

City says yes to loan

The Oberlin City Council approved an ordinance allowing the city to seek a loan from a state revolving fund to build a new sewer treatment facility at its meeting Thursday night.

The loan, to replace the current mechanical sewer plant with discharging lagoon system, would be for 20 years for almost \$3 million. The average home rate will increase to \$28 a month, which is \$6 more than it is now, city officials say.

City Administrator Gary Shike said users will probably see the price go up next spring.

The council also talked about a sign for The Gateway. Mayor Ken Shobe decided to give Connie Grafel, Gateway marketing director, the go ahead to have the sign committee start working on a design.

The city has budgeted \$25,000 for the sign next year. There is \$3,950 in pledges, \$1,470 in cash, and the committee received \$5,000 from a Dane Hansen grant.

Mr. Shike said they hope the sign will be up by spring.

In other business, the council:

- Approved allowing the Oberlin School District to put a modular building at Sappa Valley Youth Ranch for an addition to the school.
- Signed a proclamation for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
- Approved a permit for Ken Morgan and Morie Zodrow to sell beer at the Pheasants Forever Banquet at The Gateway on Friday, Nov. 12.

Office has new road signs

The Decatur County Health Department has new signs on U.S. 83 pointing to its office in the clinic building, which were installed by the city.

Health Administrator Marilyn Gamblin said she owed the city a thank you. She said she mentioned the signs a couple weeks ago and then called to see about signs put up for the Sheridan County Health Department, which she found out were put in by the city of Hoxie. She said she called City Administrator Gary Shike, and the signs were in within a week.

Ms. Gamblin said a generator, purchased through bio-terrorism grant dollars, has been installed. The cost wasn't as much as she thought it would be.

Ms. Gamblin said she will not be giving any flu shots since the county hasn't received any vaccine. She said she ordered early, and she thought they would get some this year, but with one of the manufacturers out of the picture, she doesn't know if they will get any.

The hospital may have some vaccine, she said, but they will need to use that for their high-risk patients. Ms. Gamblin said the whole nation is feeling the shortage.

The department will be holding a mini health fair on Monday and Tuesday and doing blood draws for \$20 or \$25, she said.



Crews replace crossing

AT THE INTERSECTION of U.S. 83 and K-383 east of Selden, crews from the Kyle Railroad and Kansas Department of Transportation replaced the railroad crossing Friday afternoon. Chriss McDiffett, district engineer with the transportation department, said the men ripped out the old crossing, which had gotten quite rough, and put in a new one. Their work included new asphalt overlay on the approaches and new railroad tracks. Roger Carlisle (right) stopped traffic heading south from Oberlin because the work made the crossing a one-lane road for a while.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



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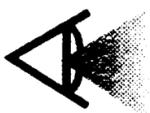
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County receives insurance pitch

The Decatur County commissioners talked with a representative from Midwest Insurance Associates about employee health insurance at the meeting last Tuesday, Nov. 12.

Ray Meyers said the company works with large group health insurance companies to get the best prices.

Recently, he said, the firm merged with Performax out of Baltimore, which has given them more connections.

He said they are able to put together a complete package through the marketing department and then bring it back to the county.

The county has had Corporate Plan insurance since 1991.

Mr. Meyer said his company works with Red Willow County and the City of McCook.

He suggested the county look at preferred provider (PPO) plan because of the discounts they will get

in health service. The county isn't on a plan like this now. Mr. Meyer said Decatur County is in the minority on this.

Although he had some numbers for the commissioners, he said they could change after the employees filled out questionnaires, then he could come back with more solid numbers.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Talked with Ambulance Director Patrick Pomeroy, who said the state would be out the following day to inspect the service.

- Heard the air conditioning unit is off the roof of the Golden Age Center and has been placed on the ground.

- Presented a certificate of appreciation to Jerry Stoney for 15 years' service. He is the bridge foreman with the road and bridge department.

Rains keep road crew busy for fall season

With the recent rains, the road and bridge department has been busy grading and repairing the roads, Decatur County commissioners heard at their meeting Tuesday, Oct. 12.

Supervisor Tim Stallman said they have gotten complaints since the rains, but not the same ones they had before. There were roads that had too much gravel a few weeks ago and now the same spots don't have enough. He said the crew has been working overtime in some of the townships.

Mr. Stallman said a new metal roof will be installed on the Jennings

Shop soon if the weather cooperates.

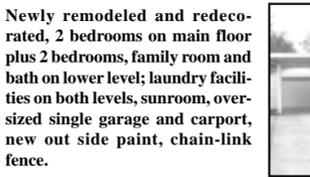
The crew got a new radio in the transportation bus, he said, and they have about three-fourths of their new radios installed. The volume is a little louder and the radios are a little easier to understand. He said it is also nice to have the weather channel.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn said the old laptop computer from her office has been sent to the road and bridge department. Mr. Stallman said their computer got a virus. They plan to have the Internet come in on the laptop so that the files on the desktop aren't affected.

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Newly remodeled and redecorated, 2 bedrooms on main floor plus 2 bedrooms, family room and bath on lower level; laundry facilities on both levels, sunroom, oversized single garage and carport, new out side paint, chain-link fence.



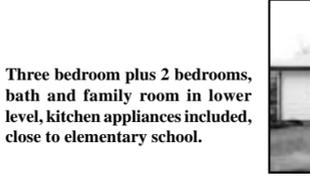
Three bedrooms main floor plus 1 bedroom and family room in lower level; 2 baths, double garage, newer vinyl siding.



Located close to downtown and elementary school, 4 bedroom, 2 bath, large, eat-in kitchen with appliances, fireplace, fenced yard, single garage.



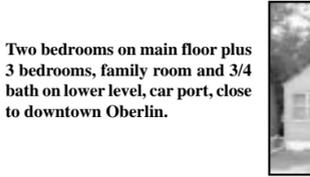
Two bedroom close to downtown, fenced back yard.



Three bedroom plus 2 bedrooms, bath and family room in lower level, kitchen appliances included, close to elementary school.



Three bedroom, 1 - 1/2 bath, family room, close to elementary school.



Two bedrooms on main floor plus 3 bedrooms, family room and 3/4 bath on lower level, car port, close to downtown Oberlin.



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