



EATING BURGERS and the trimmings fixed by the Jaycees for lunch on Thursday, Stephanie Noone (above left) and Miranda Long enjoyed the sun and grass at the Oberlin Elementary School. Alex Hayward (below) had finished his burger and was working on his chips. — Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes

Action on the field

Game marks end of the year

Kids from kindergarten to fifth grade sat on the hills to the east and north of the kickball field at Oberlin Elementary School on Thursday afternoon, waiting for some action.

With the end of the school year here, it was time for the traditional sixth grade-staff game. Each year, the sixth grade class has a chance to play kickball against the teachers and staff.

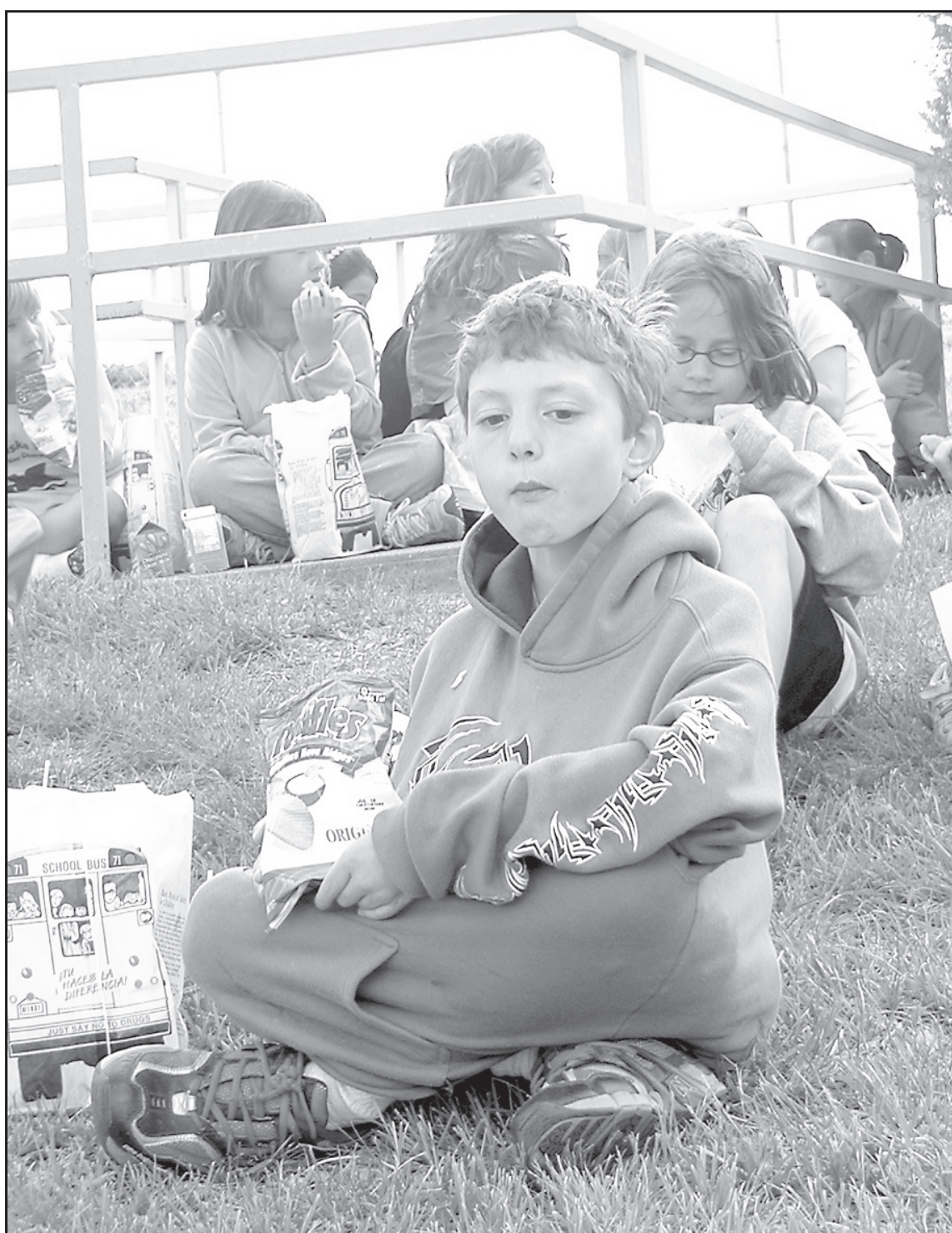
It's a fun way to send off the sixth graders, said Principal Duane Dorshorst. The majority of the teachers and the staff choose to participate, he said, helping send the students off to the junior high school.

While the two teams try to score runs and catch air balls, the other students cheer on the players. The students don't seem to have a favorite, he said, they just cheer for whoever is up to kick or whichever team made a good play.

Between the wind and the blowing dust, both players and spectators were alternately cheering and wiping their eyes. Despite the less-than-perfect weather, however, everyone seemed to be having a good, noisy time.

The sixth graders, said Mr. Dorshorst, won 5 to 4. It was the second year in a row the teachers lost.

Traditionally, he said, the sixth graders get a special breakfast the morning of the game. This year, Jeanette Diederich, former school cook, made them cinnamon rolls.



Community garage sales begin Friday

Clothes, furniture, dishes, exercise equipment and other stuff will be offered out of garages and off front yards Friday night and Saturday during Oberlin's annual community-wide garage sale.

The sale is set for 6 to 9 p.m. Friday and from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday at 22 places. People paid \$5 each to the Area Chamber Commerce to get their location on the map.

The maps are ready now, said Jo Henderson, Chamber manager, and people can pick them up at the office, or Saturday at the Last Indian Raid Museum downtown.

County sets rules for ambulance runs

The Decatur County commissioners and ambulance director worked on driving protocols for the ambulance department at a meeting last Tuesday.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said emergency workers need to remember that even though they have lights and sirens, they still need to drive carefully.

Can any county employee with a valid driver's license drive the ambulance? asked Director Linda Manning. Mr. Unger said that is right.

Commissioner Stan McEvoy asked if the department has done a driving course. Ms. Manning said the department did one, setting up cones and having the drivers go through a course. Mr. McEvoy suggested she check with Kansas Counties Association Multi-lined Pool, which carries the county's

insurance, to see if they could offer a driving course sometime.

People need to use common sense when driving emergency vehicles, said Mr. Unger. The people in the ambulance need to be protected as well as those who are on the roads.

Ms. Manning said seven out of 10 students in a recent emergency med-

ical technician class have passed their practical exam. The ones who didn't are going to Phillipsburg to take a re-test, she said.

Hopefully within the next few weeks, she said, all of them will have taken the written test as well. Two of the students have already passed the written tests.

Roofing to begin for summer

The third phase of the roofing project for the Oberlin School District will be completed over the summer after the board approved a bid of \$205,325 from Wray Roofing out of Newton.

Superintendent Pat Cullen said the district received two bids, from Wray Roofing and one from Geishler roofing out of Concordia for \$228,800.

The reroofing started in the summer of 2006. This summer's project includes the roof on the district office building and the last part of the high school.

Dr. Cullen recommended taking the bid from Wray, with the board approving it in a unanimous vote.

He said he thought the project would start in June, but workers arrived this week.

Sheriff's office looking for truck

With a heavy trailer loaded with emergency supplies, the Decatur County sheriff is looking for a used diesel three-quarter-ton or larger pickup.

Sheriff Ken Badsky talked with the Decatur County commissioners about the need for a truck at their meeting Tuesday, May 13.

He said he has two trucks to sell or trade in, a 2001 Dodge pickup and a 1988 Chevy. If the recycling department is interested in the Chevy, said Sheriff Badsky, they could work out a deal.

Sheriff Badsky said he would like to get a used diesel pickup to be able to pull the trailer. The department doesn't have anything that could pull the trailer, loaded with supplies that would help in responding to an emergency.

He said he would ask the dealers in town to bid on a used diesel pickup with around 100,000 miles on it.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn said the commissioners got a report from the road and bridge department that suggested not paying more than \$1,000 for the 1988 Chevy since it needs some work.

Commissioner Stan McEvoy, said Sarah Fredrickson, with the noxious weed control department, told him that pickup would work well for recycling because it has a cover over the bed.

Commissioner Ralph Unger sug-

County roundup

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Decided the new county census books should include the new Emergency 911 addresses, although the books won't be printed until August. Story on Page 2A.

- Made some safety suggestions on the driving protocols for the ambulance department. Story below left.

- Heard from a volunteer with Northwest Kansas Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse asking for an increase in the county contribution from \$500 to \$750 a year. Story below.

gested getting bids with and without the trade in and then deciding what to do.

In the end, Sheriff Badsky said he will leave the decisions up to the commissioners because he has an interest in one of the dealerships.

The commissioners told him to make sure to ask for three bids, from Mike Elwood, Jr.'s Used Cars and Stellar Sales.

The bids are due by 5 p.m. Friday, May 23.

Women's shelter group asks county for increase

A volunteer with the Northwest Kansas Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse out of Hays asked Decatur County commissioners for an increase in the county's contribution from \$500 to \$750.

The commissioners made no commitment at the meeting on Tuesday, May 20, but said they would look at the request when they put the county budget together in August.

Karen Bolt, a volunteer of Atwood, said she's been working for the group six years. The main office and a safe house are in Hays, she said, and the group has satellite offices in Colby and Phillipsburg.

Last year, she said, they worked with 583 victims and volunteers fielded over 5,000 phone calls, some from victims and some from people who were concerned about someone they knew.

Although most people think the victims are women, said Ms. Bolt,

the group does serve men. Last year the county gave \$500 and the City of Oberlin \$600, she said.

How many people are repeat victims? asked Commissioner Stan McEvoy. Some, said Ms. Bolt, but the number isn't very high.

Are most of the clients from low income families? asked Mr. McEvoy. Mostly, she said.

Are there drugs involved, he said. Actually, said Ms. Bolt, they haven't had a lot of substance abuse issues.

There's a volunteer in Decatur County, asked Commissioner Doyle Brown, but no office or safe home? Right, she said.

Does the agency get any state money? he asked. Through grants, yes, said Ms. Bolt.

Mr. Brown asked where the county money goes. It goes to Hays and is put in the general budget, said Ms. Bolt, unless the giving entity specifies how the money is to be spent.

Decatur Co. Fairgrounds

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