

# Elevator traps two at courthouse, closed for repairs

The Decatur County commissioners talked with the custodian last Tuesday about repairs on the courthouse elevator after the district judge and court reporter got stuck in it.

Custodian Bob Berls said the elevator had been acting up for a few days. The maintenance man came out and worked on it last Monday and then the following morning the district judge and court reporter got trapped.

Mr. Berls said he got them to the third floor, but then decided to shut the elevator down.

Mr. Berls said he would contact the maintenance company. He asked if he should check into replacing the elevator since it has been there for 30 years. Commissioner Ralph Unger said he should possibly check into costs.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch said he received a letter from the attorney general about purchasing vehicles from an out of state dealer. Mr. Hirsch said the letter said it is not illegal for counties to purchase from out of state dealers; it is illegal for those dealers to be selling in Kansas.

The commissioners talked with Ambulance Director Patrick Pomeroy, who said he will be starting a first responder class with 10 people signed up. Mr. Pomeroy said he is also offering an emergency medical technician 1 class. He said he is hoping for seven students from Oberlin and 14 from the Norton area.

Mr. Pomeroy will teach the emergency medical technician class and then help Brenda Arnold teach the first responder class.

Mr. Pomeroy said he recently took the Ford Expedition into

## County roundup

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Approved the purchase of a used 2002 Caterpillar 613C scrapper for the landfill, with a trade in of a 1977 scrapper. Story below.

- Talked with the custodian about the elevator, which broke down the morning of the meeting, trapping the district judge and court reporter in it. Story to left.

Wagner Ford because the check engine light came on. He said it just hit 100,000 miles.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Started to review the county budget for 2005 but didn't decide on anything since Commissioner Doyle Brown was absent. The budget hearing has been set for 10 a.m. Tuesday.

- Held a 10-minute closed session to discuss non-elected personnel. There was no action taken.

- Briefly discussed a partial bill from Roofmasters for the Good Samaritan Roof. County Clerk Marilyn Horn was going to call the center and further discussions will be held next week.

- Received a new IBM contract for five years of maintenance. There are items that weren't included that need to be and others that were on the contract and shouldn't be. The commissioners are still looking at it.

# County purchases used earth mover

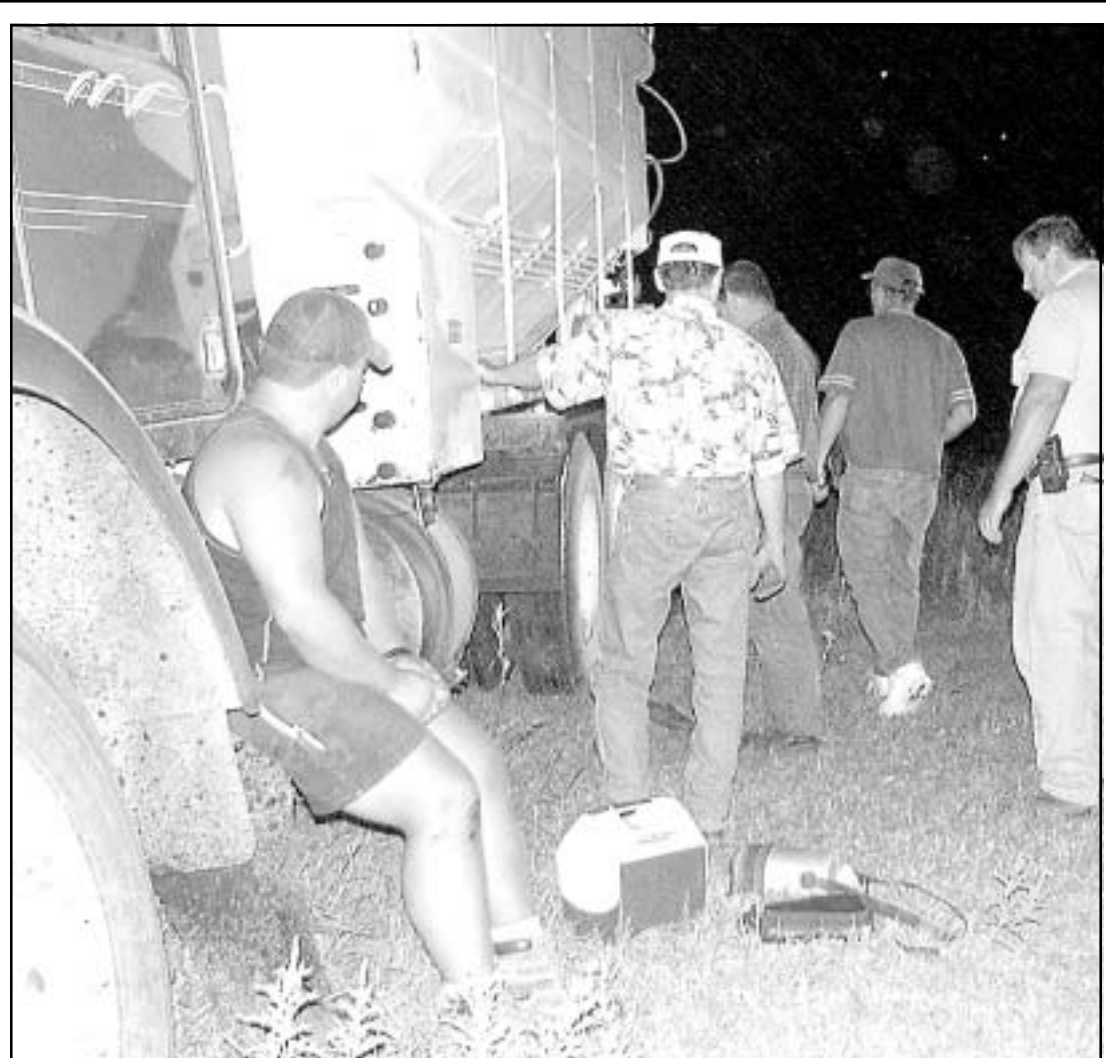
The Decatur County commissioners approved the purchase of a 2002 Caterpillar 613C scrapper for the landfill at the meeting last Tuesday.

Before deciding to purchase the scrapper, which Road and Bridge Supervisor had borrowed from Martin Tractor, the commissioners went to the landfill to check it out.

Mr. Stallman said the scrapper has good tires.

He said he would be interested in getting a left mirror, a radio and ripper teeth added.

After seeing the scrapper, the commissioners agreed to purchase it out of the special machine fund for \$173,000 with a trade-in on a 1977 scrapper.



**FIREMEN LOOKED** at a feed truck (above) last Monday after the driver lost control and ran off the road. The truck, (below) which belongs to Flying S Inc. of Norcatour, had some damage to the front end.

— Herald staff photos by Steve Haynes

# Truck damaged in wreck

A feed truck wound up in a field about four miles south of town last Monday after a blowout sent the driver on a wild ride through some trees, over a culvert and into a pasture, dragging barbed wire and fence posts with him.

The Decatur County Sheriff's Office reported that Johoones Geysler, 22, was driving a 1974 truck north on U.S. 83 about 8 p.m. when the right front tire blew out around mile post 208.3.

The report said Mr. Geysler tried to keep the truck on the road but it veered to the right. It hit a cement culvert and several small trees, went through the fence and stopped near a creek. The truck be-



longs to Flying S Inc. out of Norcatour.

Mr. Geysler did not receive a

ticket. Though an ambulance was sent to the scene, he was taken to the hospital by private vehicle.

# Professional and student artists to show their work

Organizers are planning to bring professional artists and students to show at the first High Plains ArtFest, drawing high school juniors and seniors from more than 30 area schools and art fans from across the Tri-State region in April.

The adult and student art show and sale at The Gateway in Oberlin will target the Tri-State region. Community college instructors also are being informed about the event.

"An art show and sale is something that has not recently been attempted in our region," said Connie Grafel, Gateway marketing director, "but we hope that this event will offer an opportunity for local artists, photographers, potters, etc., to display their works. And we see the event as offering something new and different for residents in the Tri-State area."

High Plains ArtFest will kick off with an invitation-only gala reception honoring all artists and their guests on Friday evening, April 8. The public showing begins at 9 a.m. Saturday and will conclude at 3 p.m.

The event follows the Northwest Kansas League high school art show, which will also be held at The Gateway on Tuesday through Thursday of that week.

The idea for a regional art show was suggested by Norcatour arts and theater enthusiast Ron Temple. That sparked interest by several groups, including the Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission. Their membership and program director, Mary Henzel, came forward to help get the proposal off the ground.

Area artists and art supporters are urged to volunteer their time to make this event a success. Anyone interested in helping on a committee should call Ms. Grafel at 475-2901 or Mrs. Henzel at 475-3329.

A Spectacular Gala Reception in the Gateway arena opening night will offer food and drink for artists and guests who are entering their works. Patrons who make a \$100 donation to attend the gala will be voting on the "People's Choice Award Winners."

Area musicians will play during

an "Art Walk" that evening. Patrons will have first chance at purchasing any of the works on display. Award winners in all of the eight categories will be recognized and introduced during the evening.

All works will be judged and all sales will include a 20 percent commission for the High Plains ArtFest committee so the event can continue in the future.

Separate prospecti for adult and student entries will be mailed early this fall. Arts clubs in the area are being contacted, as well as professional artists, and a list of more than 400 names has been built.

"There are many unknown artists in our region," Ms. Grafel said, "and the organizers are attempting to make contacts in most of the communities so word about the upcoming event gets out as much as possible."

Entries are being accepted in categories including watercolor, acrylic, oils, pastels, sculpture, hand-made ceramics, photography and other works that include drawings, graphics, mixed media, computer generated and batik processes.

Some of the budget will come from grants through the Kansas Arts Commission and the Hansen Foundation of Logan. Other money sources are being contacted, and prize money for the event will exceed \$2,200.

"In contacting area high schools, we have learned that many are dropping their art programs," Ms. Grafel said. "Therefore, every venue for promoting the arts must be utilized to its fullest extent. Our committee sees this unique and unusual event for the Tri-State region as another opportunity to promote a variety of artistic skills that often go unnoticed

in rural communities.

"We hope to make this a special event that will grow in the years ahead and bring great exposure to new works of local artists and student artists.

"In addition, involving several hundred professional and amateur artists along with students should bring an influx of people into Oberlin for a fun weekend, plus a unique opportunity for artisans on the high plains to showcase their best and be recognized for their efforts."

The organizing committee expects to meet at least once a month through April, she said, and is open to suggestions on what could be done to make the weekend attractive to people here and visitors from surrounding states.

# Fun night is Monday

The Support Our Schools organization will hold a Fall Fun Night at Oberlin Elementary School starting at 7 p.m. Monday.

The open house/scavenger hunt evening is set up for kids, parents, friends, family members and others from the area to get to know the school better and have a little fun doing it.

Abby Hissong, an organizer of the group, said each student has to bring an adult with them to join in the activities.

The group will meet in the gym. After the activity, everyone will meet in the cafeteria for caramel apples.

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