

Board puts off decision on walk

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The Oberlin School Board revisited a proposal made two months ago by a grade-school parent to put in two sidewalks outside the kindergarten building, but decided to form a playground committee and turn the issue over to it.

Shanna Long asked the board in October to install sidewalks across the street to the west of the kindergarten building, along Elm street, and on the east side of Cass Avenue outside the building and to the north.

She said the pavement would give kids a place to walk other than in the mud or in the street, and provide more area for parents to use to drop off or pick up kids.

Since the proposal was made, teacher Carol Brown now walks the kindergartners over to Rodehaver Avenue, just outside of the playground, so parents can pick them up there.

Principal Duane Dorshorst said this was working better than what they were doing in the past, but still isn't as good as it should be. There are still kids having to walk in be-

tween cars to get to their parents' car, he said.

Mr. Dorshorst said they need to deal with a crack in the playground. He suggested putting together a committee which would plan improvements and make a decision about the sidewalks.

Another idea, he said, would be to make Cass and Rodehaver one-way streets on either side of the school. That way, there wouldn't be cars going both ways.

Mrs. Long said she supports the plan for one-way streets since they are so narrow.

Mr. Dorshorst recommended that they keep dismissing the kindergartners on the east side, and then come to the board in the spring or summer at the latest with a plan on the playground and sidewalks. He said he wanted the committee to have teachers, site council members and Support our Schools members on it, around 10 people.

Board President Dwayne Jackson asked if Mrs. Long would be interested in working on the committee. She said she would.

County may ask for dispatch grant

The Decatur County commissioners talked with the Chief Dispatcher Jeanne Pachner on Tuesday about applying for an E911 grant from the state.

Ms. Pachner said they could use the \$70,000 for new equipment for the dispatch center. Deadline is Friday, Jan. 14. She said she talked with Shayla Williby, who has written two grant proposals for the sheriff's office, about writing this one.

Ms. Pachner said if they apply for the grant, then the county won't be able to receive the E911 tax on cell phones, which is 25 cents per line each month. The county has collected almost \$5,000 from the tax, she said.

Noxious Weed Director Gaylen Huntley said he took the Taurus to Wagner Ford in McCook to have the heating and cooling system checked. The heater on the car wouldn't work unless the fan was on high. One part was fixed on warranty, but Mr. Huntley said he wasn't sure if this work would be covered or not.

In other business, commissioners:

- Signed orders for draws out of Bassettville, Finley, Logan, Oberlin, Olive, Sherman and Summit

County Roundup

At a meeting last Tuesday, Decatur County commissioners:

- Received the 2003 audit, with only one item out of compliance with state rules. Story on Page 1A.
- Met behind closed doors with Ambulance Director Patrick Pomeroy to talk about real property acquisition, but took no action. Story at upper right.
- Talked with the chief dispatcher about applying for an E911 grant from the state to buy new equipment. Story at left.

townships to pay road and bridge for work done.

- Jerrol DeBore of Penco Engineering dropped in to give the commissioners Christmas goodies.

- Held a five-minute closed session to discuss attorney-client privileged items with the commissioners, County Clerk Marilyn Horn and County Attorney Steve Hirsch. There was no action taken.

Youth leaves ranch, steals van in Oberlin

A youth who walked away from the Sappa Valley Youth Ranch on Friday night kept officers in two counties busy for a while, giving searchers the slip, stealing a van in town and then leading a short chase near Dresden.

Around 8:35 p.m., Oberlin Police got a call that a boy was missing from the ranch. Police Chief Wade Lockhart said officers helped look for the youth, but didn't find him.

A van belonging to Steve Stacy was taken from Edgerton Auto Repair on east U.S. 36. The van was at the shop having its brakes repaired. Although the van did have brakes, the power assisted part was broken. Sheridan County Sheriff James

Johnson said Brandon Fenner, one of his reserve deputies, spotted the missing vehicle in the Selden area.

Deputy Fenner began following the van, the sheriff said, but waited for backup from a state trooper to stop the youth. The two stopped the young man without incident in the Dresden area, he said.

The van has been returned, Sheriff Johnson said.

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Kids, dog enjoy nice day



YOUNGSTERS Lindsay and Dillon Shearer played with their dog Snoopy in their front yard in Oberlin last weekend.
— Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

County ponders property

The Decatur County commissioners met behind closed doors to talk about real property acquisition at their meeting last Tuesday at the request of Ambulance Director Patrick Pomeroy.

The commissioners, Mr. Pomeroy, County Clerk Marilyn Horn and County Attorney Steve Hirsch met for 10 minutes about the topic. There was no action taken.

Commissioners received two bids for a water heater at the ambulance barn which were opened in the meeting. The first bid came from Bob's Plumbing of Oberlin for a White hot water heater for \$320, with labor costing \$41, for a total of \$361.

The second bid came from Hansen's Heating and Plumbing for a Miser 40-gallon heater for \$356, including installation.

Mr. Pomeroy said these were the only two businesses that showed interest. Workers from both came to the ambulance barn.

The commissioners approved the low bid from Hansen's.

Mr. Pomeroy said a representative from Nex-Tech would be there on Wednesday to program radios and repair loose batteries.

He requested a closed session for five minutes for non-elected personnel. There was no action taken.

Accident injures two women

Two Herndon women were flown to hospitals out of state Thursday night after an accident around 4:41 p.m. six miles east of Atwood.

The Kansas Highway Patrol reported that Cynthia Bergling, 47, was driving a 1988 Ranger pickup south on County Road 29. The trooper reported that she failed to stop at the stop sign and drove onto U.S. 36, into the path of a grain truck.

The semi, with a 1988 tractor, was driven by James Wright, 34 of Bartley, Neb. The patrol said he was wearing a seat belt, and was not injured.

Neither Ms. Bergling nor her mother, Laverne Niemeth, 74, a passenger in the pickup, were wearing a seat belt, the patrol said. Ms. Bergling was ejected from the truck.

Both were taken to the Rawlins County Hospital in Atwood. Ms. Bergling was flown to Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney, Neb., and Mrs. Niemeth to Swedish Hospital in Denver.

Good Sam residents honor vets

Good Samaritan Center residents helped honor several veterans Sunday afternoon with a musical program.

Monica Harvey, who helps with the Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Highway, U.S. 83, in Nebraska, gave a program at the center for residents and veterans. She sang several songs for the veterans, held a "welcome home" party for men who served in Vietnam and the Korean War, and sang Christmas

tunes.

Mrs. Harvey said she was in a terrible accident and suffered only minor problems. She said she owed that to God. Since then, she added, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion have adopted her as a little sister. She said she has a unique story to tell about how God saved her from further injury.

Now she travels presenting programs for veterans. She performed in Oakley last year.

During the program, she asked all the veterans in the audience to raise their hands.

There were five to six, some who live at the center and others who came for the program. She gave each one a heart pin with a bandage across it. She said the bandage represents God's hand protecting their heart.

Mrs. Harvey called all Vietnam and Korean veterans to the front. She sang several songs to them as a welcome home. The veterans who came forward were Walt Pennell, Gary Allen and John Bremer.

Members of the Oberlin American Legion and its auxiliary gave Mrs. Harvey a copy of their magazine with the names of men who have served from the county.

Alumni asked to join band

The 40th anniversary celebration at Colby Community College will continue on Saturday, Jan. 29, during the Trojan basketball games at the Community Building.

The Rockin' Pep Band, under the direction of Dr. David Mruzek, is inviting all alumni band members to perform that night with the current pep band.

"Be sure to wear your pep band t-shirt if you still have it or something that is light blue," said Dr. Mruzek. "We will have extra music folders ready for alumni to use."

Former band members are asked to meet at the back of the Community Building at 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 29. The women's game starts at 6 p.m.,

followed by the men's game at approximately 8 p.m.

For details, contact Dr. Mruzek at (785) 462-3984, ext. 308 or e-mail david@colbycc.edu.



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