

Our digital janitor

By LAKIN BROWN
Anytime the internet goes down or a computer doesn't work, he gets a phone call.

One of the most helpful and needed people around the school is Ron Jansonius, the technology coordinator for USD 294. He refers to his job as the "digital janitor" since he is always repairing and tending to anything and everything digital.

Ron keeps all of the district's technology infrastructure working, while at the same time continuing to add more technology every year. He is responsible for all the technology in the district, which includes the elementary school, the junior/senior high school and the district office.

To put that in perspective, every teacher in the district has a laptop, there are two computer labs at the high school, plus more computers in the library and scholarship room. At the grade school, there are two more computer labs and computers in the Oberlin Elementary School library.

Then there are the secretaries' computers, the administrators' computers, and other staff members' desktop computers. That's a total of 338 computers.

To make things even more complicated, he has to maintain both platforms — as the grade school uses Apple computers, and the high school uses PCs, except for one computer lab and the art and the journalism departments, which use Apple computers.

And then consider all of the other technology in the district, such as printers, scanners, network switches and routers, projectors, interactive white boards, document cameras, video cameras, surveillance system, sound systems, telephones, and the wireless network infrastructure. All this for a department consisting of one person.

Ron explains that most of his work deals with the "day-to-day" things, including accidental damage, warranty claims, normal wear and tear of aging equipment, software updates, spyware, virus, and malware abatement, and user error to name just a few.

This doesn't even include the phone calls from staff members and teachers when something in their room or office isn't working.

Ron has been working for the district since October of 2005. Since then, the district has nearly doubled the number of computers. "Most of this growth has been laptops, which are inherently more susceptible to damage and general failure of hardware," he said.

Ron is also the district's leader in new technology, which means he not only does a lot of reading and studying to keep on top of the latest technology — hardware and software, but then he tries to share that knowledge with teachers. "Unfortunately, there is little to no time for planning or new technol-

ogy implementation or integration, as most of my time is consumed with just keeping everything operational," he said.

Ron usually works forty-five hours or more a week, but has worked as many as ninety-three in one week. Before school started in August, he worked practically around the clock trying to get the district set for the new school year. His hours are typically eight to five.

According to Ron, his job is never boring. Every day there is always a new challenge.

The thing he likes most about being the technology coordinator is the satisfaction of meeting those challenges and fixing things in the shortest amount of time possible. However, there are three things that Ron dislikes about his job. The first is the time and amount of learning it takes to do his job effectively. "I am constantly reading," said Ron. The other two are not having enough time to finish things and not having enough time to help teachers and students.

One thing Ron wishes people would realize about his job is how much time it takes to do things right. "The least respected part of a technology coordinator is all of the things they are responsible for or may be involved in and how much effort it takes to keep them all running smoothly," he said.

Other things Ron wishes others would realize about his job is how many things get fixed without people ever knowing they were broken and that nearly all repairs are completed in-house with no outside labor or consultants.

As students and teachers, one thing we could do to make Ron's job easier is provide him with fewer challenges, and by that he means "to respect our privileges and be good stewards of the technology and Internet access provided to us by the district."

Ron wanted this job because he wanted to be present at home while raising his daughters in a small town with a great learning environment. He is married to Sheila, the elementary counselor. They have two daughters, Molly and Morgan, who are in the seventh grade.

Kayettes attend unit conference

By ADRIENNE PAULS
"Building Leaders: KAY Edition." That has been the theme for Kayettes throughout the school year, and it was also the theme of the KAY Unit Conference on Jan. 28.

The Oberlin Kayette members attended the conference hosted by the Northern Valley Kay Club. At the beginning of the conference the Kays did many activities to interact with other people from different schools. Everyone got name tags with an assortment of colors to split the students up into groups. In these groups they brainstormed new ideas for community service. Then they went into two different sessions.


Some of the topics of the sessions were "Show Hope," a group to help people get enough money to adopt or to help orphanages; "New Technology Tools," a talk by policeman, Larry Land; a discussion with Toby Kuhn, from the Kansas Department

of Wildlife, about wildlife regulations and safety; and "Caution for Credit Cards," with Rayleen Shelton.

The last group project was to make Valentine cards to send to troops overseas. The KAY State Director, Cheryl Gleason, ended the conference with a slide show of last year's KAY camp to encourage everyone to attend next year in July.

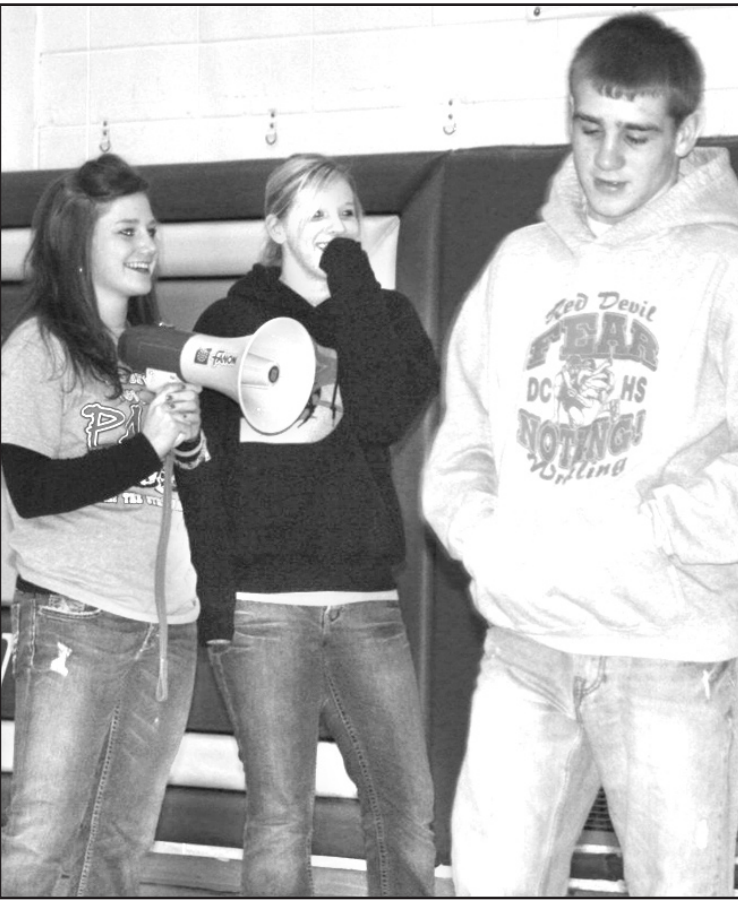
Those who attended the KAY conference from Oberlin were Meghan Gault, Sarah Kyte, Adrienne Pauls, Kira Meitl, Jessica Fredrickson, Ashley Horton, Megan Wentz, Miki Dorshorst, Samantha Wrinkles, Brandi Diederich, Sara Campbell and Kaylee May. The Kayettes would like to thank their sponsor Linda Glaze and bus driver Mr. Olson for taking them on this trip. "It was well worth the time," said Jessica.

Voice of Decatur Community High School



Decatur Dictator

By the DCHS Dictator Staff



ASKING FOR AN OPENING BID, weight club auctioneers Brandi Diederich and Jordan Dreher request bids for Nolan Peters. — Photo by Jori Diederich

Senior Feature

Lakin Brown
By STEPHANIE BRUGGEMAN

Lakin Ashley Dawn Brown was born March 19, 1992, to Dan and Kelly Brown. Lakin is the sister of Shawn Wheelbarger, Ryan Wheelbarger, Kaitlin Brown and Taylor Brown.

She loves hanging out with friends, drawing and reading. Her favorite book is the Twilight Series, her favorite color is blue, and her fa-

vorite song is "Here's to the Night" by Eve 6. Lakin's favorite quote is "Live and learn."

Lakin plans to attend McCook Community College next fall and study nursing. In 10 years she sees "the possibilities."

Her advice for underclassmen is "Make high school worth it. Get your work done and get through it." Lakin said she is going to miss the fun times and memories.

School Menus

February 8 - 12
OBERLIN SCHOOLS
Fourth grade classes submitted lunch menus for February.

Monday: Breakfast: Pancake, ham pattie. Lunch: Chicken pattie sandwich, tator tots. (*Celianna Shobe, Kyleana Blau*) **Tuesday:** Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, cheese stick. Lunch: Spaghetti with meat sauce, green beans. **Wednesday:**

Breakfast: Biscuits and gravy. Lunch: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes. **Thursday:** Breakfast: Breakfast bites. Lunch: Beefy nachos, roundabouts. (*Haylee Hileman, Donielle Darland*) **Friday:** No school.

Fruit served with all breakfasts; choice bar served with all lunches. Milk served with all meals.

Weight Club raises money with auction


By JORI DIEDERICH
Strong and dedicated guys and gals were auctioned off on Wednesday in the high school gym, all for a good cause.

Students purchased a weight club member to carry their books or take their tray at lunch, or whatever. The bids ranged from \$3 to \$15.

Sixteen students volunteered to be sold. Bringing in the most money at \$15 each were Zach May, Josh Ritter, Dakota Soderlund, Brady Fortin, Tyler Bruggeman, Jordan Dreher and Brandi Diederich.


Weight Club raised nearly \$175 to help pay for power lifting entries and weight room equipment.

9TH ANNUAL
"Dollars" & "Sense"
Production Sale
Friday, February 19, 2010
12:30 PM Central Time
At the ranch 10 S & 3.5 W of Gove



LAR Total 9970
BW 3.9 WW +61 YW +100 M +29
Marb 1+.42 RE 1+.32 \$B +52.49

Offering Includes:
60 Angus Bulls
(35 Yrags & 25 2's)
30 Yearling Heifers
All Sires: Total, In Focus, 1407,
LAR Total Package and more!

For more information, contact:

Larry & Anita Lundgren & family
3633 County Rd. 1
Gove, KS 67736
785-938-4404 · 785-673-9047
www.LundgrenAngusRanch.com

900 The ~~800~~ pound Gorilla



Just got a whole lot bigger!

That's right. The Gorilla has been growing. Already the biggest and most effective advertising medium in the Tri-State Region, **The Country Advocate** has been adding readers all year.

No more 800-pound weakling. Now **The Advocate** is the 900-pound gorilla of Northwest Kansas advertising!

First, **The Advocate** added nearly 1,550 new home-delivered households in Sherman County with readers of the all-

new, all-local *Goodland Star-News*.

Then, the Gorilla picked up 1,750 new home-delivered households in Norton County when *The Norton Telegram* joined the club.

When you need to sell something, find something or notify someone, the Gorilla is your best friend. Reaching 18,200 households with nearly 42,000 readers across northwest Kansas and eastern Colorado, the Gorilla packs a punch. It can move your

refrigerator or your old car. A house? No problem for the Gorilla. And all at rates that save you money.

And **The Advocate** is nearly all home delivered. Some "shoppers" count on people picking them up at the filling station. It's cheap, but it can't compare to home delivery reaching nearly every house in the area.

Just try it! The Gorilla will work hard for you. Call today with your ad.

The Stamps

You Can't Wait to Get Your Hands On.

- PRE-INKED (NO STAMP PAD NEEDED)
- CLEANER, EASIER TO USE
- 50,000 IMPRESSIONS BEFORE RE-INKING
- DOZENS OF MODELS

THE OBERLIN HERALD
170 S. Penn • Oberlin, Kan.
785-475-2206

 COLBY FREE PRESS
155 W. Fifth Colby, Kan. 67701
(785) 462-3963

The Goodland Star-News
1205 Main, Goodland, Kan. 67735
(785) 899-2338

THE NORTON TELEGRAM
215 S. Kansas, Norton, Kan. 67654
(785) 877-3361

THE OBERLIN HERALD
170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749
(785) 475-2206

Bird City Times
Box 167, Bird City, Kan. 67731
(785) 734-2621

The Saint Francis Herald
Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756
(785) 332-3162