

Haiti orphanage survives quake

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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The House of Hope in Haiti, 41 miles north of Port-au-Prince, still stands after a 7.0 magnitude earthquake hit last week.

Pete and Nanette Zander of Oberlin and her son, Michale Bellamy of Maryville, Mo., a professor at Northwest Missouri State University, started the orphanage outside the city five years ago. The ministry includes a school, which continues to expand by a grade level each year.

An article in *The Oberlin Herald* in December said about 100 kids attend the school, which includes from kindergarten through fifth grade. The school serves as a church on Sundays for about 60 people.

In that article, Mrs. Zander said the goal of House of Hope is to take children without hope and help them become people who love their Creator, love their neighbor and can earn a living and help break the cycle of poverty so rampant in Haiti. It's said that 60 percent of the population live on less than

a dollar a day.

While a magnitude 7.0 earthquake hit Haiti last Tuesday, Mrs. Zander said, she wasn't able to get in touch with the orphanage until Friday. She said she finally got an e-mail from Jobens Morelon, one of the workers at the orphanage.

He wrote that they are moving everyone out of the capitol because of the smell. Pregnant women and babies are dying of thirst, and there's a lack of medicine in the hospital.

Mrs. Zander read the e-mail, which she said was in broken English, that gasoline is selling for \$100 Haitian a gallon, which would be \$30 to \$40 American dollars. Even if there was medicine, she said, there's no money to buy gas to get it to the hospitals.

Mrs. Zander said they are trying to buy some land next to the House of Hope to add a 50 bed home onto the existing orphanage.

Literally thousands of kids have been orphaned by the quake, she said.

Before the earthquake, the United Na-

tions Children's Fund reported that Haiti was home to an estimated 380,000 orphans.

The House of Hope is taking in as many kids as it can now, she said. Before the quake they had 17. Mrs. Zander said they are making do until they can get something permanent done.

The staff is trying to find kids who have been orphaned and get them to the House of Hope, she said

(See WOMAN on Page 5)

Board discusses money guidelines for school teams

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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The Oberlin School Board talked last Monday about guidelines on how athletic teams can raise money, or whether they should at all, but put of any decision until the February meeting.

Superintendent Duane Dorshorst said he wanted board members' opinion on athletic teams raising money for new equipment, uniforms or other items.

Last year, he said, some of the teams raised money for new uniforms and other items. The high school volleyball team worked some at the concession stand, said Mr. Dorshorst, adding that he didn't have a problem with that.

He said he is a little biased on having the teams going out to the community and asking the businesses for money. The community gets enough of those requests from civic clubs, he said.

Mr. Dorshorst said the football team has asked how much money the program had for equipment. He said he told them they needed to prioritize their wish list.

One thing they want is travel bags. Mr. Dorshorst said he told them he didn't think the district was going to do luxury items, and the coach asked if they could raise

money for the bags.

Member Abby Hisson said she would rather see the team put on a camp for younger kids or do something to earn the money, not just go ask for it.

It's never been a board policy, said Mr. Dorshorst, but the district has had an unwritten policy that they weren't going to sell anything that would hurt the businesses in town.

He said he doesn't want the business owners to think, "Here comes another school thing." Mrs. Hisson agreed, adding that the group that used to do the youth basketball camp isn't doing it anymore, so maybe that could be done by the school.

Board member Dan Nedland asked how the the football team got "that big amount of money" last year. It was close to \$5,000, he said.

Two people went out and collected it, said Mr. Dorshorst.

That did go through the high school, said board member Barb Olson.

Have businesses complained? asked Member Dan Wasson.

No, said Mr. Dorshorst, but he's been in businesses and gotten comments.

It's hard on the businesses, too, (See BOARD on Page 5)

School canceled to celebrate scores

The Oberlin School Board congratulated 98 students in the Oberlin Elementary School and Decatur Community Junior/Senior High for their scores on last year's state assessment, giving everyone — teachers and students — the day off Monday as a reward.

To reward the students, said Superintendent Duane Dorshorst, the board planned to announce Tuesday that school will be canceled this coming Monday. All of the staff and students will get a vacation day in recognition of their hard work.

At the high school, the board recognized 57 students who earned 90 "certificates of outstanding academic achievement."

At Oberlin Elementary, he said, 41 students in fourth, fifth and sixth grades earned 71 "exemplary"

grades on state assessments. Students who were in the sixth grade last year received their certificates at the junior high, he added.

"One of the board's goals this year," said Mr. Dorshorst, "is to find ways to reward students and teachers for academic excellence.

"Decatur Community Junior-Senior High School earned 'Building of Excellence' awards in reading and math. Oberlin Elementary School earned the 'Building of Excellence' award in reading. Overall between the two schools, 13 'Standard of Excellence' certificates were earned."

Mr. Dorshorst said the board thanked the students and staff for their hard work and encouraged them to enjoy their "Day of Celebration!"



WORKERS WERE BUSY preparing the soil and building terraces for new trees to be planted near Manilla. Ward Wurm (center with shovel) spent much time helping with the project and plans to return to help in February. Mr. Wurm (standing below) watched students enjoying school supplies which he provided.

Job takes engineer overseas

By **MARYLOU OLSON**
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Ward Wurm's interest in mechanics began early.

As a youth, he helped his father on the family farm north of Oberlin, but he never dreamed his work would take him from small-town Kansas to a big-time project overseas.

"My dad, 'Bus' Wurm, taught me many things while we were farming and repairing machinery," Ward said. "I learned a lot about machinery design, which sparked my interest in engineering."

He graduated from Decatur Community High School in 1980 and earned a degree in mechanical engineering from Kansas State University in 1985.

That degree landed him a job with Burns & McDonnell of Kansas City, where he's worked since. The firm has sent him to the Middle East for the design and construction of the new Doha



International Airport in Qatar. "I work on the jet fuel system, which receives, stores, then pumps the jet fuel to the planes," he said.

The airport's terminals, two

runways and 70 gates will cover 4,000 acres and serve Doha's 1 million residents, he said. The government of Qatar will spend \$9 billion for the project, which is expected to open in 2012, six

years after construction began. The money is coming mostly from an enormous supply of natural gas in the tiny Arab nation.

Mr. Wurm travels halfway (See MAN on Page 5)

Baby girl is first of 2010

An Oberlin couple welcomed their third daughter last Wednesday, making her the 2010 New Year's baby in Decatur County.

Makayla Maize Marshall was born at 3:10 p.m. last Wednesday at the Norton County Hospital. She weighed 6 pounds, 1 ounce.

Her parents are Rodney and Joni Marshall. She was welcomed home by her two older sisters Jacquelyn, 6, and Arika, 3. Mrs. Marshall said the older girls are really excited about having a new sister.

Although the couple knew they were having a girl, they didn't have (See COUPLE on Page 5)



BIG SISTERS Jacquelyn, 6, and Arika, 3, welcomed home their baby sister Makayla along with their dad and mom, Rodney and Joni Marshall. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Council agenda focuses on Gateway

The Oberlin City Council will discuss several items dealing with The Gateway, including the operating budget, at its meeting Thursday.

At the last meeting, the members decided to not transfer \$100,000 from the Bremer money into The Gateway account. The budget, set by the council, included the \$100,000. Administrator Austin Gilley said he's talked with City Attorney Steve Hirsch about proceeding with the budget as it was adopted last year. There isn't enough cash to operate The Gateway for very long without the transfer, he said.

Mr. Gilley said the council will also review expenditures from the Bremer account last year.

Other items at The Gateway to be discussed include new office space

where Kathy Brainard's office is now and a landscape drawing for around the building.

Mr. Gilley said the council will discuss a priority list, review information on street repairs and get direction on a letter to be sent out about the city's water.

Rick Pauls with Pheasants Forever will be there to discuss having a wildlife biologist for the area. There's been a request that groups pitch in to help come up with money to get the biologist here.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. upstairs in the civic center. It is open to the public.





*Woman wants to expand Haiti ministry

(Continued from Page 1A)
She said that the quake didn't claim any lives at the orphanage or any of the buildings.

Mrs. Zander said she and her husband normally try to go to Haiti twice a year. She had just returned on Thursday, Jan. 7.

This year, they will try to go three times, with a trip over spring break if they can get in. At that time, they want to take supplies, including medicine.

Right now, though, said Mrs. Zander, it sounds like they need money. The bank is supposed to reopen Thursday in Haiti, she said, and she wants to do a money transfer.

Since the earthquake, she's had lots of calls from people in Oberlin. The community has been very caring, the schools have donated items in the past and the kids write letters back and forth. Others, too, have donated. Mrs. Zander said she's sent

out e-mails to people with information she's received.

The whole thing is overwhelming, she said.

If anyone wants to make a donation, they can send a check to the Zanders at 917 Owl Lane, Oberlin, Kan. 67749.

The House of Hope is a tax exempt charity, so donations should be tax deductible and 100 percent of the donation goes to the ministry. The Zanders don't take anything out of it.

Most of the work at the school and orphanage is long-term work, said Mrs. Zander, including education.

"Right now," she said, "we want to keep them alive. It sounds like with all the people coming from Port (a-Prince, the capital), it's getting desperate and people are looting. We need prayer for the people and for safety in traveling from the city."



Workers help at tourney

ON SATURDAY, volunteers Mark Bricker, Brenda Ploussard and Mick Barth (above) helped with the Oberlin Invitational Wrestling Tournament in the senior high gym. Karen Bailey (left) stirred a roaster full of soup. The Lions Club served food in the cafeteria as one of its fund raisers.

— Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes

*Man serves in Middle East

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around the world to ensure that the fuel system of one of the world's largest airports will operate properly. His other interest in environmental preservation would take him all the way around the globe.

In October 2009, massive flooding from a typhoon in the Philippines left thousands of houses wrecked and lives destroyed, he said. Many workers on the project were from the area, and he heard about the problems their families were having.

He said Habitat for Humanity needed resources for housing, clothing and beyond. Mr. Wurm flew from Doha to Manila, and helped provide money to build a concrete apartment complex to house 120 families in a suburb. However, he said, his heart is rooted in the land.

"I decided I could be more productive by working on an environmental project such as forest restoration," he said. "I traveled 100 miles north of Manila to a rice farming town called Iba, Zambales. Back in 1970, many trees were cut down in this region for lumber.

"When I was young, we planted lots of trees on our farm. My dad instilled in me the importance of trees to the environment. The typhoon created a flood due to the lack of trees and surge flow off of the watershed, and many people were killed."

Since the mountain soil is thin, he said, terraces they needed to built terraces on the side of the mountain to accumulate enough soil for tree planting. Mr. Wurm said he hired workers in the area to help restore the area and donated money to pay them and also helped build the terraces.

"We prepared a mountain slope in December, and the plan is to plant trees in February when the rainy season starts," he said. "In a 50-acre area, 10,000 trees will be planted by hand. The local Filipino people will plant a variety of trees such as mango, mahogany, acacia and other native species."

As a result of the flooding, thousands of evacuees now live in bamboo huts with thatched roofs, he said. During his visit, he saw about 300 children squeezed into a small hut that functions as a replacement school. Mr. Wurm said he had to help them.

"It was then that I decided to donate and deliver pencils, crayons, books, chalk and other school supplies to the students," he said. "They all speak English and have sunny dispositions."

He said his humanitarian work has disadvantages.

"One of the drawbacks of the job in Qatar," he said, "is not being able to come home very often to visit my daughter Alicia, a student at the University of Missouri, and my parents, 'Bus' and Carolyn Wurm.

"It has been interesting to learn about the cultures of several countries, but the hardest part of the job for me is not being able to see my daughter and my parents. However, we keep in touch by e-mail, which helps a lot."

He plans to return to Iba in November to continue planting trees in an area that needs so much.

"There are millions of acres that need to be reforested," he said, "so working on the restoration project this time was only a drop in the bucket."

*Couple brings home New Year's baby

(Continued from Page 1A)
any names picked out. Mrs. Marshall said her husband named the baby Makayla.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Marshall were raised here, although they left to live in Beloit for a year for college and then returned home. He is a farm hand for Kendal Fisher. Mrs. Marshall said she doesn't know if they will have any more kids or not.

Makayla's grandparents are

Brenda Diederich of Oberlin, Pat and Audrey Diederich of McPherson, and Lawrence Marshall of Oberlin.

As the New Year's Baby, Makayla will receive a gift from Fredrickson Insurance Agency, a \$10 gift certificate from Ward Drug Store, a case of baby food from Raye's Grocery Store, a \$10 gift certificate from Stanley Hardware Store and a subscription from *The Oberlin Herald*.

*Board talks policy

(Continued from Page 1A)
said Mrs. Olson, because they want to support everything, but without a plan, businesses have no way of knowing which groups are or aren't raising money.

Mrs. Hissong said again that she would rather see the teams work for the money, not just sell something.

There needs to be guidelines, said President Monte Moore, but the board also needs to make sure the kids have the equipment they need. The district could maybe buy travel bags for each sport in a season, he said, the kids could tape their numbers on, and at the end of the season pass them to the next team.

Mr. Dorshorst said he needs some guidance. If it was up to him, he added, he would say that the sports teams could work the concession stands, or hold camps and tournaments to raise money, but not go out door to door.

Mrs. Olson asked if the district has a rotation for buying new uniforms. Yes, said Mr. Dorshorst, but it needs to be worked on. It's not been

kept up, he said.

He added that another set of varsity volleyball uniforms would be a good thing. When a team is at a tournament from 8 a.m. to midnight, he said, it would be nice if they had two. Mrs. Olson agreed.

The group decided to look at the policy and possibly have some recommendations for the next meeting.

Cinema open after school

The front room of the Sunflower Cinema will be open Monday and Wednesday afternoons for kids to come play games.

The youth recreation area is open from 4 to 6 p.m., said Greg Lohoefer, with the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp. Recreation items offered include arcade games, a Wii game device and air hockey. The concession stand will also be open, and volunteers will supervise the kids.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Oberlin, Kansas will receive sealed bids for the Gateway Event Center Handicap Entrance Drive. Bids prepared in accordance with the Plans and Specifications will be accepted at the Office of the Clerk, 1 Morgan Drive, Oberlin, Kansas 67749 until 2:00 P.M. CST on February 2, 2010 and then will be immediately publicly opened and read aloud.

The project consists of concrete street paving and associated work as described in the Plans and Specifications. Contractors will be required to bid all items on the project bid form.

All bids must be made on the Proposal Form provided with the Plans and Specifications as prepared by W DESIGN ASSOCIATES, Consulting Engineers and Architects. Bids received after the closing will be returned unopened and shall not be considered.

Contractors may obtain Plans and Specifications from W Design Associates, 214 East 1st Street, McCook, Nebraska 69001 upon payment of \$40.00 for each set requested. One half of the deposit shall be refunded if a bid is submitted and the Plans and Specifications are returned in good condition within ten days after the bid opening. Electronic copies of the plans and specifications may be obtained at NO COST by calling 308-345-2370.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a certified check, cashiers check or bid bond in an amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the total bid amount, and shall be made payable to the City of Oberlin as security that the bidder to whom the contract may be awarded will enter into contract to construct the project and give bond in the sum of the total contract amount for the construction of the project. Checks accompanying bids not accepted shall be returned to the bidders. Performance and Payment Bonds will be required for this project.

No bid shall be withdrawn after opening the bids without the consent of the Owner for a period of 45 days.

The Owner reserves the right to accept, reject or negotiate any or all bids and to waive any irregularity in the bidding.

Date: December 14, 2009

Karen Larson, Clerk
City of Oberlin

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