

Veterans honored at school

By ERIN JEFFREY

The Decatur Dictator

The National Honor Society at Decatur Community High School organized a special assembly to honor and remember all veterans on Veterans Days.

The program started off with an honor guard from the Oberlin American Legion Post posting the colors. The students all rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by the DCHS Singers singing the National Anthem.

Society officers Jacob Larue, Carissa Wentz and Rhiannon Davies introduced the 43 veterans in the audience.

Miss Wentz told the history of Veterans Day and why we celebrate it today.

"In 1918, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, World War I ended," she said. "Nov. 11 became known as Armistice Day, which was later changed to Veterans Day and then made a national holiday by President Eisenhower in 1954."

"Every year on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, the President of the United States places a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns, and all Americans honor those who have fought or died to serve our country."

Mr. Larue then introduced the speaker, John Stanley, who said he enlisted in the Army on Dec. 29, 1965, and reached the rank of

Sergeant. He served in Vietnam from August 1966 to August 1967. Mr. Stanley said he received the Combat Infantry Badge, National Defense Medal, South East Asia Campaign Ribbon, and Vietnam Service Ribbon. He also received top secret cryptographic clearance from the National Security Agency to be able to join the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment's 409th Army Security Agency Detachment.

Mr. Stanley talked about his experiences in Vietnam, saying "I'm proud of what we did."

He said that it took him 30 years to be able to talk about the war.

"People who know me know that I come from a large, close family," he said, "but I couldn't even talk to them about what I had gone through."

He explained that veterans share a special bond, and only other veterans could understand his experiences in Vietnam.

Mr. Stanley encouraged the students to talk to veterans.

"Listen to their stories," he said. "They have a lot to share."

At the conclusion of his speech, Mr. Stanley received a standing ovation.

Closing the program was the singing of "America, the Beautiful" by the veterans, students and audience. The veterans were then asked to stand out in the hall so the students could shake their hands and

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IN THE FIELD SUNDAY, Kaine Fredrickson (above right) reached down to grab a pheasant from the dog while Brent Williams and Tom Maher of Colorado Springs watched. The men said they come every year to hunt opening

weekend. Dean Hoag (below left) and Mitch Busted of Fort Collins, Colo., cleaned up their last bird of the day.

— Photos by Sarah Fredrickson and Kimberly Davis

Hunters limit out on birds

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

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Hunters dressed in camouflage and orange hit the fields bright and early Saturday morning in search of pheasants, maybe a few quail.

Some hunted by themselves and others with their friends and relatives. While some hunters used the walk-in hunting areas leased by the state, others hunted private property.

On Sunday afternoon, Mitch Busted and Dean Hoag of Fort Collins, Colo., were cleaning birds they had bagged that morning in the field.

Mr. Hoag said it was a good day. Both men shot their limit on Saturday and one on Sunday.

They said this was the second year they had come to Oberlin to hunt pheasants, and both plan to come back in the future.

Compared to last year, they said the hunting was better. The (See HUNTERS on Page 10A)



Calendar filling up with holiday events

The holidays are approaching and calendars are filling up.

Here are a few events that you won't want to miss:

- Starting at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 25 at St. John's Lutheran Church, volunteers will serve a home-cooked Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Everyone is invited to come take part.

Organizers still need volunteers to make pies and salads. Money raised at the meal, which is served for a donation, is donated to the Decatur County Food Pantry.

Anyone interested in attending can call Teresa Diederich at 475-3525. Shut-ins can order a meal to be delivered that day.

- Around 6:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 26, the annual Parade of Lights will kick off the shopping season

in downtown Oberlin. The theme this year is Candy Land Christmas. Anyone interested in having a float can call the Chamber of Commerce office at 475-3441.

- Following the parade, Santa Claus will meet with kids of all ages at the Golden Age Center.

- From 5 to 8 p.m. that same night, the Last Indian Raid Museum plans to hold "Mall in the Hall," allowing people with home-based businesses to sell their wares.

It will also be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27, in the Old Bohemian Hall.

- From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. that Saturday, the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce plans to hold its annual Holiday Craft Show at The Gateway.

Traffic accident claims life

A 26-year-old Oberlin man was killed last Wednesday when his Jeep Cherokee drifted across the centerline and ripped a wheel off a southbound semitrailer, then flipped onto its top in the northbound lane about a mile south of Oberlin on U.S. 83.

Witnesses said Mickeal Leroy Quakenbush was driving home from Colby, where he was a cashier at Love's Country Store, about 8:30 a.m. when his 1989 Jeep crossed the center line and hit the rear wheels of the southbound trailer. Much of the 1989 Jeep's front end was crushed, the left front wheel was ripped off, and the sport-utility vehicle came to rest on its top.

"I tried to miss him, but I couldn't," said Kenneth Jones, 64, who was driving the truck.

Mr. Jones, of Altus, Okla., said he had been hauling carbon black for Goodyear, but he was empty at the time.

(See ACCIDENT on Page 10A)



EMERGENCY WORKERS stopped traffic last Wednesday morning after an accident a mile south of town that claimed the life of a 26-year-old Oberlin man.

— Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

Board approves policy for public weight room

The Oberlin School Board adopted policies last Monday to open a community weight and work out room at the high school starting in December.

Superintendent Duane Dorshorst said he called the Kansas Association of School Boards and was surprised to find that if the district opens the facility to the public and just posts signs that the room is not supervised, the district isn't liable for accidents.

Actually, he said, the less the district does to supervise the room the less the district can be sued for. Mr. Dorshorst said if a piece of equipment is broken and the staff knows about it, a sign needs to be posted on the machine.

The room would be open from 6 to 7:30 a.m. and 7:30 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday. No students will be allowed in the room during those times without a parent or guardian.

Mr. Dorshorst said the district is shooting for opening the room around Wednesday, Dec. 1.

He said he checked into putting

in some cardiovascular workout equipment and found a commercial treadmill for \$2,699 and a commercial elliptical trainer for the same price. The freight will be \$225, with the total at \$5,623.

The Dreammakers firm, owned by Shayla Williby and Kem Bryan, applied for a grant which might cover some of the cost.

If the grant isn't received, the money will come out of the capital outlay fund.

There was some discussion about how the people using the room will get into the building.

Mr. Dorshorst said they will probably post signs to use certain doors, but the janitors are in the building during those hours, so it's open anyway.

Will one elliptical machine and one treadmill be enough? asked member Jerry Chambers. If the facility gets busy, said Mr. Dorshorst, the district could just buy more.





IN THE HALL before the Veterans Day program Thursday at the high school, Col. Gary Allen (above) carried the U.S. flag, followed by Sid Metcalf with the Kansas flag. John Stanley (below), a Vietnam veteran, spoke at the program.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

*Kids honor vets

(Continued from Page 1A) thank them.

Veterans attending the program included:

Gary Alan Jensen, U.S. Navy, petty officer 3rd class, 1968-70.

Glen E. Baughman, Army, 506th Infantry, 101st Airborne, Private first class, 1951-1953.

Rollie Avery, U.S. Navy, E-4, eight years.

Walter Meitl, U.S. Army, sergeant, 1952-1954.

Wayne W. Woods, Marines, corporal, 2 1/2 years.

Jerry J. Chambers, U.S. Army, 1st Sgt., 32 years, 1978-present.

Larry Ayers, U.S. Air Force, airman 1st class, eight years.

James F. Miesner, Navy, lieutenant, 1961-1967.

Bob Castle, Army, sergeant E-5, three years.

Varlan E. Neal, Army, private 1st class, four years, 20 days.

Dewaine Stapp, Army, sergeant, two years.

Charles S. Lincoln, Air Force, staff sergeant, 1951-1955.

Melvin Waterman, U.S. Air Force, staff sergeant, eight years.

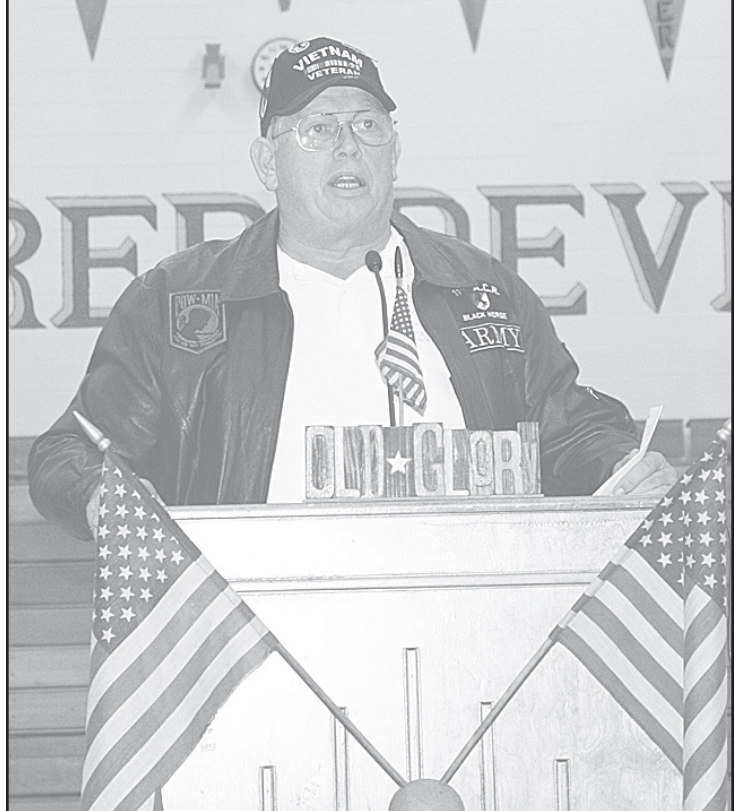
Sid Metcalf, Army, specialist 4th class, two years.

Herschel Betts, Army infantry, private 1st class, 1945-1946, 16 1/2 months.

John Stanley, Army, sergeant E-5, three years.

Alan Marietta, Army, captain, six years.

Leah Marietta Carreño, U.S. Army, 1st lieutenant, will graduate May 2011 and be promoted to captain upon assignment to an army medical facility. (Currently on educational delay to earn doctorate of physical therapy.) Her husband, Travis Carreño, U.S. Army, 1st lieutenant, 1st Brigade



4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colo., Currently serving in Afghanistan.

Francis Moore, U.S. Army, two years Korea.

Gary L. Allen, U.S. Army and Army National Guard, colonel, active duty and full-time National Guard, 36 years. Joined the Nebraska National Guard in 1953 while senior in High School.

William Ladehoff, U.S. Navy, HM3, six years, four active duty, two reserves.

Randy McHugh, Army, E-7, 30 years.

Herb Shirley, Army, E-5, 1967-1969.

Thomas L. Mace, U.S. Navy, chief yeoman (submarines) YNC (ss/sw) CPO E-7, 23 years.

Vern H. Mace, U.S. Navy, TM3 (SS) E-4 torpedoman submarines, three years WWII.

Val Beneda, Air Force, staff sergeant, three years.

Elmo Lund, Army, staff sergeant, 1951-1953.

Dale Young, Air Force, staff sergeant, 3 1/2 years.

John Bremer, Army, Spc. 5 (E-5), 1968-1970.

John Cederberg, Army artillery, private 1st class, two years.

Lyle Hilker, U.S. Army, sergeant, six years.

Gail Marcuson, Navy, petty officer 3rd class, 1944-1946.

John Sater, Navy, (E-8) senior chief petty officer, 26 years.

John A. Simonsson Jr., Army, specialist 4th class, 1958-1960.

Lawrence D. Wenger, Navy, fireman 2nd class, Navy on year 1945-1946, reserve four years.

Connie Simonsson, Navy, 3rd class dental technician, four years.

Bob Strevey, U.S. Army, lieutenant colonel, 29 years, 1966-1995.

Vernon Diederich, Navy, E-6, four years.

David Bergling, U.S. Army, sergeant major, 26 years.

Mike Helm, Army, sergeant, three years.

Paul Corcoran, Army, specialist E-4, two years.

Ron Bryan, U.S. Army, sgt. E-5, 20 months.

*Accident kills man

(Continued from Page 1A)

Mr. Jones, who said he has been driving a truck since he was 21, said he's "had accidents before but nothing like this."

"He started over in front of me and just kept coming," the driver said.

He added that he just about wrecked his rig trying to get it over and stopped. Mr. Jones pulled his 2005 Peterbuilt tractor and the semitrailer to a stop on the side of the road almost a quarter a mile away from the impact.

Mr. Quakenbush was pronounced dead at the scene by a Decatur County Sheriff's deputy. He had not been wearing a seat belt.

Trooper Charles Boydston of Phillipsburg said Mr. Quakenbush was identified by people from Oberlin. His family learned of the wreck when they came to the scene, he said.

Trooper Boydston, who did the report on the accident, said he chose not to close off the road, though the

northbound lane was blocked.

Volunteers with the Decatur County Rural Fire Department quickly set up to control traffic. A three-member ambulance crew from the Decatur County Emergency Medical Service department, three officers from the sheriff's department, and at least four state troopers arrived in minutes after the wreck.

Jerry Cunningham, of Apache, Okla., who was driving another semitrailer rig behind Mr. Jones, stopped after the accident.

"I couldn't believe my eyes," said Mr. Cunningham. "He just came plumb over. I figure he fell asleep."

He said if the Jeep hadn't hit the first truck, it would have struck his rig.

The victim was a brother of Dwayne Quakenbush of Oberlin.

He was born Jan. 3, 1984, in Hays, the son of Donald C. and Donna M. (Meitl) Quakenbush, and grew up

in Belleville, Norton and Wichita. He attended Wichita East High School. He was working as a cashier for the Love's Convenience Store in Colby.

Survivors include his father, Donald Quakenbush, Seguin; two other brothers, Terry and Kindra Quakenbush, Wichita, and Nick Phillips, Norton; two sisters, Debby Phillips, Norton, and Tory Arnce, Manhattan; and his grandmothers, Evelyn Meitl, Oberlin, and Cecelia Ottley, Hoxie.

He was preceded in death by his mother and step-father, Donna and Robert Boswell; a brother, Aaron Phillips; and a sister, Kristina Quakenbush.

Memorial services were Saturday morning at Pauls Funeral Home in Oberlin. John Paulson officiated and burial was in the Belleville Cemetery.

Contributions in his name may be sent to the funeral home, 121 N. Penn, Oberlin, Kan., 67749.

*Hunters happy with birds

(Continued from Page 1A)

corn crop was harvested which made a big difference.

While many people were able to shoot their limit during the opening day, four birds per hunter, Mr. Hoag said he didn't think it hardly made a dent in the population. Not this season, he said.

They attended the Pheasants Forever Banquet on Friday at The Gateway and had a great time.

Around 340 people attended the banquet, but as of Monday, the group hadn't added up the revenue and costs, said Rick Pauls, Pheasants Forever member.

Joe Dejmaj, at Dale's Fish 'N' Fun, said the store stayed pretty busy all weekend. The outdoor store, which sells all kinds of hunting supplies, stayed open late Friday

and opened both Saturday and Sunday. It is the only license agency in Oberlin.

Mr. Dejmaj said he was hearing that people were extremely pleased. A lot of hunters were able to shoot their limit, and those who didn't still were happy with the number of birds they saw.

There were a lot of return customers and hunters, he said, but a lot of new faces too.

Mr. Dejmaj said they sold the same stuff they sell each year, but did see more shells go out the door as the hunters were shooting more.

Several guys also bought turkey licenses, as they had limited out on pheasants, and turkey season is still going.

Jake George, private lands coordinator with the Kansas Department

of Wildlife and Parks, said the department has some preliminary reports in and all the numbers have been positive. A lot of people got birds and many shot the limit.

During opening weekend, there are folks out in every county handing out surveys to those using the walk-in hunting areas and talking to hunters they see.

Preliminary figures show around the same number of hunters as last year, said Mr. George, but more birds being harvested by each hunter. He added that he thinks that is because of the increase in the bird population this year over last.

Generally, said Mr. George, those surveys aren't compiled until the end of the season, which is the last day of January.

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