

Couple hired as house parents

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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Shane and Blossom Mahan have worked with teenagers for years.

While Oberlin's revamped 180 House is in a new town, it's not anything that they are unfamiliar with. They have been working with teenage boys and girls for King's Treatment Center out of Goddard for a while now.

Mrs. Mahan said she went to school to do this kind of work. She added that she enjoys working with teens and making an impact on their lives.

Mr. Mahan said he had experience working at the Wilson County Jail and as a carpenter before switching to work in a boys home.

His wife said they had already started to work as a team with teenagers when they were asked to move from Fredonia to Oberlin to serve as the house parents in the 180 House on Elk Avenue.

The home can take seven boys from 14 to 19. Each one is placed in the home for various reasons. Mrs. Mahan said the boys have to either attend high school in town or be working on their general equivalency diploma through Colby Community College.

While the 180 House has been opened before by King's Treatment Center, this time it's being done using a family model. The Mahans are mom and dad. They live in the home with the boys.

Besides the Mahans there are four other staff members, two full-time and two part-time. The staff helps take the kids to appointments, with homework and in other areas.

The staff, said Mrs. Mahan, isn't at the home all day, every day as she and her husband are.

Mrs. Mahan said they are looking for places where the boys can do community service. She feels



SHANE AND BLOSSOM MAHAN outside the 180 House on Elk Avenue with their dogs. The Mahans are the new house parents at the boys' home.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

that it's important to give back to the community.

The teens are active in Teens for Christ, too, and she added that they have lots of ideas for programs, including teaching budgeting and how to fill out job applications.

While the couple has lived here since the middle of January, they didn't get kids in the home until

just a few weeks ago.

Mrs. Mahan said they are here for the long haul. They believe consistency, schedules and routines are important to kids and she wants all of the teens to have security and feel at home.

At some time, she said, they will plan an open house for their neighbors and the whole town.

College locked down for a day

By **KEVIN BOTTRELL**
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Colby Community College was evacuated and locked down Thursday after officials learned of threats posted on a former student's Facebook page.

Colby Police Chief Randy Jones said the student, Jamie Adams of McDonald had been removed from campus on Wednesday, and the Facebook threats — against himself and others — were discovered the next morning.

Jamie Lee Adams, 20, McDonald, was booked into the Thomas County Jail about 8:35 a.m., records at the sheriff's office indicated. He was charged with disorderly conduct by Colby police. Adams, described as 5 feet, 11 inches tall, 200 pounds, with blue eyes and brown hair, was released at 10 p.m. Wednesday with a notice to appear in court.

His booking sheet said he was released to a parent or guardian.

College officials said they received a call from a third party informing them of the threats early this morning, Chief Jones said, and

administrators called the police and sheriff's office around 8 a.m.

"There is an ongoing investigation with regards to this student," Jones said. "He has been withdrawn from classes as of yesterday."

The college's Emergency Response Team — which includes Debby Schwanke, public information director, administrators and other key staff — met in the morning and decided to close the campus at 10 a.m. Classes were canceled for the day and the staff and students told to leave. The dorms were not evacuated, Mrs. Schwanke said, but they were locked down and students told to stay put. She said the college took the students' box lunches.

"We want to be as cautious as we can," she said.

The college was posting information on its website. At noon, an entry said the campus was fully secured by about 11:30 a.m. By late morning, the campus was quiet and mostly deserted. No police cars were visible.

Colby Public Schools were put on a "modified lockdown," officials

said in a "reverse 911" notice sent to parents as text messages or e-mails. Outside doors were locked, with employees stationed to monitor them, but students were not restricted to classrooms.

Colby High School had no regular classes Thursday, since it was the site for the State Large-Group Music Festival. The festival went on as scheduled.

Mrs. Schwanke said student events Thursday at the college were canceled, including the Spring Formal and a discussion group on last week's Max Pickerill Lecture.

About noon, a notice was posted saying "the situation on campus has stabilized." It said classes and activities would resume Friday, with the campus to remain "on heightened awareness."

The response team continued to meet throughout the day. Mrs. Schwanke said the college's website, www.colbycc.edu, would be updated with more details. The college set up a phone bank at 462-3984 to answer questions.

County OKs four new pagers

The Decatur County commissioners approved buying four new pagers for the Oberlin Fire Department at their meeting last Tuesday.

Fire Chief Bill Cathcart said the pagers would cost around \$465 with an extended five year warranty at \$80.

Chief Cathcart talked to the commissioners about a 1988 Chevy truck that he would like to turn into a flatbed. He said the truck had a flat tire that messed up the fender. Later someone backed it into a tree.

Commissioner Ralph Unger

said they should check with the insurance company about making the truck a flatbed. Commissioner Gene Gallentine suggested that Mr. Cathcart get an estimate on what it would cost.

The commissioners approved order numbers which allowed townships to transfer money to the road and bridge department for work done on their roads. Those included \$410 from Bassettsville, \$415 from Finley, \$2,392 from Logan, \$666 from Oberlin, \$1,176 from Olive, \$628 from Sherman and \$708 from

Summit.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard that someone with Hinkle's Termite and Pest Control was here to start working on the termite treatment for the courthouse.

- Held a 15-minute closed session for non-elected personnel with the commissioners, county attorney and clerk. There was no action taken.

- Approved the minutes from the Tuesday, April 5, meeting.

School board votes to rehire all teachers at both buildings

The Oberlin School Board approved the re-employment of all teachers Monday, both those who already have tenure, and those who weren't tenured, and moved a few teachers to the tenure list at both schools.

At the grade school, the board approved re-employing tenured staff including:

- Kimberly Witt, second grade; Diana Steinmetz, kindergarten; Carol Dixon, fifth and sixth; Sherri Ruf, fourth; Cindy Sattler, first; Kathy Tacha, second; Carol Wasson, title; Sheila Jansonius, counselor; Judy Elwood, third; Sandy Ketterl, fifth and sixth; Jeff Jones, physical education; Belinda Jones,

fifth and sixth; Terri Woolsey, part-time art; Linda Glaze part-time library; and Jeri Buchholz, part-time kindergarten.

The board also approved re-employing Jeni Henningson and moving her to a tenured spot and offered a new contract to Kerrie Wahlmeier, who is not yet tenured.

The board approved rehiring the tenured staff at the Decatur Community Junior/Senior High School including:

- Brenda Breth, English, journalism and counselor; Carol Brown, Spanish; Caleb Howland, science; Susan Nelson, vocal music; Tim Breth, math; Candy Dejmaj, computer; J.D. Johnson, social studies;

Wendy Scott, math; Mark Bricker, science; Pat Dorshorst, math; Jason Ketterl, vocational agriculture; Sarah Bricker, band; Joe Dreher, gym and athletic director; Marlene Moxter, family science; Linda Glaze, part-time library; Jeff Jones, part-time gym; and Terri Woolsey, part-time art.

At the high school, the board approved moving Rachele Johnson, social science, to a tenured spot. Members approved rehiring Josh Willby, industrial arts, and Deedre Frasier, English, as nontenured teachers.

The board also approved the part-time contracts of veteran teachers Dick Ahlberg and Randy Olson.

Council won't meet until May

The Oberlin City Council won't meet Thursday for its regularly scheduled meeting, but will meet the first week in May.

City Administrator Karen Larson said the council wouldn't have a

quorum for the second meeting of the month on Thursday.

She said she plans a reception at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 5, at The Gateway to welcome the new council members and mayor and say thanks

to those going off the council.

The meeting will follow at 7 p.m., when new members start their terms.

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