

Seniors to graduate Saturday

The Class of 2010 will say their final good-bye on Saturday, walking the halls of Decatur Community High School one last time.

Twenty-eight seniors will graduate at 2 p.m. Saturday in the high school gym.

The class includes Jaxen Alstrom, Donovan Baumann, Lakin Brown, Stephanie Bruggeman, Steven Corcoran, Brandi Diederich, James Farr, Kortnie Fisher, Jessica Fredrickson, Ashley Horton, Kyle Huntley, Daniel Jordan, Wade Juemann, Cody Kane, Kaden Macfee, Chance Marble, Kira Meitl, Hunter Nedland, Mary Olson, Steven Overmiller, Adrienne Pauls, Toby Peters, Gatlin Reichert, Ashli Samson, Kelly Stamm, Nolan Wasson, Justin Williams and LeRay Zodrow.

During the graduation, the choir will sing "Showing Us the Way" and the DCHS Singers will do "Letting Go."

Both the valedictorian, Miss Horton, and the salutatorian will give speeches. As of Monday afternoon, said Melissa Dreher, secretary, the salutatorian hadn't been determined.

The class song is "Chances" by Five for Fighting, the class colors are navy and silver and the flower is the orchid.

The Class of 2010 motto is "Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened," by Dr. Seuss.

Class officers are Miss Fredrick-

Service is tonight

Baccalaureate services for the Decatur Community High School Class of 2010 will be at 7:30 p.m. tonight in the Decatur Community High School Auditorium, sponsored by the Decatur County Ministerial Association.

The service, planned by the senior class officers, will include instrumental and vocal ensembles and solos. Pastor Chris Nelson of the Oberlin Covenant Church will speak. Gatlin Reichert and Kira Meitl will read scripture and Daniel Jordan will talk about his faith story.

"The community is invited to share in this time of loving and caring support for our youth," said Pastor Charlotte Strecker-Baseler of Faith Lutheran Church.

son, president; Miss Pauls, vice president; Miss Fisher, secretary; and Miss Samson, treasurer.

Leaky sewer pipes close down clinic for a few days

A sewer leak forced the Oberlin Clinic to close at the beginning of last week, but after three days, the line was fixed and the doctors are back to business as usual.

Administrator Barb Whitney said they had noticed the smell for two weeks and reported it to the maintenance department at the hospital, which takes care of the clinic building. Mrs. Whitney said she even called Midwest Energy to check the gas, just in case.

Hospital Administrator Lynn Doeden said when the maintenance crew checked the clinic, they didn't notice a smell. When the leak finally was discovered, the hospital offered its specialty clinic for the doctors to use, said Mrs. Doeden.

Lisa Votapka, the clinic's contracted housekeeper, actually found the leak in a tunnel under an older part of the building, off of the furnace room.

Basically the sewer backed up and sewage seeped out of the older pipes in the tunnel, said clinic manager Barb Whitney. That Sunday when the leak was found, May 9, said Mrs. Whitney, there were three to four inches of sewage in the tunnel. She added that there was a film on the sludge on the walls that apparently had been there for a while.

Mrs. Whitney said she and her

husband were at the clinic that Sunday. Her husband who is licensed, looked at the leak. Voltz Plumbing out of McCook came and replaced the sewer lines under the older part of the building, fixing the leak, she said.

The clinic was closed on Monday and Tuesday, said Mrs. Whitney. On Wednesday, nurse practitioner Jonna Inman went to Jennings to see patients and physician's assistant Jennifer Taylor went to Atwood. Both are regular outreach clinics, she said, but together, they saw just five patients.

Dr. Stelian Andreca went to the nursing homes on Tuesday, said Mrs. Whitney, and the staff was in the office that day authorizing prescription refills and taking phone calls. On Thursday morning, the clinic opened back up.

Dr. Elizabeth Sliter was on vacation last week, Mrs. Whitney said, but Dr. Andreca saw patients in the emergency room at the hospital.

Most people rescheduled their appointments, so the clinic has been pretty much full ever since re-opening on Thursday.

While Mrs. Whitney said she and Dr. Andreca were at the office every day to stay on top of things and air the building out, with the leak, they just didn't see patients.

School board needs new member

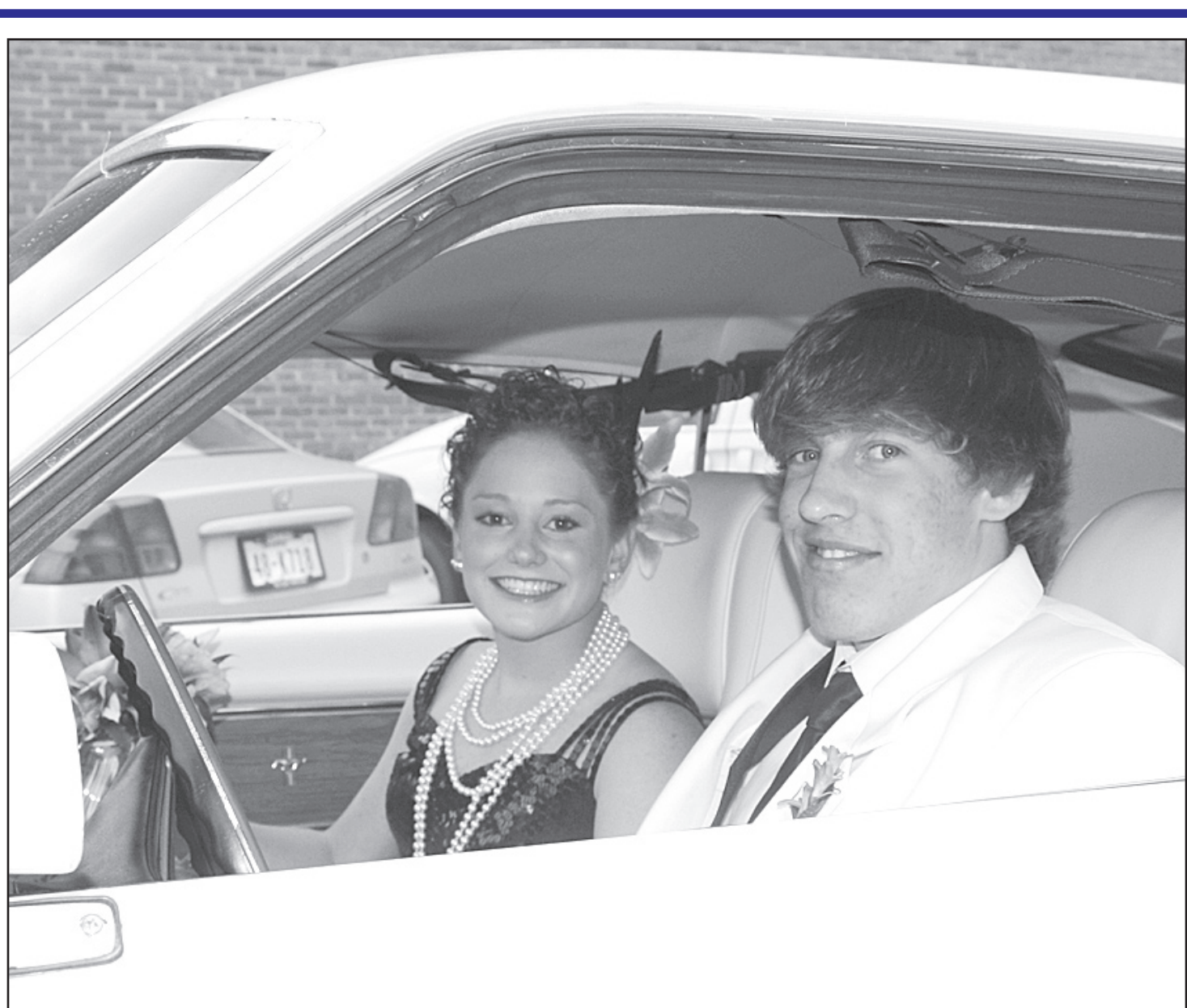
With the resignation of a long-time board member, the Oberlin School Board is taking one-page letters from anyone who would like to fill the opening.

At the meeting last Monday, the board accepted a resignation from Barbara Olson effective at the end

of the month. The board recognized Mrs. Olson for her 15 years of service with a plaque.

Knowing that Mrs. Olson was going to resign, Superintendent Duane Dorshorst said he called the Kansas Association of School Board for suggestions on how to fill the spot. Mr. Dorshorst said the association suggested asking anyone interested to write a one-page

(See XXXX on Page 5A)



Students dress up for prom

AFTER THE PROMENADE on Saturday, Brandi Diederich (above) and Josh Ritter waited at the stop sign before taking off for The Gateway. Ashley Horton (right) held onto her dress while she waited outside the Sunflower Cinema after walking Main Street. Kortnie Fisher (below), prom marhsal, was driven down the street in a golf cart by John Meitl.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



Vacation Bible School set

Kids who've finished kindergarten through sixth grade are invited to sign up for the "Son-Quest Rain Forest" Vacation Bible School the first full week of June.

The free program will run from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday through Saturday, June 1 to 5, at the Oberlin Covenant Church.

Denise Abbey, one of the organizers, said the kids will be asked to bring an offering, starting on Wednesday and Thursday with pennies and nickels, then dimes on Friday and quarters on Saturday.

The money will go to this year's mission project, the House of Hope in Haiti. The kids, said Mrs.

Abbey, have really been able to identify with the House of Hope because it's an orphanage and school.

Registration forms, she said, went out in church bulletins. The forms are also available at Raye's Grocery and the public library. People can turn them in to the same places. The volunteers hope parents will preregister their kids, she said.

The theme, said Mrs. Abbey, is about parables. The kids will learn a Bible parable each day, including the story of the sower, the lost sheep, the good samaritan, the friend at midnight and the talents. Each day, she said, there will be

skits, an opening, a closing and lots of fun.

On the last day, parents and families will be invited to bring a sack lunch and join their kids.

Sponsors include the Oberlin Covenant, Lund Covenant, Faith Lutheran, St. John's Lutheran, United and United Methodist churches.

From 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. the same week, volunteers will hold Vacation Bible School at St. John's for kids 4 and 5 years old. It will run Tuesday through Friday, June 1 to 4.

For questions, call the United Methodist Church at 475-2769 and leave a message.

Car show planned

The Last Indian Raid Museum's Summerfest Car Show will spread out over the streets of downtown Oberlin on the first Saturday in June.

Museum Director Sharleen Wurm said the opening cruise-in will be from 7 to 9 p.m. on Friday, June 4, in front of the museum. Board members will grill hot dogs and serve them with chips. The Oberlin Business Alliance plans to sell root beer floats that night.

The car show, said Mrs. Wurm, will then kick off with a pancake feed from 7 to 9 a.m. Saturday, June 5, in the Bohemian Hall.

Registration will be open from (See CAR on Page 5A)

District surveys parents

The number of possible kindergartners for the fall term could mean either hiring another teacher to having two sections or going back to half-day classes, Oberlin School Board members learned last week.

At the board meeting last Monday, Superintendent Duane Dorshorst said the district could have 25 to 26 kindergartners enrolled next year. He said the school had planned on 19 to 21.

This year there are 23 in the all-day class. There's only one section, with teacher Diana Steinmetz and two aides, Kelly Shields in the morning and Lois Wentz all day.

Mr. Dorshorst said the parents of four children haven't yet decided if they will send them to kindergarten next year.

With 25 to 26 students, said Mr. Dorshorst, the district might need to hire another kindergarten teacher and have two sections of all-day kindergarten. The other idea was to go back to having half the students in a morning section and the other half in the afternoon.

This is the third year of all-day kindergarten, Mr. Dorshorst said, but it's the first year since all-day kindergarten started that there's only been one section.

Mr. Dorshorst said the district sent a survey to the parents of prospective kindergartners about half day classes. So far, a few of the surveys have come back, and none of them is in favor of half-day kindergarten.

The board decided to discuss the class at its June meeting.

*Car show

coming School employees hired for next year

(Continued from Page 1A)
8 to 10 a.m. The "show and shine" will start at 10 a.m. and wind up at 4 p.m.

Mrs. Wurm said they plan to do something a little different for lunch this year. Instead of grilling burgers, the board will serve hot roast beef sandwiches.

Apokerun starts at 1 p.m. and the awards and trophies will be given out at 4 p.m.

The museum won't be serving dinner as part of the event this year, she said.

The cost to preregister a vehicle is \$20. Pre-registration will close during the cruise-in, said Mrs. Wurm, and it will cost \$25 to register the day of the show.

Mrs. Wurm said two vehicles already are registered. The museum also has four or five vendors registered for the day.

The Oberlin School Board approved re-employing all staff members at both schools, the district office and bus barn at its meeting last Monday.

The staff at the district office includes Vickie Lippelmann, board clerk; Pam Simonsson, secretary/treasurer; Ron Jansonius, technology coordinator; Terry Ream, outdoor maintenance supervisor; Brian Simonsson, transportation supervisor; Kenny Black, facilities and plant supervisor; and Johanna Mason, school nurse.

At the grade school, the board approved re-employment of Kim Weishapl and Randy Walters, custodians; Carla Depperschmidt, secretary; Kelly Shields and Lisa Fortin,

part-time aides; Ana Wishon, aide/interpreter; Jackie Anderson, aide; and Kayla Bose and Maureen Anderson, cooks.

At the high school, the board approved re-employment of Linda Weber and Donna Sauvage as full-time cooks, Chris Hardy and Mrs. Anderson as part-time cooks; Carolyn Shirley; Paul Cochran and Lairy Goltl, full-time maintenance; Lisa Fortin, part-time aide; and Judy Marietta and Melissa Dreher, secretaries.

Re-employed bus drivers include Jeanne Pachner, Clara Russ, Dennis Agan, Lairy Goltl, David Olson, John Stanley, Patty Stapp and Chris Hardy.

Museum to have hospitality room

The Last Indian Raid Museum will have a hospitality room for the Decatur Community High School alumni weekend from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, May 28, and Saturday, May 29.

Director Sharleen Wurm said they will have coffee, tea, water and snacks available. The alumni sec-

tion of the museum has been redone, said Mrs. Wurm, and moved closer to the front of the main building.

Museum board member Dick Carman will have pictures set up on a digital frame for people to look at in addition to the other alumni items on display, she said.

The Oberlin Business Alliance

will have a burger-and-brat fry over the lunch hour at the museum on Friday, May 28, said Mrs. Wurm. The American Legion Auxiliary will be selling poppies for Memorial Day.

The museum has the new alumni directories on sale for \$10 or \$15 if mailed.

*New member needed to serve schools

(Continued from Page 1A)
letter or summary about why they want to serve.

The board agreed. Anyone interested in serving on the school board has until noon Wednesday, June 9, to turn the letter into the

district office.

At the Monday, June 14 meeting, the board members will read the letters and select a new board member, he said.

There's one year left on Mrs. Olson's term. The new board member

selected will serve for that year. Then, if he or she wants to continue to serve, that person can run in the April board election.



Kids play at fun day

AT THE HIGH SCHOOL football field on Monday, Makenzie Urban (left) spun a hula hoop on her arm during the Oberlin Elementary School fun day. Jorge Gamboa-Olivas (above) jump roped his way down the track.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Board recognizes students

The Oberlin School Board congratulated the speech team and vocal and band students at a meeting last Monday.

The speech team took third at state and the board congratulated the vocal and band students for their performances at state and regional events.

Superintendent Duane Dorshorst said Oberlin Lions Club members worked 100 times during the year, taking tickets at athletic events and other volunteer jobs, saving the district \$900.

The school district, he said, appreciates the volunteers coming in to help. There aren't enough

teachers to cover everything. The volunteers working at the ticket booths and the doors help the district be able to hold the events.

In other business, the board:

- Approved hiring Kerrie Olson Wahlmeier, who graduated from Decatur Community High School in 2004, for an open teaching position at the grade school.

- Accepted a \$300 donation from Janet Rorick for the weight room remodeling project.

- Accepted a \$1,616 rebate check from Nex-Tech Wireless.

- Approved a speech class waiver for senior Hunter Nedland, a member of the speech team, who

has met all the requirements.

- Accepted a \$1,000 gift for the high school library from the Love family and the Greater Salina Community Foundation.

- Adopted new curricula for Spanish and the library.

- Bought new textbooks for language arts, or English, for \$30,000.

- Held closed sessions for 10, 5 and 10 minutes to discuss teacher contract negotiations. There was no action taken.

- Held a 10-minute closed session to discuss student matters. There was no action taken.

County reviews pay-grade chart

The Decatur County commissioners talked briefly about the pay grades and steps for county employees at their meeting last Tuesday.

A chart showed various pay grades, from an office job to a department head, with steps for length of service. Employees can move up the grades and steps to get pay raises.

The commissioners found out that some employees aren't on the chart because they are at a higher grade than it shows.

The chart only goes to grade 25 and step 11, said County Clerk Colleen Geihlsler.

Commissioner Stan McEvoy said he thought they needed to put more grades on the chart because all of the jobs aren't covered. Some of

the lower grades, he said, don't have anyone in them.

The jobs should also be aligned, said Commissioner Ralph Unger, so similar ones in different offices are in the same grade.

Mr. Unger said he would talk with a commissioner from another county and see what they are going

to do.

Mr. McEvoy said he would take the information home and look at adding more grades.

The grade and steps chart, said County Attorney Steve Hirsch, was done and then the employees were put into the chart depending on what they were making at the time.

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