

# Newspaper wins six state awards

The Oberlin Herald won two first-place awards in the annual Better Newspapers Contest sponsored by the Kansas Press Association, one for sports column writing and one for a feature package on the OH! Page.

The Herald won six awards, all in the division for medium-sized weekly newspapers. They were presented at the association's annual convention Saturday in Junction City.

Taking first place for his column, The Jayhawker, was Jim Merriott, sports reporter for the paper. The contest entry included columns on hunting ethics, heckling at games and ice-fishing safety.

"I'm no hunter, but Jim Merriott made me wish I was," said the judge.

"Jim Merriott is the real thing. Excellent sports columns that are interesting to read. Topics vary, but he has a nice easy style and understands sports."

Publisher Cynthia Haynes took first place for a feature package for an OH! page story and layout on her trip to Tunisia last year.

"The photos pull the reader in, and the clean, interesting writing keeps you there," said the judge from the Georgia Press Association.

Editor Steve Haynes took second place for column writing and third for editorial writing.

"Thoughtful and thought-provoking works," the judge wrote of

his column, On the Sappa, including a piece on how immigrants see this country.

The judge in editorial writing praised in particular an editorial on the resignation of several members of the Decatur County Amusement Authority.

The paper took another third for agricultural coverage, a feature on a family's harvest by Managing Editor Kim Davis and a second for its public notice section.

Elsewhere in the area, The Norton Telegram won first place in the division for smaller weekly newspapers for a sports photo taken by former reporter Veronica Monier.

"Great action shot captures the summer swimming fun," said the judge.

Columnist Carolyn Plotts took second place for Outback, which also appears in The Herald.

"Personal columns can get old fast," the judge wrote, "but Plotts makes hers amusing and fun reading."

In Goodland, The Star-News won third place for an agricultural story for a piece on the National Guard helping feed cattle after a blizzard.

The Saint Francis Herald won two third-place awards, one for news writing on a fire and one for a business story about a barber, both by Editor Karen Krien. All the papers are owned by Nor'West Newspapers of Oberlin.

## A family affair



AT THE GOLDEN AGE CENTER on Friday, Byron and Jean Hale fixed their plates along with one for their daughter Cheyanna. The family was one of many at the center for a

taco and dessert benefit dinner planned to help raise money to build a new center, with a theater and bowling alley.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

## Church may be left without a minister

St. John's Lutheran Church could be without a minister for a year or better after the resignation of the pastor who has served the church the past 3 1/2 years.

John Bremer, president of the congregation, said Pastor Kevin Schnakenberg of the Ash Creek congregation southeast of McCook, will fill the pulpit for the rest of the month. After that, the elders will work with the circuit counselor of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, to recruit ministers to preach on Sundays.

While there is no regular minister, said Mr. Bremer, service hours will be subject to fluctuations.

Pastor Rick Langness resigned on Thursday, April 3. He said he doesn't have another job yet, and the family doesn't have any plans

for where they are going next.

"We trust God for where He will take us," Mr. Langness said.

The family will wait to move until after graduation, he added, since they have a senior at the high school. They also have four other children, Sarah, Nehemiah, Ruth Ann and Esther, who are home schooled.

Pastor Langness said he believes God is working in this congregation, even through hardships. There will be more difficulties to come, he said, but God is still faithful. He added that his sincere prayer is for reconciliation to take place in the whole congregation.

Mr. Bremer said the congregation is grateful for the service Pastor Langness has provided and his dedication to the Lord and they wish him the best in future assignments.

## Cemetery cleaning set

People with decorations, flowers or other items around headstones at the Oberlin Cemetery need to remove them, city officials say.

The city asks everyone to move the items to allow time for the sexton to spray, mow and cut weeds before

the Memorial Day service on Monday, May 26.

If the items aren't removed by Thursday, April 24, they will remove them, said Nan Stanley, sexton.

## Chamber to sponsor lunch

Make reservations now for the annual Professional Assistants' Luncheon sponsored by the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce.

The event, formerly known as Secretaries' Day, will be from 11:45

a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Wednesday, April 23, at the Old Bohemian Hall at the Last Indian Rain Museum.

Tickets are \$12.50 each.

For information, call the Chamber at 475-3441.

## Relay for Life needs sponsors

The Decatur County Relay for Life committee needs business sponsors for the event at the beginning of June.

In March, said Chris Dempewolf, a committee member, letters were sent out to businesses asking them to sponsor the relay. Although the deadline was April 1, she said, the committee has decided to extend

that to Thursday, May 1.

That means businesses still have a chance to help sponsor the event.

Any business that wants to become a corporate sponsor should contact Mrs. Dempewolf at (785) 693-4315 or write to her at Box 32, Norcat, Kan. 67653.

Donations can be in cash or in kind.

The Oberlin City Council talked about how to deal with houses, businesses and other buildings that are falling down and should be demolished, but made no decisions.

At the meeting on Thursday, April 3, Mayor Joe Stanley said someone had complained to him about a garage or shop at a home that looks like it is falling down. It's probably time to look at some of the houses and buildings in the city, he said.

Councilwoman Marcia Lohoefer said something needs to be done with the abandoned bakery downtown, even if it's just putting plywood up over the windows.

"And maybe sweep the sidewalks," added Councilwoman Rhonda May.

Walter Pennell, who was in the audience, asked why the council didn't put a lien against the building and either tear it down or repair it.

The cost for the city to repair the building, said Ms. May, would be more than it's worth.

The city can file a lien on it, but it would take several years before the city would see any money because the owner has to fail to pay their taxes for three years, said City Attorney Steve Hirsch.

Mr. Pennell said the city should do the same with houses — tell the

owners to repair them or else. As long as the people keep paying the taxes, said Mayor Stanley, it's their building.

There should be some kind of punishment, said Mr. Pennell, to owners for not keeping their property up.

What would it cost to tear the old bakery down? asked Mrs. Lohoefer. What does it cost for it to sit there and look like it does?

The city could start the process, said Mayor Stanley. It probably wouldn't hurt to make a list of property in town that is falling apart.

The council needs to be realistic on how many buildings the city crew can actually tear down in a year, said Administrator Gary Shike.

He said the city did send a bill to Francis Wahrman, who owned a home at 107 N. East Avenue, which the crew tore down. So far, said Mr. Shike, they haven't received any money.

On another matter, City Foreman Dan Castle said there's still a problem with the water in one lagoon at the new sewage treatment plant not moving. He said he has a plan, but it could cost some money to get the lagoons to act right.

The city could buy a boat to put in the lagoon and get the water moving

around, he said, or put pumps in and use chemicals. Basically, the water in the cell isn't moving, he said, so the bacteria that are supposed to digest the waste can't work.

The plant gives off a small odor which some people have noticed. State officials say this is not uncommon in the spring, however.

Mr. Castle said he hasn't looked at the prices yet. He said he's hoping that the plant will fix itself.

Is this going to happen every year? asked Mrs. Lohoefer. No one knows, said Mr. Castle. There are some things that can be done in September or October which could keep things moving.

After talking with the engineers, said Mr. Shike, it seems like this happened because of kind of a perfect storm that made it happen. Other lagoons in the area are starting to come out of this, he said.

Basically, he said, the lagoon froze and the air stopped circulating causing it to become anaerobic.

In other business, the council:

- Talked about whether the truck driver who pulled down two power poles along U.S. 83 has to pay to replace them. Usually, said Police Chief Wade Lockhart, what ends up happening is a fight over whether

the load was too big or the lines were too low. Does that mean the city will end up paying for the poles? asked Ms. May.

Insurance will pay, said Mr. Shike. Trucks are supposed to clear 18 feet, said Mr. Castle. Those that don't, said Mr. Shike, are supposed to contact the city to move the lines.

• Talked about the former Sappa Valley Youth Ranch. Gary Allen asked if there were any plans for the former ranch. Two years ago, said Mayor Stanley, the city advertised the buildings and land for lease for six months. The city didn't have any legitimate offers, he said.

"If you guys have the answers, we are all ears," he said.

Undersheriff Randy McHugh said he does have some ideas, although he wasn't ready to present anything. Councilman Jay Anderson suggested not talking about the former ranch at the meeting Thursday, but instead waiting until the next one.

• Held a 20-minute closed session for non-elected personnel with the mayor, attorney, administrator and council. There was no action taken.

## Donate sale items

There's still time to donate gently used items to the Last Indian Raid Museum for the annual rummage sale Saturday and Sunday.

People can donate items until 4 p.m. Friday, said Curator Sharleen Wurm, by dropping them off at the museum at the south end of Main Street.

Mrs. Wurm said the museum has received lots of donations, including kitchen items, clothes, lots of larger women's sizes, puzzles and other items. There's still lots of room left for more, she said.

The event, sponsored by the museum and KFNF Radio, will raise money for maintenance and operational expenses.

The rummage sale, said Mrs. Wurm, will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and noon to 3 p.m. Sunday.

## UPCOMING EVENTS in Kansas

Brought to you in part by Kansas Department of Commerce Travel & Tourism Division

**Railroad Heritage Days**  
April 19-20  
Arkansas City Family Fun Days  
Railroad theme games and entertainment and sights and sounds of trains, Wilson Park (620)442-0236, www.arkcity.org

**Sheryl Crow Concert**  
April 22  
Century II Concert Hall, 7:30 PM  
Wichita  
(316)216-4849  
Tickets online at www.wichitatix.com

**William Inge Theater Festival**  
April 23-26  
Where Broadway meets Hollywood  
Independence  
(800)842-6063 x5835  
Tickets online at www.ingefestival.org

**Lansing DAZE/Brews, Blues & BBQ**  
May 2-3  
KCBS BBQ, Events/Crafts/Entertainment  
K-7 & W. Mary St, Lansing  
(913)727-5488  
www.lansing.ks.us

**Th' Gatherin' Ancient Festival O' Beltane**  
May 2-3  
12th Annual Beltane celebration in a gorgeous setting. Celtic musicians & artists, an evening feast, fire festival & competitions  
WaKeeney, www.thgatherin.com

**Marble Days**  
May 3  
Old Fashion Family Fun and Games  
Banner Springs  
(913)422-5044  
www.lifeisbetter.org

**Merriam Turkey Creek Festival**  
May 17  
Family fun in beautiful Antioch Park  
Free kids events, concerts, 5k run, arts and crafts, parade, great food  
(913)322-5550, www.merriam.org

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## Arbor Day Proclamation

Whereas, In 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and

Whereas, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and

Whereas, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, lower our heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife, and

Whereas, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and

Whereas, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and

Whereas, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Joe Stanley, Mayor of the City of Oberlin, do hereby proclaim April 25, 2008 as

## Arbor Day

in the City of Oberlin, and I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and

Further, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

Dated this 15th day of April in the year 2008  
Mayor, Joe Stanley

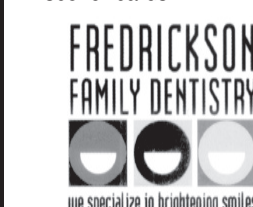
## WE ALWAYS WELCOME NEW PATIENTS TO OUR DENTAL PRACTICE!

The office of Dr. Gary Fredrickson was established in Oberlin in 1982. We offer the services of Robyn Rouse who has been a dental hygienist for 18 years. We also provide for visits from two orthodontists, Dr. John Haugen and Dr. Brad Hoppens, in our office.

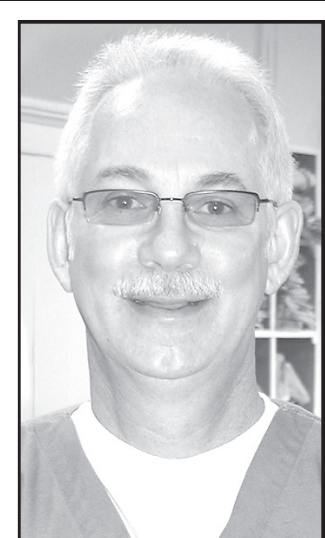
Our office hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. We are open during the lunch hour to offer more convenient scheduling for you. We enjoy children in our practice and recommend their first visit at the age of three.

All emergency patients will be seen for treatment on the day they call for an appointment. We will be able to treat your pain or replace a filling if needed.

We gladly process all dental insurance for you and we are a contracting dentist with Blue Cross and Blue Shield and Delta Dental Insurance. We offer several options for financing dental care and accept Master Card, Visa and Discover cards.



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Please call: (785) 475-3813



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