

Ramell Taylor is the newest reporter for *The Oberlin Herald*. Joining the staff last Wednesday, he is just starting his journalism career after graduating from college.



R. Taylor

Though he is a native of Detroit, Mr. Taylor said his "home away from home" has been here in Kansas for more than four years.

He first moved to the state in 2008 to attend Fort Scott Community College. Along with academic and athletic honors, Mr. Taylor received his Associate of Science degree in 2010.

University in Cedar City, where he played basketball. He graduated with academic honors, receiving a bachelor's degree in communications while minoring in journalism in 2012.

After finishing up his bachelor's, Mr. Taylor returned to Fort Scott, then he moved to Oberlin shortly after.

He says he's used to the peaceful atmosphere small towns such as Oberlin have to offer. After growing up in a big town like Detroit, Mr. Taylor said, he has come to appreciate being in an environment that is safe and "not too congested."

Some of the hobbies that he enjoys include fitness, writing and video editing. Mr. Taylor had an emphasis on broadcasting while obtaining his communication degree.

He came from a single-parent home of five boys. He is the middle child, which Mr. Taylor said had its advantages.

"I had the opportunity to watch my older brothers grow up before me," he said. "I saw a lot of their foolish mistakes, not to mention my mother was constantly telling me 'not to be like your older brothers.'"

He's excited to be in Oberlin, Mr. Taylor said, and he hopes that the people will embrace him, as he hopes to help serve *The Herald* and the people of Oberlin to the best of his abilities.

Board hires two teachers, retains staff

The Oberlin School Board hired two new teachers at its May meeting and accepted the resignation of one. Superintendent Duane Dorshorst said the board hired Brandon Gehring, who was teaching in Logan and coaching girls basketball, track and football. He will teach physical education at the grade school and high school.

The board also hired Elizabeth Edmonds, who will teach English at the high school. She had been teaching in Topeka.

Mr. Dorshorst said the board accepted the resignations of Dana Juenemann, who was teaching English; Caleb Howland as assistant senior high wrestling coach; and Linda Weber, head cook at the high school.

After a five-minute closed session, with no action, the board approved re-employment for staff, or nonprofessional, positions:

- Vickie Lippelmann, board clerk.
- Pam Simonsson, secretary/

treasurer.

- Ron Jansonius, technology coordinator.
- Terry Ream, outdoor maintenance supervisor.
- Brian Simonsson, transportation supervisor.
- Kenny Black, facilities/plant supervisor.
- Johanna Mason, school nurse.
- Judy Marietta and Melissa Dreher, high school secretaries.
- Marilyn Mack, Carolyn Shirley, Charissa Huff, John Otis and Kim

Weishapl, custodians.

- Shannon Barber, Shanna Long, Donna Sauvage and Renee Harman, food service.
- Lisa Fortin, library aide at both schools.
- Carla Depperschmidt, grade school secretary.
- Jackie Anderson and Kelly Shields, teacher aides at the grade school.
- Jeanne Pachner, Clara Russ, Lairy Gohl, David Olson, John Stanley and Chris Hardy, bus drivers.

Curriculum changed to meet state standards

The Oberlin School Board approved an updated English curriculum at the high school to meet revised Kansas College and Career Ready Standards.

Superintendent Duane Dorshorst said the standards have been re-focused. The old standards didn't

include as much writing or speaking and listening skills.

During the meeting on Monday, May 13, the board also approved math and family and consumer science, or home economics, textbooks. The math curriculum was updated last year.

In other business, the board:

- Tabled a request for the firefighters' wives to use the high school stadium for a Fourth of July laser light show until the group can provide proof of insurance, Mr. Dorshorst said.
- Heard that capital outlay projects for the summer include new doors for the music wing at the high

school and for the west side of the high school near the cafeteria, finish tiling in the high school cafeteria, continued upgrading for the lighting at the grade school, remodeling an upstairs computer lab at the high school and putting in a separation curtain between the high school gym and wrestling area to help with heating costs in the winter.

Library has reading program

By RAMELL TAYLOR
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Monday was the first day of the Oberlin City Library's Summer Reading Program. Children from preschool to high school can schedule individual reading sessions any time throughout the library's regular hours.

Library Director Carol Smith says the open schedule allows kids to work around summer activities and encourages them to work at their own pace.

Perks for children participating in the program include prize draw-

ings, as well as treats after reading assignments, she said.

"The goal is for each child to read 15 books or 1,000 pages," Ms. Smith said. "This way, the program is flexible for any age group."

She added that preschool students can have someone in the household read to them.

"This works very well when you have more than one kid in the same household," she said.

Anyone who would like to enroll a child in the program or has questions can call the library at (785) 475-2412

Patriotic paint contest begins

A popular promotion will return for the second year, organizers say. Paint Oberlin Patriotic will begin the week of Flag Day, Friday, June 14, running throughout fair week in August.

Residents can participate by decorating their homes, businesses, and other properties in patriotic decor.

This year, the event will be co-sponsored by the Oberlin Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Decatur Area Chamber of Com-

merce.

A \$100 gift certificate will be awarded to the best decorated home, business, and non profit organization (churches, government, buildings, clubs, etc.).

The displays will be judged sometime before the Fourth of July. Anyone who would like to sign up their property to be judged or request information should contact the Decatur Area Chamber of Commerce at (785) 475-3441.

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