stanley.

Monday evening Ms. May said she plans to file for the mayor's position. Mr. Ward was called at home, but wasn't reached. Mr. Stanley said he isn't planning on running for office.

In Dresden, two council spots and the mayor's seat are up for election. Those

positions are held by Mayor Scott Taylor and council members Margaret Rhodes and Erma Jean Sprester. All have filed for re-election.

In Jennings, three council spots are open. Those are held by members Rick Foster, Pat Hall and Stann Hartzog. No one has filed for the jobs.

In Norcatur, three council spots are

open, held by Wava Reames, Jerry Hill and Jim Plotts. Both men have filed for re-election.

The Oberlin School Board has four spots open, all at-large. Members Dan Nedland, Dan Grafel and Monte Moore have all filed for re-election. The only current member who hadn't is Jerry Chambers.

For the first time, the election will include

two seats on the Twin Creeks Extension District. The spots are currently held by Peggy Pratt and Sharleen Wurm. Mrs. Pratt and Cathy Anthony have filed for those spots.

The election will be Tuesday, April 5. The deadline for voter registration is Tuesday, March 21. A primary would be held Tuesday, March 1, if necessary.

Water study shows jump in rates here

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
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The Oberlin City Council received an analysis showing water rates possibly doubling to repay a loan for the new water treatment plant at their meeting Thursday, but didn't make any decisions on the rates.

The council did approve proceeding with a temporary general-obligation bond issue to borrow several million to get the water project going. The bonds would later be replaced by revenue bonds, to be repaid from increased water charges.

John Haas of Ranson Financial, the city's bond advisors, talked with the council members about information he's gathered on the water rates with an eye to paying for a planned \$6.5 million water treatment plant and distribution improvement project.

The figures show the average cost for 750 cubic feet of water going from current rates in the city at \$20.40 a month to \$43.49, \$38.86, \$39.64 or \$35.41, depending on the scenario.

Mr. Haas said he worked with the city staff and the engineers to gather the historical expenses and what they think the rates will go to once the plant comes on line.

He suggested that the council members take the information home, look through it and get any questions to him or the city administrator. He he could answer them at the council meeting on Thursday, Feb. 3.

Actually, he said, he wouldn't suggest raising water rates right

now. The council actually did a rate increase recently, said Mr. Haas, so he wouldn't suggest another one until late this year. The city won't see what the increase will bring in until then, he said.

Based on the use assumptions and what the expenses are, said Mr. Haas, the city is going to have to generate around \$742,000 to operate and pay for the plant. Right now the city, based on the assumptions in the analysis, is short \$349,000.

The other side of this, said Mr. Haas, is that the U.S. Department of Agriculture doesn't want to give a town a loan that will require people to pay more than \$40 a month on a water bill.

So the department could give the city more grant money because the bills would be over \$40 a month, Councilwoman Rhonda May asked.

Yes, said Mr. Haas, that's a possibility, but the department doesn't necessarily use the same figures to calculate that. The monthly bill for users is a point that could be argued to get more grant money, he said.

Hopefully, he said, the city will be able to get a loan for \$4 million of the project and grants for \$1.5 million.

Mr. Haas suggested the city move forward with the paperwork to do temporary general obligation bonds that will later be replaced by revenue bonds.

He said he thinks it's a good time to sell the temporary bonds because it's time to start spending the money. The temporary financing can be used to pay for the first phase.

The council approved a resolution approving the temporary bonds.

Building lanes



AT THE BOWLING ALLEY, Bryan Selters, with Jayhawk Bowling, worked on getting the new lanes in on Monday afternoon.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

School board receives procedure for lice

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
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The Oberlin School Board received a copy of the district's lice procedure during its meeting on Monday evening.

Superintendent Duane Dorshorst said he and school nurse Johanna Mason wrote out the procedure, which includes eight parts.

He said only two school districts in Kansas have a "no-nit" policy and Oberlin isn't one of them. Mr. Dorshorst said parents aren't notified every time students are screened for lice.

If a student is screened and no lice are found, he said, the parents aren't notified.

Board member Dan Grafel asked

if it's the same students over and over? Yes, said Mr. Dorshorst, in some cases it is, because they aren't getting rid of the lice.

That can't be held against the kids, he said, and it's not the district's job. It's the district's job to educate the kids.

Repeat cases, he said, are reported to the state Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

Board member Dan Wasson asked what the lice situation is. Mr. Dorshorst said they found a new case last week.

Board member Abby Hissong said it's important to remember lice isn't something that is based on wealth or status. Anyone can get them; it's just a matter of treating

for them.

The eight parts of the procedure include:

- After a student is found with lice, the parents are required to come to the school to pick them up. The school nurse will talk with the parents about treatment and how to control head lice.

- Parents are given the handout "Dealing with Head Lice: A Practical Approach for Schools, Parents and Communities," from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

- The kids can't return to school until they have been treated with a lice-killing agent.

- Students are screened for head lice before going back to the class-

room.

- All brothers and sisters are also screened.

- "Any student whose family refuses to follow the prescribed treatment will not be allowed back into school until the school nurse has screened the children for live lice. If the problem persists, the school will report the incident to Social and Rehabilitation Services."

- Students can go back to school with nits, or louse eggs, in their hair. They need to have received the treatment for lice. "It is highly recommended that all nits be removed as quickly as possible as part of healthy hygiene," the policy says.



JEAN ANN LEITNER tossed a prime rib roast in her cart while she shopped during the spree she won at Raye's Grocery last summer.

— Herald file photo

Woman remembered for her smile, work

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
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With a smile on her face, Jean Ann Leitner walked the halls of the Decatur County Hospital for 35 years, caring for others.

Mrs. Leitner, 58, lost her fight with lung cancer last Monday at Hays Medical Center.

Her daughter, Jennifer Leitner, said one of the things she's heard

said a lot in the past week is that her mother had an infectious smile. She was involved in the town and was always a giving person in both Herndon and Oberlin.

Ms. Leitner said her mom served on the Herndon Ox Roast Committee, the Heritage Craft Day Committee, the Herndon Chamber of Commerce board and also helped

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Kennel owner turns in license

A Cedar Bluffs kennel owner who signed 1,200 dogs over to the state in December to be euthanized has surrendered his U.S. Department of Agriculture license, which allowed him to ship dogs for interstate shipment.

Dr. Bill Brown, state livestock commissioner and head of the state Department of Animal Health, said Jeff Fortin, who owns Beaver Creek Kennels, had surrendered his license. Basically, said Dr. Brown, Mr. Fortin can't sell dogs to distributors or brokers. He can't sell them in retail since he surrendered that license. Dr. Brown said he's not sure what Mr. Fortin negotiated with the Department of Agriculture, but said surrendering this license could be part of a consent agreement.

Mr. Fortin, said Dr. Brown, still has a license through the state which would allow him to breed dogs and sell them in this area.

In the middle of December, the kennel was emptied because

of a distemper outbreak. After the 1,200 dogs were put down, Dr. Brown said, Mr. Fortin was told not to have any dogs at the kennel near Cedar Bluffs for six months. After that time, he said, Mr. Fortin can only start with 50 animals.

Once that small population is in place, other criteria will have to be met before the department will ever let him ramp up again. There are lots of unknowns, Dr. Brown said in December, including what numbers the owner will be comfortable with and what he can afford to keep.

The six months will expire in the middle of June.

According to an article in The Denver Post, several dozen protesters lined the streets and held a candlelight vigil outside Mr. Fortin's pet shop in Colorado on Saturday evening. The protesters carried signs and wanted the owner "to stop mass breeding of animals in conditions they believe are lacking in proper shelter and health care," according to the article.

Newspaper wants hero nominations

The Oberlin Herald invites readers to nominate a "Hometown Hero" for an upcoming special edition the staff is planning.

The paper plans to take people's recommendations and interview the "heroes" for a section which will be printed in the newspaper. All nominations have to be to The Herald office by next Wednesday.

Anyone who wants to nominate someone can mail a letter to Kimberly Davis at 170 S. Penn Avenue Oberlin, Kan. 67749 or e-mail the nomination to k.davis@nwkans.com.

Nominations, said Mrs. Davis, have to include the person's name, the nominator's name and the rea-

son for the nomination. If a picture is available, that can be sent or emailed to Mrs. Davis.

As of Monday only two people have been nominated as "Heroes." The staff will try to write about each of the nominated "Heroes," Mrs. Davis said. A hero can be anyone, she said, maybe someone who has worked hard to raise money for a community project, someone who volunteers to shovel the sidewalk of their neighbor each winter or maybe just that person who always has a smile on their face and constantly cheers people up.

"Use your imagination," said Mrs. Davis.

McCook girl killed

A 14-year-old McCook girl was found dead Friday night near Bartley, Neb., about 15 miles east of McCook.

Kailee N. Clapp, a freshman at McCook High School, had been reported missing by her mother about 7:11 a.m. that day. According to a release from the McCook Police Department and Red Willow

County Sheriff's Office, city officers investigated the report when they received information in the afternoon that Miss Clapp could be in danger.

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Stopping for lunch



DURING COVER YOUR ACRES last Wednesday, Bryan Evans (left) and Bryan Guipre helped themselves to lunch. The winter conference brought over 900 farmers and industry people to The Gateway for two days last week. — Herald staff photo

Student captures top honor

DECATUR DICTATOR STAFF

Kelly Brown, a seventh grader, won the Oberlin geography bee held last week in the high school auditorium. Seventh- and eighth-grade students took a written test to qualify for the bee. The top 10 were the finalists, who qualified for the oral round.

The finalists were Kelly, Meghan Davies, Kaine Fredrickson, Kade Grafel, Jonathon Howland, Austin Kyte, Daniel Lerew, Noah Nelson, Garrett Scott and Myles Sheaffer.

The students took turns answering questions read by geography teacher Marlene Moxter until there were only two left: Kelly and Austin. Garrett Scott finished third.

Kelly will now take another written test, which will be sent to the National Geographic Society to see if he qualifies for state competition. If he should win the state bee, the society will provide an all-expense-paid trip to Washington. The winner of the state competition will receive a \$25,000 college scholarship.

*Nurse works for 35 years

(Continued from Page 1A)
organize volunteers from Herndon to work on the Octopus during the Decatur County Fair.

Mrs. Leitner had just been recognized by the hospital for 35 years of nursing service. Nursing, said her daughter, is just something she thought her mom always wanted to do.

The daughter said her mom always looked out for everyone else. She was always a big help to others.

Hospital Administrator Lynn Doeden said Mrs. Leitner was a thoughtful and caring person to her patients, co-workers and other staff.

"Her laughter was contagious," said Mrs. Doeden, "and could turn a horrible day into something bright."

Mrs. Leitner worked for the hospital for 35 years, said Mrs. Doeden, and during that time she reminded her that she'd been through several administrators, directors of nursing and names.

"She was a good friend," said Mrs. Doeden, "and second mother to most of the other nurses' children and will be missed greatly by Decatur Health Systems and the community."

Mrs. Leitner was born June 3,

1952, in McCook, Neb., the daughter of Charles and Virginia (Grafel) Portschy. She grew up on a farm 2 1/2 miles north of Herndon. She graduated from Herndon High School in 1970 and Fort Hays State University in 1974 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She worked a year at Hadley Memorial Hospital in Hays.

She married Danny Joe Leitner on July 26, 1975, in Herndon, where they made their home. She was a member of the Immanuel United Church of Christ in Herndon.

Survivors also include her husband, of the home; a son, Jeffrey and Danielle Leitner, Oberlin; a brother, Leon and Marita Portschy, Herndon; a sister, Charlotte Smith, Buhler; and two granddaughters.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Funeral services were Friday, Jan. 21, 2011, at Pauls Funeral Home in Oberlin with Dennis Brown and the Rev. Joe Garavaglia-Maiorana officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery in Herndon.

Memorials were established to the Decatur County Cancer Society, Decatur Health Systems, and the Hays Medical Center Intensive Care Unit. Contributions may be sent to the funeral home, 121 N. Penn, Oberlin, Kan. 67749.

*Officers find girl's body

(Continued from Page 1A)
A body was found near Bartley that evening, thought to be Miss Clapp, but the autopsy and forensic tests were pending.

Stathis Kirkpatrick, 18, Bartley, is being held as a "person of interest" in the case. His bail is set at \$1 million with an arraignment set for 11:30 a.m. Thursday.

According to the police statement, "Details of the investigation, circumstances of the arrest and photographs of Stathis Kirkpatrick are not available at this time as disclosure of the information would likely interfere with the ongoing investigation and the fact that there is no such information on record at this time."

The local agencies said they are working with the Nebraska State Patrol and federal law enforcement officers on the investigation.

The Associated Press reported that Nora Clapp, Kailee's mother, last saw her youngest child around 9:30 p.m. Thursday as she was getting ready for bed. Ms. Clapp said her 18-year-old daughter saw Kailee an hour later.

"She was a very sweet, loving, ornery, loved girl," her mother said Saturday in an interview with an Associated Press reporter. "She was very friendly. She would be like, the first person to make you her friend when you were the new person in school."

Welcome!

Dr. Elizabeth Ashworth

Cardiothoracic & Vascular Surgeon

HaysMed DeBakey Heart Institute

Welcomes the Newest Member of the Cardiac Team.



Elizabeth M. Ashworth, MD, FACS, cardiothoracic and vascular surgeon is a native of Indiana. She completed medical school at Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis. She completed residencies in General Surgery at Indiana University Medical Center and Cardiothoracic Surgery at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. She is board certified in general surgery and cardiothoracic surgery.

Dr. Ashworth has held positions in cardiothoracic and vascular surgery at hospitals in Indiana and Kansas. She is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, a member of the Society of Thoracic Surgery and Women in Thoracic Surgery. She is widely published in medical journals and health-related publications.

For more information about cardiothoracic and vascular surgery services at the DeBakey Heart Institute at HaysMed call 888-832-7138 or ask your primary care physician.

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