

Fitness center set to go

The Decatur County Hospital is getting ready to open a fitness center in two rooms that have been de-certified at Cedar Living Center.

Administrator Lynn Doeden said that the hospital will run the center in conjunction with its cardiac rehabilitation room.

Originally, she said, the hospital discussed putting the fitness center in the old Duckwall's building downtown, said Mrs. Doeden, but it would cost more to renovate the building than to put it in the hospital.

Respiratory therapist Deb Klima said they are looking at the middle of April to the first part of May for the center to open. She said they probably will have employees use the equipment first to help iron out any problems, then it will be open to the general public.

Mrs. Klima said she would like to have some specific hours set up where people can train so they know how to use the equipment.

She said they aren't sure of the price, but there will be a minimal membership. She said they haven't determined the hours the center will be open.

The facility will have a lateral pull down, rower, two treadmills, a recumbent bike and a leg press. Mrs. Klima said they would like to try to get some free weights.

She said some of the money used to get the fitness center together is from memorials and some used to purchase the equipment was raised at the golf tournament last year.



CONGRATULATING HIS TEAM was Dick Ahlberg of Decatur Community High, who coached the winning light jerseys at the annual All Star Basketball game in Colby on Sunday. Story and more photos on Page 6A — Herald photo by Dick Boyd

Norton lawyer tosses hat in ring for 120th District

A Norton lawyer announced Saturday that he will run in the upcoming election for state representative for the 120th District.

Doug Sebelius, who is the Norton County attorney, also is a partner in the private practice of Sebelius and Griffiths LLP.

Currently, John Faber of Brewster holds the seat. On a recent listening tour in Decatur County, Mr. Faber said he would run for re-election.

Mr. Sebelius, a Republican, ran against Mr. Faber in the primary two years ago. Rep. Faber, with strong support in Rawlins and Cheyenne counties, beat him and later, Democrat Bob Streyve.

Public service isn't anything new to Mr. Sebelius. He is serving a term on the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission and is a member of the

Kansas Republican Party state committee. He serves on several boards, including the Valley Hope Association, the Norton Public Library Foundation, Hospice Services Inc., and the Keith G. Sebelius Foundation, named for his father. He is a lay leader of First United Methodist Church of Norton and a member of the Norton Lions Club.

The federal reservoir west of Norton is named for Keith Sebelius, who served six years as a state senator from 1962-1968 and then 12 years in Congress, where he replaced former Sen. Bob Dole.

Mr. Sebelius said his goal if elected is to bring common sense to the legislative process, focus on building a consensus that produces results and establishing a strong voice in the Legislature for north-west Kansas.

Dispatch computer gets fast replacement

Decatur County commissioners found out last Tuesday that the dispatch computer went down last week and a new one was installed as an emergency purchase.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said he got a call last week that the computer linked to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation had died. He said he told dispatch to take bids.

There were three bids, for a Hewlett-Packard for \$1,175, a Dell for \$1,027 and a Gateway for \$1,223. Mr. Unger said he told dispatch to take the lowest bid.

The commissioners approved the purchase, which will come out of the special equipment fund.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn said she received a letter from the Cardiac Arrest Committee asking to use the first floor of the courthouse from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, April 23. Commissioners Doyle Brown and Patricia Glenn approved the use, with Mr. Unger not in favor.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman said he has been contacted about moving the crow's nest at the fairground, which is in the middle of the race track. If the group moves it, he said, a new one would be built at the back of the grandstand. Mr. Stallman said they may ask for help with a crane.

In other business, commissioners:

- Heard that Chad Jensen had been hired to begin full-time work with the road department.

- Heard that the new furnace is in at the Golden Age Center. The old one died.

- Attended a township road meeting. There were 27 people at the meeting, with 12 townships represented.

- Talked with Noxious Weed Director Gaylen Huntley, who said he needs to be recertified to control prairie dogs and will attend meetings in July to do that.

City approves bonds

The Oberlin City Council approved a resolution at its meeting Thursday to reissue industrial revenue bonds for the Wheat Ridge Terrace apartment complex.

City Attorney Steve Hirsch said the council has to approve the process although they aren't liable for

the bonds. The council approved the resolution.

Also at the meeting, Mayor Ken Shobe appointed Councilman Ray Ward to continue as the city's voting member to the Kansas Municipal Energy Agency board for another two years.

Initiative meeting set

The second public meeting for the Lifelong Community Initiative will be held at 7 p.m. Monday in the Morgan Theater at The Gateway.

The meeting will give people a chance to say how they think Oberlin could improve. Participants

will discuss weaknesses in community services, business, economic development and health care and then develop goals to improve them.

The meeting will last for two hours. There will probably be two to three more like it.

Cemetery trees are available

The city has ordered 10 trees for the Oberlin Cemetery, and two have been spoken for, leaving eight available for families to sponsor as memorials.

Sexton Nan Stanley said she plans to plant 10 trees this year. Two have been sold, leaving eight for families to purchase in memory of their loved ones.

About 58 trees have been taken out of the cemetery over the years, and each one needs to be replaced.

The city doesn't have any money set aside for the trees, which prompted the idea of using memorial money or donations to put trees in the cemetery.

Ms. Stanley said a family interested in purchasing a tree for the cemetery should contact her through the city office at 475-2217. She said she can meet families at the cemetery and show them where the tree can be planted. Ms. Stanley said the families can purchase plaques at Custom Trophy and Engraving to place in front of the trees.

This year, the city ordered three Kentucky coffee trees at \$76 each, three Austrian pines, which are six feet tall and cost \$190 each, and two golden rain trees, which cost \$129 each. With those trees still for sale and the two already sold, that would mean 10 new trees.

Ms. Stanley said she has been in contact with 4-H groups that may be interested in planting a tree, as well as families.

Once the 10 trees are sold, said Ms. Stanley, she will take orders for next year so they can put in 10 more.

Good Sam roof causes trouble

Decatur County commissioners had a phone meeting with a representative from their insurance carrier, the Kansas Counties Association Multi-Lined Pool, about the roof at the Good Samaritan Center at their meeting on Tuesday, March 9.

LaVern Burtis, facilities supervisor from the center, was present. The roof has been repaired, but is still leaking. The damage had been caused by weather, so it was fixed with insurance money. Tom Job, with the insurance pool, said Mile R

Roofing plans to come repair the leaks, but the overall roof isn't in very good shape.

Mr. Burtis said he would look for proposals for roof replacement.

The commissioners talked with Health Department administrator Marilyn Gamblin about several grants she has applied which total \$12,168.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman said he thought they may be able to get a good salvage price for the old dozer at the landfill. He is taking proposals for it.

He said it was good the crew went out and pulled the gravel in from the sides of the roads with the recent rain. Mr. Stallman said there were a few problems on the Jennings Road, but the crew is taking care of them. The townships are starting to ask for their roads to be bladed and shaped, he said

Mr. Stallman delivered a regional solid waste packet he received from Randy Hrbace of Northwest Kansas Planning and Development in Hill City.

Class to let out early for tournament

Students at the Decatur Community High School will be dismissed at 2:40 p.m. on Monday for the league speech tournament.

The Oberlin School Board approved the early dismissal during its meeting on Monday, March 8, for the high school only. The grade school will be dismissed at regular time and the buses will run at regular times.

The league speech tournament will be held here and the classrooms will be needed, which is why the students will be dismissed early.

The board also spent 15 and 5 minutes behind closed doors for personnel to discuss Superintendent Kelly Glodt's evaluation without him present. The board then went back into closed session with Mr. Glodt for an additional 20 minutes.

There was no action taken.

The board approved a calendar for the 2004-2005 school year. It is the same calendar the majority of teachers in the district voted on. It includes five training days, two teacher work days, two days for parent-teacher conferences and a total of 17 vacation days. School will start on Thursday, Aug. 19, and the last day will be May 27, 2005

Cancer center renamed for Masons

The University of Kansas Medical Center has renamed its cancer research organization the Kansas Masonic Cancer Research Institute.

The new name reflects the commitment of \$20 million by the Kansas Masonic Foundation to support cancer research on that campus.

Founded in 1996 as the Kansas

Cancer Institute, the cancer research arm of the School of Medicine has been a leader in cancer research, primarily in the areas of breast cancer,

cancer prevention and control and drug development. Approval of the name came from the Kansas Board of Regents.

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Spring Style Show

You are cordially invited to attend our Spring Style Show Thursday, March 25, 2004 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. McCook Eye Clinic

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