

School board buys new doors for bus barn

The Oberlin School Board agreed to buy two new garage doors and openers for the bus barn at a meeting last Monday.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt said transportation director Brian Simonsson had asked for the new doors. Each door will cost \$2,000, he said, and a new opener will cost about \$500, for a total of about \$5,000.

Mr. Glodt recommended doing the project, and board member Monte Moore asked if they needed to get bids.

The project is under \$10,000, said Mr. Glodt, so they don't have to get bids. He said he thought they should probably do the project now instead of waiting until summer, because the old doors could get worse.

The board members discussed naming rooms in the schools after people who give money either to the school or through the district's foundation. Though no vote was taken, the board agreed they didn't want to get into naming the rooms.

The board and the district appreciate the donations, said Mr. Glodt, and will recognize the people who give money, but not by naming rooms.

Mr. Glodt said the district had received \$4,600 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the snow removal after the storm at the end of December. He said the money paid for 75 percent of the cost of snow removal. The state should

send the district 10 percent, he added, but that hasn't happened yet and may not happen.

The district, he said, has until April 7 to turn in any other damage to the federal agency.

In other business, the board:

- Talked with Principal Charlie Haag and teachers Sheila Jansonius and Brenda Breth, who said the new five-year cycle for the North Central Accreditation starts this year. Mr. Glodt said the teachers are working on coming up with new ideas. Most likely, he said, the two areas the schools will work on will be math and reading.

- Heard from technology coordinator Ron Jansonius that one of his main goals is to update the television lab at the high school. He also said he will try to take on the sound system in the gym. As the district gets more computers, he said, the job continues to get more demanding.

- Heard that Mr. Glodt received information from Dr. Gary Fredrickson about a new group, the Friends of the Fine Arts. Mr. Glodt said he thinks the organization would work through the foundation to raise money, focusing on the sound system and lighting.

- Held a closed session for personnel for 30 minutes and then extended it for 5 minutes more. There was no action taken.

- Held closed sessions for 15 and 5 minutes for personnel. Again, no action was taken.

Spring blizzard closes most roads in northwest Kansas

Roads all over northwest Kansas closed Saturday as a fierce spring blizzard swept through the area.

The forecast called for winds up to 60 miles an hour, blowing snow, drifting and the possibility of two to 10 inches on the ground, depending on which forecast you listened to.

The snow started in the early afternoon as the wind kept blowing. That morning, roads in the area were still open, but as the day continued, several highways and I-70 closed.

By the end of the day, roads all over the area had been closed, including: I-70 from Salina west to Denver, U.S. 36 east to Oberlin and

west from Atwood to Denver, U.S. 83 from I-70 to the Selden intersection and U.S. 24 from Colby to Hoxie, to name a few.

By Sunday morning, the sun came out and the roads started to open.

Although a lot more snow was forecast, Decatur County got less than an inch.

The only reported damage in the area was a radio tower which held an antenna at Countryside Veterinary Clinic, which fell. Dr. Travis Hissong said the only the damage was to tower.

'Facing the Giants' film offered for free

Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 18, when the Decatur County Ministerial Association and Teens for Christ will show the movie "Facing the Giants" for free.

Doug Mason, leader of the teen group, said they will show the movie at 6 p.m. in the Morgan Theater at The Gateway.

The movie, a new release about a high school football team and a couple who learn to praise God no matter what happens, was made by the Sherwood Baptist Church in Georgia.

The teens plan to take donations to help pay the rent on the theater.

Elementary students bring in over \$1,000

Students at Oberlin Elementary School raised over \$1,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society buy bringing in coins.

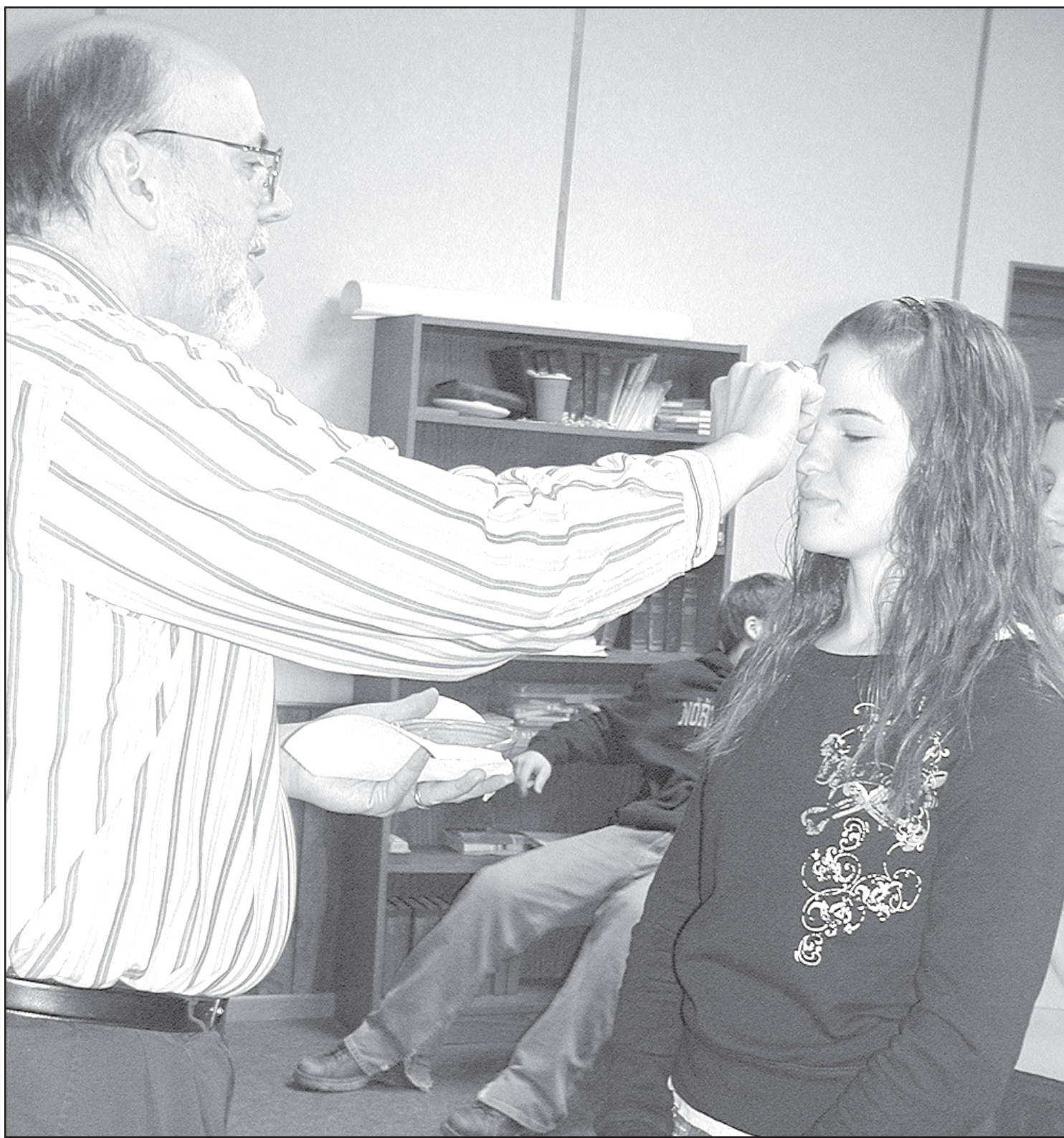
Principal Duane Dorshorst took the collected coins to the bank Monday to get counted. The school's goal was \$1,000 and the students

brought in \$1,074.

The students raised money for three weeks in February.

Mr. Dorshorst said the money will go to help find a cure for leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, the cancers that affect the blood and lymph systems.

Preparing for the season of Lent



STARTING LENT OFF, the Rev. Doug Hasty of the Oberlin United Methodist Church put a cross of ashes on the forehead of Heather Glodt last Wednesday. Lent, the sea-

son before Easter, is when Christians traditionally recognize their sins and prepare for the resurrection of Christ.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

County OKs contract to design bridge

The Decatur County commissioners approved an agreement last Tuesday with Penco Engineering to design a bridge about 2 1/4 miles west of Lyle in Grant Township for the Kansas Department of Transportation's five-year plan.

With the agreement, said Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman, the county pays the engineering expense. The construction cost will be split, with the state paying 80 percent and the county 20.

Commissioner Stan McEvoy asked if the money is available in the county's budget. Mr. Stallman said the project could run over four to five years.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch said this is the normal process for state bridge projects. The agreement was approved.

Mr. Stallman said he talked with representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He said he has urged township offi-

cial to come in and get signed up because money is available to help reshape road and replace gravel, but few have.

The townships are being advised to set up separate bank accounts for the money from the agency, he said. They then have 18 months to spend it on the roads that were damaged during the storm at the end of the year.

Mr. Stallman said he hopes to talk to the officials about the damage and

the federal agency at the township meeting.

He said he is a little concerned about getting all the gravel needed for the projects hauled in. Commissioner Ralph Unger asked if farm trucks are allowed to haul gravel for their own townships.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch said a farmer can haul gravel in a farm truck for payment in the township in which he lives.

Low bid selected for new fax machine

Decatur County commissioners approved purchase of a new fax machine for the clerk or the district court's office at their meeting last Tuesday.

Court Clerk Janet Meitl brought in two bids, one from Tops Office Supply in McCook for \$499 and one from White's Office Equipment for \$999.

The commissioners approved the low bid.

With a phone call to Commissioner Doyle Brown in Hawaii, the commissioners approved a resolution stating that English is the official language of the county.

They agreed to donate four Decatur County history books to be given away at the Farmers and

Ranchers Appreciation Banquet in March.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved an abatement on the tax roll for Gale Cook for \$9.35.

- Held a closed session for non elected personnel with Mr. Brown on the phone, Commissioners Stan McEvoy and Ralph Unger and

County Attorney Steve Hirsch for 20 minutes. There was no action taken.

- Signed a letter to give \$2,000 to the U.S. 36 Highway Association for a study about making the highway four lanes.

- Approved Kent Ashley's appointment as clerk and Rick Hickert as trustee for Prairie Dog Township.

Farmers, ranchers dinner March 10

It's time to make reservations for Oberlin's second annual Farmers and Ranchers Appreciation dinner on Saturday, March 10, at The Gateway.

The dinner, sponsored by the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce, lets farmers and ranchers know how much area businesses appreciate their support, said Kem Bryan with the chamber.

The dinner will feature a cream-can supper made by The Gateway staff. It is free and open to everyone.

To register, call Chamber Manager Glenna Nichols at 475-3441. Mrs. Nichols said they need reservations by Thursday, March 8.

Dinner will start at 6 p.m., said Mrs. Bryan. The chamber plans to give away several door prizes, including two Traeger grills.

Cal Siegfried of McCook will

speaking. Mrs. Bryan said the evening will end with a local band, Clueless, playing for a dance. The band plays a little bit of everything.

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