

## High school may have to change honor roll

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

Decatur Community High School may have to change the way the honor roll is printed in the paper after a parent called the school board president, claiming a federal law makes it illegal to print the names in order of grade rank.

The honor roll is printed in *The Oberlin Herald* every nine weeks with the students listed under what grade point average they have whether it be a 4.0, 3.4 to 3.9 or a 3.0 to 3.4. After the last honor roll was printed, a parent called Board President Barb Olson to complain about the way the school submitted the names. The parent claimed that the way the honor roll

had been printed was illegal, Mrs. Olson told the school board last week. The parent said that they had been printed in levels of ranking order and she wanted it changed. She quoted from the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, which Principal Gordon Matson said was started to protect special education kids. Now he said that it has broadened and "gotten out of hand."

At the school board meeting last Monday night, he told the board that students' names probably can't be listed in a rank order because of the act. Mr. Matson said that he thought they could list the names in alphabetical order un-

der the honor roll headings, but he wasn't very happy about the prospect of the change.

"I think this is reverse discrimination in its top form," said Mr. Matson. "We have a high level of academics here, but can't have a 4.0 honor roll because it categorizes people."

He went on to add that listing the students in alphabetical order didn't seem right because they are able to list them by performance or place in athletics.

"Why are we discriminating against our scholars?" he asked.

School officials checked with the state Department of Education about the issue. State

officials said that the students could be listed alphabetically because of their academic performance, but they didn't like that they were listed under the 4.0 honor roll or the other categories.

"To me, this has gone so far in the other direction that it isn't fair to the students," said Mr. Matson. "They work hard to receive that recognition."

Upset that the state didn't think the kids should be listed under the grade average they earn on the honor roll, he devised another system with a gold, silver and bronze honor roll, with the gold being the highest.

An idea that the state board gave him was to get a waiver from the parents to list the students by rank, but the board agreed that this would be hard to keep track of because some are on the honor roll the first nine weeks and then aren't the second and so on.

At Oberlin Elementary School, students who receive all A's are recognized, said Principal Duane Dorshorst. The school sends waivers out to the parents and asks for permission to take them out to lunch and to release the names.

Board Member Jeanie Martin asked what would happen if the they were challenged about (Please see GRADES on Page 10A)



PERFORMING "I LOVE YOU GRANDMA and Grandpa..." at the Seeds of Hope Telethon were Justin and the "Ultimate Grandpa," John Juenemann (above). The song is one of 15 on the new album (below), which features his 15 grandkids.

## Ultimate Grandpa makes new music with whole family

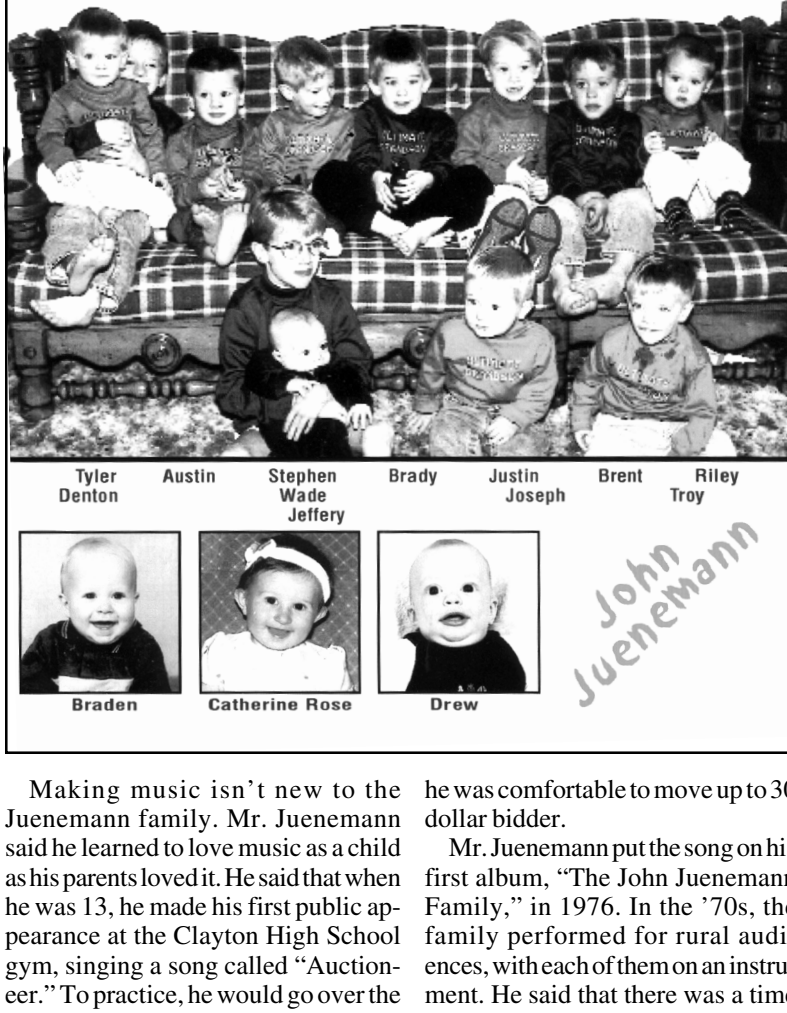
By KIMBERLY BRANDT

It's definitely a family affair when John Juenemann decides to put out a record, with songs about his kids' weddings, grandkids singing, his daughter and niece doing harmony and everyone having a great time. Mr. Juenemann's second album — his first in 25 years — has been shipped from Nashville and it should be out in stores soon. There are 15 songs on the CD, he said, each picked for a special reason. He wrote 12 of them.

The title is "Welcome to the Family," and it tells the story of his family. There is one song for each of his grown children, Gary, Carolyn, Ron and Barb. There's a song for him and his wife Hank for their 35th wedding anniversary, a song for his grandkids to sing about their grandparents and a song for him to sing about the grandkids. He and his wife have 14 grandsons, Brady, Justin, Tyler,

Denton, Wade, Stephen, Joseph, Brent, Jeffery, Riley, Austin, Troy, Braden, and Drew, and Catherine Rose, the only girl. There is also a song for each of his children's weddings. "That is my way of expressing my feelings or love," Mr. Juenemann said. "Everyone has a special gift or gifts for this reason. Some do it by being good listeners, some by writing and others verbally. My way... is through writing and performing music."

The album includes a song written 22 years ago. His son Ron, now an optometrist in Oberlin, wrote a poem when he was 11, called "I Love You Dad." It tells the story of a young man who says that he prays one day to grow up to be like his father. The message in the poem was overwhelming for him, Mr. Juenemann said. He promised his son that one day he would put the poem to music and by the time the boy was 22, it was done. It wasn't until 11 years later, said Mr. Juenemann, that the song was recorded.



Making music isn't new to the Juenemann family. Mr. Juenemann said he learned to love music as a child as his parents loved it. He said that when he was 13, he made his first public appearance at the Clayton High School gym, singing a song called "Auctioneer." To practice, he would go over the lyrics until he had them down starting at 25 dollar bidder over and over until he was comfortable to move up to 30 dollar bidder. Mr. Juenemann put the song on his first album, "The John Juenemann Family," in 1976. In the '70s, the family performed for rural audiences, with each of them on an instrument. He said that there was a time when they did four shows a day, each (Please see ALBUM on Page 10A)

## Two young men get stuck in snow, have to sleep in car

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

Temperatures dropped to -1 last weekend as two area youths, one from Herndon and one from Oberlin, west of Oberlin, high centered on a snow drift with no way out and not really sure where they were.

Brandon May and Eric Sattler, both Decatur Community High School graduates of 1999, had gone out for a drive the night of Feb. 10 in a four-door Oldsmobile, which Eric Sattler was driving. Mr. May said they started from town and were just out "crusin'."

Although the area had received snow and freezing rain during the week, no flakes fell on Saturday and the boys decided it was OK to go out.

Sheriff Ken Badsky said it was about 9:30 p.m. when they got stuck, and it wasn't until nine hours later that they were found.

He said they apparently didn't realize they were in a drift until it was too late. Mr. May said he and his friend tried to push the car out. Mr. May said he tried to run down the road to find a marker, but again had no luck.

Armed with a cell phone, the young men decided to call friends.

"We couldn't explain to them where we were," said Mr. May. "The signal from the cell phone was too choppy and then the battery was going down, so we thought we would save the battery so we could call dispatch the next morning."

The friends came out and looked for the boys, but they didn't find them.

Through the night, the temperature dropped more and the wind picked up. The car had a full tank of gas and the two turned it on for about 15 minutes at a time to warm up. Mr. May said he stayed up almost all night turning the car on and off for warmth.

The car wasn't equipped with a blanket and they had no food. They did have some laundry, though he said that didn't help that much.

The next morning, Mr. Sattler's parents called the sheriff's office. Officers were told the boys thought they had headed east and began the search east of town on the county roads. Finding nothing, they widened their search west (Please see SNOW on Page 10A)

## Co-ops may trade facilities in Jennings and Selden locations

Hi-Plains Co-op and Decatur Co-op are negotiating a trade, with the Colby-based co-op to take over Decatur's facilities in Selden and the Oberlin-based firm to get Hi-Plains' elevator in Jennings.

The swap is expected to take place at the end of April, as the co-ops have agreed on buy-sell agreements which will allow them to switch facilities.

The Hi-Plains Co-op facility in Jennings will be owned by Decatur Co-op, which already has an elevator and fuel bulk plant there. Decatur Co-op's Selden bulk plant, "cardrol" fuel station and fertilizer facility will go to Hi-Plains.

Karol Evans, general manager of the Decatur Coop, said that for now everything will stay the same.

In Jennings, Hi-Plains has a grain elevator, seed cleaning facility, feed sales, fuels and propane. Mr. Evans said

it is similar to what the Decatur Co-op offers in Oberlin.

Mr. Evans didn't give a reason for the trade or say how much money would change hands since the facilities are not equal. A joint press release Monday said "this exchange will enable both co-ops to serve their member owners more efficiently."

In Jennings, Decatur Co-op is located east of the Hi-Plains. With the agreement, Mr. Evans said Jennings will have two elevators owned by the same company. Hi-Plains already has an elevator in Selden, bought several years ago from Garvey Grain along with the elevator in Jennings and one in Dresden.

John Strecker, Hi-Plains general manager, said the information in the news release was all he wanted to say at this time. More will be released after the deal is approved, both men said.

## Council gives police OK to hire fourth patrolman

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

The Oberlin City Council gave Chief of Police Wade Lockhart permission to hire a fourth officer last week after receiving "minimal" comment from people, most of whom said they like having as close to 24 hour coverage as possible.

Chief Dispatcher Jeanne Pacher wrote that she sees firsthand how much the officers work. She said that she understood that the council was trying to save money, and although that is important, that they need to look at this as a health and safety issue. "If you use three men to cover what four should be covering, you're compromising health and safety," she wrote. She said the police force reflects on what type of town this is, if they are tired and worn out, then that looks bad for people passing through and for those considering moving here. Ms. Pacher said she felt the chief deserves more respect from the council. "He is a respectful man," she said,

"trying to do the best he can and he needs to be treated as such."

After discussing comments the council and chief received on the street, all but Councilman Jerry Fidele voted in favor of hiring a fourth officer with the council to approve the salary.

Chief Lockhart said in the meantime the department is looking for a part-time officer. The department also placed ads in papers throughout the state for a full-time officer.

During the meeting Thursday at The Gateway, the council decided on an insurance plan for city employees. City Administrator Gary Shike said that he talked to two insurance agencies in town, one that wasn't interested and another found that their "preferred provider" plan isn't accepted at the clinic here. From their current carrier, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, he received three options which would save the city money for the 17 of employees and families they cover. For the third op- (Please see COUNCIL on Page 10A)

## Vendors, artists and entertainment wanted for Expo

The Sappa Celebration and Expo committee is looking for artists, entertainers and vendors for a weekend of fun in Sappa Park.

The celebration, the successor to the Tri-State Fest-of-All, put an ad in newspapers in Oberlin, Atwood, Hoxie, Norton, McCook, St. Francis, Bird City, Goodland and Colby seeking people who wanted to sell or show during the event.

Last Monday, committee members got together at the LandMark Inn and heard that three artists, an entertainer and a pair of food vendors had contacted the group so far.

Banker Gary Walter and publisher Cynthia Haynes agreed to write a letter asking those who had been to the Fest-of-All to come back for the Celebration on June 9-10.

Connie Grafel, marketing director for The Gateway and the Economic Development Corp., said she would proof the letter and Chamber Manager Helen Gee said she would get it out.

The group decided that the letter should contain notice that the group is planning a barbecue contest, more things for families and children to do and more demonstrations.

Commercial exhibits are also welcome this year and the entrance fee has been lowered for both booths and the public.

A single entertainment tent will be set up but more roving entertainers will be asked to attend. Mr. Walter and pharmacist Rusty Addleman talked about getting the barbecue set up. "It could be fun," Mr. Addleman said. "Local people could come out there and cook something." It was agreed to hold the barbecue contest on Saturday night after things had mostly closed down to keep from (Please see SAPPA on Page 10A)

# \* Snow traps two boys in vehicle

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and south. Sheriff Badksy said he had called for a county grader to come out in case they needed to open roads to find the boys.  
After about 30 minutes, they were found on a township road about four miles west and 4 1/2 miles south of town, about 2 1/2 miles from the Creek Road.  
Mr. May said he had only been awake for about 15 minutes when he saw the bright beams coming towards them.  
He ran down the road to find Under-

sheriff Randy McHugh.  
The officers checked the vehicle for alcohol and found nothing, said Sheriff Badksy, but mainly they were checking to see if the young men were really all right.  
Although the two weren't prepared to spend the night out, he said, they did the right thing by staying with the vehicle instead of wandering off and getting disorientated and lost.  
"The worst case scenario is that they could have left their vehicle and tried to go to someone's house and ended up frozen in the middle of the road or a

field," he said. "When you go out and check, that is what you are thinking. You think the worse and hope for the best."  
When traveling in bad weather Sheriff Badksy said, you should always be prepared. Keep a full tank of gas, a cell phone that is charged, blankets and food.  
But, he said, the best thing is to stay at home.  
If you do get stuck, he said, the safest place is in the vehicle.  
"If you get low on gas," he said, "then run the car for awhile and get warm and

then turn it off. Also, make sure that the exhaust system is clear so exhaust doesn't come into the car through the floor boards."  
Mr. May said he didn't get into any trouble. He said he thought his parents were just happy to see him.  
"Next time, I think I will use better judgment than going out and maybe have more faith in the sheriff's office," he said. "We were found quickly after they were notified. If we would have called them when we first got stuck, maybe we wouldn't have had to spend the night out there."

# \* Sappa Celebration plans have started

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interfering with the food vendors.  
If some sort of entertainment could be procured — either headliner or a semi-local band — it would be a plus, the group agreed, though it couldn't cost too much.  
In other business, the group:  
• Heard from President Jack Benton that insurance for the event should be about the same as it has been for the two previous festivals.  
• Learned that volunteers are

needed to repaint the four-foot-by-eight-foot directional signs. The large sign at the entrance to Sappa Park also needs to be repainted.  
• Decided to run ads for the event again the week of March 5.  
• Agreed to start paying Mrs. Gee for an hour a day for her work on the event and two hours a day when the event gets closer and there is more to do.  
• Set the next meeting for 6 p.m. Tuesday night at the LandMark.

# \* Album features songs of family sung by grandpa

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for 30 minutes, at three state fairs. For eight years, the family sang for conventions, meetings, banquets and fairs.  
After the first album, he said that he had hoped to do a second one, but it took awhile.  
For the 25 years in between, Mr. Juenemann stayed busy. He started work at the Decatur County Co-op in Oberlin in 1962 as the office manager and in 1967 he was named general manager. During the beginning of his career at the co-op, he said, he frequently took time off to perform with the family.  
Almost 30 years later, during the Christmas of 1991, he found that he had cancer, and he decided that he would retire early from the job the first chance he could, which came in Jan. 1995.  
After leaving the co-op, he joined forces with his son Gary, who had moved back to town, to build up the family business, Ultimate Fertilizer. Mr. Juenemann said that they have formulated an "ultimate" lawn and tree fertilizer and wanted to distribute it.  
For six years, he said, his health has been holding and he said he hopes to have many healthy years ahead.  
Although the family doesn't perform anymore, Mr. Juenemann has continued writing music. At the Seeds of

Hope Telethon on Feb. 3 he performed songs from the albums, one with his grandson Justin.  
Writing his music depends on the interruptions he has, he said. On days when the weather is bad, he gets lots of time to write.  
"You need to sit down and have a little silence," he said, "where you can imagine and think."  
He said that he runs chords on his guitar and then if he likes it is quick to write it down. Mr. Juenemann said that he thinks of each song as a story, so when there is something to add or a story to tell, he is able to write lyrics.  
In late September last year, the second album got started with arrangements made for a studio. In early October, the rhythm tracks and his vocal were laid down, he said. On the album there is a bass guitar, drums, steel guitar, piano, acoustic guitar, violin and harmonica — all played by professionals at the Oklahoma Opry Recording Studio.  
Even before the music could be played, his niece Marguerite put the charts together which tell the musicians what to play. The charts, unlike a sheet of music, don't show the notes. Instead they show the number of the chords and the musicians know how to read and play from that.



**SINGING FOR THE NEW ALBUM** were all the Juenemann grandsons who were old enough, shown here at the studio in Salina. On the back row were Brady, Justin, Tyler and Wade. In front were Stephen, Joseph, Riley, Austin and Troy.

Each instrument and vocal was put on a separate track to help give the album a clean sound.  
For the vocals, the singer or he and the grandkids were placed in a sound-proof booth with a microphone and headsets.  
When the grandkids sang, they all went in, he said. The kids had the headsets on and all of a sudden you heard all the boys say yes. The adults didn't know the question, but assumed that it meant they were ready to sing because

the next thing Mr. Juenemann said they heard was "I love to be with grandma..."  
"They were so dedicated and serious," he said. "I know they wanted to do a good job for grandpa."  
The kids recorded their part in Salina, he said. Also in Salina his daughter Barb and niece put the harmony for the album together. The tracks were then taken to Denver where his niece mixed the album. The final step was to send it to Nashville where it was made into

CDs and tapes. They also put the old record on tapes and CDs since people don't own record players as much as they used to.  
The album will be debuted on the Eagle KFNF morning show.  
It will cost \$6.50.  
"The intent of the album is to inspire family love," said Mr. Juenemann. "I feel like everyone wants to leave something from their life, hopefully it is a good thing. I wanted to leave this for generations to come."

# \* Grades can't be printed

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printing the high school names. Superintendent Duane Steele said they would then have to change it.  
Mrs. Martin asked what happens to the juniors and seniors, who are ranked for scholarships. The students can go and ask a counselor if they need to know their rank, said Mr. Matson.  
Mr. Matson asked the school board what they wanted to do.  
Board Member Kurt Vollertsen suggested that since the act is a legal document, he would like to have Allen Shelton, the board's lawyer, look at it. Before the next honor roll, Mrs. Olson said, they would have time for that.  
For now, Superintendent Steele said he thought that they need to list the students alphabetically. Board Member Dwayne Jackson said he is tempted to list the kids by their last name but still under the grade point average.  
"When you win something, what is wrong with wearing your medal?" he asked.  
The school will also be looking into sending out waivers for the listing.  
"It is clearly a situation where a good law has gone past its intent," said Mr. Matson. "It's a slap in the face for those kids who are working hard by those kids who aren't, if they can't be recognized."

# Art contest deadline today

Deadline for entries to the 2001 Congressional High School Art Competition is 5 p.m. (mountain standard time) today, according to Congressman Jerry Moran.  
A panel of judges will select the winning entry, which will then be displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year. In addition, the winning student will receive a \$1,000 award to assist with travel expenses to Washington, D.C. to take part in an awards ceremony with other students from across the nation.  
Interested students and teachers who need information and guidelines for the competition contact Rebecca Downs, Executive Director of the Goodland Arts Council at (785) 899-6442.

# \* Council makes decision on health insurance plan

(Continued from Page 1A)  
tion, the prescription card will change from a \$10 fee for generic brands and \$15 for name brands to \$15 for generic and \$30 for name brands.  
Other changes that employees will see in coverage is the co-insurance will increase. Now it is \$500 for individuals and \$1,500 for families, it will change to \$1,000 and \$3,000, respectively.  
Coverage will cost \$9,580.27 a month for everyone who is covered as opposed to the \$10,826.41, which the current plan would have cost without the changes.  
All council members voted for the change except Leslie Bartels.  
At the next meeting, insurance will be on the agenda again for the council look at how they will split up paying it with the employees.  
In other business, council members:  
• Agreed to pay Margaret Townsend, with the Kansas Geological Survey, \$1,360 to look at eight wells

here to find out where nitrate contamination is coming from.  
• Agreed to let the Convention and Visitors Bureau and Chamber of Commerce use the old port of entry as a tourist center for a year, with whatever changes may have to be made to comply with the American Disabilities Act at their cost.  
• Heard from City Foreman Dan Castle, who had two bids for a new street sweeper. One that cost \$86,822 and the other at \$94,250. Mayor Charles Frickey asked for a report on the machines for the next meeting, including how a lease purchase would work for it and the amount the city would pay.  
• Decided to purchase a John Deere lawnmower for the city crew to cut the parks in the city and take care of the grass put in at the ball fields after Mr. Castle presented them with three bids and the specs for the machine. The bids were \$16,185, \$16,699 and \$17,573, all from Southwest Implement.

# Business alliance starts to plan social

The Oberlin Business Alliance set a committee last Wednesday to organize a "membership drive social" to help the group bring in new members or to get those who have stopped being a part of the alliance re-interested.  
Some of the ideas thrown out at the meeting were to have a potluck or to meet at the American Legion and have a mixer. The group discussed having it in conjunction with St. Patrick's Day, but no decisions were made.  
Alliance Member Marvin Matchett, with KFNF radio, said that he would donate \$150 in commercials to help promote the event.  
The group agreed that invitations need to be sent out to members now and also, prospective ones.  
At the meeting City Administrator Gary Shike drew a name from a bag full of 752 tickets for the Valentine's Day promotional basket. The basket was full of gifts from alliance members, including brownie mixes, Mary Kay items, a picture of a cottage and flowers and many gift certificates and money donations. Participants had the

chance to sign up to win the basket at several businesses downtown.  
The winner was Gene Leitner of Oberlin.  
Alliance members are starting to plan another promotional event for next month. The idea is to coordinate something with March Madness along the lines of trying to pick the winner and the person who can pick the winner would get a prize. Joe Stanley, owner of Stanley Hardware, said that maybe the person who picked the winner could win first and then the person who picked the teams in the college tournament would win second.  
Karen Metcalf, with the Dresser, who is the first quarter chair, said that she would take the ideas and with her committee they would work on it.  
In other business, alliance members:  
• Heard that the organization still needs a second quarter chair. Connie Grafel, marketing director of The Gateway and the economic development corporation, said that she would find someone to co-chair the third quarter with her. Rusty Addleman, owner of

Addleman Drug Store, and Julie Kennedy, with KSNK News, said that they would co-chair the fourth quarter.  
• Talked about modifying the amber light special idea because when the light was in store windows, people didn't really see it. The idea was that the store with the light in front was having a special.  
Members agreed that they either need to hang it outside or make something for the light to sit on so that people driving by could see it. Mrs. Metcalf said that she may be willing to be the first quarter chair person again next year and work on this project.

# Sertoma Club offers magic

The McCook Area Sertoma Club will sponsor "The Magical Illusions of Max Happner" at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 10.  
It will include a blend of many of the old classics of magi, combined with

many new and original mysteries. Max and Sally Happner have performed in some of the largest show places in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdoms, as well as for international magicians' conventions.

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