

# Board sets June ballot on \$5.6 million bond issue

**By KIMBERLY BRANDT**  
The Oberlin School Board approved a resolution for a \$5.613 million bond issue to pay for work on both the schools, setting a June special election, at its meeting last Monday night. The board decided to move the item to later in the agenda with the absence of Board Members Chris Bailey and Delayne May. After Mr. Bailey showed up, the board approved the reso-

lution. Mrs. May never arrived for the regular scheduled meeting. During the first attempt to pass the resolution in January, the board decided to wait because they didn't have accurate figures. With the numbers on what would happen to taxes if the 20-year bonds passed, and after cutting over a million dollars from the issue, the board approved the resolution.

Work will include heating, ventilating and air conditioning the east wing of the high school and electrical work for the old part of the building. At the elementary school, it includes heating, ventilating and air conditioning the entire building, putting a media center on the second floor, adding at least two special classrooms and an elevator. Superintendent Steele said that he talked to

Steve Shogren, the district's bond advisor, who will sell the bonds, he is with a firm out of Wichita. He suggested that they wait until they have all the paperwork in to the state and then he would come here to start working on a plan of action. The board mailed the signed resolution to Mr. Shogren, who will send it to the state. When Mr. Shogren comes out here, he will

help the board and a committee set to help sell the bond issue make a brochure, talk to them about selling it and will work with them on public meetings. He will also be able to give examples of what other districts have done and what might work in Oberlin. Anyone who may be interested in helping promote the bond issue can contact the district office.

## Board extends contract

Superintendent gets another year on pact

**By KIMBERLY BRANDT**  
The Oberlin School Board extended Superintendent Duane Steele's contract until 2003 at its meeting last Monday night. After holding a closed session for 15 minutes, with extensions for 10 and 15 minutes, to discuss the superintendent's evaluation, the board voted to extend Mr. Steele's contract through June 2003. The first two sessions were needed to fill in a board member who was absent during a special meeting to discuss the evaluation up to speed, said Board President Barb Olson.

Principals gave their monthly reports at the meeting. Principal Duane Dorshorst said that the Oberlin Elementary School site council met quickly that morning to talk about the proposed renovations and the calendar for the next year.

The calendar includes 183 days in school, seven teacher work days, 16 vacation days and at least one parent-teacher day.

Mr. Dorshorst said that traditionally the first two months of the year can be a down time for the kids and teachers, so they have been working on being extra positive at the school.

The school is starting an organization for kids whose parents are divorced under the guidance of Counselor Sheila Jansonius. The first and second graders have started "read to the principal" program.

At the high school, Principal Gordon Matson said that they have been busy finishing up with the regular season and starting sub-state for basketball and regionals for wrestling. He said the students would be putting on a Valentine's Day production and the all-school play in three weeks.

Mr. Matson told the board that the school will be holding the regional track meet this spring, now that they have a new track.

In other business, board members:

- Heard from Julie Kennedy, with KSNK news, who asked why the board isn't a member of the Oberlin Business Alliance and the Oberlin-Decatur County Chamber of Commerce. Board Member Dan Wasson asked if they could even be a member. Ms. Kennedy said that other districts they are. Mrs. Olson said the idea was something they had never considered and that they would.

- Approved the calendar for 2001-2002 school year.

- Talked about the USA convention for administrators that Superintendent Steele, Mr. Dorshorst and Mr. Matson attended. Mr. Matson said he learned more about wireless technology. Mr. Dorshorst said he learned about a program in other districts with optometrists. He said even though a child may have perfect vision, that doesn't mean they have all the eye skills for reading. He said he may talk to the optometrists here about starting the program.

- Heard that they need to get a new small mower out of the capital outlay fund, and it will cost about \$8,000 to \$9,000. Superintendent Steele said they also need a water reel with the extra grass that needs to be watered with the rented land, which should cost about \$5,600.

- Heard that Loretta Sullivan, who had been working at Sappa Youth Ranch in the classroom, has been transferred to the grade school. Mr. Steele told the board that he had worked out a different schedule with Brian Simonsen, transportation supervisor, since he is a substitute mail carrier.

- Accepted the resignation of Jennifer Cooper, who had been an aide at the grade school. They also hired Francy Waddell as a teacher aide for the third grade.

- Approved selling a 1984 Chevrolet bus which is no longer used. The board also said yes to getting rid of obsolete computers by letting teachers first have the choice if they want one in their room and then trying to sell them.

- Held a closed session for 45 minutes to discuss employer-employee negotiations for next school year.

- Set a special meeting to look at principal recommendations for staff at 7:30 p.m. for Monday, March 26.



## A day for parents

**EATING A SNOOPY COOKIE**, kindergartner Michelle Russ (left) prepared to look through a bag filled with valentines and goodies last week at Oberlin Elementary School. Todd Cook and his son Quentin (above) looked at goldfish in the kindergarten room during a social for parents.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Brandt

# Courthouse fourth floor to get a makeover

**By KIMBERLY BRANDT**  
The fourth floor of the courthouse may get a small face lift, adding office space and a new booking room to the area where the jail, dispatch and sheriff's office are located.

Sheriff Ken Badsky met with Decatur County commissioners last Tuesday to talk with them about a possible re-modeling among other issues. Most other sheriff's offices in the state are in a more secured area than the fourth floor is, he said.

The plans have been sent to the state Fire Marshalls Department before and at the meeting, he said that he is hiring an architect. The sheriff said there is a Juvenile Justice Authority grant that can pay for the work.

Before work can start, plans have to be drawn up and they need the state fire marshal's approval.

The extra office will be used to house Barry Richards, who is a reserve deputy and also works with juveniles. At an earlier meeting, the Juvenile Justice Authority asked to put an office in the law library for Mr. Richards, but with this change that won't be needed.

The commissioners asked that they be kept informed. He also talked with the commissioners about a new repeater to help the police officers be able to talk on their radios throughout the city. He said that the sheriff's men can talk on their radios in town and don't have any problems and suggested that maybe the problem isn't the repeater

but the police department radios. Sheriff Badsky said the police use the microphone on their shoulder to talk, which cuts wattage.

Commissioner Doyle Brown said they need to get everyone together, including the radio salesman, to talk about the issue. Emergency Preparedness Director Bert Cool said that the city has a repeater on the water tower used for the city crew and one spot is left on it, but a new repeater couldn't run off the same frequency. This means, said Sheriff Badsky, that the city will have to get another radio license if they get another site.

He said this may change what happens when there is an emergency. Now all the officers, emergency medical technicians and firemen switch to one channel to communicate.

Sheriff Badsky, who is on the committee planning the county's employee appreciation dinner, showed the commissioners a contract with Arty Party Catering. He said they already have 110 people signed up for the meal. The contract was approved, meaning the dinner on March 4 at the American Legion will be salad bar, ham or roast beef, whipped potatoes, green beans, hot rolls and a dessert display.

Sheriff Badsky also presented the commission with copier bids for the fourth floor. He said that the one they have was bought used in 1995 and that there are people fixing it all the time. The office would split the cost with dis-

patch and he said it was in both budgets. From experience, the commission helped him narrow it down to a Sharp or a Ricoh and left it up to him and dispatch to decide.

In other business, commissioners:

- Accepted Treasurer Pat Fringer's letter of resignation.

- Heard from Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman, who said he was working on a list for what needs to be completed at the dump. He said that he set two hazardous household waste days for April 14 and Oct. 8.

- Mr. Stallman ordered \$500 worth of safety equipment. Usually he tries to keep the goggles, red vests and other equipment in stock, but lately has depleted it. The office also ordered 10 grader tires at about \$2,800, which is cheaper than he has gotten them before.

- Heard Mr. Stallman's end-of-the-year report. He said they put in one steel bridge and replaced five small bridges with culverts, did three miles of dirt work on shoulders, and repaired, elevated and did fill work on other county roads. Mr. Stallman said they did 97 miles of gravel work with Nebraska gravel and 32 miles out of their dry pits.

- Signed documents to set up a savings and checking account for the loans to small businesses at Gold Bank.

- Signed a court order prepared by County Attorney Steve Hirsch for the Griswold Estate, basically to sell the land earlier than what was originally stated because the real estate agent

## Class in March will train storm spotters

Ever wonder about wall clouds, what causes hail, tornadoes and other nasty weather and who calls the National Weather Service to tell them whether the radar is accurate and whether it actually is storming here?

Those people are storm spotters and anyone in Decatur County can learn how to be one at a training session at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 13, at The Gateway. Meteorologists from the weather service office in Goodland will be traveling throughout northwest Kansas, eastern Colorado and southwest Nebraska this spring to teach spotters what to look for before storm season gets here.

The presentations will show different types of severe weather through

slides, said Aaron Johnson, a meteorologist with the weather service. They will help teach the difference between a wall cloud and tornado. He said that a wall cloud comes from a supercell thunderstorm, which is a storm that has a updraft which is rotating. This basically means that the storm has rotation in it, but the wall cloud is not rotating. With a tornado, there is actually rotation visible below the main cloud.

Mr. Johnson said people will not only learn how to spot the weather, but also how to report it. The session is free and open to anyone.

The last tornadoes here were on Halloween, when at least one was seen by spotters and called in. Spotters for the county include volunteer firemen in Oberlin, Norcat and Jennings, the sheriff's office and police department and others interested in weather.

*The \$100 Shopping Spree Winner was Sister Marilyn Wall!*

*Winter Sale continues!*

*Spring Knits are in!*

## The Dresser

152 S. Penn — Oberlin — 785-475-3407

## Senator to speak at school

U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback will be speaking at 10:30 a.m. today to students, teachers, administrators and the public in the auditorium at Decatur Community High School.

Sen. Brownback will be traveling with Dennis Mesa, of Garden City, his western Kansas regional director. The two will begin their day in Atwood, speaking at the high school at 9 a.m., then they will stop here, and after that they have engagements in Norton.

"I think that it is a real good opportunity any time that a Kansas U.S. Senator would come to the high school and talk to the kids," said Principal Gordon Matson. "It is a firsthand experience for them to get a chance to talk with a person who represents them."

Mr. Matson said that Sen. Brownback's office contacted them about the senator visiting. The government class at the school has started to prepare questions for Sen. Brownback to answer during the session, he said.

An official at the senator's Washington office said that Sen. Brownback enjoys visiting schools throughout the state and getting the chance to talk with teachers, administrators and teachers. He said that the senator would be talking about education policy and issues that he faces at the capitol that may affect the students.

Sen. Brownback sits on the Foreign Relations, Judiciary, Commerce and the Joint Economic committees. He was elected to the Senate in 1996 to fill the remainder of Sen. Bob Dole's term and then re-elected in November 1998 to serve a six-year term.

Sen. Brownback grew up near Parker on his family's farm and later attended Kansas State University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree with honors in agricultural economics. He later went to the University of Kansas, where he received a law degree.

At his stop here, the first 20 to 25 minutes will be a presentation by him and the rest will be for questions.

## HOME, SWEET HOME!



**101 S. East.** This classic 3-bedroom bungalow combines old-fashioned charm w/modern conveniences. The high ceilings, big windows and original woodwork reveal its Arts & Crafts heritage while the new carpet/floor covering and updated kitchen are designed for today's living. Located in the heart of Oberlin on a spacious corner lot surrounded by a privacy fence.



**608 W. Columbia.** This lovely home features 2 bedrooms and laundry on main level, basement bedroom/family room. 1-1/2 baths, family room w/ fireplace, beautiful oak kitchen, central air/heat, double heated garage, carport, privacy fence and a garden to please any green thumb!



**208 E. Adams:** 1910 restored Dutch Colonial provides old-fashioned enjoyment coupled with comforts of modern living w/spacious front porch, gazebo, new deck and 30' x 25' triple garage/workshop. This 4-bedroom, 2-1/2 bath home features a new oak kitchen adjacent to an old-fashioned formal dining room w/hardwood floor and antique chandelier, main floor laundry and central air/heat. The basement family room boasts garden windows and outside exit.

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