

# Candidates impressed

One thing that really impressed me while putting together this issue of *The Oberlin Herald* were the candidates running for state Senate.

Sen. Allen Schmidt, the Democrat, and Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, the Republican, have different approaches toward finance and the role of the state, but what struck me most was a question that they both answered the same way – “What are your future political ambitions?”

Both candidates answered that they had none. Neither one wants to climb the political ladder to a more powerful office or make more than they do today. Granted, a state senator probably makes more than I do, but all the same, I saw real value in this response.

Today, more than ever, most of us believe that a politician without a desire for power is an oxymoron, and it's refreshing to hear the two men vying to maintain such a powerful position acknowledge that they want nothing more. Of course, they could be lying, but I don't think they are. Both men told me they had been encouraged to run for office because others believed in them, and that they saw their jobs as



## Newcomer's View By Stephanie DeCamp sdecamp@nwkansas.com

a public service, not unlike serving in the armed forces.

It's hard, even for a person as sunny and positive as me, not to be jaded about politics. When I watched the presidential debates, I walked away feeling even less informed and more frustrated than I already was. On top of that, you have an all-time high of party bickering, which in unregulated forums like Facebook and Twitter, can take incredibly harsh and tactless swings for the worse.

Where is the dignity in serving your country, I've wondered? Where is the respect for the office, such as I hear people had when John F. Kennedy was president? I've never seen that respect. I've grown up with comedians defiling every

president, and talk radio tearing them to pieces.

I guess what I'm trying to say is, there can't be any compromise without mutual respect and a firm commitment to each other and our communities, instead of our pocketbooks and influence. If our leaders don't quit seeking to get ahead of the other guy, stonewalling legislation because it comes from someone we don't like, and throwing mud at each other's personal politics and reputations, then we'll never make it.

It's time we – and especially our politicians – rise above the muck, and start doing our jobs like the adults we are, instead of the petty, greedy children we've become.

# Manager says pool is falling apart

To the Editor:

Over the past four summers, I have had the privilege of returning to my hometown to work at the swimming pool as its manager. I've been there to teach your children swimming skills, and have been able to get acquainted with many of you who I would otherwise not know. I have also led swimming lessons in ice cold water and sent kids to the hospital or dentist because of the collapsing sidewalk.

I understand the concerns that many of you have about building a brand new pool. It is easy for me to get overwhelmed when speaking about a \$2 million public works project.

What I do not understand is the idea that the old one will last forever. The common adage of, “If it worked for me, it will work for my children,” comes to mind. The fact is that this is not the same pool that many of you grew up with. Whether you are for a new pool or not, there is

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one underlying fact: the current pool is falling apart. To repair it and make it accessible for those with disabilities would be a costly venture.

The one today has fewer features and is in poor condition. The only addition in the past 20-some years has been a basketball hoop, which was only purchased because the lifeguards raised money for it during the Fourth of July pool party three years ago. The prospect and need of a new pool is great. It's something we've needed for too long.

If there was ever a cause that all citizens of Oberlin should back, it would be a new swimming pool. This pool affects the community in more ways than you can think. It gives teenagers a reason to come home and work. It gives older adults a way of being active by offering swimming. When it would be easier

for a kid to sit at home and watch television, it encourages them to be active in the summer by participating on the swim team.

Does it make money? No, and it most likely, never will. Does it give the youth and adults something to do during the hot Kansas summers? Absolutely. It isn't a stretch of the truth to say that it actually keeps children out of trouble when they are not in school.

It seems that with every new project, there is a threat that it is “last chance for Oberlin.” I'm not saying that. What I am saying is that there is a need for a new pool, and our community deserves it. But regardless of your stance on the new swimming pool, I encourage you to vote on Tuesday, Nov. 6.

Andrew Dempewolf,  
Oberlin

# Pool is economic opportunity

To the Editor:

Aww, the good ol' dollar and what cents it makes!

We need money to live; that's a fact. Businesses need work to pay employees.

Employees need money to feed and clothe their families (and buy things at groceries, restaurants, boutiques, etc.), pay bills (utilities, retailers) and have a good time (recreation).

All these retailers stand to benefit from money earned and money spent. It is a monotonous cycle, and unfortunately, without money, it makes it darn hard to live. So hear us out.

Oberlin has been presented with a great economic development opportunity to invest in a new pool for our community.

This is an opportunity that would provide work or sales to our businesses, restaurants, hotels and contractors (50 to 60 percent of the total pool cost, or about \$1 million, should go to local contractors).

Plus, the ability to provide services that we haven't been able to provide for some time, such as swim meets, renting the pool for family

reunions and water fitness activities. All of these and possibly more are revenue generating services. Without economic development opportunities, business owners struggle to keep their employees employed, and the dominoes begin to fall.

When interest rates are at an all-time low, isn't that when it piques peoples' interest to buy a home? In a year or two, the rates will go back up, once inventory is low and the economy is stimulated.

Oberlin has an opportunity to take advantage of these low interest rates. Other cities past and present

have raised money to pay for a pool. Raising property taxes is not a solution, but proposing a 1.5 percent sales tax is a fair “cents”able approach.

For every dollar spent at city retailers, a penny and a half would be generating revenue to finance a swimming pool.

You find a penny on the street, you pick it up. Are you ready to jump in and invest some “Pennies for our Pool?”

Danielle Leitner, Oberlin  
and the Oberlin Pool Committee

## Write

*The Oberlin Herald* encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

Mail letters to 170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan., 67749, or e-mail to oberlinherald@nwkansas.com.

We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise.

We do not publish form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area. Thank-yous from this area should be submitted to the Want Ad desk.

Letters will not be censored, but will be read and edited for form and style, clarity, length and legality. We will not publish attacks on private individuals or businesses which do not pertain to a public issue.

# Newspapers see great future

By CAROLINE H. LITTLE

There's an excessive amount of gloom and doom being spread around these days when the talk turns to the future of newspapers.

In fact, the mere mention of the future of newspapers suggests that there might not be one. There is no question that the newspaper business has been disrupted. And yet, what the doomsayers fail to see is that the nation's newspapers are well on their way to ensuring that a bright future lies ahead.

It has been painful to bring costs in line with revenue and recast the product to reflect the realities of the new media world. But one thing that has not changed is our historic mission of informing and enlightening, agitating and entertaining, protecting and defending the public's right to know.

Without question, the newspaper of tomorrow will not be the newspaper of yesterday or even the newspaper of today. Change and innovation are pointing us toward a very different future, one that cements our unique role in the communities we serve.

print business with digital on the side. Today, we are bringing together print, web and mobile, and opening the possibilities for even greater advancements that now may be only dreams in a young innovator's mind.

Our digital products are growing fast, and our websites have taken the market lead. Indeed, newspapers are the Internet, or at least a vital and sought-after part of it. Aggregators such as Google News rely on newspapers as their primary source for content. Search engines refer people looking for content back to newspaper websites. Among adults 18 and older, our web audience exceeds those of Yahoo/ABC, MSNBC (now NBCNews.com), The Huffington Post, CNN and CBS.

Newspapers reach more than 100 million adults – nearly 6 in 10 of the U.S. adult Internet population – during a typical month. Consumers age 25 and above still are the core audience for our print product, but newspapers also reach nearly 60 percent of the critical 18-to-34 demographic in print and online during an average week.

anything and call it news, it is newspaper content that consistently gets the story right and keeps it in context. And a critical part of the industry evolution is the recognition that if you want to separate the serious from the sludge, it might cost you a little money.

Newspapers have proven they can function in print, on websites, in digital partnerships and as part of the social media scene. But they also can do what no one else can do. We are at the heart of our communities. We generate the information and track the local developments that are vital for an informed, engaged citizenry. We offer clarity and perspective, and we provide content that our readers can trust.

Getting to the point we are at now has not been easy. Genuine change never is. But we are far closer to our future than our past, and that future is bright.

Caroline H. Little is chief executive officer of the Newspaper Association of America in Arlington, Va.



CROSS COUNTRY RUNNERS Caitie Shields (left) and Darbi Rouse ran the Class 2A Regional Meet in Hill City on Saturday. The Oberlin girls team took second and won a berth at the state meet.

— Herald photo by Paul Shields

# Cross county girls team wins first trip to state meet

For the first time in memory, the Decatur Community High girls cross country team will be heading for state this week.

The girls came in second at the regional contest Saturday in Hill City, finishing behind Ellinwood, which had 65 points. Oberlin had 79, followed by Ness City 83, Hill City 109, Lincoln 114, Plainville and Oakley 131 each and Ell Saline 147.

The Oberlin boys came in sixth, and none of the boys qualified for state as an individual.

Ellinwood also won the boys division with 29 points, followed by Ness City with 60, Lincoln 76, Leoti 100, Hill City 131, Oberlin and Plainville with 165 each and Ell Saline 189.

Oberlin also had three girls who won medals and qualified for the state contest on their own:

- Winter Polivka took fourth running the course in 16 minutes, 25.25 seconds.
- Darbi Rouse took eighth in 16:44.43.
- Caitie Shields came in ninth in 16:47.06.

Also running for the Oberlin girls was Brittany Urban, 16th, 19:11.94,

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and Ashley Witt, 41st, 20:32.82.

“All five girls ran great times, cutting time from last competition,” Coach Pat Dorshorst said. “They will be competing at the (Class 2A) State Cross Country Meet in Wamego next Saturday.

“All 11 runners did an outstanding job. Matthew Helm ran extremely well for being on a sprained ankle. The top four boys packed well, but just couldn't get into the top group.”

Running for the boys were:

- M. Helm, 20:25.21, 23rd.
- Ganon Henningson 20:31.96, 26th.
- Caleb Koerperich, 21:26.5, 38th.
- Parker Smith, 21:57.62, 41st.
- Daniel Lerew, 24:20.32, 55th.
- Timothy Helm, 25:08.9, 57th.

“This group of athletes have done a great job this season,” Coach Dorshorst said. “I am extremely proud

of them for their hard work and dedication throughout the season. Both the boys and girls team are fairly young, so we have a lot to look forward to next year.”

Rouse and M. Helm are the only seniors, she noted.

The state meet will begin at 11:30 a.m. at the Wamego County Club, 1900 Country Club Drive. To get there, take Interstate 70 east to the K-99 exit, then turn left (north) to Wamego. Take Fourth Street left (west) to Pawnee and Pawnee north to Country Club.

A shorter, more scenic route is to take U.S. 36 east to K-99 east of Marysville, then go south to Wamego. Turn right on Eighth Street, which runs west to the country club. Time is a little more than 4 1/2 hours either way, but the U.S. 36 route should save about 25 miles and a gallon of gas.

# Oberlin graduate to be inducted to Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame

A long-time Northwest Kansas coach will be honored this weekend by being inducted into the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame.

Kyle Mines, an Oberlin resident and a 1948 graduate of Decatur Community High School, will be inducted at a luncheon on Saturday at the Ramada Inn in Salina.

He was a state champion wrestler at 138 pounds and, in his senior year, was not scored upon. Mr. Mines said that he attended the state wrestling meet three times, taking third in 1946.

He graduated from Kansas State University in 1958 and went to work at Colby High School, where he coached four state champions.

He later was head coach at South Mountain High School in Phoenix, where he had three state champions; Johnstown, Colo., two state champions; and Sidney, Neb., 14 state champions.

His last coaching job was at St. Francis, where he had nine state champions and two grand state champions, so he won in all four classifications of wrestling.

He retired from St. Francis High School in 1975.

Mike Frewen of St. Francis was coached by Mines both his junior and senior year, winning the state championship in 1974 and second place in 1973. He remembered Coach Mines as a “fundamentally

oriented” coach who drilled the basics continually. Frewen went on to spend 30 years coaching in both Osborne and St. Francis high schools.

The Hall of Fame was started in 1971 with Coach Fritz Knorr, who won 142 dual matches while at Kansas State and helped adopt the takedown system of scoring for wrestling. The hall takes in wrestlers, coaches, officials and contributors to the sport.

In 1983, Gordon (Buzz) Matson, longtime Oberlin wrestling coach and principal, was inducted, and in 2007, Larry Gabel, former St. Francis coach, was honored.

Biographies of all the honorees are in the lobby of Gross Memorial Coliseum on the campus of Fort Hays State University.

## Sports Schedule

**Thursday:** Oberlin high school football, 7 p.m., at Leoti.

Golden Plains high school football, 7 p.m., at Northern Valley in Alma.

**Friday:** No school.

**Saturday:** State cross country meet at Wamego Country Club, 11:30 a.m..

**Thursday, Nov. 1:** Oberlin junior high basketball, 4:30 p.m., vs. Sharon Springs, at home.

To add items to the community sports schedule, call The Oberlin Herald at 475-2206 or e-mail oberlin.editor@nwkansas.com.

## ANNUAL SCAVENGER HUNT

**Saturday, October 27, 6:15 p.m. at the Oberlin City Park Band Shell**

**Items to bring:**  
\$5 in quarters, flashlight, envelope, jar of baby food, towel, ball, rubber gloves and comb.

\$5 entry fee per person