

Helper hired to keep library open early, late

The Oberlin School Board approved hiring a teacher's helper to man the library at the high school for students who want to come in early or late to do work.

Superintendent Duane Dorshorst said he had hired Bryan Richards, who has been working at the grade school, to open the high school library from 7 to 8 a.m. Monday through Friday, which has already started, and then from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays starting in November. The district isn't offering the open hours in the evenings yet, said Mr. Dorshorst, but they hope to at the beginning

of November.

The district can pay for this out of the at-risk money, he said.

Librarian Linda Glaze said Candy DeJmal, who teaches business and computers, has sent down several computer text books, so students can work on her assignments.

What if the program draws 20 to 30 students and it's too much for one person to handle? asked board President Monte Moore. Mr. Dorshorst said they will deal with that if they get to that point.

The board approved holding classes for only a half day on Friday, Oct. 30, if the

high school volleyball team goes to the state tournament in Hays.

Mr. Dorshorst said he recommends dismissing school at 11:30 a.m. that day, which would be before lunch, but would allow the grade school to have their Halloween events.

The Trick or Trunk parade will then follow on Main Street, he said.

By doing half a day, he said, it will also allow families to get to Hays for the games.

In other business, the board:

- Heard that the district had estimated one student too high on enrollment for this fall,

- but 15 too high on who would be part of the free and reduced lunch program. There are 10 students who were on the program last year where the parents are making too much money to be on the program now. Statewide, said Mr. Dorshorst, the program has seen an increase in use by 10 percent.
- Talked about the H1N1 flu a little, with the county receiving a few doses of flu mist vaccine this week. The district's absences haven't been too bad, he said, with students and adults out for a few days and then back, adding that he doesn't know of any of the absences that have been a confirmed case

- of this flu.
- Each week, said Mr. Dorshorst, the district has to report its absences to the county health department, which then reports to the state.
- Approved having board member Dan Wasson being the voting delegate at the Kansas Association of School Boards state convention with member Dan Grafel as the alternate.
- Approved hiring Jeni Henningson, a first grade teacher, as the assistant high school girls basketball coach.

Members begin evaluation work

The Oberlin School Board held two closed-door sessions last Monday to start the administrators' evaluation after approving the form the board planned to use earlier in the meeting.

Superintendent Duane Dorshorst said he had rewritten the evaluation document a little so it fits this district better. It's a little long, he said, with the last part dealing with performance and expectations.

The goals for the superintendent should be set at the September board meeting, said Mr. Dorshorst, so the board is starting a little late. He said he and board President Monte Moore had done some work on the goals already.

One of the concerns Mr. Moore had was that in December, when the administrator's contracts are done, the last part of the evaluation won't be done. It won't be completed until the April meeting, said Mr. Dorshorst.

Mr. Dorshorst said if the board members decide that they don't like this evaluation process, then they can use something new in the future.

Mr. Moore said he's willing to give the evaluation form a try if everyone else will.

If the board accepts this, then the board can do a closed session at the end of the meeting to get started, said Mr. Moore.

School Roundup

- At the meeting last Monday, the Oberlin School Board:
- Approved several policy changes for the first reading, with the exception of the two dealing with time off and sick leave for the staff. Story below.
 - Tabled a decision to join the Schools for Fair Funding group, which plans to sue the state Legislature again for not paying school districts the amount it was told to by the Supreme Court. Story on Page 1A.
 - Approved hiring a teacher's helper to man the library at the high school for students who want to come in early or late to do work. Story above.
 - Held two closed sessions for nonelected personnel to start the administrators' evaluation after approving the form the board plans to use earlier in the meeting. Story at left.

The board approved the document, and held two closed sessions, for 20 and 10 minutes, without taking any action afterward.

Board questions policy on staff leave

The Oberlin School Board read through several proposed policy changes last week, approving them for the first reading, with the exception of the two dealing with time off and sick leave for staff.

The district's current policy doesn't match the negotiated agreement for the teachers, members said. It tells other employees to see the district handbook regarding time off, but the district doesn't have a handbook.

The board discussed changing the policy to say that teachers, or certified staff, can use their paid leave per the negotiated agreement. The actual leave terms can't be in the policy because the board might forget to come back and change the policy, said member Barb Olson.

The proposed policy says that for staff, or classified, employees, that

their time off is per the handbook.

The district needs to start a handbook, said Mrs. Olson, even if all that's in it is the allowed sick time and paid leave.

Another policy, said Superintendent Duane Dorshorst, says that if the office is closed on a regular business day, for example the Friday after Thanksgiving, then they need to put a note on the door with the phone number so someone can call and request records. The sign needs to be hung on the door of the district office and both schools, he said.

The policy changes were ones caught by the Kansas Association of School Boards after they reviewed the district's policy book, he said. Last year, the board members read through the entire book and then sent it into the association's legal department for review.

The Bank once again gets top five-star rating

An Oberlin bank says that it's once again received the highest possible rating from a national service, indicating strong overall financial health.

President Gary Walter said the Bank had received five stars from Bauer Financial, which calls itself the nation's leading independent bank rating firm.

"This recognition reflects the commitment of the Bank's directors, officers and employees in our ongoing efforts to build a solid and stable financial foundation," said Mr. Walter, "one that is well positioned to serve our customers and markets."

The Bank, based in Oberlin, has locations in Oberlin, Jennings, Norton, Oakley, Winona, Selden, Atwood, Colby, Norcatur and Herndon.

Mr. Walter said the Bauer rating is based on overall financial health of a bank. It's an analysis of the current financial data as supplied by federal banking regulators and supplemented by historical operating data.

Customers can check out the strength of any bank or financial institution on the Bauer Financial website at www.bauerfinancial.com, he said.

Meetings focus on revival

Registration ends next Wednesday for a conference in Hays focusing on jobs and the rural economy.

The Kansas MarketPlace Entrepreneurial Conference will be held Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 9 and 10, at the Ramada Hays Convention Center.

The conference, said Chuck

Hassebrook, executive director for the Center for Rural Affairs, is for business owners, farmers, ranchers, community leaders, rural developments and anyone who is interested in revitalizing rural communities.

For questions, go to www.cfra.org/marketplace/home or call (402) 614-5558.

Crew starts work on stucco



MEN WORKED on the new recreation center in downtown Oberlin on Monday, preparing the front and sides of the building for the first coat of stucco, which will help seal the center from the weather.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Woman the best on games

As the Pigskin Pick-em Contest passed the half-way mark at week six, most contestants had a pretty good idea of what would happen in the high school games but several college upsets caused problems.

Linda Hollowell, Oberlin, was the only one who was able to guess five out of seven games right. She also did well last week, but lost out on the tie-breaker game. This week, she takes the \$15 scrip first prize.

Seven people guessed four out of seven. They all were perfect on the high school games, saying that Oberlin would down Hoxie, Norton beat Ness City and St. Francis stomped Syracuse. But the college games caused everyone trouble.

While everyone was pretty sure Atwood would beat Leoti in the tie breaker, no one guessed the incredible score of 51-0.

Travis Raile of Oberlin came in closest, guessing the score at 52-28, which was 29 points off the final. He wins the second prize of \$10.

Ivis Hanson, Oberlin, was 32 points off the score. He wins the third prize of \$5 in scrip.

Others who were able to guess four out of seven were Mabel Zimmerman, Owen Wilson and Gary Anderson, Oberlin; Amanda Adams, Danbury; and Bret Arenberger, Colby.

Those who guessed three out of seven were Valisha Raile, Kelly Brown and Norm Wendelin, Oberlin, and Cheri Kastens, Herndon.

The money won in the contest can be spent only at the sponsors: Ward Drug Store, the LandMark Inn, Fredrickson Insurance Agency, Stellar Auto Sales, Farm Bureau Financial Services, D&M Sinclair and *The Oberlin Herald*.

Each week, the official Pigskin Pick-em entry blank with the games for that week will be in the paper. Other entry blanks are available at sponsoring businesses. Only entries from the paper or from the sponsoring businesses are eligible to enter the contest; no copies will be accepted.

Scores of this week's games:

- Oberlin over Hoxie, 44-0.
- Norton over Ness City, 48-0.
- St. Francis over Syracuse, 46-8.
- Fort Hays State over Nebraska-Omaha, 31-20.
- Texas Tech over Nebraska, 31-10.
- Colorado over KU, 34-30.
- K-State over Texas Tech, 62-14.

Visitors board to buy ads

The Oberlin Convention and Visitors Bureau board decided to pay for advertising on a regional Fox News cable channel, hoping to reach people around Kansas and tell them to come spend time here.

Gary Anderson, owner of the LandMark Inn, said the idea of advertising on television had been discussed at the Oberlin Business Alliance meeting. Someone brought up that a lot of people have satellite television now, not cable, which is what the original advertising package was for.

Mr. Anderson said he did some checking around and got a bid from Fox Kansas on satellite, for 60 ads for \$255 or triple the amount of ads for \$550.

The bureau members approved paying for the 60 ads at \$255, adding if the alliance members or Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp. want to put some money in, they could upgrade the package.

The group talked about sponsoring an old-time baseball game as part of the 125th anniversary of the city next year. Museum Director Sharleen Wurm said the anniversary steering committee had met last

Wednesday with only six people present. They talked about doing the old-time game, possibly in April out at Sappa Park. Other ideas for that day might be a barbecue at the park and having vendors sell popcorn and peanuts.

Mrs. Wurm said the group wondered how the event would be paid for. Mr. Anderson said he could see how much it costs to get the teams out of Jetmore to come perform the game.

Connie Grafel, marketing director for the city-county Economic Development Corp., said she got a packet together to send to the Kansas Department of Commerce. Towns along U.S. 36 that are interested in industry were asked to send the packet in, she said.

She said the city has been offered land owned by C&H Power on the highway for \$175,000, which could be used for a new motel. She said the city has turned down other property

along the highway.

Ms. Grafel said she had a call from a man interested in building a motel here. He wanted some information about numbers for the Frontier Motel, she said, and after a call to the establishment, she sent the man the number for the motel.

In other business, the members:

- Heard that the Up in Smoke Barbecue group wants to donate money to the Sappa Park committee through the bureau for electrical needs at the park.
- Talked about putting some kind of calendar in the lobby of the Business Entrepreneurial Enhancement Center for groups to write their events on. That could prevent having several community events on the same day, members said.
- Received a report from Carolyn Hackney, Chamber manager, about a two-day training session held by Marci Penner, with the Kansas Sampler Festival.

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<p>TRACT 1</p> <p>LEGAL DESCRIPTION: The East Half (E/2) of Section Thirty-One (31) Township Two (2) South, Range Twenty-Six (26) West of the 6th P.M. Decatur County Kansas.</p> <p>F.S.A. INFORMATION: 157 acres cultivation, 152.95 acres grassland, 93.43 acres to be planted to wheat. Wheat base: 78.1 acres. Oat base: 8.7 acres. GS base: 20.8 acres.</p> <p>GENERAL INFORMATION: The grassland is watered by a windmill and wet pits.</p> <p>POSSESSION: After the 2009 corn harvest on planted acres. After the 2010 wheat harvest on planted acres with 1/3 of harvested wheat to be delivered to the nearest elevator in purchasers name. Purchaser to pay 1/3 of fertilizer cost. Upon closing on grassland.</p> <p>TAXES: 2008 taxes were \$560.34.</p> <p>MINERALS: All sellers interest to be conveyed (.0833) which is 2/3 of 1/8. One producing oil well and salt water disposal.</p> <p>OIL WELL INFORMATION: Formation: 1 well LKC-Depth 3612; and 1 SWD spud date: 2000, 2007 production: 931 bbls., 2008 production: 1023 bbls., Taxes: #334.16 (2008).</p> <p>PRODUCING OIL INFORMATION: All sellers interest to be conveyed which is .083340 on the tract where the oil well and disposal are located and .125 on the balance of the Half Section. The effective date is January 1, 2010 for both oil runs and SWD rents, if any. The 2008 oil taxes on the .0833 were \$334.16.</p> <p>Seller: The Brunk Sisters Family Farm</p>	<p>TRACT 2</p> <p>LEGAL DESCRIPTION: The West Half (W/2) of the Northwest Quarter (NW/4) of Section Six (6) Township Three (3) South, Range Twenty-Six (26) West of the 6th P.M. Decatur County Kansas.</p> <p>F.S.A. INFORMATION: 59.7 acres Farmland, 57.8 acres cropland, Wheat base: 27.9 acres, GS: 8.2 acres, Soybeans: 13.6 acres.</p> <p>GENERAL INFORMATION: This tract will be planted to wheat.</p> <p>POSSESSION: After the 2010 wheat harvest with 1/3 of the harvested crop to be delivered to the nearest elevator in the purchasers name. Purchaser to pay 1/3 of fertilizer cost.</p> <p>MINERALS: All sellers interest (100%).</p> <p>TAXES: 2008 taxes were \$171.62.</p>
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TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

TERMS: 10% down day of sale, balance upon title approval and delivery of a good and sufficient deed. Said closing to be on or before November 30, 2009 or as soon as title requirements, if any, can be corrected.

TAXES: Seller to pay 2009 and prior taxes and purchaser to pay all 2010 and subsequent taxes.

AGENCY DISCLOSURE: Farmland Auction and Realty Co., Inc. is the agent of the seller.

NOTE: All acreages are to be considered approximate according to information provided. Announcements made day of sale shall take precedence over printed material.

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