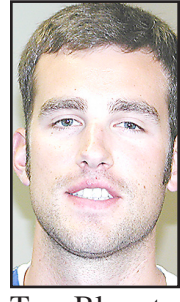


Student observes surgeon

A medical student is coming to Oberlin with Dr. Walter Eskildsen and although he works in a challenging field, it's probably even more challenging to find scrubs that fit his 6-foot, 9-inch frame.



Tom Blount

Thomas Blount, a second-year student of the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, said he finished his undergraduate degree at Washington University in St. Louis.

Mr. Blount, from Castle Rock, Colo., said he is in a "rural care block," where students work three weeks with a doctor in rural Nebraska.

He said although Dr. Eskildsen lives in McCook, the surgeon comes to Oberlin he comes with him.

Starting his second week, Mr. Blount said four students will come to work with Dr. Eskildsen this year. He is the second.

After he completes three weeks out here, Mr. Blount said, he will head to Omaha to do some independent spine research.

"I worked for a spine clinic in Denver," he said. "I want to get into orthopedic spine surgery, so I found a place that lets me do research."

Mr. Blount said he would go back to his research the first week of July.

Tournament to help teacher

A softball tournament to raise money for the medical expenses of Coach Sherri Ruf takes place Saturday at the Oberlin ball fields.

The tournament was put together by Dana and Chase Juenemann.

Money from the tournament will be used to help the popular teacher and volleyball coach, who is having treatment for cancer.

Mrs. Juenemann said at least five coed teams will compete in a double-elimination tournament, with the winners getting T-shirts.

She says she is looking for volunteers to cook and serve burgers.

Anyone who'd like to volunteer can call her at (785) 470-0299 or e-mail dansat14@hotmail.com.



GOLDEN PLAINS SCHOOL Superintendent Mary Ellen Welshhon (left) visited with Maddix Green during a retirement party held following the elementary school spring concert. She will retire from the district the end of the week after six years. — Photo by Judy Rogers

School superintendent retires

By **JUDY ROGERS**
judy@usd316.org

Golden Plains School Superintendent Mary Ellen Welshhon will retire this week after six years leading the district, which has schools in Rexford and Selden.

"Mrs. Welshhon came to Golden Plains in 2007, replacing the late Dr. Roger Baskerville," said board President Paul Bruggeman. "Mary Ellen has done an excellent job of managing our school and our finances. We wish her the best and thank her for the great job she has done for our schools."

Mrs. Welshhon, who has served the district not only as superintendent, but as elementary and high school principal, was born and raised in Hoxie. Following graduation from Hoxie High School, she attended the University of Missouri, Kansas City, where she received a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene. She got a teaching license in 1971.

She began her career in education in Hutchinson before moving back to western Kansas and teaching in Park for a year. She then taught third grade at Hoxie Elementary School from 1980 to 1998.

In 1992, she finished a master's degree in special education. She added building leadership and district leadership certifications in 1999. Mrs. Welshhon became assistant director of special education for the Northwest Kansas Education Service Center, where she served from 1998 to 2003. From 2003-

2007, she was director of special education at the Learning Cooperative of North Central Kansas in Concordia before coming to Golden Plains in 2007.

During her time at Golden Plains, Mrs. Welshhon recruited teachers and staff and worked on initiatives include a Character Education grant, expanding the migrant, English as a second language and at-risk programs and addressing issues in bullying prevention.

Welshon has always been an outspoken supporter of the students and staff.

"I feel like I have been the luckiest person in the world to have had the opportunity to work with the fantastic students, staff, board, families and communities of the Golden Plains School District," she said....

"That is what makes this job a joy — the people care and the kids get a wonderful education.

"I want to thank all the members of the community for their support these past six years. I have always had the support of the board and I want to thank them as well for their service to Golden Plains.

"It has been a wonderful experience and I will miss everyone. I love kids, I love people, and I will always have a special place in my heart for Golden Plains."

Mrs. Welshhon said she plans to continue to live in Hoxie and work part-time at the Mickey-Leopold Funeral Home. She also plans to

spend more time with her family, including husband Joe, children Ryan and Janessa Welshhon of Rhinebeck, N.Y., and Kim and Matt Breining of Goodland, and her grandchildren.

"I am looking forward to being able to get out and enjoy the sunshine during the day," she added. "I will miss the students and the activities and will be following the kids in their academic and athletic pursuits."

Darrin Herl succeeds her as superintendent.

"I wish Darrin the best of luck," she said. "He will be bringing a multitude of talent to a great district."

Commissioners tour county home

By **RAMELL TAYLOR**
rtaylor@nwkansas.com

The Good Samaritan Center invited Decatur County commissioners to tour the building and have lunch with staff members last Tuesday.

Administrator Janice Shobe led the tour, accompanied by Chris May, environmental services supervisor. She said they have been discussing improvement ideas for the center and wanted to run them by the commissioners.

Mrs. Shobe started with the front entry. She said the city may qualify for an American with Disabilities Act compliance grant worth \$100,000, which would be used to update the entry.

She talked about running a driveway through the patio to make it easier to drop residents off at the front door. She said she would like to replace the current entrance doors, which open manually, with automatic sliding doors.

"The residents have a hard time with the doors," Mrs. Shobe said. "This would make it easier."

Mrs. Shobe says they would need to create a new wheelchair ramp and replace the old ramp with steps. She said the current ramp is too steep and she doesn't want residents using

wheelchairs to have an accident or an employee to get injured assisting someone.

For all the new improvements, Mrs. Shobe says, she was quoted a price of \$300,000.

"It's more than the initial grant amount," she said. "We're still looking for alternatives."

Another priority for improvement is the windows on the south side of the building. Mr. May said the windows are 17 years old and they fall in during strong winds.

"Residents complain about them," he said. "They're a pain to deal with."

Mr. May said the windows on the north and west sides of the buildings could use some work, too. Those windows are about nine years old and the bottom of the frames are coming apart.

Mrs. Shobe mentioned updating the lighting system in the Town Square area. They currently use T-12 bulbs and they would like to convert them to the newer T-5 bulbs. She said the T-5 light bulbs would produce more light at a lower cost.

After the tour, Mrs. Shobe and the commissioners ate lunch with the heads of each department at the home.

* Budget doesn't cover all

(Continued from Page 1A)

With donations not included in estimating the budget, Mr. Juenemann asked, "Where does the money go?"

Commissioners said any remaining balance after \$6,500 would go to the county's general fund.

"That's why people go independent," Mr. Juenemann said, refer-

ring to groups that choose to pay costs without county help.

Mr. McEvoy said it isn't right for the recreation board not to be able to spend the money they brought in.

The commissioners talked about increasing the budget for the recreation board next year. This year, the county may pay the remaining balance from the general fund.

See your **THE OBERLIN HERALD** on **ANY DEVICE.**



Get your local news on any device at anytime. Our new e-edition will soon be a paid service for subscribers only and will be delivered to your email to be viewed on iPad, iPhone or mobile device. See the free preview on our website.

Our website has all the details **FREE PREVIEW NOW AVAILABLE**

*Hoxie road to close for resurfacing work

(Continued from Page 1A)

K-23, he said, and this way, the agency can get something done much sooner. The program actually began after Sheridan County people asked repeatedly for help with their north-south road. Under former Secretary of Transportation Deb Miller, the agency came up with a plan for lower-cost improvements for some routes.

While the project has not gone for bids yet, the engineer said, the 18 miles of road is expected to cost \$11.3 million when bids are sought in the fall. Under the practical improvement approach, the contractor will remove a couple of feet of old pavement and material and regrade the road, fix any soft spots in the base, and put down a 28-foot pavement. That will allow for two-foot paved shoulders with a strip of crushed rock along the edges.

Though the job usually includes little serious grading, engineers said they would shave some hills to improve sight lines north of Hoxie.

People in the crowd asked why the state had chosen to work on the road north of Hoxie, rather than to the south, where several miles of rolling hills have caused some horrific accidents over the years. Mr.

Stewart said the department has that area as a priority for "modification" to current standards to eliminate or smooth out the hills, but that will have to wait for the next transportation plan, after 2020. He advised Sheridan County residents to keep pushing for the job south of town.

"The public involvement can push you over," he said.

Mike King, secretary of transportation under Gov. Sam Brownback, talked briefly about the need to broaden the state and federal fuel tax to include all forms energy.

Questions at the meeting included how emergency vehicles and postal carriers will be able to get through work zones. Engineers said there will be times when there is no practical way to get through some areas, but emergency agencies will need to keep in touch with the department.

The Hoxie postmaster said residents along the highway will need either to move their mailbox to someplace where the carrier can get to it or use a free, temporary post office box in town.

Mr. Stewart said the department has learned that people tend to find out how to get around the work, and urged everyone to keep in touch with state engineers.

4th of July Blast

- Check out the explosive sidewalk specials available from 9am to 1pm
- New selection each day
- While supplies last

8 Days Only June 26th to July 3rd

Coupon for \$50 of FREE fireworks with purchase over \$500
\$100 of FREE fireworks with purchase over \$1000 from Optimist Fireworks Stand

ALL IN STOCK MERCHANDISE
Not Good on Previous Purchases

Thurs. 9-9, Fri. 9-5:30, Sat. 9-5, Mon./Tues. 9-5:30
We will be closed on July 4th.

SAMWAY Floor Covering & FURNITURE

1801 North Highway 83 McCook (308)345-1952



Vic Innovations, Inc. is a leading provider of computer repair services for Northwest Kansas and South-west Nebraska. Our services include:

- * Custom Builds
- * Affordable! Pricing starting at \$500 a system
- * Reliable! The only system you'll need for a long time
- * Brand Names (HP, Dell, Lenovo, Apple)
 - Desktops
 - Laptops
 - Smartphones and tablets
 - and other electronics



INNOVATIONS, INC.
112 South 4th Street
Call us at (785) 626-9335 Atwood, KS 67730