

City asks for written contract

The Oberlin City Council talked about more improvements at Sappa Park and the farm ground asking the city attorney and administrator to put together a formal written contract.

Currently the city has a verbal agreement with Jim Abbey who farms the ground. There isn't anything in the agreement about grazing or water use.

Jack Benton, who serves on the park committee, said the group met recently and talked about putting the farm ground to grass. He said if the ground was put to grass he didn't know who would spray or mow it and also said they would have to come up with some money for seed.

Mr. Benton said their recommendation was to let Mr. Abbey farm the ground at least this year and maybe next.

He said he would like to see the city talk with the county about spraying the weeds along the road since some get pretty tall.

The committee is still looking at putting in some bridges at the park and making walking paths. There still needs to be a culvert installed.

How many acres are involved to start seeding, asked Mayor Ken Shobe.

Mr. Benton said there are 100 and some on the lake bottom. He said if it is put to grass he would like to see it could possibly be mowed and baled.

Councilman Joe Stanley asked if there are any more improvements planned for the shelter house. Mr. Benton said he had Wayne Golt make some drawings for the bathrooms and possibly a shower. He said he hasn't talked with any plumbers about bids to get the bathrooms in.

Councilman Jay Anderson said the council has to do something so

Mr. Abbey has a plan. He said he isn't sure how the city will work out a long term plan like that.

City Attorney Steve Hirsch said the council has to let Mr. Abbey know in writing 30 days prior to March 1 if he is no longer going to be able to farm on the lake bottom.

Mr. Benton said the group has been talking about moving the fence near the restrooms.

Mr. Hirsch said the city has a standard lease agreement with Mr. Abbey. It seems late in the game to have any big changes made, said Councilman Patrick Pomeroy.

Is there anything planted, asked Mr. Hirsch? No one knew for sure, but there was wheat on the land last summer.

Councilman Stan McEvoy said he would like to see something more specific about what Mr. Abbey has and doesn't have.

That is tough, said Mr. Hirsch, since there are no legal description on it, just tillable acres.

The city hasn't collected any money on grass grazed, said Mr. McEvoy. Is there more grazable acres than crop residue, said Mr. Hirsch.

City Administrator Gary Shike said Mr. Abbey uses the east side of the road for the cattle to graze. He doesn't know how many grazable acres there are. Mr. McEvoy said he also uses the area where the wood is piled outside the park.

The city provides water from the well that serves the youth ranch, said Mr. Shike. Basically, said Mr. Shobe, he hasn't paid for grazing and pasture rights. He hasn't ever been asked to pay.

Mr. Shobe said the council can decide if they want to limit grazing.

Mr. Hirsch said maybe by the next meeting he will have a better idea about the grazing acres.

Reading out loud



RESIDENTS AT Decatur Good Samaritan Center had a group of students from Jennings Grade School visit them last Wednesday. The students put on a program about Kansas and read books to the residents like this youngster who read to Fern Anderson.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Brandt

Groups prepare to learn about author

The Oberlin Convention and Visitors Bureau has been working with the Arts and Humanities Commission to prepare for Ralph Moody Day on Sunday, April 25.

On Thursday, the bureau met with two members from the commission to work out plans for the day.

Ralph Moody is an author from the Cedar Bluffs area, who wrote a series of books about his life. Last year on Ralph Moody Day, around 85 people took a tour through Cedar Bluffs, the setting for two of the books.

Mary Henzel from the arts commission said a speaker from Colorado has been invited. Part of his talk will be about Mr. Moody's childhood.

Sharleen Wurm, curator of the Last Indian Raid Museum, said she is working on getting descendants of people in the books to speak.

The day will include a chuck wagon lunch at 12:30 p.m. at the amphitheater near The Gateway. The meal will include a barbecue beef brisket sandwich and cobbler.

The group talked about prices for the event, with the idea of making it affordable for both Arts and Humanities ticket holders, those who don't have season tickets and families.

The speaker will cost \$500, the chuck wagon bill which will be based on mileage and advertising, cost around \$400 last year.

The group talked about setting up tables on the flat surface for those who can't walk up and down the hill to the amphitheater. Bureau Member Joe Stanley suggested using golf carts.

The group agreed that tickets will be \$10 each or \$25 for a family. That includes the lunch and speaker. For season ticket holders, the lunch will cost \$6.

In other business, bureau members:

- Agreed to pay \$100 to advertise with the Northwest Kansas Travel Council in newspapers in Chicago, Minneapolis, Dallas, Kansas City and St. Louis.

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Man pleads guilty to insurance fraud

By JAN KATZ ACKERMAN
Hays Daily News

HOXIE — A Selden insurance man charged with fraud has pleaded guilty in Sheridan County District Court.

Stephen C. Carman, 61, owner of Carman Insurance Agency, was charged last month with failing to forward more than \$32,000 in premiums to Great American Insurance Co. He also was charged with theft and forgery.

Prosecutors said Carman collected money from June to October 2001 for 10 hail and crop insurance policies bought by six farmers. They also say he tried to negotiate, renew or continue the insurance in April 2002.

The six insurance fraud victims are Larry Alstrom, for a policy worth \$18,254; Galen Tacha, \$4,472; Wilbur Reichert, \$4,308; Emigh Brothers, \$2,387; Don Juenemann, \$1,454; and Tod Jacobs, \$1,236.

Carman pleaded guilty on Jan. 9 to all six of these charges. He also pleaded guilty to having accepted a personal check for \$1,300 from Estella Harold and never creating a policy for the insurance she thought she was purchasing.

The two forgery charges stem from Carman's attempt to endorse checks made out to Don Ritter for \$1,155 and one to Carl Mumm for \$7,074 from Great American Insurance. Both charges were dismissed by the state as part of a plea agreement.

Robert C. Claus, a special assistant with the attorney general's office, and an attorney with the Kansas Insurance Department, was in court with Sheridan County Attorney Mike Haas, both representing the state.

Carman appeared with his attorney, Bruce Flipse, Colby.

District Judge Glenn Schiffner accepted Carman's seven guilty pleas and told him pending the outcome of a presentence investigation, he faced a maximum prison sentence between 10 and 34 months and a fine up to \$100,000.

Sentencing is set for 10 a.m. March 5 in Hoxie.

Carman also faces penalties for violating the Fraudulent Insurance Act, which includes the loss of his license to sell insurance in Kansas and any reciprocal state licenses he might hold.

Scott Holeman, public information officer for the Kansas Insurance Department, said Carman's personal license and agency license were revoked Nov. 14.

Since his arrest, Carman has been in jail on a \$10,000 bond.

Claus and Flipse agreed that Carman was not a flight risk and asked Schiffner to release him from jail on a \$10,000 recognizance bond. Schiffner granted their request.

Don Brown, consumer education coordinator with the Kansas Insurance Department, said the case originated from either a complaint or question posed by a customer.

Brown said customers are the best line of defense the state has for investigating insurance fraud or violations. Anyone with complaints or questions about insurance policies issued in Kansas can call the Kansas Insurance Department's fraud and consumer division hot line at (800) 432-2484.

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LAND AUCTION

425+- acres Red Willow County Land
Thursday February 19, 2004 • 2:00 p.m.

Location: Danbury City Hall, Danbury, Nebraska

SELLERS: STATE BANK OF BARTLEY



LEGAL DESCRIPTION:
Tract 1: West One-half of the Northwest Quarter (W1/2 NW1/4); East One-half of the Northeast Quarter (E1/2 NE1/4); Southwest Quarter (SW1/4); and the West One Half of the Southeast Quarter (W1/2 SE1/4) all in Section Four (4) Township One (1) North Range 27 West of the 6th P.M. Red Willow County, Nebraska.

TERMS: 20% down day of sale, balance at closing, with certified funds.

EVIDENCE OF TITLE: Title insurance will be issued with Sellers and Buyers sharing costs equally. Mortgage policy will be paid by the Buyer.

ESCROW AGENT: McCook Abstract will be the Escrow Agent, and doing the closing. Costs will be shared 1/2 Buyer, 1/2 Seller.

MINERALS: 100% reserved by a previous owner.

TAXES: 2003 taxes were \$2273.88. Seller pays 2003 taxes and prior years. Buyers pay 2004 taxes and subsequent years.

FSA INFORMATION:

Cropland Acres	157 acres
Grassland & Old farmstead	286 acres
Base Acres -	
Wheat - 71.0	Yield - 38
Oats - 1.4	Yield - 50
Corn - .6	Yield - 54
Grain Sorghum - 58.5	Yield - 57

POSSESSION: Day of closing on open land and grassland. After 2004 wheat harvest on planted acres. There are 62.8 acres of planted wheat, which 100% goes to the tenant. Buyers will pay for chemical applied on wheat stubble.

MANNER OF SALE: This will be sold in one tract only.

AUCTIONEERS NOTE: This farm has very productive cropland, and well maintained grassland, with good fences and water. For a tour, please contact Lynn A. Johnson at office 785-475-2785 or cell 785-475-8514.

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