

Practice makes perfect



STUDENTS PRACTICED at the Oberlin Elementary School for the upcoming spring concert for the fourth through sixth grades at 7:30 p.m. Thursday. Sabryn O'Gara (left) and Rosa Sisley helped sing the girls' part during class last week. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Council tables demolition idea

The Oberlin City Council decided to table a two-page document describing a voluntary demolition program to tear down properties in town during its meeting last Thursday.

The idea started, said Mayor Joe Stanley, when a citizen bought some property with homes on it and asked for help tearing them down. There's some merit to the idea of a volunteer program, he said. It might be a good way to get some properties cleaned up.

The two-page document included guidelines for the voluntary program, noting that state law allows one structure per block per year can be torn down.

Other details include that the structure must be inside city limits, the homes must be vacant, the program is for residential structures only, two-story homes or ones with basements aren't eligible, and structures bigger than a duplex and commercial properties aren't eligible.

The property owner, said Mayor Stanley, would be responsible for seeing the utilities are disconnected. The owner also will be responsible for showing that it's their property.

Councilman Bill Riedel asked how much trouble it had been to take down a vacant home across from the ball field. It wasn't too big of a deal, said Foreman Dan Castle.

Councilwoman Rhonda May asked how long it took to take down the turquoise house on East

Avenue. Mr. Castle said it took a day to tear down, pick up the pieces and haul everything off, maybe a little more.

The council talked about what happens if the crew runs into asbestos in the homes.

Mayor Stanley asked what the city would do if the people who bought the old Oberlin Inn want help tearing down the old service station. Could this program be used? It would have to be changed to accept commercial property, he noted.

Maybe, said Ms. May, what the council could do is ask voters and landowners if there is any interest in the program.

While this would help clean up the city, said Councilman Ray Ward, why should the taxpayers pay for a commercial business to be removed or for homes to be removed to make the property worth more. It's a Catch 22, he said.

That's the unintended consequences with the program, said Mayor Stanley. The idea was to help get some of the properties cleaned up.

The end result, said Ms. May, is that the city will be a better place.

In any town, said Mr. Ward, there are people who go to tax sales and buy property. The taxpayers shouldn't pay to clean up the property. There should be some cost to the owner, he said. The program shouldn't be totally free.

The council decided to table the issue until the next meeting.

Pheasants Forever asks for county cash

The Decatur County commissioners received a request from Pheasants Forever for the money the county pledged to help pay a wildlife biologist for the area at the meeting Tuesday, April 6, but decided the county will wait to give the money.

At the meeting back in January when the commissioners agreed to give \$2,000, it was with the stipulation that the biologist be hired and committed to living in Decatur

County. Without that commitment, the commissioners said, they will hold on to the money.

The group also discussed that this is a one time contribution. If the group wants it in the future, they will have to ask again, since the commissioners can't spend future budgets for the county, said Commissioner Stan McEvoy.

The commissioners ratified the purchase of a split load of fuel for the road and bridge department

which Supervisor Tim Stallman said would cost around \$40,000. He said he realized after the meeting last week that he needed to buy fuel, so he called Commissioner Ralph Unger.

The men also ratified Mr. Stallman buying hard plastic barricades the crew uses for projects.

He said the barricades were on sale, but with shipping and handling he went over the \$500 spending limit by \$74.

Mr. Stallman said the crew has been out grooming the county roads hauling in gravel.

The commissioners approved buying a defibrillator for the courthouse, which will hang on a wall. Mr. Unger said it was OK with him as long as several people in the courthouse are trained to use it.

The defibrillator will cost \$1,267.

Items stolen from hotel

Decatur County's overheard projector and the county attorney's computer speakers were stolen last week from a hotel in Salina where the county's chief law enforcement officer was speaking.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch, who also is Oberlin's city attorney, said the county's projector and case and his two portable speakers were in a public area of the Ramada Inn during a Kansas State Firefighters

Association meeting. He said he let one of the other firefighters use the projector, and when he came back, the equipment was gone.

A Salina Police Department report had the items Mr. Hirsch reported missing valued at \$620.

A vendor at the same meeting also reported some items missing. Mr. Hirsch said the article in the *Salina Journal* didn't report that.

School board approves contracts for teachers

The Oberlin School Board voted to offer new contracts to all teachers, tenured and nontenured, for the 2010-2011 school year.

Each group — including tenured teachers at the high school, nontenured at the high school, part-time at the high school, tenured at the grade school, nontenured at the grade school and part-time at the grade school — was handled in a separate vote at the meeting April 12.

The board approved all unanimously.

Teachers offered renewals included:

- Dick Ahlberg, social science, and Randy Olson, junior high science, both part-time at the high school.

- Josh Williby, industrial arts, and Rachel Johnson, social science, both nontenured at the high school.

- Sarah Bricker, part-time music at the high school and the grade school, and Belinda Jones, grades five and six. This moved both teachers to the tenured list.

- Jeff Jones, physical education, and J.D. Johnson, social science, at the grade school. This moved both to the tenured list.

- Jeni Henningson, first grade, nontenured at the grade school.

- Kimberly Witt, second grade; Diana Steinmetz, kindergarten; Carol Dixon, fifth and sixth grades; Sherri Ruf, fourth grade; Cindy Sattler, first grade; Kathy Tacha, second grade; Carol Wasson, third grade; Sheila Jansonius, counselor; Judy Elwood, third grade; Sandy Ketterl, fifth and sixth grade; and Terri Woolsey, part-time art and Linda Glaze, part-time librarian, tenured at the grade school.

- Brenda Breth, English, journalism and counselor; Leigh Davis,

English and speech; Caleb Howland, science; Wendy Scott, math and computer; Tim Breth math and physical education; Candy Dejmaj, business education and computer; Jason Ketterl, vocational agriculture; Mark Bricker, science; Pat Dorshorst, math; Marlene Moxter, family and consumer science; Carol Brown, Spanish; Joe Dreher, physical education and athletic director; Susan Nelson, music; and Mrs. Glaze, part-time librarian, and Mrs. Woolsey, part-time art, tenured at the high school.

Notice Taxpayers

May 10th is the Deadline for the second half of 2009 taxes.

If not paid on or before May 10, 2010 these taxes will bear interest.

Please bring first half receipt or tax statement information when making payment.

Jean Hale
County Treasurer
Decatur County, Kansas

Hem Cure

*Tired of pain?
Tired of embarrassment?
Tired of using creams that don't work?
Tired of hearing that painful surgery is your only option?*



Try HemCure today!
Non-surgical treatment of hemorrhoids.
1-800-593-0009
Dr. Ferris will be at 291 15th St. in Burlington, CO. on May 19 and 22.

'YOUR BEST BET'

THE PLACE TO FIND BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONALS TO SERVE YOU.
To list your business, call Jo Ann or Pat at 785-475-2206 today.

Bridges Group, INC.

INSURANCE

Auto, Business, Crop, Farm, Home

Ken Morris, Agent

106 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, KS 67749
785-475-3310

Call Tim Davis at

THE OBERLIN HERALD

for all your advertising needs.

170 S. Penn — Oberlin
785-475-2206 — Fax 785-475-2800

FREDRICKSON FAMILY DENTISTRY

Gary L. Fredrickson, D.M.D.
106 S. Rodehaver
Oberlin, Kansas 67749

office phone (785) 475-3813
fax (785) 475-3814

after hours emergencies
(785) 475-3135

we specialize in brightening smiles

Deadline for Submitting Proposals for Agricultural Water Enhancement Program

Monday, May 17, 2010, is the deadline for proposals to be submitted by partnership entities for the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP). The following partnership entities are eligible to submit proposals for funding: Federally recognized Indian Tribes, States, units of local government, agricultural associations, and other groups of producers—such as irrigation associations, agricultural land trusts, or other non-governmental organizations—that have experience working with agricultural producers. To view the full request for proposal, for additional AWEP information, or to apply visit: www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/AWEP/.

Office address: 410 S. Buffalo, Oberlin, KS 67749
PHONE: (785) 475-3131
USDA NRCS is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.