

County to fight bioterror

Pact will bring federal money

The Decatur County commissioners reviewed and signed a bioterrorism contract which means the county Health Department will have \$12,292 to get supplies and work on the plan in case terrorism ever strikes here.

Health Administrator Marilyn Gamblin has been working on the bioterrorism plan for three years. In the past, she has used the money to buy cots, gowns, masks, glasses and education tapes.

This year, she said, she has some money left that has to be spent. Miss Gamblin said there are only certain things that the money can be spent on.

At the last department head meeting, said Miss Gamblin, she talked about purchasing a generator. She said she knows the sheriff's office already has one but they aren't going to want to let the health department use it.

She said she contacted Circuitech and Fidele Electric to get bids, but she never heard back from Fidele Electric.

State money will pay for the generator but not the installation.

Miss Gamblin said she only received one bid, from Circuitech for \$7,500. She said it will be enough to run the refrigerators, some lights and some computers.

Installation will cost \$800. She said she has \$7,753 to spend by the end of September.

How much vaccine is kept in the health department? asked County Attorney Steve Hirsch. During flu season, said Miss Gamblin, there is around \$5,000 worth.

Mr. Brown said he thought it sounded like a pretty good insurance policy. The commissioners approved the bid.

There is an open seat on the Health Advisory Board which was previously held by Joyce Ploussard, she said. Miss Gamblin asked that Good Samaritan Center administrator, Janice Shobe, be appointed to the board.

Commissioner Patricia Glenn said she thought anyone who is interested in the job should fill out a form in the clerk's office. The commissioners agreed.

Commissioner Ralph Unger asked if Miss Gamblin had a list of who is supposed to be on the board. She said they have to have a person from each commissioner district.

Mr. Unger said they may need to get things reorganized.

Water loss closes pool

The Oberlin city swimming pool closed for the season Friday after the city crew accidentally lost around a quarter of the water.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the water department crew had been back washing the filter on Friday when they got called away for a sewer emergency. By the time the men returned to the pool, he said, quite a bit of the water was gone.

Mr. Shike said the attendance has been down and the engineering firm hired to do the pool evaluation needs to look at the pool empty anyway.

With no heater, the pool would be too cold to swim in if they refilled it.

The rest of the water will be pumped onto the park today. The pool was scheduled to close after the Labor Day holiday this weekend.

Pledging their PRIDE



WITH THEIR HANDS covered in paint, Serena Stacey (front) and Kiah Blau put their prints on the wall north of Oberlin Elementary School on Thursday. Kids who agreed to show their "PRIDE" (politeness, respect, integrity, discipline, excellence) were able to put their prints on the wall. It's a tradition at the school. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Goodland coach held for torching home

By **TOMBETZ**
The Goodland Star-News

Police arrested the Goodland High football coach on suspicion of arson late Saturday after a second fire at his home, and the school board met the next day to suspend him and name a replacement.

Coach Tony Diehl, 34, 1109 Harrison, was arrested about 12:30 a.m. Sunday, Chief Ray Smee said.

Neighbors said the fire was set with gasoline or diesel fuel on the roof on the back side of the house.

The coach had complained of vandalism and at least one arson attempt at his home in the last couple of weeks, after he reported a teenage party to the sheriff's department. He said the windshield was broken out of his pickup, and someone had attempted to set fire to his house.

Police watching for vandals apparently were surprised to catch the "victim" instead.

Lowell Lambrecht said his brother-in-law, Marty Ross of Colorado Springs, who was visiting, awakened him when Ross saw the flames at Diehl's house. The two men rushed out to put the flames out with a garden hose.

"My brother-in-law went to get a glass of water and saw the flames, and woke me up and we went over to help," Lambrecht said, adding that he was surprised to hear that Diehl had been arrested. "I don't understand what happened with him. He is a pretty good guy, and has been a good neighbor. I can't understand it."

Lambrecht said the flames were about four feet high when he and his brother-in-law rushed across the street. They had the fire under control before the first fire truck arrived. Firemen were on the scene a minute

or two before that, the men said.

Smee said officers arrived quickly and they kicked in the front door to get Diehl out because of the fire. Diehl's wife, Tiffany, and son, Dietrich, were out of town.



Tony Diehl

Diehl was taken to a police car in front of his home and put in the back seat to keep him warm. Neighbors gathered on the street to watch and speculate on who could have set the fire.

Smee said Sunday that after the fire was put out, officers got permission from Diehl to search the house, and then arrested him and took him to the Sherman County Bastille.

Chief Smee said he talked to Lambrecht and Ross to let them know his officers were about to arrest the coach.

"I felt they needed to know," Smee said, "and it was a way to calm the neighbors' fears that someone was coming into their area and doing this."

"We have been working on this case, and have had extra people watching the area to try to catch whoever was doing these things. We are glad we were able to be on the scene at the right time. The investigation is not over, and we continue to look at all the events of the past two weeks."

Lambrecht said he was glad Smee had explained the situation before they hauled the coach away.

Lambrecht said a woman who lives across the alley behind Diehl's home told him she had seen the coach on the roof before the fire started.

The fire Saturday was reported about 11 p.m. It was the second arson fire reported at that address in a week. Smee said a 911 call came into the dispatch center at 11:10 p.m. that the roof of the house at 1108 Harrison was on fire.

Over the past two weeks, Diehl had claimed he was the target of harassment stemming from a party where he had called the Sherman County sheriff's office to report drugs being used. Charges in that incident are pending, said County

Attorney Bonnie Selby.

Coach Diehl reported possible drug use at 1019 Harrison at 8:25 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 12.

Deputy Burton Pianalto, who investigated, reported that he contacted a high school student at the home. He described the offenses as possession of drug paraphernalia and marijuana. The deputy said he seized a pipe and 2 grams of marijuana valued at \$10. The offenders also were drinking.

On Monday, Aug. 16, Coach Diehl reported criminal damage to the windshield of his 1995 Ford pickup in the amount of \$350. Diehl told *The Goodland Star-News* on Tuesday the windshield had been smashed with a portable air bottle about 11:30 p.m., after he got home.

The first fire at Diehl's home was reported at 11:20 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 22. Officer Brad Parker, who investigated the incident after the fire department was called, estimated damage at \$1,000. He said the fire had been set.

On Wednesday, Diehl reported at 2:15 a.m. that a tire on his pickup had been slashed.

Smee said the investigation continues, and he does not know at this time if all of the incidents were done by the same person.

"We are gathering evidence," Smee said, "but we do not know if all of these were done by one person. If there are others involved, we would like to catch them and bring them all to justice."

The Cowboy football team had an 8-3 record last year under Coach Diehl, with one of the losses to the

Oberlin Red Devils. The team won the district title and lost to Wellington in the second round of the Class 4A state playoffs.

Diehl had been selected to be one of the coaches at the 31st annual Kansas Shrine Bowl at the end of July, but canceled about a week before the game.

Diehl said he did not want to spend the time away from his family, and that he had a doctor's recommendation that he not coach the Shrine Bowl. Diehl said for the past 18 months he has had costochondritis, which he described as an inflammation of the tissue between the ribs which causes swelling of the chest wall, resulting in spasms of pain.

Diehl said his doctor told him overwork aggravates the condition. The coach said he has been taking medication for the pain.

Superintendent Marvin Selby said that basketball coach Jon McLean had agreed to take over as head football coach for the Cowboys. McLean teaches world geography and freshman physical education at the high school.

McLean said he was confident the team will have a good year. He held a meeting with the players later Sunday afternoon, followed by one with their parents.

J.D. Hooper, a high school math teacher and former head football coach, has agreed to return to coaching and work with the Cowboy's defense. Athletic Director Steve Raymer said he also will help with some of the assistant coaching duties.

Council will talk about sewer plans

The Oberlin City Council will talk with its engineer Thursday about updated cost estimates for lagoon treatment at the waste water treatment plant.

The council asked Thaniel Monaco with Miller and Associates to get figures for costs on a lagoon system and update numbers the council received earlier this year.<?>.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the council also will look at a

revised cereal malt beverage ordinance which will change the off-site permit fee to \$50 for a year instead of \$50 an event.

The council will talk about re-

Jennings gas leak ends talk

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**

The Decatur County ambulance director told commissioners that he may need to purchase a new hot water heater for the Jennings ambulance barn after a meter check showed high carbon monoxide numbers, but the problem actually turned out to be a propane leak.

Ambulance Director Patrick Pomeroy said they were holding a clinic at the barn the other day and people were complaining about headaches. He said he called Kerry Green, Jennings fire chief, who checked the building. Green said the carbon monoxide numbers were high.

They shut the gas off, he said, since the colorless, odorless carbon monoxide can kill.

Commissioner Doyle Brown said if the numbers are high, then it could be the combustion chamber on the hot water heater that is shot.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said that it also could be a plugged flue.

Mr. Brown said Mr. Pomeroy needed to check with Mr. Green first. If it is something that Mr. Green can't fix, Norton Sheet Metal put the hot water tank in and they may be able to fix it or bid on a new one.

By Monday the real problem had been figured out. There was a propane leak in the building. The hot water heater runs off of propane. Although the hot water heater doesn't have to be replaced, the leak did need to get fixed.

Mr. Brown said he had a constituent commend him on the ambulance crew and their work. The man asked if a lift could be used to help get larger patients into the ambulance. Mr. Pomeroy said he had never seen one but it was a good idea. Mr. Brown said it may be worth checking into.

Mr. Pomeroy said the conference he and Sharla Ritter, assistant director for the Jennings ambulance crew, attended in Wichita was wonderful. He said they learned that all ambulance services will be inspected this year by the state. Decatur County hasn't been inspected yet, he added, which means in the next four months they will be.

He said they are going through the ambulances now to make sure all the equipment is there.

Mr. Unger, who was on a committee with the state Emergency Medical Services board, said he needs to make sure he has all the required certificates for the volunteers. Mr. Pomeroy said he already has the certificates.

Mr. Pomeroy said he has 10 people already signed up for a First Responder class starting this fall, seven for the emergency medical technician to emergency medical technician I class and six for the first responder bridge class.

The state, he said, is offering a new program where there is \$200,000 available for emergency medical students. Mr. Pomeroy said it was something he would like to check into.

moving the outdoor water restrictions. Oberlin has been on even/odd watering since all summer.

The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at The Gateway.



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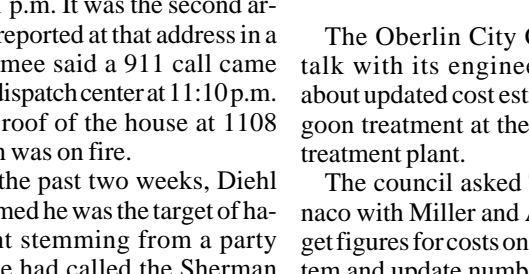
Class Schedule

Monday & Tuesday 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Wednesday 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Located in Oberlin High School Art Room, #B100

The HUSKERS are back on Local Radio

DATE	OPPONENT	KICK-OFF	HUSKER GAME DAY
Sept. 4	Western Illinois	6:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 11	Southern Miss	11:00 a.m.	6:00 a.m.
Sept. 18	Pittsburgh	11:00 a.m.	6:00 a.m.



You are invited...

Customer Appreciation Fall Cattle Producers' Dinner & Meeting
Tuesday, September 7
7 p.m., at The Gateway in Oberlin

OUR PURPOSE:

- * To offer important education on cattle management and marketing
- * To honor our clients and to show our appreciation.

There will be some practical information on animal identification and marketing for you to use in your operations. Plan to join us.

Specifically - "What does Animal ID mean for all of us as producers?"

- Dale Blasi, Kansas State University Beef Extension Specialist
- Mark Spire, D.V.M., M.S. - Kansas State University President - American Association of Bovine Practitioners

Both will speak on United States Animal Identification System for food animals. Most current information will be presented.

Please call in your reservations to 785-475-3808 for Oberlin or 785-877-2411 for Norton or 1-800-953-3808 and let us know how many are coming by Friday, Sept. 3rd.

For appointments or 24-hour emergency service phone 785-475-3808

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