

New campaign helps heal abused children

The Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center will have mobile units in Oberlin to provide therapy sessions to children who are victims of crimes linked to abuse or sexual conduct.

Vicky Hubin, program coordinator for the agency, says the program is designed to heal the trauma experienced by a child who has either been physically or sexually abused or may have seen a crime.

"We are trained to talk to children," she

said. "It's friendlier than being in jail."

Chris Smull, office manager for the center in Scott City, said the mobile unit is set up like a living room.

It's decorated with bright colors with positive sayings on the walls, and stuffed animals, toys and games for the children to play with.

An interview room is available for the forensic interview, which Ms. Hubin said has state-of-the-art recording equipment to

minimize the number of times officers and others have to talk with a child.

Interviews can be monitored on the televisions by a captain's chair in the unit, Ms. Smull said.

Ms. Hubin said the agency has child advocacy centers and mobile units in four counties, including Thomas, Greeley, Haskell and Scott.

Ms. Hubin said the program has been in Decatur County for nine cases. Last year,

they saw 281 kids in western Kansas.

Ms. Smull said the program is starting a new fund raiser, called 100 Women, which actually has recruited 106 women to act as ambassadors in the 32 counties served by the program.

Each woman pledges to raise at least \$1,000 for the campaign, bringing awareness of child abuse to rural areas.

The ambassadors for Decatur County are Johanna Mason, school nurse for the

Oberlin Schools, and Tina Meitl, an insurance agent. For information, call the center in Scott City at (620) 872-3706.

Ms. Hubin said the group plans to have a fund raiser in Oberlin for New Year's Eve. The Decatur County commissioners agreed last week to donate \$500 to the agency to help cover the cost of serving kids here.

Group to help business

Decatur Tomorrow planning program

By RAMELL TAYLOR
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Decatur Tomorrow's newly formed New Business Action Team hopes to bring more businesses into the county, but the members are aware they need to take care of existing businesses as well.

As a result, the group plans a meeting for business owners who might need help with finances, capital and other aspects of management that will make running their business more efficient.

Amy Anderson, a volunteer for the team, said the group is looking for a speaker. She said the speaker should have extensive knowledge on areas such as business finances and coordination. No meeting date has been set.

The group may also recruit experienced mentors to help business owners address specific areas of management.

In other efforts to serve existing businesses, the group wants to survey owners to determine areas where assistance could help them improve or even expand their operations.

The survey includes six questions, one of which asks business owners which new businesses might help existing businesses.

Business owners are encouraged to participate in the survey, as its purpose serves to help the group determine areas of focus, Miss Anderson said. Surveys will be personally distributed by group members.

The volunteer group, which consists of 10 to 12 people, meets every other week and is eager to bring on more volunteers, she said.

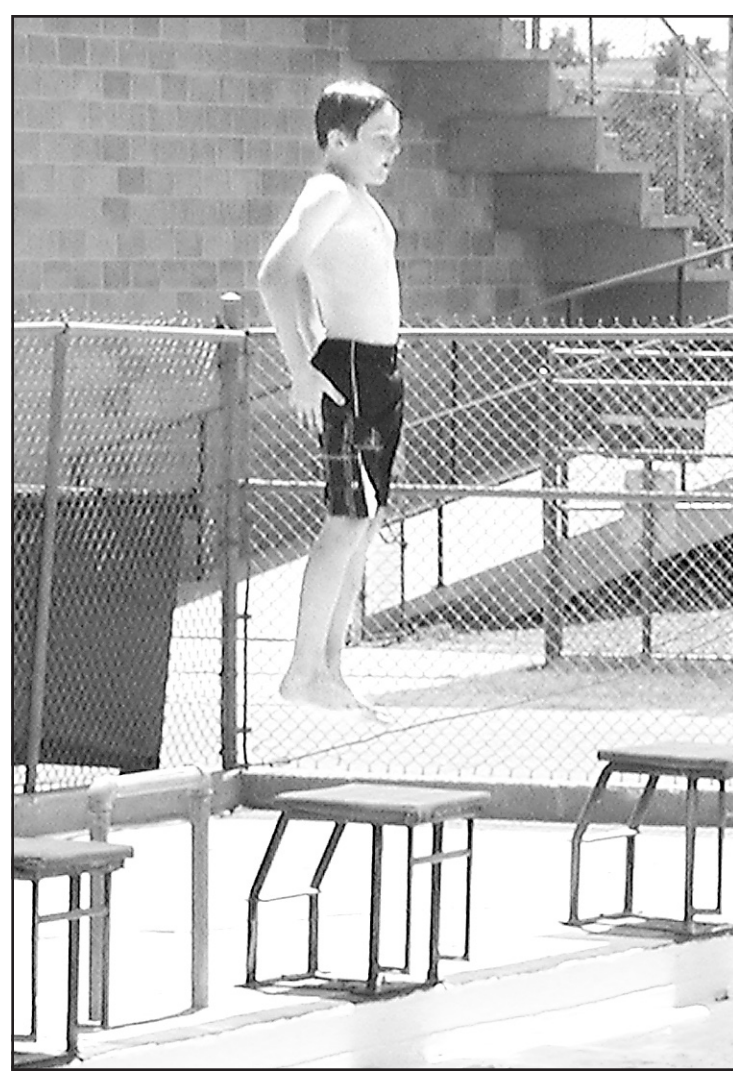
Administration work is handled by the Decatur Tomorrow Steering Committee.

Ruth Miesner, co-convenor for Decatur Tomorrow, says the umbrella group has other efforts in the works.

"We have a Medical Service Group working with the Recreation Commission and the County Commission," she said. "Their attention is focused on helping people to become healthier and more active."

Mrs. Miesner said the Communications Team is responsible for the community calendar and keeping it current and accurate.

For information about the coming meeting or to be on the list to receive the survey, call Kem Bryan at (785) 475-3395 or Miss Anderson at (405) 826-5134.



Beating the heat

MAKING A SPLASH were John Burmaster (left) and a friend as they jumped off the diving boards at the Oberlin swimming pool Saturday.

— Herald staff photos by Ramell Taylor

Student graduates with perfect attendance

The word dedication has a new meaning to Tyler Bruggeman, who graduated from Decatur Community High School with six consecutive years of perfect attendance.

Mr. Bruggeman, 18, has not missed a single day of school since the age of 12.

"If you miss a day, then you are behind a day," he said. "I didn't want to get behind in my studies or practice."

Mr. Bruggeman said he made a lot of sacrifices to keep his attendance streak intact, including missing many days of hunting season, which he enjoys.

He said his older sister Stephanie inspired him with the example she set by graduating from high school with four years of perfect attendance.

Bruggeman started his perfect attendance streak in junior high, unlike his sister, who started in high school.

"I had to beat her," he said. Their parents, Alvera and Gary Bruggeman, added extra motivation by threatening to make Tyler mow the lawn any day he missed

school.

Along with his six years of perfect attendance, Mr. Bruggeman was named to the National Honor Society. He also played football, receiving First Team-All League honors as a kicker and offensive lineman.

As a member of the basketball team, he earned the Most Inspirational Player award and made Third Team-All League.

High school Principal Ben Jimenez described Mr. Bruggeman as a good kid who worked hard on being



Bruggeman

in class every day.

"The only time he missed school was for school activities," Mr. Jimenez said.

As a class officer, Mr. Bruggeman participated in a lot of activities, the principal added, including helping to organize graduation.

He said the most remarkable thing about the attendance streak was the fact that doctor and dentist visits would have counted as being absent. Mr. Jimenez said Mr. Bruggeman had to schedule all appointments outside of school hours.

School board hires coaches for basketball and track

The Oberlin School Board hired coaches, including a head coach for the boys basketball team, at its monthly meeting last Monday.

Board members approved hiring Ramell Taylor, new reporter for *The Oberlin Herald*, as the head coach of the high school boys basketball team, and Brandon Gehring as an assistant high school track coach.



R. Taylor

Mr. Taylor played basketball at Fort Scott Community College and at Southern Utah University.

The board approved resignations from Joe Dreher and Sherri Ruf as assistant senior high track coaches.

Superintendent Duane Dorshorst said he still hasn't received anything from the firefighters' wives about event insurance. The group asked to use the stadium at the high school for a laser light show on the Fourth of July. The board gave Mr. Dorshorst permission to move forward with the request if the proper insurance paperwork is provided.

In other business, the board:

- Gave permission to sell surplus equipment. Mr. Dorshorst said the district has.
- Approved paying \$325 to continue membership in the lobbying group Schools for Quality Education. Board member Dan Nedland said the group comprises all the small schools in Kansas and is an advocate for the district in Topeka.
- Appointed board member Dan

School board gets class sizes

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
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The Oberlin School Board heard projections for tentative class sizes at the high school and teaching assignments at Oberlin Elementary School for the fall term during its meeting last Monday.

Principal Duane Dorshorst said at the grade school, Jeni Henningson and Diana Steinmetz will teach 27 kindergartners, Kathy Tacha and Cindy Sattler will have

26 first graders, Kimberly Witt 17 second graders, Kerrie Wahlmeier 21 third graders, Sherri Ruf and Judy Elwood 26 in fourth grade, Amanda Farr 24 fifth graders and Sandy Ketterl and Carol Dixson 26 sixth graders.

Principal Ben Jimenez said the numbers as of now show 27 seventh graders, 27 eighth graders, 24 freshmen, 33 sophomores, 27 juniors and 28 seniors at the high school.

Wasson to continue as the district's representative to the Northwest Kansas Technical College board.

- Approved a \$600 fee for a supplemental option for catastrophic insurance. Principal Ben Jimenez said the policy insures the district in situations where liability might

- go beyond \$10,000.
- Approved \$2,216 for new carpet in the Spanish classroom at the high school.
- Set a special meeting to make end-of-the-year transfers and pay bills at 7:30 a.m. Friday, June 28.

Dog tags save owners from fines

By RAMELL TAYLOR
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Should your dog ever get lost, having updated city tags could save you from paying extra fines and having your dog impounded.

Jeff Johnson, dog catcher for the City of Oberlin, said he's picked up 20 stray dogs this year and 13 were impounded because they had no tags.

"If I pick them up and I can identify who they belong to, I take them back to the owner," he said. "That saves them about \$40 in fines and a

trip to the pound."

Updated tags also show that the dog has had rabies shots, which a dog needs before the pound can release the animal, said Johnson.

He said owners could pay \$25 to \$100 in fines for a dog impounded for the first time. The second time, fines could be as high as \$500 plus court costs.

After three tickets in one calendar year, Mr. Johnson said, a court order can be issued to take the dog away

from the owner.

Erin Sheehan, veterinary technician for the High Plains Vet Services, said dogs get their rabies tags after getting shots. The shots are \$21, a good one year for the first vaccination, she said.

Owners wanting to get rabies tags for their dogs or update their tags can call the clinic at (785) 475-2788 or the Countryside Vet Clinic at (785) 475-3808. City tags are issued at the city office in The Gateway.

Rawlins Clinic in Atwood

Rodney Dill, M.D.
Zane Zimmerman, D.O.
Patrick Delano, PA-C
Dana Jewell, PA-C
Michael Dorsch, PA-C MPAS



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Decatur County Conservation District

Cost-Share Funds (Non-Point Source)

The Decatur County Conservation District will be taking cost share applications from June 24 through July 5. "Funding provided by the Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan Fund."

"Failing" SEPTIC SYSTEMS- Please apply now this will be our only sign-up for this year. Our office is located at 410 South Buffalo Avenue in Oberlin. For more information call (785) 475-3131, Extension 101. Ask for DIANA SOLKO.



WATER RESOURCE COST SHARE PROGRAM FUNDS

These funds will also become available to the Decatur County Conservation District Office. Applications for the cost share funds will be accepted June 24 through July 5. Some of the eligible practices are: terraces (including rebuilds), diversions, livestock wells, pipelines, tanks, and solar systems. "Funding provided by the Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan Fund."

Applications will only be taken June 24 through July 5 at our office located at 410 South Buffalo Avenue in Oberlin. (Conservation District Office hours are from 8:00-11:30 and from 12:30-5:00 each day). For additional information, please call (785) 475-3131, Extension 101. Ask for DIANA SOLKO.

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