

County agrees on natural gas contract

The Decatur County commissioners agreed to a contract with Midwest United Energy LLC for natural gas for the next year although they haven't locked in a price yet.

Jeff Younger said the county's contract isn't actually up until the beginning of October, but he wanted to let them know what is going on.

He said last year the commissioners locked in a price and a certain amount of gas at the right time. They paid \$.62 per million British thermal units.

Within the last 10 days or so, he said, the market has started to drop, it still isn't to a point where he would suggest the county lock into a price. He said he would wait, especially since the contract doesn't end for

another two months. Mr. Younger said if the commissioners wait, he thinks they can lock in at lower than \$.60 per million BTUs.

Another option the county has is to lock in just a certain part of the gas for the year, and then when they see a dip in the market, they can lock in the rest. He said that is called riding the index.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn asked if the locked in amount would include natural gas for the museum, which he said it would.

Mr. Younger said he thinks he can get a better price this year because he is also working with the city and the Oberlin School District, which means there will be a bigger bulk.

The commissioners approved the contract for next year without locking in an amount.

Council approves one-time beer license

The Oberlin City Council approved a temporary off-premise beer license for Saturday, July 31, for the hospital benefit at The Gateway.

The permit costs \$50 for three days. It was issued to Mick and Rhonda Barth of the ReLoad to serve beer at the hospital benefit, though the permit actually is for three days.

The question was raised if it should be \$50 and that would cover three separate events. The permit now reads for three consecutive days. For example, the permit could be used for a Friday, Saturday and Sunday event in the same weekend.

Councilman Ray Ward said the permit needs to be clear so that everything is straight.

Surely that fee can be passed on to the consumer, said Councilman Joe Stanley.

They don't charge at the door, said City Clerk Deanna Castle. They aren't selling beer like they used to because people aren't drinking like

they used to.

Councilman Patrick Pomeroy said it seems a little unfair to him if the state only charges \$25 for a permit and the city charges double that. The council decided not to lower the fee, however.

City Administrator Gary Shike said there is a sewer problem at Sappa Valley Youth Ranch. Plumber Marvin Hansen's estimate to fix it was \$3,800. Mr. Shike said he wasn't planning on getting bids to fix it since problems like this often change in the middle of the fix.

The council agreed to have Mr. Hansen fix the problem. The lateral from one of the septic tanks is leaking above ground.

- In other business, the council:
- Approved alley closings for Walter Pennell and LaMoine Guinn. There was no one at the hearing.
 - Approved a public display of fireworks for one night of the fair since the Fourth of July show got rained out twice.

Hardware store plans to expand next door

Joe and Regina Stanley, owners of Stanley Hardware in downtown Oberlin, have purchased the building north of their store from Marty Munson and plan to expand their business.

"The building, originally built by the A.L. Duckwall chain, is in good condition and has a full basement," said Mr. Stanley. "We will cut a hole in the north wall to connect the two buildings."

He said they plan to add new items

and expand the plumbing, electrical and hardware department. They will increase their outdoor living items, including picnic tables and grills, and will also feature a paint and decorating center, he said.

The Stanleys purchased the business at 149 S. Penn 15 years ago. They are assisted by Deb Macfee and Sharon Ream. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

Market to be Saturday

Plans are in place for a farmers' market to be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday at Oberlin's Centennial Park.

The market will feature the normal items including squash, cucumbers and tomatoes, plus pies, flea market items, hot burgers and music.

Vendors will include frozen homegrown pork, pie and ice cream,

eggs, honey, homemade cookies, homegrown corn, blarney stones, and more.

Kem Bryan, who has organized the event, said people should bring their lawn chairs, sit and listen to the music and be ready to buy some goods.

All of the money raised from the sale of burgers, brats and beverages will go to help move St. Mark's Lutheran Church from Norcatur to Oberlin, where it will become part of the Decatur County Museum's "Main Street" collection.

Anyone can sell their wares without it costing them anything, she said.

Maps out soon

Maps should be ready by Thursday for Oberlin's community-wide garage sale, which kicks off on Friday.

The map, being assembled by the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce, will be available after 3 p.m. on Thursday, all day on Friday and from 7:30 to 10 a.m. on Saturday at the Chamber office.

The sales will start after 3 p.m. on Friday and begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday.

Babies, kids classes offered

A Big Kids and Babies class will be offered at 2 p.m. on Sunday at Community Hospital of McCook, according to Laura Reynolds, licensed practical nurse and program coordinator.

The free class provides information to siblings about new babies and explores what it will be like to have a new brother or sister.

The class is offered four times per year. The next class will be offered on Oct. 24. Pre-registration is suggested by calling Community Hospital at (308) 345-2650.

Yellow lines put in place



PUSHING A SPRAYER, City employee Bob Shuler was busy painting yellow parking lines on the brick streets in downtown Oberlin on Monday. The little paint machine had no guides, he said, so he was just hoping for straight lines, and it required several passes to get a thick enough line.

— Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

Election already started

Advance ballots are ready for voters

The primary election is less than two weeks away, and some have already started to vote.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn, who is also the county's election officer, said as of Monday afternoon, four had voted and the office had made up 33 ballot packets to be sent out to residents.

Just about every office in the county is up for election, but the only race is between incumbent Ralph Unger and Phillip Lahman, both Republicans seeking the District 2 commissioner seat.

Others running for office are incumbents John Bremer for magistrate judge, Mrs. Horn for clerk, Jean Hale for treasurer, Doyle Brown for commissioner. Judy Gaumer for register of deeds, Ken Badsky for sheriff and Steve Hirsch for county attorney.

Mrs. Horn said those voting in townships will also be selecting a township treasurer and trustee. Everyone will be voting for a precinct committee man and woman in their party. She said most spots have someone registered but write-in candidates are welcome. It takes five votes to win a seat, she said.

On the state level, incumbent John Faber will meet Doug Sebelius in the Republican primary for the 120th District seat in the state House. The winner will face Democrat Bob Strevey in the general election.

For the state Senate seat vacated by the death of Stan Clark, Republicans Dan Rasure and Ralph Ostmeier will meet in the primary. The winner will go head-to-head with Democrat Tim Peterson, a Monument farmer.

Look on Page 10 of this week's *Oberlin Herald* for more in depth information about the Senate candidates.

Workshop planned

The Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development Area will sponsor three grant writing workshops at the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range in Colby.

The seminars will be Monday to Wednesday, July 26-28; Tuesday to Thursday, Aug. 10-12, and Tuesday to Thursday, Oct. 26-28. Workshops are \$200 per three-day session or \$500 for all three.

To register or for information, call (785) 462-2601.

Internet tonight!
475-2206!

NEW EXCLUSIVE LISTING!



FABULOUS YARD! This 1930 home has been remodeled and features newly re-decorated large bedroom and lots of attic storage on upper level; 2 bedrooms, bath, livingroom and kitchen on main level plus bedroom, bath, family room and laundry on lower level. Special features are entry way tile from the old post office in Oberlin and beautiful banister from old Lund church. The oversized, double garage is an extra amenity.

UPCOMING DECATUR COUNTY LAND AUCTION

Tuesday, August 10, 2004, 2 p.m. at Oberlin American Legion. Selling will be the Robert J. Manning Estate, Richard A. Manning, Executor. Tract 1 - N1/2 of 4-5-28 and Tract 2 - NW1/4 of 35-5-28. Call for sale bill or watch next week's paper.

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