

# Horse lovers go to county for new arena

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

Horse enthusiasts are hoping to put an arena south of the barns and parking lots at the Decatur County Fairground and have asked the county commissioners for help.

After dispensing with their other business last Tuesday, commissioners adjourned to look at an area south of the fairground and behind and to the north of Wheat Ridge Terrace that has been proposed for an arena.

With the new track in operation, the old horse arena has been displaced at the fairgrounds. 4-H members and other horse enthusiasts have been looking for a new home. Last year, many events were held at a private arena.

The area which the horse groups have selected is directly south of the animal barns near the south-side parking area. This would give the arena access to rest rooms, water and parking and also put it close to other 4-H activities during the fair.

Horse enthusiasts Amy (Fortin) Carman and Anita Hirsch joined the commissioners, County Clerk Marilyn Horn, County Attorney Steve Hirsch, Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman and Extension Agent Byron Hale at the site.

Mrs. Carman said that the area is 250 feet by 200 feet. The arena would be in the middle, she said, with a track running around the outside so that one could drive around it, if needed.

The driving track is for safety, she said.

While the land is fairly flat, there is a sharp drop-off on one side and some mounds that would need to be moved. The whole thing would need to be smoothed out.

Mr. Stallman said he thought it would take about \$1,000 worth of work to get the dirt moved for the arena.

"That's all that's in our way," Mrs. Carman said. "We have all the other labor we need."

The horse group raises money through fun days and play days, she

## County Round-up

At their meeting Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Heard that the county will be offering free dump hours and have another hazardous waste clean up day. Story to come.

- Learned that people with insurance will have trouble getting vaccinations after July 1. Story to come.

- Authorized the ambulance service to purchase four new suction units. Story below.

- Went out to the fairground to look over the site of a proposed horse arena. Story to left.

said, and has a lot of the panels needed to complete the arena once the dirt is moved.

Although there is no water at the site, she said, it is near enough that it can be hauled in to wet down the area if it is windy, and also to water the horses.

The land is owned by the county but leased for Wheat Ridge Terrace use with a right to purchase clause, Mrs. Horn told the commissioners.

Back in session, the commissioners discussed what they were willing to do for the arena.

Both Doyle Brown and Ralph Unger said that they were willing to give money for the arena but wanted to make sure the group didn't go to another tax-supported entity, like the Economic Development Corporation, and ask for more.

Mr. Unger suggested giving the group \$300 and Commissioner Pat Glenn suggested \$500 with the stipulation that the group has money from other non-tax sources to complete the project before the county money is received.

The other commissioners agreed to this compromise.

# Commissioners OK suction equipment

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

Decatur County ambulances will get new suction units because the old ones don't work as well as they should, commissioners decided last week.

Ambulance Director Pat Pomeroy brought a new unit to last Tuesday's county commission meeting and told the commissioners that he had ordered four new units for the ambulances. Each one costs \$280.

Mr. Pomeroy said that if the commissioners did not agree with the purchase, he would cancel the order, but he said the ambulances really need new units.

"The ones we have were a popular brand in the '80s," he told commissioners. "It's a piece of equipment you have to trust."

The suction unit, which is used to remove blood and mucous from the mouth and nose of victims, helps keep airways clear and allows emergency medical technicians to make sure people do not choke.

When the state does inspections, Mr. Pomeroy said, it looks especially hard at the suction units. They are an important piece of equipment for the ambulances. In addition to the new battery operated units, the ambulance service has several older bulb-type suction units, he said.

The commissioners agreed that the units were a good investment.

Mr. Pomeroy and the commissioners also discussed a new ambu-

lance. Mr. Pomeroy is shopping for one and had a list of used vehicles.

Commissioner Ralph Unger suggested a demonstrator ambulance would be a good deal.

"At least half the ambulances we've bought have been demonstrators," he said. "You could save \$10,000 to \$20,000 and can get a new warranty on them, usually."

Mr. Pomeroy said that the county tries to replace its ambulances every five years and the oldest one is a 1998. He said he has been working on the project since October with a committee of emergency medical technicians.

The big problem is going to be Ford versus Chevy, he said. Half the technicians want a Ford and half want a Chevy.

Whichever brand the county buys, he added, it will be a two-wheel drive with automatic chains, which is supposed to be just as good as a four-wheel drive on ice.

Commissioners congratulated Mr. Pomeroy on passing his emergency medical technicians instructor coordinator class. Now he will be able to set up classes in Decatur County for new emergency medical personnel and ambulance attendants.

At the end of his report, Mr. Pomeroy requested and received a 10-minute and a 5-minute closed session with the commissioners and County Clerk Marilyn Horn to discuss non-elected personnel.

## 'X' marks the kiss of death



**WORKERS CUT** old trees down that had been previously marked by bright pink X's on Friday afternoon. Homeowners on Cass Avenue had the choice of having the trees

taken out because there was a possibility that they may die from roots being cut during the city water project.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Brandt

# Youth ranch has new leader

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

There is a new face at the helm of Sappa Valley Youth Ranch, as Sue Glodt, a former elementary school principal, started as administrator last Monday.

Mrs. Glodt moved here a year ago in June with her family when her husband, Kelly, accepted the superintendent's job in the Oberlin School District.

Since then, she has worked for a short time in the Jennings School District, at Fredrickson Insurance and at Ward Drug Store.

She is now back to working with youths. Mrs. Glodt said she started as a substitute teacher in 1988 and worked her way up the educational ladder.

In Garden City, she was principal at the second largest elementary school, Florence Wilson. Although she hasn't worked in a juvenile justice facility, she is familiar with working with at-risk youths. She said she also knows about working with a budget and a staff.

Mrs. Glodt said she was trained to believe "an administrator on their feet is worth 10 in the seat." Basically, she will be out and about with the kids and the staff. She will have an open door policy and work with the kids.

In her first week, she got right to business and met the youths staying at the ranch. Mrs. Glodt said she met with the boys in their houses, asking



Sue Glodt

them each to say one positive thing about the ranch and one thing they would like to see improved.

She said she thought they did a good job with answering the questions realistically. The No. 1 thing the boys liked was the school. The No. 1 thing the boys wanted improved were the activities. She said they wanted to be able to do more activities like soccer, dodge ball and other things outside.

In 1999, the ranch became more of a home and was no longer a detention center. She wants to help teach the boys the skills to be successful when they leave the ranch and she would like the ranch to be more therapeutic.

Mrs. Glodt said she would like the

boys to learn at the ranch some things they didn't learn at home.

One way to do that is through the staff. She hasn't met with the staff yet but plans to do so on Tuesday. She feels the staff should model appropriate behavior for the boys.

She would like to see the youths have more job responsibility and take more pride in keeping the ranch clean. She would also like to see the boys plant a garden and make it a more home-type atmosphere.

The staff has been doing the best job they can without a full-time administrator, she said. Now she wants them to focus on being a team with the goal to affect the lives of the youths positively.

Before Mrs. Glodt was hired, Matt Brous, administrator of a detention facility in WaKeeney also operated by Kelley Youth Services, was part-time administrator here.

Mrs. Glodt has an associate's degree in business administration, a bachelor's in elementary education, a master's in educational administration and an English as a second language endorsement.

The Glodts have two children, Kyle, 15, and Heather, 13. She enjoys doing things outside, including fishing and skiing, but she also enjoys reading.

Mrs. Glodt is a member of the Dorcas Circle at the Oberlin United Methodist Church, which the family attends.

# Teachers get rehired

The Oberlin School Board renewed the employment of teachers at the grade and high school at a meeting last Monday night.

Rehired were:

- High-school teachers Sharon Addleman, Jim Andersen, Brenda Breth, Mark Bricker, Leigh Davis, Pat Dorshorst, Linda Glaze, Aurelia Jackson, Nita Lavielle, Marlene Moxter, Randy Olson, Jody Shike, Dick Ahlberg, Rhonda Barth, Tim Breth, Nathan Copeland, Candy Dejmal, Joe Dreher, Keith Grafel, Nealee Johnston, Susan May, Susan Nelson, Maria Sanden and Terri Woolsey, who are all tenured.

- Elaine Marcuson, who received tenure.

- Deanne Spanier, who is a first-year teacher in the district.

- Caleb Howland, Wendy Scott, Trevor Williams and Tina Williams, all second-year teachers in the district.

- Elementary teachers Carol Brown, Jim Buchholz, Jeri Buchholz, Steve Cullen, Carol Dixon, Sheila Jansonius, Mardi Lohofener, Cynthia Matson, Jennifer Monaco, Christie Morris, Paul Nepodal, Dave Olson, Marty Olson, Audrey Pavlicek, Shanna Richards, Sherri Ruf, Cindy Sattler, Diana Steinmetz, Kathy Tacha, Carol Wasson and Kimberly Witt.

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