

TEACHER DANI SHAW (above) offered tips to Gabbie Vontz during a volleyball camp for grade-school girls last week. On the other side of the court, Breckyn Jensen (right) learned how to hold the ball above her head.

— Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes

Girls learn game

The next round of Decatur Community High Red Devils volleyball players was hard at work learning the basics last week.

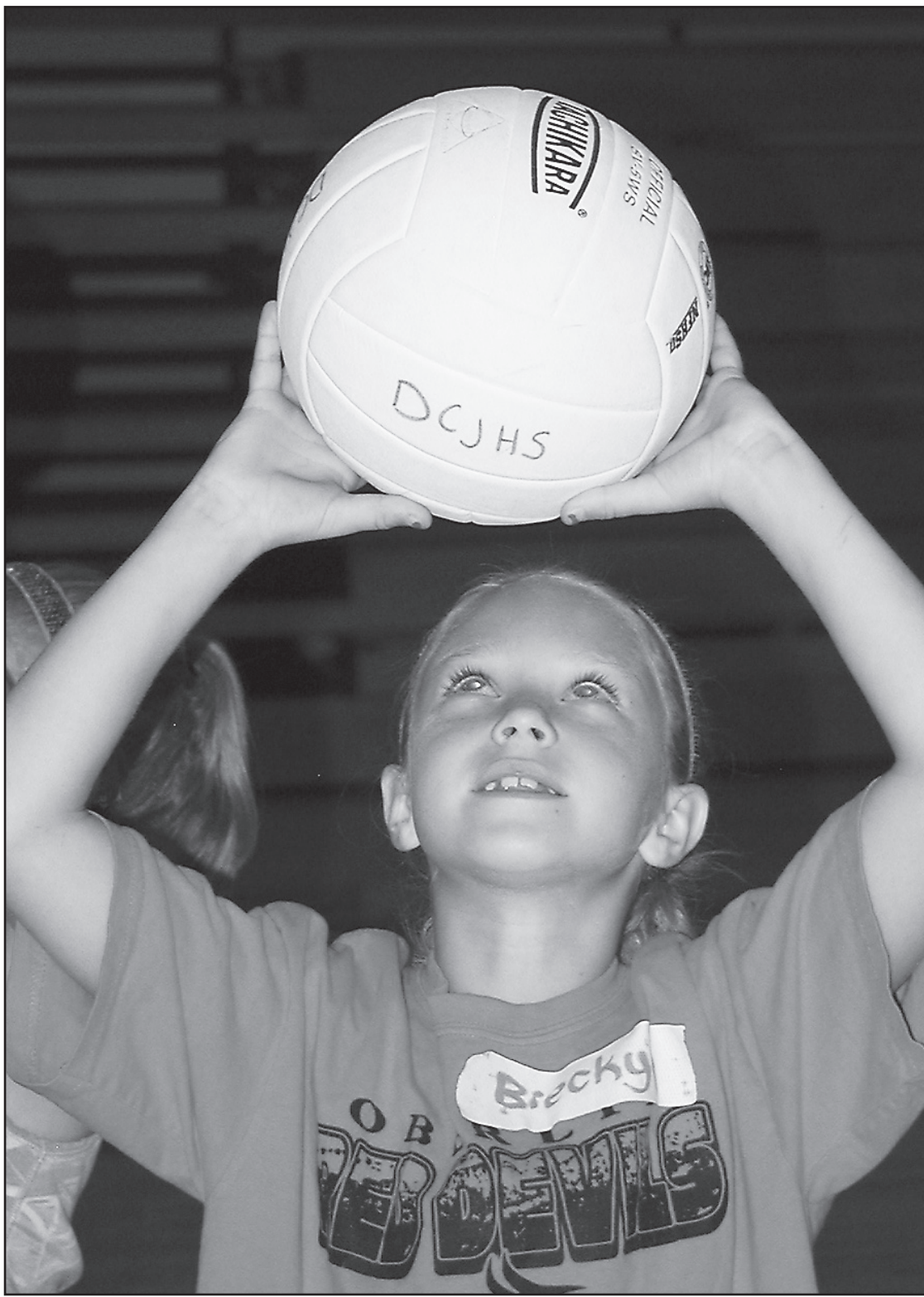
Former Oberlin volleyball coach Pat Dorshorst and her daughters, Dani Shaw and Miki Dorshorst, worked with 13 girls in the first through sixth grades last Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in the high school gym.

The girls worked on the basic skills needed for serving, passing, setting, hitting and blocking. They focused on proper techniques for both footwork and contact with the

ball, Mrs. Dorshorst said.

“(We also) worked on volleyball communication skills and went over basic rotations and transition to free ball,” she added.

Attending the six hours of camp were first graders Rayne Erickson and Lia Jimenez; second graders Gabbie Vontz and Gabrielle Johnson; third graders Jacie Fortin, Brynna Addleman and Breckyn Jensen; fourth graders KeLynn Jacobs and Gracie Vontz and fifth graders Kennedy Jensen, Erin May and Bethany Mason.



Airport board to talk to aviation administration

BY STEPHANIE DeCAMP
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The city’s Airport Advisory Board asked permission from the City Council to go to Kansas City and talk with Federal Aviation Administration officials about phase 2 expansion of the airport, a new, longer runway.

The council asked to see whatever the group decides to present to the federal agency, with one councilman suggesting that some of the information used by airport supporters in prior years may have been suspect.

“We don’t have a date yet,” air-

port chairman Sid Metcalf said later, “but hopefully next week, after harvest, we’ll submit what we have to the council and get approval to go.”

Mr. Metcalf disputed a claim in an e-mail from the FAA stating that there were only five aircraft based at the airport. He said he could prove that there were 10.

According to the e-mail sent at the beginning of the month, the airport needs to have a minimum of 500 flights a year, with 10 planes that carry a minimum weight of 12,500 pounds.

The last time the council allowed

the airport authority to go to Kansas City, Councilman McFee said, some of the justifications presented were “completely out of line.”

“The original justification was falsely done and misleading,” Mr. McFee said. “I want facts on the table: this many planes are here, and whose they are, because I don’t think there are 10 out there.”

Mr. McFee was referring to a trip airport supporters took to the FAA in 2007, when the Airport Inventory marked the exact same numbers of flights and operations from 1990-2006. The total number of based aircraft changed year to year, but the

annual operations only increased in number once, in 1990 by 100. This, Mr. McFee pointed out, didn’t look right, and he wouldn’t allow the board to go to Kansas City without first seeing what they planned to present there.

Mr. Metcalf later confirmed that they would be taking with them documents proving that the airport is home to 10 planes, the numbers of those planes and the names of the owners. He will also tell the FAA of-

icials, he said, that once that issue is squared away, the city will take the next steps needed to confirm that it has the money to match the federal government for the project.

“Those were the two criteria that he felt we hadn’t met,” Mr. Metcalf said. “I think maybe they’re trying to make us go away because they don’t have the money to give us, but I’m not giving up. We’ve been at this too many years to quit.”

City makes zoning changes

A zoning ordinance change approved earlier this month by the Oberlin City Council would allow residents to ask for a special permit to do pet grooming or have a tavern or private club in residential zones.

The ordinance also changes the zoning for the county fairground from residential-multifamily to

commercial-general.

A notice on the changes is printed on Page 10 of today’s newspaper. The ordinance will add the two to exceptional uses allowed in the residential zone.

City Attorney Steve Hirsch said that even with the change in the ordinance, if someone wants one of the exceptions at their home, they still

have to go to the Board of Zoning Appeals and get a permit.

County officials decided to ask that the zoning for the fairground be changed to commercial-general. The county still would have to get a special-use permit to allow liquor or beer sales, however.

See the ordinance for a list of other exceptions.

Board approves next year’s coaches

The Oberlin School Board approved the coaches for next year at the junior and senior high school during the monthly meeting last Monday, including a first-year football coach and openings for boys basketball and track.

Activities Director Joe Dreher will take over the football program after the resignation of J.D. Johnson as football coach. No replacement has been named for Jeff Jones as head basketball coach.

While most sports and activities have coaches for the upcoming year, there are still three openings, including varsity boys basketball, varsity track and junior high assistant boys basketball.

At the high school, coaches for the coming school year include:

- Joe Dreher, head football coach, with Caleb Howland and Shane Bird assistants.
- Terry Ream, head girls basketball coach, with Pat Dorshorst as an assistant.
- Tim Breth, assistant boys bas-

ketball.

- Carol Brown, golf.
- Sherri Ruf, volleyball, with Melissa Dreher as an assistant.
- Pat Dorshorst, cross country.
- Mr. Dreher, wrestling, with Caleb Howland and Shane Bird as assistants.
- Joe Dreher and Ruf, assistants for track.
- Sheri Jacobs, cheerleading.
- Charlie Haag, concessions manager.

At the junior high school, coaches include:

- Jason Ketterl, football, with Mark Bricker, assistant.
- Gina Witt, volleyball, with Cricket Ketterl, assistant.
- Mrs. Dreher, girls basketball, with Mrs. Witt as assistant.
- Mr. Breth, head boys basketball.
- Mr. Bird, wrestling, with Brent Olson as assistant.
- J.D. Johnson, track, with Mr. Breth and Kerrie Wahlmeir as assistants.

- Mrs. Witt for cheerleading.

Activity sponsors include:

- Susan Nelson, director, and Dana Juenemann, assistant director, for the musical.
- Deedre Frasier, director for the all-school play.
- Mrs. Juenemann, coach, and Miss Frasier, assistant for speech.
- Miss Frasier as the Kays sponsor.
- Mr. Ketterl as the FFA advisor.
- Brenda Breth for student council and yearbook.
- Wendy Scott for Tact.
- Marlene Moxter for scholar bowl.

• Mr. Breth for junior high student council. Members of the the site council are Mrs. Dreher, Mr. Howland, Mrs. Breth, Mr. Johnson and Candy Dejmal.

Those on the school improvement team are Mrs. Breth, Mr. Breth, Rhonda Barth and Mrs. Dorshorst.

Two teachers resign, one hired

The Oberlin School Board approved the resignations of two teachers at its meeting last Monday.

The board received resignation letters from Jeff Jones, who teaches gym at the grade school and coaches boys basketball, and his wife Belinda Jones, who teaches fifth grade. Both have been with the district for the past four years.

Both resignation letters stated that the family is moving back to

southeast Kansas, where they are originally from.

The board also approved hiring Bryan Richards to work in the technology department and Channing Fortin as custodial summer help.

In other business, the board:

- Approved paying \$325 in dues to Schools for Quality Education.

Mr. Dorshorst said the money basically helps pay for a lobbyist.

on the Northwest Kansas Technical College board.

- Agreed to pay \$550 for the supplemental catastrophic insurance.
- Heard that Mr. Fortin is working on some summer maintenance projects, including repainting doors and trim at the high school.

• Agreed to hold a special meeting to transfer money and pay bills for the end of the fiscal year at 7:30 a.m. Friday, June 29.

Drought threatens rationing

The City of Oberlin has declared Stage 1 of its drought emergency plan, asking people to pay closer attention to how much water they are using and cut back wherever possible.

If people cut back, officials said, the city may be able to avoid the next step, which is water rationing.

City Administrator Karen Larson said the plan was revised in 2009. It’s been three years since they have had to use it, she said.

The city is at the first stage of the plan, she said, called a water watch. If the city goes over the limit of 700,000 gallons per day for three consecutive days, water restrictions could be enforced.

Water use hit the 700,000 to 800,000 gallons several days last week, but not consecutive days.

Mrs. Larson reminded people that it’s better to water their yards at night and in the early morning, not in the middle of the day.

New wells look good

By STEPHANIE DeCAMP
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Tests on two of the four sites where the city hopes to drill new water wells show acceptable levels of natural elements, engineer Chris Miller of Miller and Associates told the Oberlin City Council on Thursday.

Results for uranium and arsenic, the two most worrisome elements, have not come in yet, he said at the meeting June 7, but initial tests, which are easier and cheaper to complete, look promising.

An irrigation site near one of the wells did test positive for uranium, however, and levels of iron were higher than expected.

“Iron was the big concern,” Mr. Miller later said. “On one well, it was a little bit more elevated than what we like to see.”

After reviewing the results, the council agreed unanimously to proceed with testing of the other two drilling sites.

Changing the landscape of

Healing

Please join us as we celebrate
The Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting of the
Facility Master Plan Phase II Project

Featuring
Community Hospital's Surgery Wing
and Healing Garden

Sunday, July 1, 2012
1 p.m.

Community Hospital
Prairie View Conference Room
1301 East H Street
McCook, Nebraska

Program to start promptly at 1:00 p.m. with remarks from Senator Ben Nelson and Lieutenant Governor Rick Sheehy. After the program, enjoy refreshments and tours of the Surgery Wing and Healing Garden. Parking is available in the front hospital parking lot and on H Street.

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