

# New high school basketball coach ready to bounce

By **STEPHANIE DeCAMP**  
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Oberlin's new high school basketball coach says he's ready to start — and ready to win. Daniel Conrad, 32, moved here from Wichita last month. He'll be teaching physical education for kindergarten through the freshman year of high school, as well as coaching junior varsity and varsity basketball.

"This will be my third year teaching," he said, "and I've always been a coach. I spent five years coaching at my catholic



Daniel Conrad

high school, Kapaun Mount Carmel, the last two years as the freshman head coach.

He last taught at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, a catholic elementary and middle school in Wichita, for two years before coming here.

"The kids are the best part of coaching, and the entertainment that goes along with teaching," he said. "Especially with the younger kids, every day is a new day. It's always something new and fun."

Mr. Conrad said he went to Wichita State University for college, earning a bachelor's degree in physical education.

"My family is mostly in Wichita," he said, "and I have a few aunts and uncles spread throughout the country: an uncle in Boston, a grandfather in California and some family in Oklahoma."

Mr. Conrad said he's single and is still getting to know Oberlin and its residents, but so far he likes the town a lot.

Basketball season starts in November, and the new coach said he expects that there will be four programs to run: varsity and junior varsity for boys and girls in high school, and boys and girls teams for those in junior high. And as for goals, he's got plenty.

"Well, my first goal is not to make a fool of myself," he said, laughing. "I have some real team goals though, and the first one is to play as a team, to get the kids team-oriented. Nothing about 'I' or 'me,' but 'we.' There will always be performers that stand out, and that's OK, as long as in the end their mindset is about teamwork."

"Second, I want to be over .500 — I want more wins than losses. I think it's very doable with this team, and

with the senior leadership I've seen. And lastly, I want to get to the second round in the playoffs, the second round or higher. Some of those goals might change as the year progresses; I want to have a team meeting with each class and set our own individual goals, too."

Mr. Conrad said that this first year, he really wants to focus on the kids and getting himself settled into the community. But eventually, he said, he'd like to help out with junior high football, too, as well as the booster club.

"I'm looking to try and push for face painting as a booster (activity), like a dollar a face," he said. "Especially for the younger kids, we could put a Red Devil on there or something. I know the community has been great coming out for sports, so we'll try to keep that tradition going."

## Chamber seeks new president

The president of the Decatur Area Chamber of Commerce has resigned, and a new one will be elected at the chamber's next board meeting at 5 p.m. next Wednesday, at the Business Entrepreneurial Enhancement Center on Penn Avenue downtown.

President Candi Ketterl said that she works for the U.S. Farm Service Agency, which recently changed her schedule, putting her in the Atwood office three days a week, and during the time that the Chamber usually meets.

"We live over near Herndon," she said, "so that's a lot of miles. I'm still going to be involved with the Economic Development Corp., though. I might take the 'at large' position, because that term is up this year, and I don't think the person that holds it now will be back, so if I can, I'll do that."

"I don't know who will replace her," said Carolyn Hackney, Chamber manager. "Normally, the vice president steps up, but we don't know for sure if she will or not."

The vice president is Amanda Grafel, of the Dresser, but she said she'll only take the presidency if no one else will.

"I'm hoping not to," she said. "I'm so busy with my kids and their activities that I don't think I have the time for it. I just don't know if I'd be the best one to fill the position, but the (board) will decide what they want to do at the next meeting."

## Pigskin contest begins

Football season is here, and so is The Oberlin Herald's annual Pigskin Pick-em contest.

Each week, contestants can try their hand at guessing which team will win area and college games. The person who guesses the most winners that week will win \$15 in scrip money, second-best guesser will get \$10 and third \$5. The winnings all have to be spent at the sponsoring businesses.

Only one entry is allowed per person. People can cut out the entry form from the newspaper or pick one up at the sponsoring businesses. No photocopies will be accepted.

All entries must be returned to The Oberlin Herald at 170 S. Penn Ave. by 5 p.m. Friday or postmarked with Friday's date.

At the end, \$50 in scrip money and a trophy will go to the person who has guessed the most correct winners all season.

The contest is made possible by the sponsoring businesses, which include Hansen Mueller, Ward Drug Store, Decatur Co-op Association, Creative Collision, Fredrickson Insurance and the LandMark Inn.

See the ads on Page 6B for a complete list of the official rules and this week's games.

Good luck!

## Orchestra needs players

The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra would welcome new players for its new season, which begins with a rehearsal on Monday, Sept 10, at the Colby Community College Band Room, in the Cultural Arts Center on campus.

A "meet and greet" begins at 7 p.m. with light refreshments. Rehearsal will follow at 7:30 p.m.

New members are welcome. If you're interested in playing and do not have an instrument, something may be available.

For questions, call Mary Shoaff at (785) 462-2159 or Janet Hopson at (785) 462-5102.

## Hand-printing tradition continues



AT THE GRADE SCHOOL last Tuesday, Jacie Fortin (above) held out her hand to be painted red before she put her palm on the wall. Zander Kempt (right) put his hand print on the "Wall of Excellence" north of the main building.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

## Kids print hands

Students at Oberlin Elementary School took turns sitting on the curb north of the school last Tuesday as they listened to their principal.

The wall in front of them, just south of the kindergarten building, had been freshly painted white, covering up the handprints of last year's students.

On the wall was a simple saying, painted in black: "Our Excellence Shows."

Principal Duane Dorshorst asked the kids in each class, from kindergarten through sixth grade,

when their excellence shows. The older classes, who had heard the answer, in previous years, knew the answer: "every day."

Each of the grade school students got to choose whether to have their hand painted with red, blue, yellow or green paint so they could put their handprint on the wall.

The students sign the wall with their handprints and first names each year near the beginning of school, pledging to honor their commitment to PRIDE and excellence.



## School board outlines goals for the new year

The Oberlin School Board briefly talked about the board's goals for the new year at its August meeting, but didn't make any decisions.

Board member Jerry Chambers said he had reworded the current board goals and moved things around a little.

The revamped goals from Mr. Chambers still included the three areas of "Provide," "Instill" and "Expect."

Under each are a few goals, including:

- Provide facilities that are modern and conducive to teaching for continued learning. Continue to work with committees to develop long-range facility plans.
  - Provide encouragement to faculty, staff and students and reward excellence by those who achieve it and continue support for those who need it.
- INSTILL**
- Instill a sense of ownership by striving towards continued improvement in board-community communication. Engage parents and stakeholders in conversations regarding quality education for all students.
  - Instill the merits of positive attitudes and

- professionalism among all district staff, administration and board of education.
- EXPECT**
- Expect fiscal responsibility in a time of reduced economic resources and develop strategies to deal with changes in enrollment and budget authority.
  - Expect technology to be at the forefront of education and ensure that our district is a recognized educational leader in this area.
- The members thanked Mr. Chambers for working on the goals. Superintendent Duane Dorshorst said the board could look them over and decide if they want to approve them at the September meeting.

## Fire department plans to build a new truck by themselves

By **STEPHANIE DeCAMP**  
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Instead of buying a new fire truck "off the shelf," Chief Bill Cathcart told Decatur County commissioners last Tuesday, he's thinking about building one from the ground up, using a used pickup rather than a new one.

The Decatur County Rural Fire Department is replacing one of its trucks this year, but still needs eight more, the chief says. It's a problem that this year's drought and wildfires have highlighted.

"It's quieted down," Chief Cathcart said at Tuesday's commissioners' meeting. "We haven't had fires because everyone's conscience about it. The temperatures are down, but the conditions are still perfect for fires."

The chief noted that the county is still under a burn ban as the drought continues.

Mr. Cathcart said he considered seeking money from state and

federal grants, which would match some of the cost. But the department would have to survey the entire county to see what percentage of residents fall into the low- to moderate-income level, he said, and they just don't have the time.

The chief told commissioners that a used heavy-duty pickup might cost around \$50,000 to \$60,000, where purchasing a new medium-duty truck can run as high as \$80,000 to \$90,000. He already has his men working on a plan, he said.

Some used trucks they've looked at even have pieces the department wouldn't need and could sell.

Commissioner Gene Gallentine asked if the block grant that the department had been considering was a 50 percent match. Mr. Cathcart said yes.

"We were looking at a total of \$110,000 for a new truck ... so you think you can put this together for \$50,000 to \$60,000?" Mr. Gallentine asked.

Yes, Mr. Cathcart answered. And

if that proves correct, he said, he will have gotten his new truck at half the cost of a new one without using any federal money. But, he said, he still doesn't want the commissioners to forget the department at budget time.

"Several years ago, we had money at the end of the year," he said, "and I could put some more in the equipment fund. Then the budget got cut and it (was) drained, so I'd like to get that special equipment fund back up, because we have a lot

of trucks to replace."

"We have to replace at least one a year," Commissioner McEvoy agreed, "all the way through. We got in this crack here ... in just the last 10 years."

Mr. Cathcart said that the fire department used to be allotted \$150,000 a year. In 2008, it was \$120,000, and in 2009, his department was cut down to \$39,000. The department has been struggling to keep up since then, he said.

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