

Wisconsin man faces 25 charges in poaching case

One of five alleged poachers from Wisconsin now faces 25 charges, including one felony.

Originally Joseph R. Jacobs, 23, was arrested and charged with taking a trophy mule deer buck illegally.

Mr. Jacobs now also faces 12 counts of unlawful possession of wildlife/possessing a carcass of a big game animal, an antlered mule deer which has an inside spread measuring at least 22 inches, without a carcass tag. Each count is a misdemeanor with fines of \$250 for the first offense and \$500 for the second, plus court costs.

He also faces 12 counts of taking a big game animal, an antlered mule deer having an inside spread of at least 22 inches, without a valid big-game permit, also a misdemeanor with the possibility of a \$250 fine for the first offense and \$500 for a second, plus court costs.

Mr. Jacobs already faced a felony charge of commercialization of

wildlife. He is scheduled to appear in Decatur County District Court at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 8.

Mr. Jacobs was arrested with family members John H. Jacobs III, 53; Mark G. Jacobs, 45; John H. Jabos IV, 30; and Paul J. Jacobs, 26, at the beginning of December for allegedly poaching 12 bucks in Decatur County. All were charged with illegally killing a trophy-size mule deer and the felony charge was added on later.

Later, a summons was issued for Jake Swisher of Long Island, in Norton County, for two charges, one count of possessing the carcass of an "antlered mule deer having an inside spread measurement of at least 22 inches" taken in Kansas.

The second charge is for taking an "antlered mule deer having an inside spread measurement of at least 22 inches" in Kansas without a valid big-game permit.

Both charges are class C nonperson misdemeanors.

Chamber sells lots of Santa Bucks

Members of the Oberlin Business Alliance learned during their meeting last Wednesday that the Chamber office had sold \$15,950 in Santa Bucks this season.

Of that amount, said Chamber manager Carolyn Hackney, over \$9,000 has already been spent. People who purchased or received the Santa Bucks, which can be spent at Oberlin Business Alliance and Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce members, have to be used by the end of March, she said.

In the past, the Santa Bucks were printed in \$20 increments. This year, the scrip was printed in \$10 amounts with a few for \$5, which Laurie Wasson, owner of Prairie Petals, said she appreciated.

The members agreed the Ladies

Shopping Night had gone well and was a success again this year. This was the second year for the late shopping promotion.

The Men's Shopping Night, which was a week later, also had gone well, said Kurt Vollertsen, owner of Ward Drug Store. Joe Stanley, owner of Stanley Hardware, said he actually sold more on Men's Night.

Moving the start time up one-half hour to 9 p.m. helped, said Mr. Vollertsen. He added that he was pleased with the participation by the merchants.

The alliance meets at noon the first Wednesday of the month at The LandMark Inn. Anyone who's interested is welcome to attend the meetings. The group plans promotions for Oberlin businesses.

City Council meets with auditor, lawyer

The Oberlin City Council met behind closed doors for over an hour during its meeting last Thursday, but took no action afterwards.

The first session, called for 30 minutes to discuss nonelected personnel, included auditor Brian Thompson of Mapes and Miller, council members, the mayor and city attorney. With about five minutes to go, Mr. Thompson left the session.

The council called for an additional 10 minutes with the council, mayor and attorney.

The council approved another 30-minute closed session for non

elected personnel with the council members, mayor and attorney.

City Administrator Karen Larson said last week that the council was suppose to receive the 2009 audit from Mapes and Miller, but the audit report wasn't given during the public meeting.

The 2009 audit isn't yet finished, said Mrs. Larson, although the auditors hope to have it done by the beginning of February. With the treasurer's computer system crashing in 2009 and the city's computer system crashing in 2010, it's taken the auditors longer than expected to process the numbers, she said.

Goodbye, Christmas



BEFORE THE WEATHER got bad, Logan Fortin and Willard Perrin helped other city crew members take down Christmas decorations last week.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

County may get \$1 baler

The Decatur County noxious weed control director talked with commissioners about the possibility of getting another baler for the recycling program for just \$1, but no decision was made.

During the meeting last Tuesday Director Gaylen Huntley said he had heard a baler is available from the recycling center in Colby for \$1. All of the bales would then have to go to the recycling center in Colby and Decatur County would have to pay for insurance.

Mr. Huntley said the baler could do both cardboard and shredded paper just like the one the county has. The plus would be not having to switch types, so each machine could do one type all the time. One baler would be designated for cardboard and one for shredded paper.

Commissioner Gene Gallentine asked if Mr. Huntley was planning another electronic waste day collection day. Colby takes the e-waste at 25 cents per pound, he said. In order to do it here, the county would have had to buy a scale. He said he didn't want to do that.

Mr. Huntley said the programs on his computer are having problems. He said he's not sure if it's time to get a new computer or if everything needs to be taken off this one and put back on.

The department's computer is a restored, used machine that was bought last spring, he said. It gets so dirty in the office, because of the location, he said, that it might not be worth buying a new one.

The commissioners asked him to do some research on the cost of a different machine and see if he could find someone to come work on it.

The commissioners signed an agreement between the county and state to treat noxious weeds along state highways for the year.

Some close for holiday on Monday

Federal offices and financial institutions will be closed on Monday for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Most other businesses will be open, including *The Oberlin Herald*. There will be no mail service, but advertising and news may be placed in the slot in the front door over the weekend or brought to the office on Monday.

County and city offices will be open and Oberlin schools will have classes.

First-responder class set to go

The Decatur County commissioners heard a little about an upcoming first responder class for the ambulance service at their meeting last Tuesday.

Chris Koerperich, who will be teaching the class, said it was suppose to start last week, but some of his paperwork was rejected by the state. He said he will resubmit it. Essentially, he said, he left out a few words.

Mr. Koerperich had a copy of the syllabus for the class for the commissioners to take a look at.

The fees will be \$320 per student for tuition \$120 for books and \$40 for lab equipment. He said he plans to apply for a grant to cover the expenses. The fees are traded out for a years worth of volunteering for the service, but if the student doesn't volunteer for a year he or she will have to pay the county for it. Mr. Koerperich said he is trying to get a grant to cover the class.

Five people came to the initial meeting, he said, and three others

County Roundup

At the meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Briefly discusses the possibility of re-drawing lines to move some townships from one commissioner district to another to even out population numbers. Story on Page 5A.
- Heard about an upcoming first-responder class for the ambulance service. Story at left.
- Talked with the noxious weed control director about the possibility of getting another baler for the recycling program for just \$1, but didn't make a decision. Story at right.

were here to look at the ambulances recently. They didn't find anything major wrong, she said, but minor items included a bottle of sterile water was past the expiration date. It expired in December, she said.

The other is they had some lollipops being kept with the glucose medicines to help diabetic patients. The lollipops had to be thrown away, she said.

"It looks good," said Commissioner Ralph Unger while looking at the paperwork.

Ms. Manning said state inspectors

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DECATUR COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT AWARDS MEETING

Monday, February 7

Gateway Civic Center
Oberlin, Kansas

Supper - 6:30 p.m.

If you plan to attend the meeting, please call the Decatur County Conservation District Office at (785) 475-3131 Extension 101

The supper meal is courtesy of the Decatur County Banker's Association.

Please make your reservations by Friday, January 28, 2011