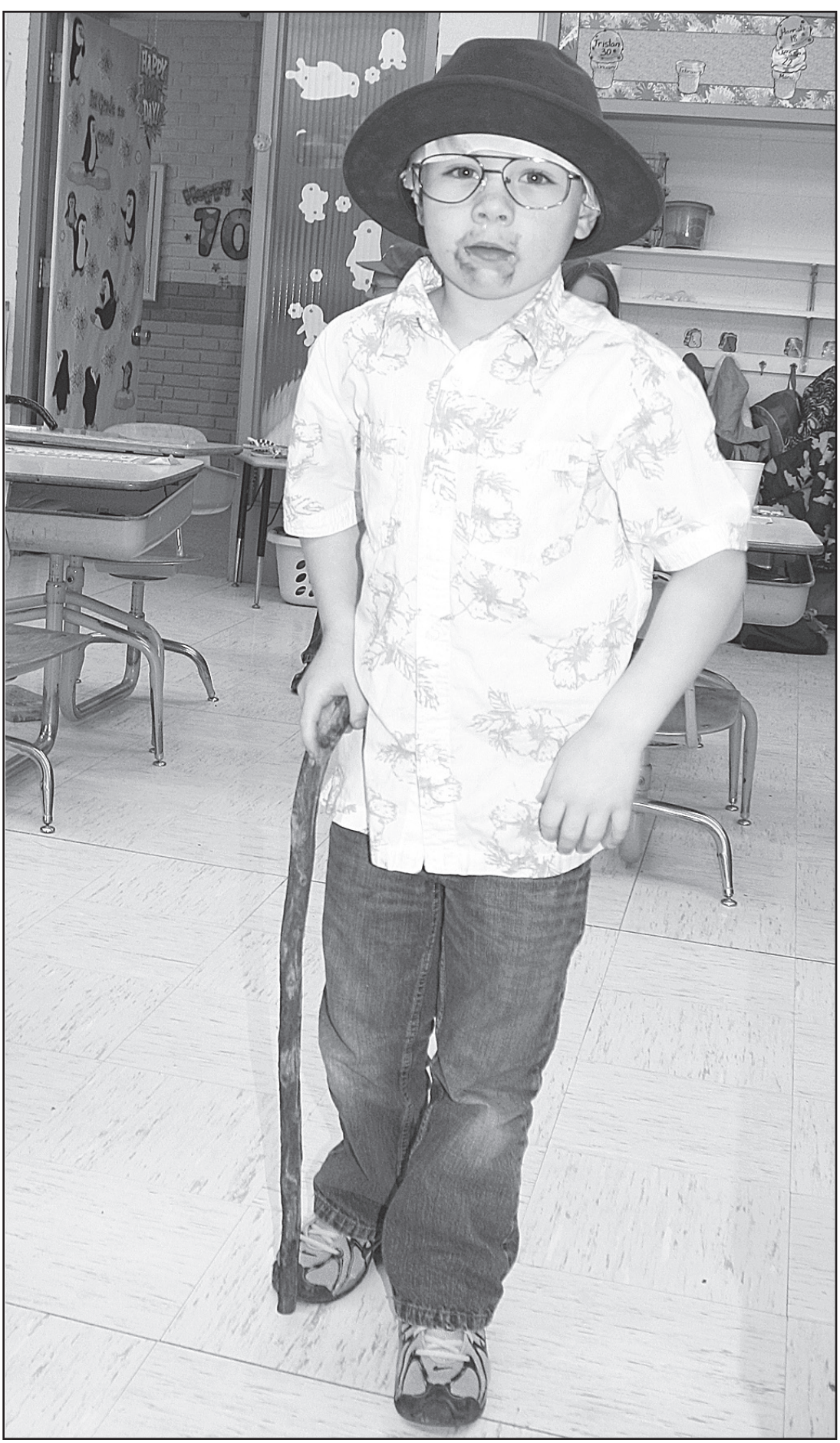


Time to celebrate



TO CELEBRATE 100 DAYS of school, a first grader dressed up like he was older and used a cane during class last Thursday at Oberlin Elementary School.
— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

County says no to grant

The Decatur County commissioners talked with a man about a grant application for software for mapping, but decided to stay with what the county has now.

Gordon Slater with Allied talked with the commissioners about the grant for new software. Allied and a company called LandTech, out of Michigan, were the only two bids for the equipment. LandTech is owned by Allied.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch asked Mr. Slater lots of questions including if LandTech got the bid which company would get the money since LandTech is owned by Allied. Mr. Slater said the company awarded the bid would get the money.

Mr. Slater said Allied has worked with Wallace, Cheyenne, Sheridan, Rawlins, Norton and Phillips counties.

The grant is for software that would basically tie an address into the maps for the county immediately.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman said the way he understood it he could create an address to go to that location with the global positioning unit and then that would be linked to the map and the address

would be part of the county map.

Yes, said Mr. Slater, but that information has to be imported into the 911 system, typically by uploading a compact disc.

Commissioner Stan McEvoy wanted to know what the county would be gaining with this software. Mr. Stallman said he wouldn't have to send the address to R&S Mapping for it to be intergrated into the map. Then he has to wait for that information back.

Mr. Hirsch said they are a little suspicious since both of the companies that bid the product are related. There aren't any other bids.

Mr. Slater said he didn't know of anyone else in the county who provides this kind of software.

The county can send in the grant and get it, said Commissioner Ralph Unger, and then turn around and get other bids. No, said Mr. Hirsch, the grant states which bid the county will go with.

Mr. McEvoy asked if there were any cases that LandTech has had the lower bid. In Michigan, said Mr. Salter.

"This just doesn't smell right to me," said Mr. Unger.

The grant application is for \$21,400. Mr. Slater said the road

and bridge office would maybe need a new computer, which wasn't included in the grant because it's six or seven years old.

There's also a \$400 yearly support fee, he said, although some people choose not to do that.

The deadline for the grant, said Mr. Slater, is set for 5 p.m. Friday.

Mr. Unger said he thought the group needed to talk with AT&T and R&S Digital about getting the information on the maps and how that works now.

The commissioners held two closed sessions, each for 15 minutes, with Mr. Hirsch, Mr. Stallman, Dispatcher Marilyn Mack, Appraiser Alan Hale and Clerk Colleen Geihlsler.

There was no action taken.

Following the sessions, the commissioners talked with Marty Bieker with R&S Digital. The company has a 48 hour address update stated in the maintenance contract. This year is covered under a maintenance contract with the company.

The commissioners decided to apply for a supplemental grant for R&S Digital to install the information into the 911 system.

Recycling program continues

The Decatur County commissioners agreed to pay \$6,994 to join the Northwest Kansas Recycling group again for the year.

The agency provides a central location in Colby to gather recycling material from eight northwest Kansas counties, and then sells the material. It provided the trailer used to gather material from the smaller cities around the county.

The county paid \$4,340 last year for the service. Commissioner Stan McEvoy said at the meeting Jan. 12 that he wondered if the extra bill the county refused to pay last year had been added onto this yearly one. The bill this year is a \$2,604 increase over the previous year, he noted. The agency asked counties to pay more because of increased costs, but Decatur County declined.

Commissioner Ralph Unger made a motion to approve the bill, but noting that the county would not pay anything additional later. The commissioners approved.

County Clerk Colleen Geihlsler said the county received a 2010 dues bill from the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission for \$3,089. The commissioners still haven't paid the \$2,872 billed for 2009, she said, because they were waiting for some paperwork on the from the agency.

Commissioner Stan McEvoy asked if the county had received the landfill report required by the state yet, and Ms. Geihlsler said they hadn't.

"I think we need to stick with our guns," said Mr. Unger. "He (Director Randy Hrabe) needs to get the reports done."

"Otherwise, what are we paying for?" asked Mr. McEvoy.

The county has been waiting on the landfill report, which is produced by the planning and development office, since January or February of last year.

The commissioners signed a

contract for county employees to spray state rights of way for weeds. Noxious Weed Director Gaylen Huntley said the only difference this year is an increase for the second employee, which he suggested should go from \$16 to \$17.

The commissioners approved having Marilyn Horn, former county clerk, represent the county for a state grant to get a new transportation van.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Talked with Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman about ideas for a fuel station for the county. Mr. Stallman said he's brainstorming ideas for above-ground or below-ground tanks. He said someone could come out and talk to the commissioners about the idea.
- Named Mr. Unger as chairman and Commissioner Gene Gallentine as the vice-chair for the year.
- Approved the holiday schedule for the year, with the county being closed on Friday, Jan. 1, for New

Year's Day; Monday, Feb. 15, for President's Day; Monday, May 31, for Memorial Day; Monday, July 5, for Independence Day; Monday, Sept. 6, for Labor Day; Thursday, Nov. 11, for Veteran's Day; Thursday, Nov. 25, and Friday, Nov. 26, for Thanksgiving; and Friday, Dec. 24, and Friday, Dec. 31, for Christmas.

- Designated *The Oberlin Herald* as the official county newspaper.
- Approved using The Bank of Oberlin, Norcatour and Jennings, Farmers Bank and Trust and First National Bank of Oberlin as depositories.
- Approved a 75-cents-per-line tax on phone lines for the 911 fund.
- Set the mileage reimbursement rate county travel at 50 cents.
- Set the meal allowance at \$25 a day with \$7 for breakfast, \$7 for lunch and \$11 for supper.
- Approved waiving use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.
- Approved agreements with the

Doctor leaves Goodland

Goodland Family Health Center is looking for a new doctor with the departure of Dr. Obed N. Saint-Louis at the end of December.

Lynn Hoelting, center practice administrator, said Monday Dr. Saint-Louis resigned his position at the end of December and he has not seen or heard from him since.

Hoelting said the health center is taking care of the patients and is looking for another doctor.

"We are always recruiting," he said. "I do not know why he left, and I do not know where he is."

Hoelting said Dr. Saint-Louis began working at the family health center in June.

"It does put us down one doctor," he said.

"Dr. Saint-Louis has resigned his

position in the Goodland Family Health Center," said Tina Goodwin, director of marketing and volunteer services for Goodland Regional Medical Center. "While he has not indicated his plans going forward, we certainly wish him well in his future professional pursuits."

"I can't really speculate on the reasons why he left" said Jay Jolly, hospital chief executive officer.

"As to replacing him, the hospital is continually recruiting providers for Goodland through a variety of state and national searches."

Dr. Saint-Louis received his doctor of medicine degree at the American University of the Caribbean in Plymouth, Montserrat (a small island southeast of Puerto Rico), and completed his residency

in Family Medicine at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City.

He completed an internship in the Department of Family Medicine at the Detroit Medical Center. Before entering the medical profession, Dr. Saint-Louis earned a degree in Chemical Engineering at Kansas State University and worked for Amoco Production Company in Denver.

He worked as an emergency room physician at Mercy Hospital in Independence, Kansas, and at Atchison Memorial Hospital. Before moving to Goodland Dr. Saint-Louis practiced at Decatur Health System and the Oberlin Clinic.

Farmers and Ranchers Banquet scheduled

The Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce is getting ready for the fifth annual Farmers and Ranchers Banquet at The Gateway.

The dinner will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 13.

The beef and pork will be cooked by Robert Groneweg, while the rest

of the meal will be prepared and served by The Gateway staff.

The event, which is sponsored by the chamber and businesses in the area, is free. Chamber Manager Carolyn Hackney said they need all reservations into the office by next Wednesday, Feb. 10. It's important to have an accurate head count

because of the food, she said.

Entertainment will be Craig Larson, from Scottsbluff, Neb., who is a story teller and a broadcast journalist who has worked at radio stations in Arizona, Louisiana, Missouri and now in Nebraska.

Ms. Hackney said the sponsors plan to give door prizes again this

year, both large and small. Prizes so far include several gift certificates, bags of corn, a Traeger Grill and a fire pit barbecue

The evening isn't open just to farmers and ranchers; everyone is invited to attend. To make a reservation call the chamber office at 475-3441.

Supper planned

The Oberlin Business Alliance plans a soup supper this week at the high school.

The alliance members will serve chili and vegetable-beef soup and desserts starting at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, in the cafeteria of the high school, before the Oberlin-Colby basketball games

Money raised at the soup supper will go to the alliance for its promotion activities.

**Legislative Town Hall Meeting with
Senator Ralph Ostmeyer, Representative John Faber**

Saturday, February 13, 2010

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. in Bird City at the American Legion
9:45 - 10:45 a.m. in Atwood at Williams Brothers Grocery
11:30 - 1:00 p.m. in Oberlin at Decatur Co Court House, 3rd floor
1:45 - 2:45 p.m. in Norton at Town and Country Kitchen

Paid by Ostmeyer for Senate, Lori Edwards, Treasurer
Rep. John Faber, Ed Carson, Treasurer

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