16 Pages, 2 Sections Wednesday, April 3, 2013 135th Year, Number 14

Coryell found guilty on two counts

Courthouse, and his bond was revoked both Cook and Sarah Campbell, who lay in rett requested dismissal of all the charges

Coryell had been on trial since last Mon-

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An Oberlin man was found guilty of second-degree, nonpremeditated murder and aggravated battery Wednesday morning following a week of testimony in Decatur County District Court.

Charges of aggravated burglary and an alternate charge of felony murder had been dismissed Monday by Judge Preston Pratt, who ruled that the state had not shown enough evidence to prove them.

The jury also apparently decided that the defense hadn't shown enough evidence for them to prove a "voluntary intoxication" argument that basically said Mr. Coryell was too drunk at the time of the murder to know what he was doing.

After the verdict was read, the jury resumed deliberation on aggravating factors in the case, then decided to approve what is known as "upward departure" from state until then. sentencing guidelines, which means that

Herald reporter held in contempt of court



than the usual prison time.

With the upward departure, Judge Pratt

verdict was read in the Dylan Coryell murder trial. Judge Preston Pratt dismissed the contempt charge

when she deleted the photos about an hour later. about the rules regarding photography in the courthouse, and apologized to the families.

"I was given strict rules that I had to adhere to for

bed with the victim.

Oberlin Herald reporter Stephanie DeCamp was photography during the trial," she said. "I thought that found in contempt of court last Wednesday for taking I could take pictures in the hallway after court was photographs of the Cook and Coryell families after the adjourned and the trial over, but that was not the case. I apologize if I hurt anyone's feelings, and promise to be more careful in the future."

Miss DeCamp was given a list at the beginning Miss DeCamp said that she had been mistaken of the trial of witnesses she was not allowed to photograph, and was also under instructions to not take pictures of the jury or outside of the courtroom.

against Coryell.

for it to fire. sentence: First, that Airman Corey Cook the early morning hours of Oct. 16, 2011. Sentencing was scheduled for 10 a.m. was killed while he slept and second, that The prosecution rested its case Monday Monday, June 17, at the Decatur County the shot was fired knowing that it could kill morning, and defense attorney Justin Bar-

On the first charge of premeditated mur-

reasonable doubt that Coryell had thought or planned out the shooting beforehand.

"I think there has been ample evidence," Mr. Barrett told the court, "that ... the intent of all three of the men that night was that a fight would occur....One thing that remains through all of this testimony is that they

wanted a fist fight." Nicole Romine, an assistant attorney general who prosecuted the case, argued that the jury had heard evidence of how Mr. Cook died, that Coryell was the one holding the gun and that the gun had to be loaded and cocked and the trigger pulled

"Whoever had action on that gun," she said, "had to complete three acts in order to discharge it."

Furthermore, she argued that the jury had heard ample evidence that there were grudges against Mr. Cook, and had seen with their own eyes that he had been shot

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Four votes separate three city candidates

By STEPHANIE DeCAMP sdecamp@nwkansas.com

Two new members will be joining the Oberlin City Council after Tuesday's city elections. Just which two may not be known until the official canvass of the votes on Monday, however, since only four votes separated the three newcomers.

In final unofficial returns, however, Josh Williby, who has already served one term, had the most votes with 240. Next behind him was Rachael Johnson, a teacher and a member of the city Pool Committee with 190. Next were longtime Decatur County Clerk Marilyn Horn, a conservative who came out against airport expansion, with 187 votes and pool committee member Danielle Leitner with 186.

County commissioners will do the canvass, where officials do an official tally of all the votes and check the totals for errors to estab-

ful to everyone that they voted for we can get done." me," said Mrs. Johnson when she heard the news. "I'm really excited



J. Williby

to get started and be a part of Oberlin moving forward."

Mr. Williby, the veteran of the group, felt the same way toward the newcomers

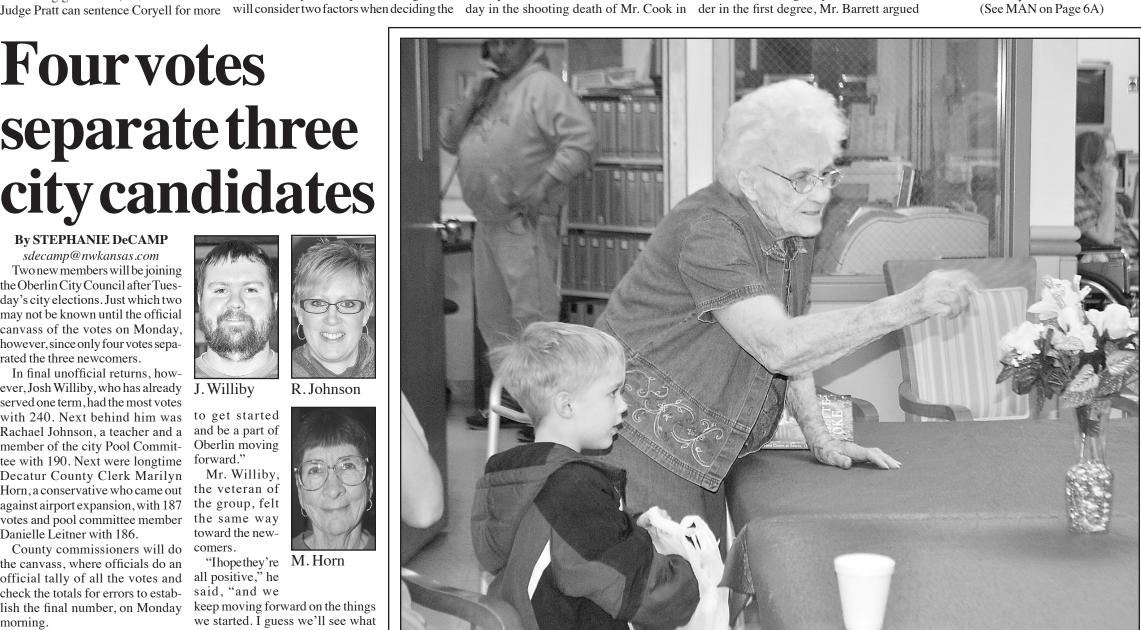
"Ihopethey're all positive," he said, "and we

lish the final number, on Monday keep moving forward on the things we started. I guess we'll see what "I am so pleased and so thank- the next four years brings and what

R. Johnson

M. Horn

Both Mrs. Horn and Mrs. Leitner (See CITY on Page 6A)



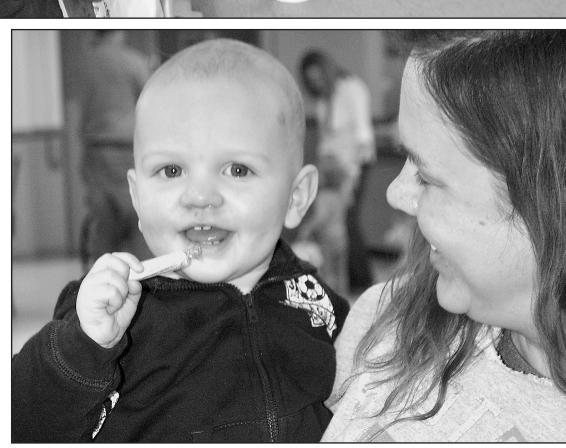
Annual candy hunt egg-citing **HELPING HIM REACH**

some hard-to-get candy, Audra Duncan assisted Rustin Bailey (above) while he was searching for sweets

and eggs last Tuesday at the Cedar Living Center. The Easter Bunny made an early visit to the center this year so that kids like Tucker Scott and mom Kristin Stragey (right) could get in on the

chocolatey fun.

- Herald staff photos by Stephanie DeCamp



Board members get another turn

By STEPHANIE DeCAMP sdecamp@nwkansas.com

The Oberlin School Board will have three returning members, as all the incumbents easily won re-election Tuesday night in final, unofficial returns from Decatur

Board members Abbey Hissong, Doug Brown and Dan Wasson were all re-elected: Mr. Brown got 364 votes, Mrs. Hissong 359, Mr. Wasson 335 and newcomer David Blau 177.

Mr. Blau couldn't be reached for comment, but said in a previous interview this month that he had filed when there were only two candidates, creating a potential vacancy on the board.

"At the time that I signed up," he said, "I heard there might be two running and there was an open spot, and I thought that it was too important a position to not run for.... I just want people to vote for who they think the best candidate is. I just saw a vacant seat, and that shouldn't happen with the school board."

Mrs. Hissong said she was happy with the results.

"I'm really looking forward to the opportunity to continue with the knowledge I have," she said, "and



A. Hissong

Dan Wasson to do more for our students and

community." Mr. Brown and Mr. Wasson both said they were happy, but as men of few words, elected to say almost the exact same thing when called for

comment: "I just appreciate everyone that voted for me and I'll do the

best I can." County commissioners will canvass the votes on Monday, going

over any provisional ballots to decide whether they should be counted and checking the totals for any errors. That seemed unlikely to change the results, however.

Paper held for election

lin Herald has been delayed by a day to include election results for mail in Decatur County on Thurs-Oberlin, Dresden, Jennings and the Oberlin School Board.

This should delay your delivery

This week's issue of *The Ober*- one day. Papers will be at newsstands on Wednesday and in the day. If you experience delivery problems, call our office at (785)

Rain helps wheat, brings on weeds By STEPHANIE DeCAMP emerge, the weeds will be invasive, record," said Mary Knapp, state super cold temperatures to cause sdecamp@nwkansas.com damage to the wheat as it begins

Spring is here, but the wheat crop is not out of the woods yet - in fact, it's about to start getting into the

Right now, the plants are in the stage between emerging from the ground and jointing, when the heads begin to appear and grow, said Keith VanSkike, an agronomist with the Norton County office of Twin Creeks Extension.

"A lot for the wheat just hasn't emerged very well," he said, "so if we can keep this happening, it will help out quite a bit.

Wheat's probably not covering the ground very good, so there will be some weed problems coming in. Farmers should pay attention to that. Anytime the wheat is slow to

and they're really set to take over this time of year.'

The rain over the weekend ranged from small traces to about .2 of an inch of moisture, said David Thede, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Goodland.

"The wheat is still going to be protected from cold temperatures," Mr. VanSkike said. "Any good moisture we can get is very valuable, especially with the smaller seedlings we have now. Along with some nice sunny days, it could definitely turn things around here. Anytime we can get water and save it, with some good growing days around, that's good.'

being the 20th coldest March on

The mean temperature for March was 37.1 degrees, and that ranks as

climatologist at Kansas State University. "You should note that last March averaged 48.9 degrees, and it was the third warmest (on record).

"On the moisture side of things, Oberlin was on the drier side, and saw .69 of an inch of moisture in March, and that includes the melted snow. So it's been drier than it was last March, but that's offset by the fact that it was much cooler than last March, so that moisture has had a better chance of actually making it into the ground instead of evaporating.

April, she said, is slated to be a little wetter than usual, but only a

"The big concern now is that the wheat is starting to green up," she said, "so we really don't want any

"It's just starting to get caught up and green up," Mr. Van Skike agreed. "I was surprised at how green some

to joint. It's much less tolerant of

cold temperatures as it moves into

that stage.'

of the fields have gotten, but it's still pretty sparse. It's going to be quite a bit behind. Typically by the 15th of April, it's starting to joint up, but it won't happen that soon this year. But you never know; it can move pretty fast when it needs to."

