

Speech team work allows waivers for credits

The Oberlin School Board granted four high school girls a waiver on their speech credit requirement for graduation, since all are on the speech team.

Each of the four girls is here tonight, said President Dewayne Jackson, and all wrote letters. The four are Alyssa Rippe, Annamarie Larue, Makenzie Nelson and Haley Barrett.

Each girl told the board that they have been members of the speech team and plan to join again this year and asked to have the requirement to take a speech class waived.

Teacher Leigh Davis wrote a letter saying that the girls have completed the requirements for a waiver of the speech requirement for graduation.

School roundup

At their meeting last Monday, the Oberlin School Board:

- Received three letters of complaint about the superintendent. Story on Page 1A and letters on Page 6A.
- Tabled a lighting project at the

grade school when only one bid was received. Story on Page 6A.

- Allowed four girls to skip the speech credit requirement since all of them had been on the speech team. Story at left.

The board approved waiving the credit for the four girls.

The board decided to table job descriptions for classified position, which were handed out during the October meeting. Member Monte Moore said he gave the descriptions to the Kansas Association of School Boards for review. He said

he would like to table the decision on the descriptions.

Member Barb Olson said she compared the second draft of the job descriptions to the first and the second is much better.

Mr. Jackson read through the first reading for section G of the policies for the school board.

Clerk Vickie Lippelman said she is working on a list of things that needs to go into the handbooks for the classified staff. There isn't currently one in the policy.

In the policy, said Mr. Jackson, is a new bullying policy for the staff.

In looking through the policy, the board found that one section was missing and added it into their books. The policy will be looked at again during the second reading.

For a couple of months now, board members have been reading through the policies, making corrections as needed during the first reading and then accepting the policy at the second reading.

The board approved the second reading for sections E and F in the policy book.

Superintendent Pat Cullen said he received word that the district rating on state testing in several areas last year. Those areas include reading for fourth and fifth grades, science for all classes at the grade school, reading for the seventh and eleventh grades and for the entire junior high, math for the 11th grade and the high school, and science for the seventh grade and junior high.

In other business, the board:

- Approved hiring a teacher aide at the grade school to help with reading in the lower grade levels. The job would be for three to four hours a day in the morning, said Dr. Cullen.
- Heard the district is getting back a little more than \$44,000 from Blue

Cross/Blue Shield, which will be returned to policy holders.

- Heard the expenses for the school year are in line, with 72.86 percent of the budget still left.

- Instructed Member Dan Nedland to vote yes on all of the issues coming up at the Kansas Association of School Board annual convention.

- Named Mrs. Olson and Member Dan Grafel to sit on the calendar committee for the 2009-2010 school year.

- Approved hiring Connelly and Associates as the engineers to inspect the work being done to replace the steam condensation return line in the high school at a cost of no more than \$3,600.

Holiday gift tree set up

It may seem far in the future, but Christmas is only six weeks away.

Many people think of this time of year as the season for giving, and the Oberlin Jaycees will once again provide an opportunity with their Angel Tree.

"The Angel Tree project is designed for any child, from birth to age 17, who is in need of a few extras such as shirts, jeans, shoes, coats, gloves and miscellaneous items to make his or her Christmas a little brighter," said organizer Abby Hissong.

A parent or another adult can pick up a green form at Fredrickson Insurance or other businesses around town, including *The Oberlin Herald*, Raye's Grocery and several of the banks.

The forms need to be returned to Mrs. Hissong at Fredrickson Insurance, 183 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749, or to her at 202 S. Elk Ave. Oberlin, Kan. 67749.

The Angel Tree is only for kids living in Decatur County.

Mrs. Hissong said she would like the forms back by Wednesday, Nov. 26, with the final deadline set for Friday, Dec. 5.

Then people and groups can come pick up an "angel" from the tree. The kids won't be identified by name, but a number will be assigned to each one, and Mrs. Hissong will hold onto that list.

People can pick up the wish list of their child and do some shopping, bringing back the wrapped gifts by Friday, Dec. 12.

Parents and guardians can then pick up the presents on Wednesday, Dec. 17, or Thursday, Dec. 18.

For questions, call Mrs. Hissong at 475-2696.

Council seeking manager

In its search for a new city administrator, the Oberlin City Council discussed 10 proposed candidates during a special closed-door meeting on Friday.

The one-hour meeting was called to discuss the merits of 10 top candidates the Kansas Municipal League had given to the city. All the candidates are from out of the area, Mayor Joe Stanley said. The closest were from Omaha and Oklahoma City.

While the mayor said he didn't expect to find anyone here for the job, he said he was surprised that there wasn't anyone in the area who the league felt was suitable.

From the 10 names the council received, he said, it picked four to interview. Those people are being asked to come for face-to-face interviews, and while the times have not been set, Mayor Stanley said he expects it to be fairly soon.

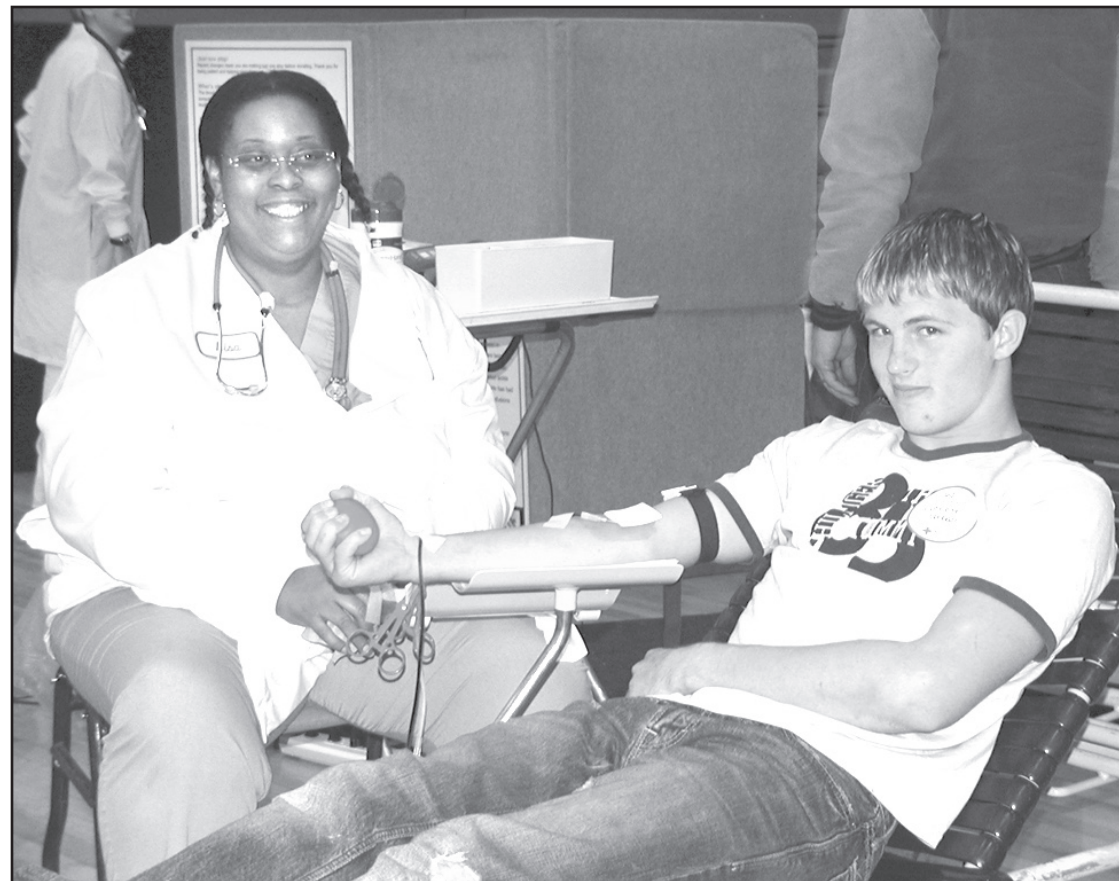
"I expect to see somebody here by the end of the week," he said on Monday.

While the administrator's job is not on the agenda for Thursday's regular council meeting, he said, it could be put there if something comes up.

The only other thing that is still on hold and on Thursday's agenda, the mayor said, are questions on a proposed zoning ordinance to govern installation of wind energy equipment.

The meeting will start at 7 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room at The Gateway.

Giving the gift of life



GIVING BLOOD ON THURSDAY at the Decatur Community High gym, senior Everett Urban (above) and sophomore Jori Diederich were among 82 students, teachers and citizens to donate. (See story in the Decatur Dictator on Page 8B)

— Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes

Intersection closed for work

The city closed the intersection of Hall Street and Beaver Avenue on Friday and crews started tearing out the concrete in order to have it ready to be repoured this week.

Street Department employee Melvin Martin said the crew planned to put barricades at the intersections of Cass Avenue and Hall Street, Beaver Avenue and Commercial Street,

U.S. 83 (Buffalo Avenue) and Hall and U.S. 83 and Columbia Street. The streets past the barricades will be open only to local traffic on the affected blocks, he said.

It should take about 10 days to finish the project, he added.

The project was to have started several months ago, but the contractor, Oberlin Concrete, could not de-

liver the cement for the project, Mr. Martin said, because the company got tied up on other jobs, including two bridges in the county southwest of Oberlin.

However, the last pour for the second bridge was to be done on Friday and the company was ready to start on the intersections.

Motel proposal back to planning

The mayor talked with members of the Oberlin City Council Nov. 7 about not sending a proposed motel ordinance back to the planning commission because it would set things back another month.

The council had decided at the meeting at the end of October to send the proposed ordinance back to the planning commission. The mayor wanted the council to understand that it could set the process of the ordinance back a month. The council decided to still send the proposed ordinance to the planning commission.

Mayor Joe Stanley said the planning commission did what the

council members wanted them to do on the ordinance. The change would allow a motel or hotel to be built in a commercial general zone. As written, the developer would have to get a building permit and then could proceed. The council asked the planning commission to change the blanket approval to an exceptional use, which would mean the developer would have to get the city's permission before building.

With a permitted use, said Councilman Ray Ward, all a developer has to do is get a permit and then he or she can build a motel or hotel anywhere in the commercial zone. The change will protect landowners

around that zone.

Mayor Stanley said he just wanted everyone to understand what's going on. The council left the decision as it is with the ordinance going back to the planning commission.

In other business, the council:

- Approved hiring Dan Dempe-wolf for \$13 an hour to start the electrical journeyman program.

- Approved hiring Patti Skubal for \$9.75 an hour as city treasurer job, which is a full-time job. Mrs. Skubal was the emergency management director for Decatur County.

- Decided to change the locks at The Gateway.

County deals with personnel issues

The Decatur County commissioners held four closed sessions with two different department heads to discuss personnel issues.

The first three sessions, during the meeting Oct. 28, one for 10 minutes and two for five, were with Patti Skubal, the emergency management director. There was no action taken afterward.

Later, the commissioners called Ambulance Director Linda Manning in for 15 minutes.

Before the sessions, Mrs. Skubal told commissioners she had attended a meeting in Goodland with representatives from the National Weather Service to talk about preparing for winter weather. With this recent situation during which the weather service was forecasting an early blizzard, she said, she made sure the emergency shelters were notified to be ready just in case. She said she talked with someone at The Gateway and the schools.

No one seemed to get as much snow as was forecasted, she said,

but it was better to be prepared.

Mrs. Skubal said she worked on a flyer after a recent meeting with representatives from the Kansas Department of Transportation. There's good information on it for winter weather driving, she said.

Mrs. Skubal said she submitted her information for certification through the state as an emergency management director, but she needs to do an exercise. After certification, she said, she will have to be recertified every two years.

She also handed out a description of her job under Kansas law. Commissioner Doyle Brown said it might be a good idea to hand out the document to other department heads so they can understand what her job is.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard a representative with Blue Cross/Blue Shield had stopped in and suggested an increase in life insurance for county employees, but didn't leave any figures.

Woman Writes Historic Letter to Her Congressman

BEXAR COUNTY—After applying Thera-Gesic® to her arthritic hands, Mary Ann W. hand wrote a forty-seven page letter to her Congressman explaining the true meaning of life. When asked where she had gathered all the wisdom for writing such a masterpiece and why she sent it to a government official, she painlessly replied, "None of your dang business!"

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County OKs fixing hospital fire alarm

The Decatur County commissioners approved using some of the money left from the low-interest loan received to build the speciality clinic at the hospital to hook the addition up to a board that shows where a fire alarm is going off in the building.

Administrator Lynn Doeden said at the meeting on Oct. 28 that she thought there was money left in the account from the Rural Development loan from the Department of Agriculture. Although the clinic has a sprinkler system and the wiring for the alarms, it needs to be hooked up to the board at the nurses' station which shows where the alarm is in the hospital, she said.

Mrs. Doeden said she received two bids on the work from Eagle Life out of Emporia when they were here do other work. It will cost \$1,875 to hook up the speciality clinic to the board or \$2,075 for the company to take out the existing board and then hook it up.

She said she called Dave Barber, with the Agriculture Department in Hays, to make sure it would be OK, and he said it would be.

The treasurer wasn't available for the commissioners to get a figure of how much money was in the account. Mrs. Doeden said she thought it was about \$11,000.

The county has \$10,675 in bills that were paid out of the county general fund that need to come out of that money too, said County Clerk Marilyn Horn.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch said they should wait to get the balance and then take out whatever was paid out of county general first. Whatever is left then could be given to the hospital, he said.

The commissioners agreed.

Mrs. Doeden said she attended a meeting in Garden City about emergency management to discuss leadership roles.

Special Bred Heifers — Pairs — Bred Cows Sale November 25 — 1 p.m.

- 96 Blk Angus and Red Angus Hfrs. AI-D for Feb. 20 calving Clean up Bulls followed weighing 1050 to 1150
- 12 Black Cows 3 to 6 yr. old with fall born calves
- 10 Black Cows 3 to 6 with fall born calves
- 15 Red Baldie Cows 3 and 4 yr. olds Bred Herford calve Feb. 1
- 20 Red Angus Cows 3 to 6 yr. olds Bred Black Angus Early spring calving
- 35 Red Angus Cows 3 to 6 yr. olds Feb. 15 calving Bred Char and Red Angus
- 62 Dispersion Mostly Char x cows One raising Total 17 2nd calf Bred Red Angus Mar 10 45 4 yr To older Bred Char x Blk Gelv. Mar 10
- 90 Black Cows 3 to 6 yr olds Bred Black spring calving
- 50 Black Cows 3 to 6 yr olds Bred Black spring calving
- 35 Black Cows 3 yr. To solid Mouth Bred Black Feb 1 calving
- 80 Black Cows 3 yr. To solid Mouth Bred Black spring calving

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