County requests repairs Railroad asked

to fix crossing

A letter will be sent to Nebraska-Kansas-Colorado RailNet about a crossing in Logan Township after a person who lives in the area called one of the county commissioners to complain.

Commissioner Patricia Glenn said she got a call from Eugene Wurm about the crossing, which is three miles west of Traer on County Road 314 and 1 1/8 miles south on a township road.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch said he wrote a letter to the railroad in December asking to have the crossing fixed.

Mr. Hirsch said he received a call after the first letter saying they would fix the problem. It isn't fixed, so Mr. Hirsch said he would write another letter.

The crossing is rough and Mr. Wurm said it is tearing out the undercarriage of his car.

Mr. Hirsch told commissioners the annual tax sale will be held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday. He said he has had a few calls about some lots in Kanona, and there appears to be more interest over those than anything else.

Properties are placed on the tax sale when the landowner doesn't pay the taxes for three years. Anyone can bid at the sale, although the landowner isn't able to bid on their own property.

The commissioners talked with Ambulance Director Patrick Pomeroy, who said he had talked with Brady Richards of Ellis County about working here part-time. Although the part-time job is his, Mr. Richards has applied for a full time problems. job where he lives.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn said the boiler in the basement is being repaired. Some pipes needed to be removed and replaced.



TUESDAY AFTERNOON, Commissioners Doyle house in honor of the 150th anniversary of the Kansas Ter-Brown, Patricia Glenn and Ralph Unger planted a Spring ritory, which will be this summer. - Herald staff photo by Kimberly Brandt Snow flowering crabapple tree on the west side of the court-

Weed director asks for a newer truck

The Decatur County commis- for the program. sioners talked with the county weed director about getting another used one-ton trucks and a three-quarter really needs to have air conditioning truck for the department since the ton. 2002 Dodge pickup has carburetor

Huntley said the Dodge just can't since they are the only dealer in the take the pasture work. He said he county. Commissioner Ralph Unwould like to get rid of the old blue ger said he should give the dealer a 1986 model and get another truck range, a minimum of what he is

He said the department has two

Commissioner Doyle Brown asked if JR's Used Cars could find Noxious Weed Director Gaylen what the department is looking for,

looking for.

Mr. Unger said a spray vehicle to protect the driver from the spray. Mr. Huntley agreed.

The group discussed whether to get a truck with a flatbed or take the one off the old truck.

The truck has to carry a 300- to 400-gallon tank.

Mr. Unger said Mr. Huntley

should look for prices with a tradein and without a trade.

Commissioners suggested he look for a manual shift or a diesel, since a diesel will not heat up running in slow gear in the pastures.

Mr. Huntley said he had an applicant pass the employee physical who could begin work soon and said he received two other applications.

Youths escape, steal gun

Three boys left the Sappa Valley Youth Ranch last week and broke into a home on Frontier Parkway, stealing several items including a .22 caliber rifle, from a teacher's home.

Oberlin City Police Chief Wade Lockhart said the boys include a 15year-old from Garden City, a 16year-old from Wichita and a 17vear-old from Topeka. They ran away from the ranch around 10:40 p.m. last Monday.

Officers from the police department and county sheriff's office searched for the boys, but didn't find any of them. Chief Lockhart said none of the boys has been spotted so far

The next morning, officers received a phone call that one of the boys' relatives had called the ranch and said they had received a call from a home in Oberlin. The relative had caller ID which came up as Mark Bricker.

The call was placed around 8:45 a.m. last Tuesday. The chief said the home was unlocked

Chief Lockhart said the runaways apparently took a .22 caliber rifle, coin collections, a wrist watch, blanket, hair shears, cash and coins. The total value was \$600. He said he didn't know if the gun was loaded.

He said he thinks the youths called someone to come pick them

Second half of taxes due

The second half of personal and real estate taxes is due at the Decatur County Treasurer's office on Mon-

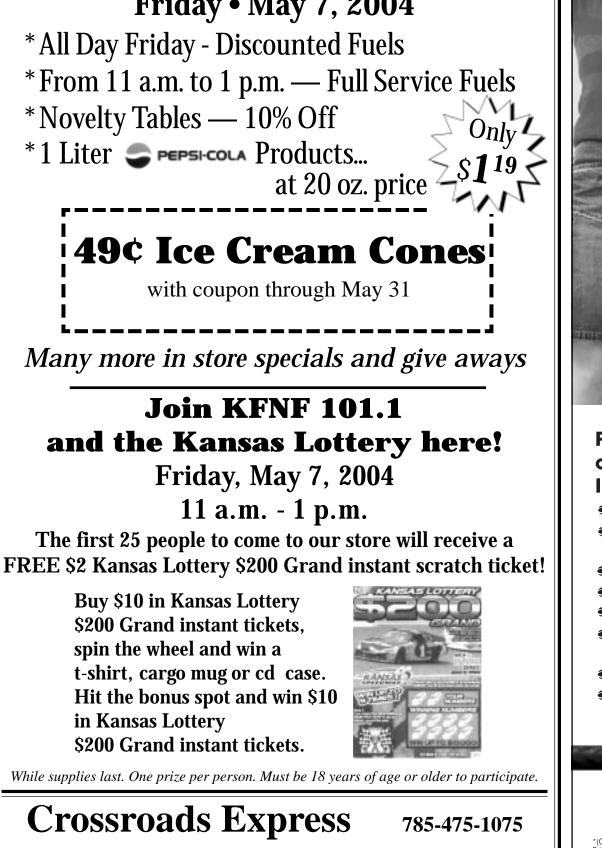
The Kansas Legislature moved the date that the second half taxes are due from June 20 to May 10 last year to help solve the state budget crisis.

Taxes not paid by Monday will be charged interest at 8 percent a year and after July 31, delinquent real estate notices will be published in the paper, said County Treasurer Jean Hale.

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