

Mayor selects woman

At the next meeting on Thursday, May 4, the Oberlin City Council will vote on the mayor's appointment to fill a seat being left vacant by Councilman Patrick Pomeroy.

With Mr. Pomeroy leaving at the end of the month, the meeting Thursday night was his last. He has served for a little over three years and has about one year left on his term.

Mr. Pomeroy has taken a job as an instructor in Coffeyville starting in May.

Mayor Ken Shobe said he had asked Rhonda May to take Mr. Pomeroy's spot and she agreed.

When a seat opens in this way, the mayor is able to ask someone to be on the council, but that person has to be approved by the council.

Mayor Shobe said he would like to get a female point of view on the council. She is very knowledgeable, well educated and would possibly be available. She seemed interested and excited in getting involved in the city.

Mayor Shobe thanked Mr. Pomeroy for his service to the council.

"It has been an honor to sit in this seat," said Mr. Pomeroy.

People don't understand what a tough job serving on the council is, he said, adding that he thinks his hometown is in good hands.

Mayor Shobe said he will recommend Ms. May for the position at the first meeting in May.

With council approval, she will be sworn in and start her job that night.

Ms. May is originally from Oberlin and graduated from Decatur Community High School in 1974. She moved away after high school and went to college at the University of Kansas.

She earned a degree in petroleum engineering and worked in California, Oklahoma, Houston, Dallas, Indonesia, Singapore and then moved to Colorado after retirement.

She said she and her husband, Dan Nedland and family decided to come home because of the pull of a large family here and the strength of the schools.

Ms. May said they also moved home because of the small town environment for the kids.

They have three children, Cameron, 16; Hunter, 13; and Elizabeth, 10.

Ms. May said she thinks serving on the city council will be an opportunity for her to help make a good thing better.

The town has a lot going for it. She said that some of the things that are positive here, people who have lived here for a long time don't even notice anymore.

Oberlin students visit Denver to minister to homeless

Youth cook, clean up area

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Ten students decided to use the last half of their spring break to help out at ministries for the homeless in Denver.

Each year, students from Oberlin's United Methodist Youth Group take a ski trip or mission trip during spring break. This year, they took a mission trip to Denver, where they were able to learn about the homeless in the city and help serve them.

Students who made the trip included Emma and Ethan Merrill, Jessica and Sabrina Delete, Courtney Gillespie, Fabiola Ortiz, Tika Hall, Melissa Hasty, Jordan McHugh and Derek Chambers. Adult sponsors were Pastor Doug and Sarah Hasty, their daughter Rebekah, who is in college, and Deanna Castle.

The team left Oberlin later than planned on March 22, because of a spring snow storm that day. They returned late on Friday night.

Mrs. Castle said they worked with people from Denver Urban Ministries, who had everything set up for the team, including a place to stay and take showers. The team slept at the United Church of Christ for \$20 per person each night and then went to a YMCA to get cleaned up each day.

The kids started at the Church in the City at Josephine and Colfax, which serves dinner to the homeless each day, said Mrs. Castle.

The girls found a crate filled with stuff, including a blanket, stashed by the vans, said Mrs. Castle. They realized that it belonged to a homeless person and wanted to leave it, but a lady from the church said it had to be thrown away.

The home, she said, is set up for 80 people with tables and chairs. The men and women who come in are served food and a beverage. Mrs. Castle said the team was encouraged to sit with the homeless people. She said the students were surprised how intelligent some of them were.

That evening, it had been arranged for a homeless man named Randall to come speak with the students. He told them he became homeless in the late 1980s, she said. He is bipolar and as his mental problems got worse, the more he started to drink. Randall described how he then lost his fam-



AT A SHELTER in Denver, Sabrina Dellere (above left), Fabiola Ortiz and Jordan McHugh petted a working dog which belonged to a homeless man. Derek Chambers (below) helped clean out a van used by a church group.

ily, then his job, and things continued to escalate as he went downhill.

Randall is an advocate for many of the resource groups for the homeless, said Mrs. Castle. He puts out a newsletter and has a website.

"Hereally drew the kids into their own situations," she said, "and the reality of how people become homeless."

On Thursday, the students got a walking tour of downtown from a woman named Belinda. They met at Coors Field. One of the boys on the trip, said Mrs. Castle, had stepped off the stage at the church the night before so they borrowed a wheel chair from the stadium for him.

The tour started in an area where the homeless formerly stayed, but since has been built up into condos. The homeless who lived there were displaced, said Mrs. Castle.

The kids were shocked, she said, when they saw a place that was just for homeless teenagers. It was a big awakening to them that there were kids living on the street.

Many of the youth had been kicked out of their homes but some had fled an abusive situation. When they leave, said Mrs. Castle, they don't think about taking their birth certificate or identification, and then they can't get a job.

They walked past a facility for the chronic homeless who are never going to be off the streets because they are mentally challenged, dis-

abled or chronic alcoholics. These people can rent a place in the building based on what they earn.

Close by was a dirt park where other people sleep. Mrs. Castle said. A group is trying to get rest rooms added, but homeowners nearby keep stopping that from happening, so the homeless are using the alley.

The homeowners are shutting down one of the facilities that has 250 beds, said Mrs. Castle.

The kids asked a lot of questions, including how there could be so many homeless and why they don't get jobs?

Mrs. Castle said the group went back to Denver Urban Ministries for a debriefing. They played a game where they started out with a pile of pennies. The guide asked questions, such as did your father graduate from high school?

For some answers, they either gained or lost pennies. This showed the students how easy it could be to have everything and then go to having nothing, said Mrs. Castle.

Some people, she said, don't have the chance not to be homeless.

The team then split up. One group went to a drop-in center for the mentally challenged. People can drop in and play games, do crafts, socialize and watch television. The youth helped with a spring cleaning.

The other group went to Project Angel Heart, which prepares 500 meals and delivers them to



homebound people with AIDS and cancer. The chefs are paid and all the others are volunteers.

The food is delivered in paper grocery bags which the students helped decorate.

Melissa Hasty, a sophomore, said her favorite part of the trip was working at Project Angel Heart.

"They provide meals for so many people," she said. "It is just amazing that they can do that."

The next day the team toured the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the

Assumption. They also went to the Indian Pow Wow at the Denver Coliseum before returning home.

Melissa said she learned that you should look homeless people in the eye and not walk past them, because that makes their day.

Mrs. Castle said the Youth Fellowship meets every Wednesday, with a meal at 6:15 p.m., and the meeting lasts until 7:30 p.m. The group is open to all denominations.

Mammograms caught in Catch 22

The mammogram machine at Decatur County Hospital has been shut down until the technician finishes her accreditation.

Administrator Lynn Doeden said the technician has to do 100 mammograms a month to keep accreditation and the hospital has been doing only 40 to 50 a month.

Mrs. Doeden told with the county hospital board about the accreditation issue at a meeting last Monday.

The accreditation comes from the American College of Radiology out of Pennsylvania, she said. Since the hospital either has to have 100 mammograms a month or the operator has to pass accreditation, she said, technician Rose Eskew has

been trying to fulfill the college requirement in three areas.

So far, said Mrs. Doeden, she has done two out of three. For one of the areas, she has to send in her mammogram film.

Mrs. Doeden said inspectors from the group will come out here and observe her doing three mammograms. They charge \$2,400 each time they come, she said.

Each time a test is sent in to the group, she said, it costs money, and the hospital has already spent \$1,800 on the accreditation process.

Board Chair Connie Grafel said maybe they should talk with Congressman Jerry Moran about the problem.

Volunteers plan to remove park trash

A volunteer work day will be held Saturday in the draw east of the dam at Sappa Park to clean out trash people have dumped there over the years.

Gary Walter said the work day will start at 8 a.m. May 6. Anyone who wants to help should meet at the shelterhouse.

Mr. Walter asked volunteers to bring chain saws, shovels and

gloves.

He said he had talked with Robert Groneweg, owner of R&M Service Center, and he said he would help take care of any appliances that need to have the coolant removed.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the draw may have been used as a dump by a former operator of the youth ranch.

Seminar to be on television

The motivational seminar held a week and a half ago at The Gateway will be aired on cable local access channel 7 for those who missed it.

The seminar, by Dick Kelsey, who reopened the Sappa Valley Youth Ranch, will air at 7 p.m. on Thursday.

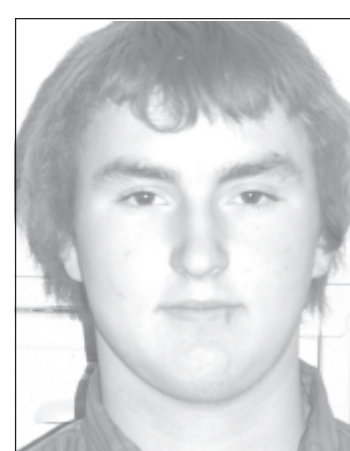
student of the week



Name: Breck Simonsson
Parents: Brian and Pam Simonsson
Grade: 11
Age: 16
We've nominated this student because: Breck is a responsible, prepared student. He exemplifies the phrase student-athlete. Breck participates in many activities and displays good leadership qualities.
Student Comment:

Thanks for this honor.
Activities involved in at school: Tact, National Honor Society, weight club, D-club, FFA, football, wrestling and golf.
My choice of movies, books and games: "The Legend of Bagger Vance," movie, anything short, book and cribbage, games.
After I leave Decatur Community High School I intend to: Further my education, hopefully at Kansas State University in golf course management.
And 10 years from now, I think I'll be: Well on my way to a successful career and have a family started.
Favorite Quote: "Exceed expectations."

student of the week



Name: Kevin Farr
Parents: Francis Farr
Grade: 9
Age: 15
We've nominated this student because: is very polite and willing to help.
Student Comment: I feel happy for getting this.

Activities involved in at school: football and weight club.

My choices of movies, books and games: "Daddy Day Care," movie, mystery and scary books, football, games.

After I leave Decatur Community High School I intend to: Be a farmer or auto mechanic.

And 10 years from now, I think I'll be: Married, have kids and a happy life.

Favorite Quote: "Never give up on what you want."

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