

* Rates will jump

Sewer project underway

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Application process for both loans, the council will be holding a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 11 to gather opinions from sewer users.

Mr. Monaco said a loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture would be a 40-year term with an interest rate of 4.5 percent. The state loan would be for 20 years at a 3 percent interest rate.

He said he would like to work with the city to design rates so people who don't use as much water for the sewer won't be hit as hard. Sewer bills are determined by water use over the winter, with meters read in November and again in March.

For the federal loan, said Mr. Monaco, the agency would like to see the city put up 5 percent of the project, which is around \$160,000.

Mayor Ken Shobe said the city has budgeted to set aside \$60,000 a year for infrastructure work like this project.

The federal program could include a grant, which wouldn't be any larger than \$400,000.

The state revolving fund has no grants directly involved with it. The city can try for a Community Development Block Grant, a maximum of \$400,000, but isn't eligible right now. The city would have to do an income survey.

Councilman Jay Anderson asked why the city doesn't qualify. Mr. Monaco said the city would have to prove that 51 percent of its citizens are low to moderate income. The city would also have to hire a person to administer the grant, which is estimated to cost \$20,000, said Mr. Monaco.

The pay for the people working on the federal job is regulated, he said, and typically is more than what businesses in this area pay. That could increase the construction cost.

What happens if the city doesn't do anything with the plant? asked Dr. Anderson.

The city is under a schedule of compliance for completion in December 2005 with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Mr. Monaco said. The agency can come in and issue fines if the project isn't done, from \$5,000 to \$25,000 a day.

If the city doesn't do anything, he added, the state can pass the case on to the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

Councilman Stan McEvoy said it comes down to how long the city sits back and takes unfunded requirements from the state that small communities can't pay for.

The state is trying to help with low-interest loans and grant possibilities, said Mr. Monaco. The other thing to look at is how long it has been since the city has worked on the sewer plant.

The plant was built in the 1960s and hasn't had any major renovation since early the 1980s, said City Administrator Gary Shike. He said that even if the state and federal requirements hadn't changed, the plant was going to need renovation. The plant wasn't designed for current requirements.

Mr. Shike said the way to fight the unfunded requirements is through the Legislature.

Mr. Monaco said his experience has shown that the state will work with the city as long as the city will work with them.

Mr. McEvoy asked if there was any way for the city to save money with its crew doing some of the work, but Mr. Monaco said he didn't think so. The city crew could do some of the demolition, he said.

Mr. McEvoy suggested asking for an extension, which Mr. Monaco said they can do as long as it is in good faith and the city can propose what they want to do in that time.

There was also a suggestion of looking at a 300,000-gallon-per-day plant instead of a 450,000 gallon plant, which would save some money.

After a lengthy discussion, the council agreed unanimously to start both application processes, with the public meeting on Dec. 11. They asked Mr. Shike to look into the city becoming eligible for the Community Block Development Grant.

At the next meeting on Thursday, Dec. 4, Mr. Monaco said he would return to fine tune the numbers on a 300,000-gallon plant.



AT THE OBERLIN HERALD office Friday, Zachary Lahe had the chance to read to his grandmother, Pat Cozad, for National Book Week. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Brandt

Students learn about planes

Students at Oberlin Elementary School read over 1,000 hours last week for National Book Week.

This year, the week was centered around the 100th anniversary of flight. Teachers said the students have been taking part in National Book Week for at least the last 10 years.

Throughout the week, students learned about airplanes; making them; having flying contests and reading about them.

The students could read at home or at school to earn hours adding up to the ultimate goal of 1,000 hours.

Each day, the kids had a different activity. On Monday, they had an assembly to introduce book week with 15 minutes of sustained silent reading. On other days, the students read for 15 minutes, the Kayettes

from Decatur Community High School read to the developmental kindergarten, Head Start and kindergarten classes and the third graders met downtown on Friday and read to business people.

One activity which each student took part in, besides reading, was making an airplane "glyph graph" code. Each student colored parts of an airplane different colors based on what they like to read.

If a student likes to read stories about people, they colored the wing red. If they liked to read about animals, then they colored it blue, for fairy tales, then green. If students liked scary stories, they colored the body orange; funny stories, yellow; mysteries, blue; biographies, green; and adventure, purple. If they like fiction books, they colored the tail

orange, and for nonfiction, then they made the tail purple.

The airplanes are on display in the cafeteria.

Also in the cafeteria are 25 pictures of the world. Every 40 hours the students read equaled one flight around the world. During this period, students would have made it around the world 25 times.

On Friday, students celebrated with an assembly which included a skit by the high school science club about the history of flight. Juice boxes were provided by Pi Alpha Club. The airplane-shaped cookies, made by Donna Fortin, were paid for by the Parent-Teacher Organization.

The morning kindergarten class had its own celebration presented by Sherri Ruf's fourth grade class.

County asks for more bids

The Decatur County commissioners sent the health administrator after new carpet bids after the plans to carpet the health department changed last Tuesday morning.

Administrator Marilyn Gamblin brought in a bid and said she had talked with the clinic and they were going to all put in the same carpet. She said she thought it might be a good idea to carpet the big meeting room in the back at the same time.

The commissioners said it may be a good idea to get that bid as an option.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn said the bid would not be read then or

opened so that Ms. Gamblin could get a new one.

She said she has 23 flu shots left out of 660 The shots cost \$12. Anyone still interested should call first to see if they have the vaccine and a nurse in the office. As of Thursday, the department had four shots left.

Commissioner Doyle Brown said the hospital received a grant for bioterrorism and asked if it was the same thing the health department received. Ms. Gamblin said that it was specifically for the hospital and their plan.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Signed three transfers for Pitney Bowes to pay for postage.

- Reminded everyone that they wouldn't meet on Tuesday because they will be at the Kansas Association of Counties meeting. The next meeting will be next week.

- Approved the rates for the Corporate Plan Health Insurance for 2004.

- Paid \$1,000 of the \$3,813 total for the new door at the clinic.

- Heard that terms of Joan McKenna and Gene Gallentine on the hospital board will expire this year. Anyone interested in these positions should contact the county clerk's office at 475-8102.

- Authorized a new contract for the Oberlin Speedway for the 2004 racing season.

* Opening weekend to provide fun for entire family

(Continued from Page 1A)
Chamber office at 475-3441 or Gary Walter at 475-3495 or 475-3817.

Santa will arrive during the parade and afterwards will meet kids on the first floor of the Decatur County Courthouse. Each child will have the chance to climb on Santa's lap and tell him what they want to find under the Christmas tree.

The Oberlin Lions Club will then provide a sack of candy for each of the kids. Businesses will stay open until 8 p.m. that night.

The Kick Off the Last Indian Raid Museum will kick off its annual Christmas tree tour at 7 p.m. Friday. The museum will stay open until 9 p.m. with 27 trees decorated in its rooms.

Co-Director Myrna Jones said there will be a program in the Bohemian Hall right after the light parade at 7 p.m. The cost of the tour will be \$1 and there will be hot cider and cookies served.

Ms. Jones said each person will be able to vote for their favorite deco-

rated tree by putting pennies in the cups by the trees. The tour will run longer than normal this year, with the last day on Wednesday, Dec. 24.

Anyone who doesn't get to see the trees Friday night can see from anytime between 10 a.m. and noon or 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. The tour will also be open from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 13.

On Saturday, the Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission will hold its 18th annual arts and crafts show. In the past, the show has had everything from baby blankets, hats, furniture, clocks, ornaments to bath and body stuff.

The show brings people from all over for a full day, starting at 9 a.m. and ending at 4 p.m. It will be held in the arena at The Gateway with 80 booths featured.

Admission to the craft fair is free. Lunch will be sold at the show and baby-sitting will be available.

Businesses will be open regular hours for the rest of the weekend.

* Paper plans to give \$2,500 in prizes

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County Area Chamber of Commerce office or at the newspaper. There is a limit of 250 tickets per person per any transaction.

Those who work at a sponsoring business are not allowed to collect tickets from their business, but can from other sponsors.

The last day to collect tickets will be Friday, Dec. 19. At 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 20, the newspaper will hold the drawing at Centennial Park. The final instant winners, second place and the grand prize will be given away.

The winning tickets must be at the drawing to claim any prize.

QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF

Jean Ann Hale, County Treasurer of Decatur County, Kansas, Showing Balance on hand for the Quarter ending October 31, 2003

County General	421,073.81	Summer Rec.	353.52
SW Bell Rural 911 ..	14,385.71	Public Trans.	3,064.75
Landfill	6,220.05	Special Jail Equip...	989.86
Road & Bridge	454,258.59	PATF	127.90
Special Bridge	271,473.59	Sp. Fire Equip.	94,001.77
Home for Aged	72,228.08	Bond & Interest	44,101.88
Conservation Dist ...	--(56.12)	Museum Fund	120.65
Co. Health Nurse ...	39,137.90	RFD Memorial	1,328.67
Mental Retardation ..	418.28	Economic Develop.	904.85
JUCO	81,709.30	CORE	2,893.73
Ambulance Memorial	2,765.53	RFD	101,756.05
Ambulance	50,691.79	Bad Check Trst Fnd	702.37
Noxious Weed	53,582.30	Corp. Plan Emp.	111,435.75
Sp. Road Machinery	424,367.00	Advance Tax	55.06
Election	54,414.44	Motor Vehicle Tax ..	31,527.72
Special Liab.	2,047.22	Delq. Personal Tax ..	20,894.68
Ambulance Sp Eqp..	33,624.94	Treas. Special Auto .	2,423.25
Deeds Tech. Fund ...	1,102.00	Motor Vehicle License	14,591.00
Employee Bene.	318,896.00	Sales Tax	21,161.86
Equip. Reserve	154,225.25	R.V. Tax	715.33
Juvenile Detention ..	948.67	Park Permits	1,440.00
Summer Rec Memorial	2,679.60	Cash Over & Under	--(11.00)
Senior Citizens	26,939.71	Alcoholic Liquor Tax	150.00
Employee WH	21,321.06	Partial Pay	2,509.91
Cafeteria 125	43,562.33	Escaped Tax	692.04
Sp. Alcohol Program	2,606.30	Redemption & Assign.	11,718.58
Spec. Park & Rec	2,419.75	Total (67.12)	3,026,760.38

TOWNSHIP	Gen'l Revenue	Road	Sp. Road
Bassettsville		12,665.60	4,079.94
Dresden SW 784.08			
Finley		17,152.08	
Logan		20,210.50	
Oberlin		7,485.63	
Olive		8,498.70	
Sherman		7,618.66	3,097.00
Summit		11,272.09	3,921.67
TOTAL SW 784.08		84,903.265	11,098.61

CEMETERY	
Norcatour	46.47
Hawkeye	25.24
TOTAL	71.71
FUND:	
County Funds	3,026,693.26
Township Funds	96,785.95
Cemetery Funds	71.71
TOTAL	3,123,550.92

CASH:	
Investments	352,120.17
The Bank	261,946.53
The Bank Oberlin	428,764.08
Cash	625.00
The Bank MM	62,044.78
The Bank Ob. MM	73,388.99
First National MM	302,867.33
TBO Corp Plan	111,435.75
Farmers Bank & Tr.	1,530,358.29
TOTAL	3,123,550.92

I, Jean Ann Hale, Treasurer of DECATUR County, Kansas, do solemnly swear that the above statement is complete, true and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief. SO HELP ME GOD.
I HEREBY CERTIFY, That the foregoing statement was subscribed and sworn to before me, and in my presence, by the above named, this 31st day of October, 2003. Marilyn Horn, County Clerk

Annual food drive kicks off

The fifth annual food drive at Stanley Hardware in downtown Oberlin kicks off this week.

Owner Joe Stanley said they had already received a donation on Monday.

Someone who was going to be out of town for Thanksgiving decided to drop some stuff off early.

The food and other non-perishable items will be put in the window on the south side of the store.

Mr. Stanley said the goal is to collect 2,000 items by Jan. 1 and then everything will be taken to the Decatur County Food Bank in the United Church. The food bank is administered by the Decatur County Ministerial Association.

He said the pantry has enough corn and green beans, but needs pretty much everything else.

Anyone can make a donation to the food drive during store hours.

720 ACRES OF NORTON & GRAHAM COUNTIES CRP & GRASSLAND

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

Friday, December 5, 2003 @1:30 PM

AUCTION LOCATION: ST. FRANCIS PARISH HALL - NORTON, KS

SELLERS: KSM Ranch & KSJ Partnership

GRAHAM COUNTY	NORTON COUNTY
TRACT 1: NW/4 of 29-6-23	TRACT 3: SE/4 of 29-3-24 & NE/4 of 32-3-24
TRACT 2: SW/4 of 20-6-23	TRACT 4: W/2SW/4 of 21-3-23

**There are 2 Irrigation wells on these tracts.

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