

Board waives 90-day notice for boys home

The Oberlin School Board agreed last week to waive the 90-day notice normally required for placing juveniles from a facility here in the school.

At a board meeting last Monday, Superintendent Duane Dorshorst said King's Treatment Center contacted him because the company plans to open a home up in Oberlin again using the Boys Town model with house parents. They are planning for seven boys from 12 to 18 living in the home and attending Oberlin schools.

They normally would have to give the district 90 day notice, said Mr. Dorshorst, before the kids can be enrolled. He said they are asking for a waiver, and he agreed.

The board unanimously approved waiving the notice. Mr. Dorshorst didn't say when the kids will start arriving at the 180 House, which is on Elk Avenue. He said he knew the house parents were supposed to be here or had just arrived.

King's Treatment operated the 180 House once before, using an employee model, not house parents.

Board member Dan Wasson said he went to a Northwest Kansas Technical College meeting and learned that the college has had 15 inquiries from international students for enrollment for next year.

The college, he said, has changed some general education requirements to allow students to earn credits for work experience.

He said the school is looking for a 60-passenger athletic bus, for sports. In other business, the board:

- Expressed gratitude to Mr. Dorshorst for the way he has stepped

School roundup

At its meeting last Monday, the Oberlin School Board:

- Approved waiving a 90-day notice normally required for enrolling students in a juvenile facility in the district. Story at left.
- Agreed to cover the bus expenses and hotel rooms for the teacher and bus driver to take 15 students to the Kansas State University band clinic. Story to come.

- Received a copy of the district's procedure for dealing with head lice. Story on front page.
- Approved two resolutions to continue raising tax dollars for the district's capital outlay fund. Story to come.

up the past several weeks. Board member Monte Moore agreed, adding thanks to the staff which he said have done the same. Mr. Moore said his thoughts and prayers were still with the family of veteran English teacher Leigh Davis.

- Approved hiring Doug Mason and Anthony Marshall as assistant speech coaches at the high school to replace Miss Davis in a 6-1 vote, with Mr. Wasson opposing, although he didn't give a reason.
- Held one closed session for 10 minutes and three for five to discuss non-elected personnel. There was no action taken afterward.
- Held a 10 minute closed session for negotiations, with no action taken.

Airport meeting gets rescheduled

Bad weather across the state led to canceling an open meeting on the city's airport project last week.

Don Klappmeyer, the engineer with BWR, the company designing the project, wasn't able to make it to the scheduled meeting last Thursday. The meeting has been rescheduled to 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 3.

During an Oberlin City Council meeting Thursday night, City Administrator Karen Larson passed out a letter about the airport from the Federal Aviation Agency which basically said the money for the airport isn't yet set aside for the project.

Councilman Bill Riedel said he has a "huge concern" about the letter because he thought the agency had already earmarked money for the

city's runway rebuilding project.

Larson said the first letter she received from the agency didn't include the project on the current runway because it had been pushed back to 2012. She said she called the agency, and the project was put back on the list.

Mr. Riedel said he would hate for Congress to pull the plug on the project and the city not actually have the money to finish it. This letter, he said, just raises a bunch of uncertainty with terms like "discretionary financing." Maybe Mr. Klappmeyer can shed some light on things, he said.

The letter, Councilwoman Rhonda May noted, does say to hold the bids until June.

Notice of Personal Property Assessment

Personal property renditions must be filed between January 1 and March 15. Renditions filed after March 15 will have a penalty for late filing. Taxable personal property includes: Business and shop equipment, computers and printer, boats, motor and trailers, aircraft, mobile homes, camping and travel trailers, flatbed and car trailers, mopeds, ATV's, golf cars, trucks, non-tagged and non-highway vehicles and improvements on leased land.

The Decatur County Appraiser's Office need to be notified of the sale of any personal property during 2009. All taxpayers must file before the March 15 deadline.

All new businesses in Decatur County are required to contact the Decatur County Appraiser's Office to report business equipment for tax purposes.

If you have no personal property to report please call us to verify that you are in the county for census purposes.

Personal Property Penalties:

March 15 through April 15	5%
April 16 through May 15	10%
May 16 through June 15	15%
June 16 through July 15	20%
On or after July 16 through May 14 of the following year	25%
Failure to File	50%

Decatur County Appraiser's office
785-475-8109



AT THE Jennings United Methodist Church last Tuesday Joan Metz gave blood during the drive to honor Lawrence Jennings. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Many give blood to honor man

The Jennings United Methodist Church held a blood drive Tuesday, Jan. 18, in honor of long-time area resident, Lawrence Jennings, who suffers from acute leukemia.

The response to the call for blood donors was impressive. Nearly 40 friends, neighbors, and relatives volunteered. Of this number, 25 were invited to participate. The drive could take only a limited number because this type of drive has just two nurses to draw blood and do the rest of the work.

The blood collected will help supply rural hospitals in the area.

Dawn Gabel, Red Cross representative, said the blood drive was "sneaked in, meaning that it was not pre-planned, and that all these units were a real asset to the surrounding hospitals.

The Red Cross would like to do another drive in Jennings or in one of the other towns in the area in the future, she said. They could schedule another one for next spring or summer if there is any interest. Ms. Gable said she encourages everyone to consider donating in the larger Norton, Oberlin or Hoxie drives. People must wait at

least 56 days between donations, she noted.

Ms. Gable said the donors and kitchen help in Jennings seemed to enjoy the day and the camaraderie. She said the Red Cross workers thoroughly enjoyed working with Mr. Jennings' friends and family and members of the church. The church members expressed its thanks to all who participated.

Anyone interested in making an appointment to donate blood should call 1-800-REDCROSS, Ms. Gable said.

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