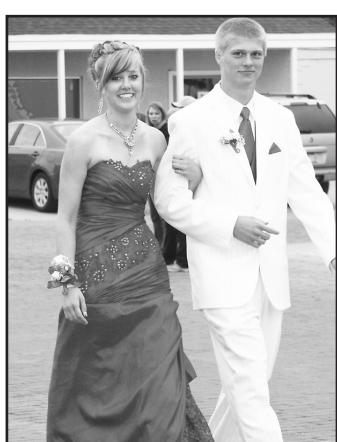




Students celebrate at prom

ON MAIN STREET during the Decatur Community High School promenade on Saturday, Tyler Bruggeman stopped and lifted up a pant leg to show off his wild socks as he escorted his date, Cheyanne Soderlund. Junior Cody Wurm (right) helped decorate The Gateway for the prom on Thursday. Amanda Marshall and Matt Glading (below) walked down the street before going to the dance. — Herald staff photos by Kim Davis and Carolyn Plotts



Five file for one spot with county

Two vie for judge's seat

Five candidates have filed so far to fill the county commissioner seat in District 3, where Gene Gallentine of Clayton is retiring after one term.

Bob Jones, auctioneer, of Jennings, Mick Barth, business owner, of rural Oberlin Brad Marcuson, farmer, of rural Oberlin and Shayla Williby, grant writer, of rural Oberlin, all Republicans, and Brad Long of Norcat, a Democrat, have filed for the seat.

District 3 includes Jennings, Dresden, Norcat and generally the east half of the county, including part of Oberlin Township, but none of the City of Oberlin.

Another race is in commissioner District 2, where Republican Sid Metcalf of Oberlin has filed against long-time incumbent Ralph Unger. The district covers Finley, Logan, Liberty, Sappa and Bassettville townships and Oberlin City Precinct No. 1, generally the west side of the county and west side of town.

Allen Shelton, an Oberlin lawyer,

filed Friday for magistrate judge. Sheriff's Deputy Jay Tate had been the only candidate for the job, held for many years by John Bremer. Judge Bremer says he will retire this year and has not filed.

With proposed changes in state law, however, there's no guarantee the county will continue to have a judge.

County Clerk Colleen Geihlsler, who serves as the county election officer, said the primary election will be Tuesday, Aug. 7. The general election is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 6.

Others who have filed include:

- Ken Badsky, Republican incumbent for sheriff.
- Kari Ketterl, Republican incumbent for register of deeds.
- Steve Hirsch, Republican incumbent for county attorney.
- Colleen Geihlsler, Republican incumbent for county clerk.
- Jean Hale, Republican incumbent for county treasurer.

(See PRIMARY on Page 5)

Seniors to graduate in gym on Saturday

Decatur Community High School will graduate 23 seniors on Saturday.

The doors will open at 12:30 p.m., said Principal Ben Jimenez, for anyone wanting to save a seat in the gym. The ceremony starts at 2 p.m.

Three students will speak during the ceremony, including valedictorian Dalton Jones, son of Jeff and Belinda Jones; salutatorian Tyler Shields, son of Paul and Kelly Shields; and honored speaker Nolan Henningson, son of Robbie and Jeni

Henningson.

A woodwind ensemble will perform "Tuneful Trio," by Charles Dancla; a brass ensemble will do "Dala Belle Contrade," by Cipriano Derore; the choir will sing "Forever Friends," by Frizzell; and the DCHS Singers will do "For Good."

"Graduation," said Mr. Jimenez, "is a time of formal celebration. Parents and family can be proud of their child's accomplishments and successes. I would like to thank all the parents for the opportunity to" (See CLASS on Page 5)

Oberlin council has a full agenda

The Oberlin City Council plans to meet at 7 p.m. Thursday with a long list of items on the agenda.

City Administrator Karen Larson said the county needs to vote on a notice of intent to request the release of grant money from the state for the street project. The city received a \$394,979 grant, but has to ask for that money to be released so it can start the bidding.

The city will put up the rest of the money, with the total cost for the nine blocks of concrete work at \$526,639.

Chris Miller, an engineer with Miller and Associates, will give an update on the test wells being drilled for the city's new water supply. So far, three have been drilled and those

should be pumped this week.

Mrs. Larson said members of the swimming pool committee will be at the meeting with updates on the project to build a new pool.

The council also will get an update on insurance payments for the transformer that burned up several months ago.

The results on a recent survey of city residents are in, said Mrs. Larson, and will be discussed.

Other items will include possible online electronic payments for city bills and what's going on at the office building at the former youth ranch.

The meeting, upstairs at The Gateway, will be open to the public.

Justice was swift back in 1904 with police warrants filled in a day

In the back of the Oberlin police station is a big, old vault. In it Chief Wade Lockhart has saved dozens of old city ledgers, account books and meeting minutes.

This is part of a series of excerpts from those documents.

From the hand-written police-court records of 1904 through 1906:

Justice was swift back in 1904:

• July 25, 1904, J.B. Leaman made complaint on oath charging that on the 25th day of July, 1904, in the city of Oberlin and county of Decatur, state of Kansas, Andy Beers and James Taylor did then and there, unlawfully disturb the peace of the citizens of Oberlin, Decatur County, Kansas, contrary to the city ordinances of Oberlin, Kansas, and against the statutes of Kansas. Warrant issued and dated July



From the Vault

By Cynthia Haynes
c.haynes@nwkansas.com

25th, 1904, returnable forthwith, Warrant returned and filed July 25, 1904, at 7 o'clock p.m.

July 25, 1904, executed the same by arresting the within named Andy Beers and James Taylor and bringing them before the within named City Judge, J.B. Leaman, sheriff.

July 25, 1904, Case called at 7 o'clock p.m. Plaintiff appeared by J.B. Leaman, complainant, Defendants appeared in custody.

Upon examination of the matters at issue and from the statements of the defendants, the court finds the defendants guilty as charged in the complaint. It is therefore considered and ordered and adjudged by the court that the defendants pay a fine of \$4.50 each together with \$3.25 costs each. Total fine \$9 costs \$6.50. They to stand committed to the county jail until said fine and costs are paid. James Taylor paid \$7.75

and was released from custody. Andy Beers gave bond to appear on July 26, 1904, and pay said fine and costs.

July 26, 1904, Defendant Andy Beers appeared and paid \$7.25 fine and costs.

While the police court wasn't that busy, willfully disturbing the peace and quiet seemed to be a popular charge.

• July 30, 1904, A.C. Cathcart and J.W. Ridgeway were charged with disturbing the peace by fighting on the streets. Both were judged guilty, paid \$10.25 fines plus court costs, and were released.

• Aug. 15, 1904, John Tutt and Charles Drullinger were charged for shouting and yelling in a loud and violent manner. Herbert Morrison, Dale Morrison, W.A. Cook and Jas-

per Miners were subpoenaed to testify. Tutt was found guilty and fined \$1 plus \$6 court costs. Drullinger was tried separately, found guilty and fined \$1 plus \$2.80 costs.

• Jan. 30, 1905, Frank Natchez and Ed Teeter were charged with fighting with each other. Natchez was tried at 6 p.m. that night and found guilty and fined \$2.50 and \$5 costs. Teeter was tried at 8 p.m. and found not guilty and the court costs were charged to the city.

• May 13, 1905, Elmer Carl and Claud G. Miller were charged with fighting. Both were found guilty and each was fined \$1 plus \$3.25 court costs.

• June 8, 1905, Ad Cathcart and George Lemon were similarly charged and fined.

Contrary to some beliefs, wife beating was frowned on back then.

• July 11, 1904, Charles Seavey was charged with assaulting and beating his wife Nellie Seavey by throwing dishes at her and striking her with dishes and his fists and by violet and abusive language with intent to assault and beat his said wife contrary to the city ordinances of the City of Oberlin, Kansas.

Subpoenas were issued for Mrs. Ed Randel, F. Bronson, H. Erie, E. Peters, M. Hopkins, Mrs. A. Fischer, Dr. Hubbard, Floyd Eiler, Leona Keeler, Nellie Seavey, Donner Gerhart, Esther Eugstooms and Mrs. Keeler for the prosecution and for Nellie Seavey and Winnie Boomer for the defendant.

(See OLD on Page 5)

