



LORI SHIELDS WALKED through flowing ribbons during the evening gown competition of the Mrs. Kansas pageant. This was the final phase of the two-day event held in Branson, Mo. —Herald staff photo

Northwest contestant is first runner-up

Lori Shields of Norton represented north-west Kansas in the Mrs. Kansas pageant Friday and Saturday in Branson, Mo., where Kansas and Missouri hold their joint competition. It came down to a final, nail-biting moment when it was only Mrs. Northwest and Mrs. Lawrence holding each other's hands on center stage, waiting the judges' final decision as to who would become Mrs. Kansas 2013. The title would eventually go to Elizabeth Stephens, Mrs. Lawrence, but Mrs. Shields' friends in the audience couldn't have been more proud. "I'm glad I did it," said Mrs. Shields. "It's

something a lot of women don't have an opportunity to do, but it was lots of fun and I'm so fortunate to live in Norton. This community was just awesome in the way they supported me. I'm proud to say I had the biggest cheering section at the pageant." Mrs. Shields, as first runner-up, would assume the title if for any reason Mrs. Lawrence cannot fulfill her obligations. The entire pageant weekend was filled with activities for the contestants. Besides the standard swimsuit and evening-gown categories, Mrs. Shields was interviewed by the judges regarding her platform, "The Haven and help-

ing families affected by incarceration." The contestant manages the Haven in Norton, which provides weekend lodging at an affordable price for families coming to visit inmates at the Norton Correctional Facility. In addition to the pageant itself, she had two cocktail parties, two luncheons and an awards ceremony to attend. At that ceremony, she was honored with "The Red Hot Chili Pepper" award for her "hot and spicy" attitude. Mrs. Shields is married to Damien Shields. The couple has two children, Darius, 8, and Emmery, 2. She is a teacher aide at Eisenhower Elementary School in Norton.

Business plans monthly music in parks

By **STEPHANIE DeCAMP**
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Just because there's a foot of snow on the ground doesn't mean you shouldn't start planning for that long, hot summer. Chris Johnson, whose Full Throttle DJ Service will be promoting music events this summer in City Park, says he's ready to bring the party to town. "This is a new project," Mr. Johnson said, "and hopefully it will grow into something bigger as the years go on. I started it to bring the community together to help their own. I am a firm believer in giving back to the community that you live in, if you are able. I'm assistant director of the Oberlin American Legion Riders, and my wife is also a member, and we give back through them. But this is a far more personal way for me and my family to give back to the community."

Songs to fill the air in parks

The Music in the Park series this summer will feature free music by Full Throttle DJ Service from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 to 9 p.m. on designated days. All the shows are at City Park except the first.
Saturday, March 23 (Centennial Park)
Saturday, April 13
Saturday, May 11
Friday, June 14 – Flag Day – patriotic songs – 6 to 9 p.m.
Saturday, June 15 – Day before Father's Day
Thursday, July 13
Saturday, Aug. 24
Wednesday, Sept. 11 – Patriot Day 6 to 9 p.m. - patriotic songs
Saturday, Sept. 14
Saturday, Oct. 12

"This is a huge undertaking," he said, "and as summer hits and the temperature skyrockets, everyone will probably need the break. "The first show in March will be a shorter version because of the time of year. At that show, we're asking

for everyone to bring a food donation for the Decatur County Food Pantry. We will also have donation jars and all the money raised will go directly to the food pantry to help our local families in need. "We will have the food dona-

tions at all of our shows this summer. Friday, June 14, (Flag Day) and Wednesday, Sept. 11, (Patriot Day) we'll have a free-will donation hamburger feed put on by the Oberlin American Legion Riders. Any donations we receive those days will go directly to the Legion Riders to aid in their efforts in the community. These days, the shows will be from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. Also, we're going to have Snakeblocker (whose Snakeblocker Academy gives self-defense lessons here in town) give free demonstrations at the June 14 and Sept. 11 events." Mr. Johnson said the group is looking for businesses interested in sponsoring the events so they can have prizes for trivia questions. E-mail Mr. Johnson at fullthrottledjyservice@hotmail.com or call him at (785) 687-8244.

Committee can pick form for evaluations

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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The Oberlin School Board decided that a district committee can choose among teacher-evaluation forms as it evaluates the districts' professional staff. There are three forms to choose from, said Superintendent Duane Dorshorst at a board meeting Feb. 11. A committee including board members Dan Nedland, Dan Grafel and Jerry Chambers; teachers Kimberly Witt, Sheila Jansonius, Wendy Scott and Brenda Breth; and both principals is looking at the documents. The state has provided a teacher evaluation, said Mr. Dorshorst, and so has the Southwest Plains Regional Service Center and the Mid-continent Regional Educational Laboratory. The committee, said Mr. Dorshorst, doesn't have a recommendation at this time, but the district has to declare which "tool" will use before the next meeting. He said there is some time after the initial March 1 deadline to declare which tool will be used, or for the board to decide on something different. The board approved using the committee's recommendation, with the understanding that could change during teacher negotiations.

Mr. Dorshorst said tenured teachers are evaluated every three years, while nontenured teachers – those in their first three years – are evaluated yearly. In other business, the board: • Decided to change the next meeting from Monday, March 11, to 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 18, because of spring break. • Talked briefly about a decision by the state Department of Education that leagues have to be provided for handicapped students to take part in sports. While that is easy to say, said Mr. Dorshorst, it's been harder for them to come up with regulations. The department has a lot of things to work through, he said. The Oberlin School District, said Mr. Dorshorst, doesn't exclude handicapped kids from events. "This declaration and regulations," he said, "will have to be addressed at a state level before it affects us." • Approved the resignation of English teacher Deedre Fraiser and hired Shanna Long as a full-time cook. • Held a closed-door session for 12 minutes to discuss negotiations with the board members and superintendent. There was no action taken afterward.

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