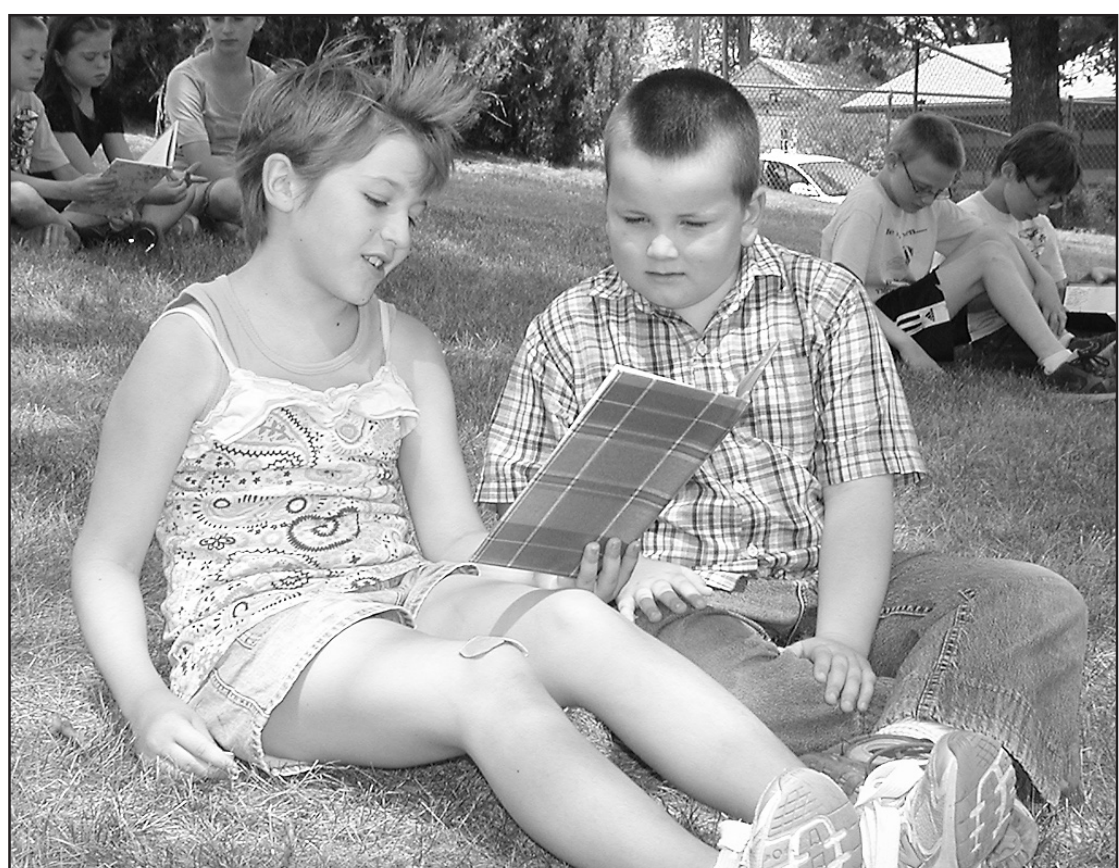


## Students sit on hill and read

**ON THE HILL** behind Oberlin Elementary School last Thursday, Colten Ketterl (above left) read to Kalen Townsend and Reece Grafel. Sage Lohofener and Gage Scott (right) read a book written by Sage. Part of a long tradition, the fourth and second graders teamed up as reading partners all year long.

— Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes



## City agrees to let woman rent house out at Sappa Park

By CYNTHIA HAYNES  
c.haynes@nwkanssas.com

After months of requests which were turned down, the Oberlin City Council agreed Thursday to lease the cottage at Sappa Park to Susan Rynearson.

During its regular meeting, the council again discussed a letter from Ms. Rynearson asking that she be allowed to live in the cottage at the old boys ranch.

Starting last year, at the urging of Rynearson and a friend, the council looked at the cottage and started the process of repairing mold damage. That work is mostly done, although the contractor needs to fix a couple of small problems, Mayor Bill Riedel told the council on Thursday.

In her first request, Ms. Rynearson asked to occupy the cottage in exchange for work on it and the park. She wanted the city to supply appliances and utilities.

Later, when the council decided the work needed to be done by a professional, she made another request, still asking for some concessions.

Finally, on Thursday, her offer was work in exchange for rent. She said she would supply all her own furnishings and appliances and pay all utilities and she would keep both the cottage and the other buildings and grounds at the former youth ranch neat and trash free.

"The place is vacant," Mayor Riedel told the council. "The whole facility and the city would incur no costs."

Council members asked that a lease agreement be drawn up including a 30-day notice clause for either party.

On a 4-1 vote with Councilwoman Fonda Farr dissenting, the council agreed to the proposal.

In her request, Ms. Rynearson wrote:

"Please consider my request, and don't worry about me. I was raised on a farm, I worked hard and learned how to survive. I shoot a gun (I own a 357), and I have faith the good angels of God will protect me out there. Actually, I feel safer in the woods than I do in town."

In other business, the council:

- Decided to advertise for bids to repave with concrete or asphalt several streets in town and award the project at the Thursday, June 7, meeting.
- Awarded a contract for the annual audit to Mapes and Miller, certified public accountants, with offices in Norton and Phillipsburg,

for \$12,900.

- Agreed to accept electronic payments through Paypal for utility bills. It will cost the city \$195 a year plus 8 cents per bill and \$10 per month for support. For those using the system, it will cost 35 cents plus 3 percent of the bill.

City Administrator Karen Larson said that means a customer with a \$100 city bill would pay \$3.35 to Paypal for the convenience. The service will probably start in July. People can also pay electronically from their banks, she said.

- Heard that the water department has patched the walls and painted the swimming pool, filled it and checked the circulation.

- Heard from Sexton Jeremy Tally that he is a little over halfway to his goal for purchasing an electronic directory system for the cemetery. Mr. Tally said he has collected a little over \$11,000 but will wait until after Memorial Day to order the system.

- Heard from American Legion Auxiliary President Ruth Miesner that the veterans' monument at the cemetery has been replaced.

She also said that two K-State students visited Oberlin, spoke with high school students and compiled their observations into a report. Mrs. Miesner said that she has a copy of the report if anyone would like to look at it.

The Oberlin students, she said, were concerned about the hospital, airport and swimming pool; talked of missed opportunities, such as the community college going to Colby; appreciate the town and the adults here; like improvements at Sappa Park; and hope for more jobs and businesses in the community.

- Decided to put the city's animal control ordinance on the agenda for the next regular meeting, on Thursday, June 7.

- Agreed to give part-time student employees returning this year a 25-cents-per-hour raise.

- Heard from Mrs. Larson that she had hedged the city's natural gas bill at \$4.20 per million cubic feet. The city will get 75 percent of its gas at this price, she said, the lowest it's been for a long time.

- Heard that the city has received a check for \$182,000 from the insurance company for work done on its damaged transformer

"It's not enough," Mrs. Larson said, adding that she was still working with the company.

## State director talks about licenses

By KIMBELRY DAVIS  
k.davis@nwkanssas.com

The executive director of the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts met with 24 people from hospitals and health-care agencies in northwest Kansas last Monday in Oberlin.

Decatur County Hospital Administrator Lynn Doeden said professionals from Oberlin, Logan, Norton, Phillipsburg, Oakley and Hays came for the meeting at the Sunflower Cinema.

Since the meeting, she said, the lines of communication between the hospital here and the state board have opened. She said they have

talked three times in the last week.

Kathleen Selzler Lippert, executive director, said she really appreciated Mrs. Doeden getting the meeting set up. One of the challenges the board faces is an information vacuum and getting things out.

The board members, she said, are appointed by the governor for four years for up to three consecutive terms. The board includes twelve doctors and three public members.

The board not only issues licenses, but regulates health care professionals. It is a reactive board, said Ms. Lippert, driven by complaints.

The board doesn't license or

regulate dentists or nurses, she said, but does govern physicians granting licenses and handling complaints.

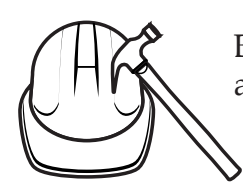
The investigation of a complaint is closed by state law, she said, but if a complaint is founded, then the board's actions can be public.

Ms. Lippert went through the top 10 reasons for complaints from people:

- No. 10: errors and omissions in applications.

- No. 9: being disruptive.
- No. 8: communication.
- No. 7: going it alone/isolation.
- No. 6: competence.
- No. 5: ignoring medical standards.
- No. 4: poor record keeping.
- No. 3: impairment, including alcohol and drugs.
- No. 2: boundary issues.
- No. 1: prescribing issues.

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## Events scheduled here for alumni weekend

Alumni weekend is here and there's lots to do around town.

The Decatur County Museum will hold its alumni social again this year. The museum will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday.

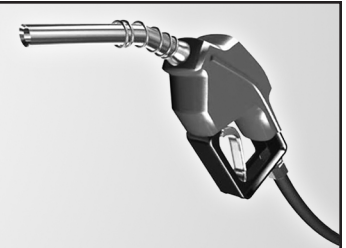
Offerings will include a slide show of the honored classes, a presentation on the new electronic cemetery directory, tours of the 15 historic museum buildings, time to look through old yearbooks and coffee and snacks.

The Oberlin Business Alliance will be grilling hamburgers and polish sausages in front of the museum from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday for a donation. Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce board members will be selling root beer floats at the same time. All donations will go to help pay for new signs to place on the highways.

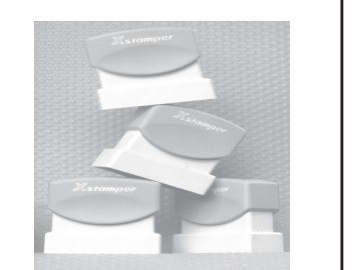
From 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Saturday, museum board members will serve breakfast in the Old Bohemian Hall on the museum grounds.

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