



AT THE OBERLIN GRADESCHOOL, Kalen Townsend and Colten Ketterl (above) looked through the new dictionaries they received from the Oberlin Rotary Club.

Lee Gilliam (below) was one of three members who helped hand the books out to the 25 students.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Rotary gives out dictionaries

Rotary Club members presented the third graders at Oberlin Elementary School with their own dictionaries last week.

Lee Gilliam, Ken Morris and Herschel Betts talked to the students before passing out the dictionaries.

One of the big things that Rotary likes to do is support literacy, said Mr. Morris. Dictionaries can help with that, he said, allowing the students to look up words, learn their meanings and how to spell them.

The students, said Teacher Judy Elwood, are learning about community service in social studies, and the Rotary Club giving out dictionaries fits in with that.



More charges being filed for poaching

Additional charges were filed last week in an alleged poaching case in which 12 bucks were killed in Decatur County.

Margaret Mahoney, with the Hirsch and Pratt law office, said a felony charge of commercialization of wildlife had been filed against six of seven people involved in the case, but warrants in the case had not been served.

Ms. Mahoney said she couldn't release the names or the charges other than the felony one.

In addition to five men from Wisconsin being arrested on Wednesday, Dec. 8, on charges of illegally killing a trophy-size mule deer, Ms. Mahoney said, charges now have been filed against two Decatur County men.

On Monday, Clerk of the District Court Janet Meitl said the cases weren't public record until they the warrants have been served.

The felony charge is spelled out in the Kansas statute as knowingly or willingly capturing or killing wildlife for commercial purposes. That includes deer.

The five men were arrested in the Lyle area, in the northeast corner of the county near the Nebraska line. Jail records identified them as John Jacobs III, 53; Joseph R. Jacobs, 28; John Jacobs IV, 30; Mark G. Jacobs, 45; and Paul J. Jacobs, 26. The family is from De Pere, Wis.

They were released later that day on bonds totaling \$83,500, or \$16,700 each. The men had to come up with all of the bond money in cash, not the normal 10 percent, said Sheriff Ken Badsky.

While a first appearance was scheduled for 10 a.m. this morning in Decatur County District Court, Ms. Mahoney said a lawyer for one of the men had requested a continuance.

Dance classes set at Hansen museum

Kerry Ferguson of Kensington will be offering eight weeks of dance lessons for beginning and advanced learners at the Logan City Building, beginning Sunday, Jan. 9, and sponsored by the Dane G. Hansen Museum.

Beginning classes will be from

2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., with advanced sessions from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Participants must be at least 13 years old. Instruction may include waltz, two-step, swing, polka, cha cha and lots of new fun steps. Registration deadline is Monday, Jan. 3.

For details, call (785) 689-4846.

Employee to work two places

After a 15-minute closed session, the Decatur County commissioners came to a consensus to allow the ambulance and health departments to share an employee.

The closed session Dec. 7, called to discuss nonelected personnel, included the commissioners Ambulance Director Linda Manning and Health Administrator Marilyn Gamblin.

No official action was taken, but Commissioner Ralph Unger said the two wanted to share an existing employee and the commissioners' consensus was to go ahead and try it.

Mr. Unger said Ms. Manning and Ms. Gamblin will work out the hours for the employee, Karen Eskew, who works in the ambulance

department and goes on emergency calls now.

With the retirement of Leanna Bryan, who works at the front desk at the health department, he said, that spot will be left open.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman brought in a blanket permit for Nex-Tech Communications to put in new fiber optic cable around the county.

The commissioners approved the permit.

Chief Dispatcher Marilyn Mack came in with a Kansas Wireless Enhanced 911 grant application for 2011, asking for \$22,761. County Attorney Steve Hirsch offered to read it. Later in the meeting, the commissioners approved the grant.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Held a 10-minute closed session for security reasons with no action taken.

- Heard that the transit bus had a flat tire, but they found another one. The crew also changed the oil.

- Heard from Commissioner Gene Gallentine, who said he went by the Dresden Cemetery and it looked nice.

- Signed a letter written by Noxious Weed Control Director Gaylen Huntley supporting the use of mechanical spreaders to broadcast prairie dog poison. Under a new federal regulation, bait would have to be placed by hand. The letter will be sent to the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

Senior top nominee for service academy

Jacob Helm of Norcatur, a senior at Decatur Community High School, has been named the principal nominee for the U.S. Air Force Academy by U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, who will soon take a seat in the U.S. Senate.

"This is a significant honor, and you should take great pride in knowing the selection committee recommended you as my principal nominee, based on your outstanding personal achievements and interviews," said Rep. Moran. "Whatever happens next in your life, I am certain that with your demonstrated academic achievement, skills and character, you have a

future filled with great promise."

Jacob also was an alternate to the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. His brother Aaron will graduate from the Military Academy at West Point on May 11.

Jacob also was nominated for the Air Force Academy by Sen. Pat Roberts.

They are the sons of Mike and Deb Helm of Norcatur. Grandparents are Helen Helm, Cambridge, Neb., and Robert and Marilyn Fossum, Danbury.



Jacob Helm

Student orators get waiver for speech class

The Oberlin School Board gave the OK for waivers from the required speech credit for five graduating seniors.

Superintendent Duane Dorshorst said the district requires a semester credit of speech to graduate, but students who have taken part in the speech and debate teams often ask for waivers.

This year, Jacob Larue, Carissa Wentz, Tim Larson, Tyler Shields and Rachelle Scott all asked the board for the waiver. Each one, said Mr. Dorshorst, explained why they were asking for the waiver.

All the students, he said, did a nice job of articulating what they wanted. Each of the waivers were approved.

The board held two closed sessions for non-elected personnel, the first for 15 minutes with Mr. Dorshorst and board members and the second for 12 minutes without Mr. Dorshorst.

After the closed sessions Mr.

Dorshorst recommended that high school Principal Charlie Haag's contract be extended for the 2011-2012 school year, which was unanimously approved.

The board also unanimously approved extending Mr. Dorshorst's contract for the 2011-2012 year.

In other business, the board:

- Received a "clean" audit report from Brian Thompson, the district's auditor with Mapes and Miller. Mr. Dorshorst said Mr. Thompson commended the board and district on maintaining positive cash balances.

- Selected members Doug Brown and Jerry Chambers as the negotiators for the 2011-2012 teacher agreement, with Monte Moore and Abby Hissong as the substitutes.

- Briefly discussed surveys that were sent to students and high school staff about the eight-period day. Mr. Dorshorst said more students than not said that they would want the eight period day back next

year. A good margin of the teachers said the same thing.

The superintendent said the committee will look at the surveys and compile a report.

- Heard from Iris Mastin, a parent, who wanted to make sure that the board received and read the information sent to them from parent Shannon Addleman about head lice. She asked the board to take proactive measures about dealing with lice.

There was no comment from the board.

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