

County accepts chemicals

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
Decatur County is offering a collection day for hazardous items, such as pesticides, paint, old batteries and household chemicals, from 8 a.m. until noon on Saturday. However, instead of bringing items to the county shop, as in the past, they should be brought out to the landfill on U.S. 36 east of Oberlin, said Tim Stallman, county road and bridge supervisor. The county has completed its storage building, which was part of the original hazardous waste plan, he said, and it will be open for people to see.

Landfill hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. to noon on some Saturdays. The landfill is five miles east of Oberlin on U.S. 36 on the north side of the road. In other business last week, the commissioners:

- Set 9 a.m. Tuesday as the date for a hearing on closing or providing minimum maintenance on several roads in Prairie Dog Township.
- Hired Joe Dreher, a Decatur Community High School teacher and coach, as summer recreation director for his second year. Mr. Dreher will be paid \$5,000 for the program, which starts this month.
- Heard from real estate agent Jack Metcalf that the first car races had gone well and that the race track was in good condition. Mr. Metcalf thanked the commissioners for their support of the project.
- Held a 10-minute closed session at the request of County Attorney Steve Hirsch to talk about non-elected personnel.

Prisoners help heart research

A dangerous gang of master criminals will be arrested next Wednesday and charged with crimes of the heart in an effort to raise money for the American Heart Association.

The annual Cardiac Arrest fund raiser will be held in the lobby of the Decatur County Courthouse from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Parole Warden Deb Klima will let the prisoners out of jail after they post bond.

Mrs. Klima said Cardiac Arrest is unique, as it combines fund raising and fun into one event.

The money will help the heart association in the fight to reduce the death and disability due to cardiovascular disease and stroke, America's No. 1 killer.

Most of the money raised will go to research projects in Kansas, she said. The committee hopes to raise \$7,000.

The association, since 1949, has paid for more than \$2 billion in cardiovascular research, leading to advances in cardio pulmonary resuscitation, bypass surgery, the heart-lung machine, artificial heart valves, life-saving drugs and surgeries to repair heart defects.

Trackside seating



SEVERAL MEN like this one sat on their three and four wheelers at the end of the drive from the pit Sunday afternoon to watch the cars get warmed up before the race.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Brandt

Roadside spraying has begun

Chemical mowing, or spraying, has started in the southwest part of the county, which means that the road crew shouldn't have to go out again this year to mow those areas.

Noxious Weed Director Gaylen Huntley told the commissioners at their meeting Tuesday morning that the chemical mowing should stunt grass and get rid of any broad leafed plants.

Hopefully there will be enough rain to get the chemicals into the system, but not too much to wash it out, he said.

Mr. Huntley said on Monday he and Ray Bryan are going to get their roadside spraying licenses.

Mr. Huntley said he has already sent out six notices for musk thistle to farmers this year.

He said the department has an old sprayer they would like to rent out. The renter would have to prove they have noxious weeds. He said the department will load the chemical for the renter if they buy them through the county. That way the

Ol' Depot celebrates

Members of the Ol' Depot, a crafts and antique store in Atwood, will be celebrating 15 years of business on Saturday and Sunday. The celebration will include refreshments both days and two \$15 gift certificates will be given.

The business is located at the former 1889 Burlington-Northern railroad depot on Lake Road. Summer hours, which are from noon to 5 p.m., Thursday through Sunday, began May 1.

County Round-up

- At a meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:
- Agreed to do the dirt work to move the horse arena to an area south of the fairground after the group raises \$500. Story on Page 5A.
- Heard that "chemical mowing" has started. Story at left.
- Talked about getting the road into Norcat sealed. Story at left.
- Found out that the sheriff will stay with two officers, after a deputy was fired in the middle of April. Story on Page 1A.

landowner just has to go to the field and spray.

Mr. Huntley said he was thinking of renting the equipment for \$25 a day and there would also be an agreement with it that if the user breaks anything, they would have to fix it.

Commissioner Doyle Brown asked if the renters would have to get chemicals through the county. Mr. Huntley said no, but the renters have to use only approved chemicals for the weeds they are spraying.

Mr. Huntley said he has already had some requests to inspect forage so farmers can cut their hay. Basically, Mr. Huntley is asked to inspect the fields and certify them as free of noxious weeds.

He said he wasn't sure how to charge for this.

Commissioner Ralph Unger suggested he charge for his time and mileage.

Mr. Huntley said he thought he would charge 25 cents an acre. Mileage is 36 cents a mile.

Mr. Unger said that for out-of-county weed-feed forage he would suggest \$50 for the first hour and then a fee after that plus mileage.

Mr. Huntley asked if he could have a line item on his budget for prairie dogs.

He said as it works now, the general fund pays for the chemicals and he does the labor. The money paid by landowners then goes back into that fund.

The commissioners approved putting \$1,000 in the prairie dog fund and making it a separate line item.

Engineer wants contract change

The Oberlin City Council asked the city administrator to sit down with an engineer from Miller and Associates to work on the extra costs for inspectors for the city water project.

The engineering company out of McCook is doing the inspection work for the project. Thaniel Monaco, with the McCook company, presented a proposed change to the construction service contract at the meeting Thursday night, adding up to \$16,000 with no specification on days.

Currently, the contract reads payment of \$37.50 per hour per resident construction service not to exceed \$32,500 with assumed 120 day construction period. At the first meeting in April, Mr. Monaco told the council that the company was over the inspector fees.

Mayor Ken Shobe said he wanted to know the definition of administration services. Mr. Monaco said that is basically what he does when he is on site.

Why is it that the inspector's contract was written to be completed in 120 days when the company that is working on the project, J Corp., has a contract for 180 days? asked Mr. Shobe. When the 180 day contract was written, he asked, why wasn't the shorter one amended?

There are some companies that could get the job done in 120 days, said Mr. Monaco, but it probably was an oversight not to amend it.

Has J Corp worked in a timely manner? asked Councilman Stan McEvoy. Yes, said Mr. Monaco, the company has met the deadlines so far.

Would another contractor have finished in 120 days? asked Mr. McEvoy. Bigger contractors would be able to, said Mr. Monaco, and J Corp would probably admit that too. There could have been more crews brought in on the job, he said, but that would have meant two inspectors.

Do engineers normally try to have the contracts read similar to the firm they are working with? asked Mr. McEvoy.

Mr. Monaco said he understood the question, but he said he doesn't generally make up the contracts. He said it would be nice for them to be

Council Round-up

At a meeting Thursday night, the Oberlin City Council:

- Discussed a "burn out" event for the second annual Museum Summerfest and Car Show on Saturday, May 31. Story to come.
- Asked the city administrator meet with Miller and Associates to work out extra costs for the inspectors on the water project. Story at left.
- Heard that the Oberlin Tree Commission has 42 trees left for sale. Story on Page 5A.
- Talked about issuing industrial revenue bonds for Hansen-Mueller Grain, an Omaha company that purchased Oberlin Milling and the elevator in Cedar Bluffs, to rehabilitate the plants. Story on Page 1A.
- Talked about the new pipes needed for the well on property the city bought. Story to come.

the same length.

The council, said Mr. McEvoy, doesn't feel that the city should be paying an inspector on the days when the crew isn't working. If those days where the crew didn't work for weather or because they received permission not to were left out, he said, then Thursday would have been the 120th day.

The city will probably owe Miller and Associates money, he said, but he is not sure if it should be done this way.

Mr. Monaco said he understood that and he wasn't looking for approval that night.

The council asked for City Administrator Gary Shike and Mr. Monaco to work on the costs of the job together.

In other business, the council OK'd the sixth request of \$50,499 for J Corp but rejected paying a restocking fee for the left over material from the job.

Mr. Monaco said he very rarely works with companies that ask for a restocking fee and it was not the recommendation of Miller and Associates to pay it.

COYOTE COUNTRY
was chosen



COUNTRY STATION OF THE YEAR FOR 2003



AMERICA'S BEST COUNTRY RADIO STATION



• WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED A SHIPMENT OF NEW AND DIFFERENT Office Supplies.

STOP BY AND SEE WHAT WE HAVE IN STOCK.

• DON'T FORGET MOTHER'S DAY.

WE HAVE A GREAT SELECTION OF CARDS AND PRESENTS.

- NOW ARRIVING, VARIOUS ITEMS AS SEEN ON TV, SUCH AS **MAGNA HOSE** (FLAT HOSE), WEED THRASHER REPLACEMENT HEADS, LIMITED EDITION **NASCAR** STOCK CAR COLLECTIBLES, **CHEF WIZARD 6 IN 1 UTENSIL** AND MUCH MORE!

SAVE WITH NO SHIPPING COST

Have a great time at Prom, but make it a safe night.

We now accept these cards for your convenience:



Family-owned / operated since 1906

Addleman
DRUG STORE

Phone 475-2661 — or Toll Free 1-800-794-3784 — Oberlin, Kan. Service and value are the cornerstones of our business.

NEW EXCLUSIVE LISTING!



This 3 bedroom home with partial basement has a spacious living room; formal dining room; eat-in kitchen with birch cabinets; oversized double, detached garage with heated office; plus "wash house" for extra storage.

Call for an appointment today!

Call us today about our newly listed homes!

Office — 785-475-2785

Lynn's Mobile — 785-475-8514 — Roberta's Mobile 785-475-7156

Marcia Lohofener — 785-475-2521 Jerry Lohofener 785-475-2521

Jackie Votapka — 785-475-3963

CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE AT www.johnson-real-estate.com

Johnson Realty, Inc.

Roberta Johnson, Broker — Lynn A. Johnson, Associate Broker

Jacqueline Votapka, Sales Associate

109 N. Wolf, Oberlin, KS 67749



MAY 2 - 11 ONLY!

0% INTEREST FOR 2 Years
With 24 Equal Monthly Payments

Any Purchase \$799 or more. With Approved credit.

Buy this SONY 36" Flat Screen VEGA Sale Priced at \$999.95 - 24 Mos. = \$41.66 Per Mo. (Does not include sales tax)

ALL BRANDS! ALL PRODUCTS!

Get Terrific Savings on the electronics you want and pay no interest for 2 years on any purchase of \$799 or more!

Go to www.vkstore.com and register to win a SONY combination VHS/DVD player

SONY JVC MITSUBISHI KENWOOD Canon

VIDEO KINGDOM ELECTRONICS
HOME & MOBILE

Express Delivery — On-the-Spot Financing — Guaranteed Low Price