

Welcome home alumni!

THE OBERLIN HERALD

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Schools evacuate for bomb threat

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

They sang, they danced, they performed their material for the state speech, they performed some spontaneous pieces and they laughed.

While they knew that something was going on in the schools, the students from the Decatur Junior/Senior High School took the opportunity to band together and have some fun.

A bomb threat last Thursday meant both of the schools had to be evacuated, and quickly. The high school students were taken by bus to The Gateway. There, they took over the Morgan Theater, where they could use the stage to entertain each other. Some of the performances were from

the recent concerts or speech tournaments, while others were spontaneous.

One sophomore girl sang a song by the band Cold Play acappella, bringing her fellow classmates to their feet in a standing ovation.

While the students acted and sang one piece after another, police and sheriff's officers were checking both schools for a potential bomb.

The bomb threat had come out of a printer in the upstairs computer lab at the grade school about 10:15 a.m. Superintendent Duane Dorshorst wrote in his weekly update to the school board that the threat was taken off the printer by a teacher whose class was working in the lab.

The note, he wrote, basically said that

a bomb would go off at 11 a.m. It didn't specify where.

The grade school called Mr. Dorshorst, who called Police Chief Wade Lockhart. He and the chief met at the grade school.

Mr. Dorshorst said he questioned the sixth graders who were in the lab at the time and none admitted printing the threat. District officials immediately started tracing where the threat had come from. Since the schools share a common computer network, he said, it could have from any classroom in any building.

The buildings were evacuated, with the high school students bused to The Gateway and the grade school kids walking to the basement of the Catholic church.

Around 11:15 a.m., Mr. Dorshorst said,

officers and school officials entered the buildings and began searching room by room. An hour later, the grade school was declared clear and the students and staff returned. Around 1:15 p.m., the high school was cleared and the students and staff returned.

"The safety of the students and the staff were our first concern," wrote Mr. Dorshorst. "We followed the crisis plan and everything went off without a hitch. It does make some parents upset when we do not release information until the crisis is over — but we do that for the safety of all involved. The staff needs to be commended on the way they handled the event and the students."

On Monday, Mr. Dorshorst said there

hadn't been any arrests made as far as he knows. Chief Lockhart was away at training all day and couldn't be reached.

Mr. Dorshorst did say that they were able to pinpoint the computer at the high school on which the message was printed. Chief Lockhart and Principal Charlie Haag questioned all of students in that class.

"It is also important to mention how well our junior/senior high students handled the disruption," he said. "Once they were relocated to the auditorium at The Gateway, the students just took over. They played piano pieces, sang solos and group songs, did some of their speech pieces and some ad lib acting. I wish I could have been there because I understand it was pretty magical (See STUDENTS on Page 10A)

Memorial Day services set at cemeteries

By **MARY LOU OLSON**
ml.olson@nwkans.com

About 250 flags will fly proudly at the Oberlin Cemetery on Monday morning to mark Memorial Day.

The public is invited to a Memorial Day ceremony at 10 a.m. around the main flagpole at the cemetery. Capt. Chris Coco, assistant professor of military science and Reserve Officer Training Corps instructor at Kansas State University, will speak.

The program is sponsored by the Oberlin American Legion, the Sons of the American Legion and the Legion Auxiliary.

The program will include presentation of the colors by Oberlin American Legion Commander Rollie Avery; John and Connie Simonsen posting the national colors; Miki Dorshorst and Samantha Anderson

singing the national anthem; the Rev. Stanley Chapin giving the opening and closing prayers; Jim Miesner placing the wreath and Sid Metcalf as sergeant-at-arms for the gun salute.

NORCATUR

First Lt. Aaron Helm will give the Memorial Day address on Sunday at the Norcaturn Cemetery. There will be a parade to the cemetery, beginning at 1:45 p.m. from the cemetery gate. Pastor Ed Woods will give the opening prayer and the Norton American Legion Color Guard will assist.

Andrea Marshall Spanier will sing "The Star Spangled Baner" and Roger Norman Beachel will decorate the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Taps and an echo will be played by Anthony Marshall and (See SERVICES on Page 10A)

Alumni section inside today's paper

Inside today's Oberlin Herald is the third annual Alumni section featuring graduates of Decatur Community High School just in time for the annual alumni weekend, reunions and banquet at The Gateway.

The section includes stories and pictures about classes that graduated in 1936, 1941, 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1986, 1991 and 2001.



Decatur Community High School Anthem
Nestled in the Sappa Valley
Here is found our dear old high school
Where young people meet
Much that they never see hearing
All the things that we are learning
By the strength obtained in hearing
A.D.C.H.S.



AT THE GRADE SCHOOL last Tuesday, Col. Gordon Kuntz talked with Jessie Isbell (above) while Spencer Wishon listened in. Col. Kuntz (below) demonstrated how people in Africa would use a flat weaved tool to scoop coffee beans. — Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Colonel thanks students

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

Boys and girls smiled big, bright smiles as they received their gifts.

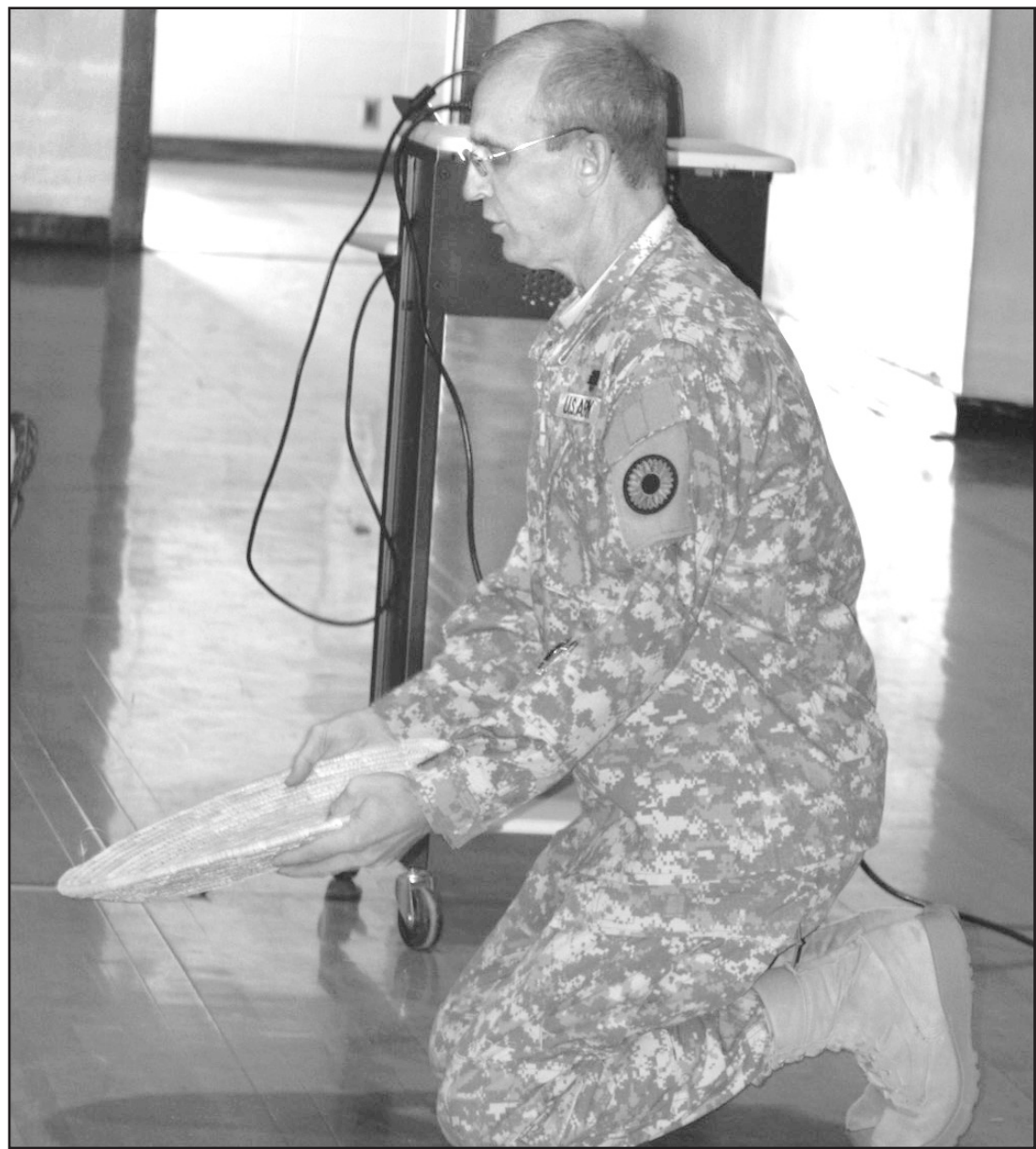
Nothing fuzzy or cute. Not gift wrapped or even brand new, but theirs to keep: new (or slightly used) shoes collected by students at Oberlin Elementary School and others in Decatur County.

Last Tuesday, Col. Gordon Kuntz showed students at Oberlin Elementary School a few pictures of the boys and girls in Ethiopia as they received the shoes.

The Oberlin kids brought the shoes, some used and some new, to the school last year. The boxes were then sent to Col. Kuntz in Ethiopia, east Africa, by his in-laws, Doyle and Kay Brown, Jennings.

Col. Kuntz said they took the donated shoes in a pick-up to the Dawit Aid for Aged Person Association. The place was open once a week and the elderly would go there for a cooked meal. Often, he said, they would bring their grandkids with them.

The association, said Col. Kuntz, was one of the places that they handed out the shoes.



"Whether they are new shoes or used shoes," he said, "they don't care. They are happy to have shoes." The people who went to the (See SHOES on Page 10A)

Chief checks house for banned constrictor

Oberlin's police chief told the City Council Thursday night that while he doesn't know where a seven-foot boa constrictor has been moved, the serpent wasn't in its cage the last time he checked.

After the deadline set by the council at the beginning of May, said Chief Wade Lockhart, he waited a day and then went to Aiyya Eaton's home. She wasn't there, but her mother was.

The chief said he saw the snake's cage. It appeared the animal hadn't been in the cage for some time, since there was no water or food in it.

A city ordinance bans keeping poisonous snakes or constrictors, such as the boa. Despite an appeal from the owner, the council refused to grant an exemption to the ban.

The chief said he has no clue whether the snake is in town or somewhere else. If the snake is still in town, said Chief Lockhart, someone will talk and he will find out.

Chief Lockhart said he left a message to have Ms. Eaton come talk to him. As of Thursday night, he added, she hadn't done that.

He said he can't get a search warrant for the snake. He has to rely on her honesty.

If someone in town has the snake, the chief said, that person could get a citation.



Wetlands might hold fish

The Oberlin Convention and Visitors Bureau board talked about stocking the creek and pond at Sappa Park with some catchable catfish for a fishing derby this summer.

The Sappa Park Committee recently approved buying some bentonite clay to put into the bank of the creek to help stop the water from leaking out, said Gary Anderson.

The Up in Smoke Cook-off committee, said member Connie Riedel, plans to donate \$2,000 in labor and electrical boxes to provide motor home hook-ups. They could possibly put up a few yard lights, too.

City Administrator Karen Larson said they should check with the city before they put anything up because there is only enough room for so many boxes. Otherwise, another transformer will have to be put up.

Also, said Mrs. Larson, they need to figure out how to charge for use of the power.

Board member Gary Anderson said it was his understanding that when the park was deeded to the city, one of the provisions was that entrance or admission fees can't be charged. Maybe there could be a suggested donation, he said.

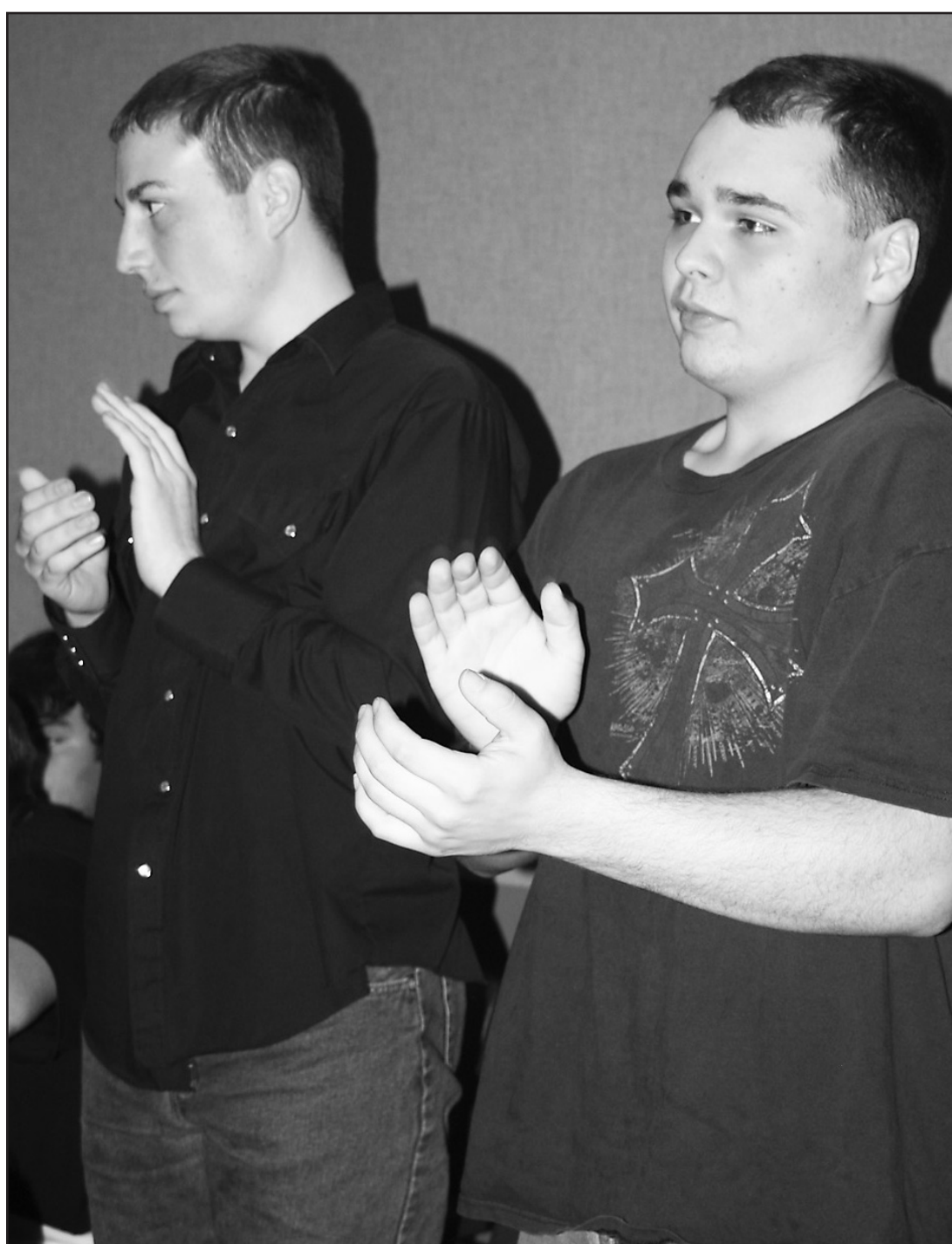
Mrs. Larson said the city doesn't charge rent for people to use the shelter house, but they do ask for a donation. About one in 10 people actually gives something, she said.

Mr. Anderson said he talked with Mary Stevenson, Karen Thompson's sister, who had volunteered to work in the northwest Kansas tent for Oberlin during the Kansas Sampler Festival at the beginning of May. She said there weren't a lot of visitors, and the tent seemed pretty dead.

There weren't a lot of vendors, he said, and she said that they might need to rethink the tent.

In other business, the bureau members:

- Approved buying new rack cards with a different picture of Sappa Park on them.



AT THE GATEWAY last Thursday, Zach Farr and Christifer Lines gave a standing ovation to one of their classmates after she sang. The students had been evacuated during a bomb scare.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

*Students use time wisely

(Continued from Page 1A)
the way the student body came together.

"I have heard from several parents and from some students themselves that they had never felt closer as a student body. Even the seniors, whose day had to be extended, handled it with great leadership."

(Thursday was the last day of classes for the seniors, who were to have been dismissed after they practiced marching and cleaned out lockers.)

Mr. Dorshorst said the seniors talked about the last time the district had a bomb threat, five years ago when they were in the seventh grade.

*Services planned for Memorial Day

(Continued from Page 1A)
Nolan Henningson.

In case of inclement weather, the service will be held at the Norcat High School gym. The Norcat Educational building will be open following the service.

LYLE

American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars members from Lebanon, Neb., will perform the honors at 11 a.m. Sunday at the Lyle Cemetery. A potluck dinner will follow at the Lyle Community Building.

BIG TIMBER

Memorial Day services will begin at 10 a.m. on Sunday at Big Timber Cemetery, with the Jennings American Legion in charge. A dinner will follow at 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center in Jennings. Beverages will be furnished.

JENNINGS

There will be a Memorial Day service at 10 a.m. on Monday at the Jennings Cemetery. The Jennings American Legion will be in charge.

LEOVILLE, SELDEN

Memorial services by the Selden American Legion Post and Auxiliary will be at 9:30 a.m. Monday at Mount Calvary Cemetery at Leoville, followed by services at 10:30 a.m. at the Selden Cemetery. The Girl Scouts will lead the flag salute and the invocation will be given by the Bernita Aumiller, Auxiliary chaplain.

Joe Broeckelman will give the address. Paulie Neff will place a wreath. The Rev. Barbara Patterson will give the benediction. The Selden American Legion will be in charge of the rifle salute, after which "Taps" will be played by Janel Antholz and Jacob Antholz.

HERNDON

Memorial services will begin at 2 p.m. on Monday at the Herndon Veterans of Foreign Wars Post, said Commander Chris Niermeier. Speaker will be Father Nick Parker. The Herndon Veterans of War and Oberlin American Legion will conduct the service. Steve Woody will sing "The Star Spangled Banner" and "Taps" will be played by Simon Micek.

*Shoes given out to kids in Africa

(Continued from Page 1A)

center for lunch didn't know they would also get a pair of shoes, he said, adding: "How great is that?"

He thanked the students for collecting the shoes. In all, he said, the kids gathered 204 pairs of shoes to help people 8,000 miles away. Some of the shoes were for adults, said Col. Kuntz, and they, too, were grateful.

Col. Kuntz talked with the kids some about the country in east Africa, which he said is really dry. He said the students couldn't just wear anything to school; they had a prescribed uniform. He showed them a picture of kids in maroon pants or skirts and a white shirt. Different schools had different uniforms, he said.

Most of the homes, said Col. Kuntz, don't have running water, so

the kids have to carry water from the hand pump back to their house.

"They are in a very poor country," he said.

Some of the kids have to walk two miles to school, said Col. Kuntz.

Before sending the Oberlin students back to their classes, Col. Kuntz opened the floor up to questions.

Isaiah Tucker asked how long it took him to get to Ethiopia. Col. Kuntz said it takes a day and a half to get there from Fort Benning, Ga., and a day to get to Oberlin from Georgia.

Chloe Harmon asked what kind of games the kids in Africa play. Col. Kuntz said they didn't have swings or bikes or toys, but he said he did see them playing soccer, or football, as they call it.



Happy Birthday Everyone!

Come and create a world with less cancer & more birthdays. With your help, we can fight cancer through RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND AWARENESS

DECATUR COUNTY RELAY FOR LIFE

June 17-18, 5:00 pm to 5:00 am at the Gateway Civic Center
Survivors' BBQ at 5:30 pm and then open to the public at 6:00 pm
Opening Ceremonies begin at 7:00 pm
Luminaria Ceremony at 10:00 pm

Luminaria Donation Form

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____ (\$10 ea Luminaria)
that will light a luminaria during the Luminaria Ceremony at the
Decatur County Relay for Life.

(To be included in program book, donations must be received by June 11.
Program books may also be purchased prior to the ceremony.)

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Support of: _____

Message on Luminaria (10 word limit)

- Learn more about Relay for Life activities
- Volunteer to help with the event
- Volunteer to help with transportation for those fighting cancer

Please make checks payable to: American Cancer Society

Donor Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

SPECIAL RECOGNITION IS GIVEN TO ALL INDIVIDUALS SELLING
\$1000 + IN LUMINARIAS & THE TEAM SELLING THE MOST LUMINARIAS
Marilyn Horn and Pat Fringer, Luminaria Co-Chairs

Please Mail to:
Decatur County Relay for Life
379 T LN, Oberlin, Ks 67749
Phone: 785-475-2560



Sometimes These

Just Won't
Do The Trick



Introducing

Tri Valley Pain Clinic

Tri Valley Health System's Pain Clinic is a multidisciplinary clinic for the diagnosis and treatment of individuals suffering from pain. Tri Valley Pain Clinic is medically directed by Kevin Balter, MD of *Platte Valley Pain Care* who has more than 20 years of experience in the field of Pain Management and has developed educational programs for training physicians throughout the country.



- Acute and chronic pain conditions evaluated and treated in the Pain Clinic include but are not limited to:
- Muscular (myofascial) pain
 - Post-surgical pain
 - Reflex sympathetic dystrophy (RSD)
 - Shingles and post-herpetic neuralgia
 - Diabetic neuropathy
 - Irritable bowel syndrome
 - Arthritis, joint pain, TMJ, sacroilitis
 - Severe angina, ischemic vascular pain
 - Low back pain
 - Neck pain
 - Whiplash
 - Headaches
 - Sciatica pain
 - Cancer pain
 - Spasticity
 - Fibromyalgia

Speak to your Medical Provider to set up an Appointment.

Tri Valley Wound Clinic

Tri Valley Wound Clinic is a multidisciplinary program providing comprehensive wound care through assessment, vascular studies, revascularization, infection control, wound excision, advanced technologies, skin grafting, nutrition, protection devices, patient and family education, and referrals. Directed by Lennie Deaver, MD, and Paul Shellabarger, PA-C with assistance from Infectious Disease Specialist Daniel Brailita, MD, and Vascular Surgeons Dr. Stuart Myers and Dr. Matthew Goettsch, Tri Valley Wound Clinic evaluates and treats acute and chronic non-healing wounds related to:

- Diabetes
- Arterial insufficiency
- Venous insufficiency
- Collagen disorders
- Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Pressure Ulcers
- Trauma/burns
- And More

Call 308-697-1172 or speak to your
Medical Provider
to set up an Appointment.

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www.trivalleyhealth.com