

## Wetland options discussed

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Three experts toured the lake area at Sappa Park last Thursday before presenting ideas on how to build a wetlands at the park to the City Council meeting that night.

Dennis Haag of Tetra Tech EMI, a private consulting firm, gave a slide presentation showing that wetlands need an ecosystem which depends on water, soil and vegetation. He was joined by Chris Barrens from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and Phill Bausch with the Watershed Institute. The men came at the invitation of Councilman Jay Anderson and a group interested in the lake.

Mr. Haag said a wetlands normally increases the value of land. Oberlin has a 141-acre sediment-filled lake right now. The land is leased for farming.

The place is there, but the question is how do you take the water flow and make it available to restore the lake, he said. The creek has a lot of losses, water appropriations and restrictions, he said.

The city could use the outflow from the waste water plant, he said, and use gravity flow to pipe it to the lake.

The idea is to create a small pond, divert water flow and open the channel and the spillway.

There is a federal program for

## City Round up

At a meeting Thursday night, the Oberlin City Council:

- Discussed putting lights in place of the skylights at the library when a new roof is installed. Story on Page 3A.

- Accepted the low bid to put in a water main extension to the industrial park north of town. Story on Page 3A.

- Heard bids from two men who would both like to farm the lake bottom at Sappa Park. Story below.

- Talked with men from private agencies and a state department who had some ideas to make the lake bottom at Sappa Park a wetlands. Story to left.

- Decided to continue giving Sunflower Cinema a \$100 monthly electrical allowance. Story on Page 3A.

wetlands, said Mr. Haag. If the city is eligible for that, it could pay 100 percent of the cost.

He said from reading state laws, a person can impound 15 acre feet of water without appropriations. (See LAKE on Page 5A)

## Two area men bid to cash farm old lake bottom

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Two men bid to farm the lake bottom at Sappa Park during a City Council meeting last Thursday, but the council decided not to make any decisions until they had more information.

Jim Abbey's bid was for \$32 per acre and Kendal Fisher's bid was for \$53 per tillable acre.

Jim Abbey has been farming the land for years, even when the youth ranch was run by Cookson Hills. His lease is up March 1, but the city has to notify Mr. Abbey 30 days before that to break the lease, which is the beginning of February.

Mr. Abbey said his plan for the land for next year is to plant sunflowers. The estimated amount the city would make on the crop is \$8,554.

The second bidder was Kendal Fisher, who said he planned to plant alfalfa on the land. The lease he presented to the council would allow him to continue harvesting alfalfa off the land for five years once he starts. If the first harvest is in 2006,

then it would run for five years after that.

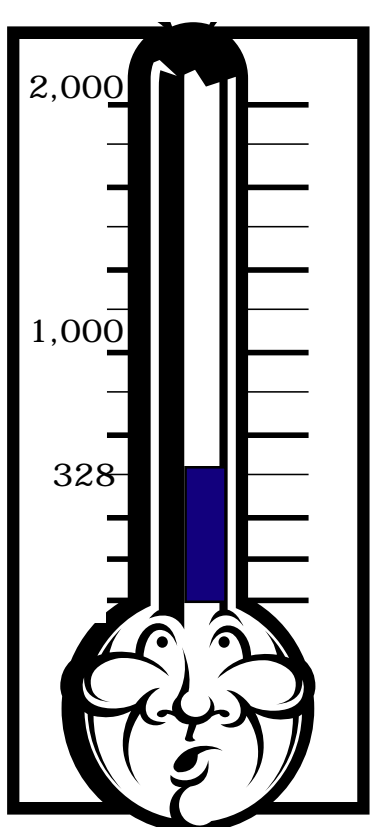
The contract says that Mr. Fisher would want control on trespassing during his lease. He said he wants to have some control on people driving around there and hunting on that land.

City Attorney Steve Hirsch said when the land was originally given to the city by the old state Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, the idea was that it would be kept open. (See COUNCIL on Page 5A)

## Food pile growing steadily

The annual Stanley Hardware food drive is up and running.

Donations are being taken for the Decatur County Food Pantry during business hours and being placed in the south window of the store.



## Women shop at fair

AT THE WOMEN'S FAIR Saturday, Dr. Gary Fredrickson (above) got his ear candled by Jane Carlisle of the Washboard. Judy Ploussard (left) looked at jewelry. The second annual Women's Fair brought 31 booths together geared toward women. There was everything from make-up to coffee to stamps to purses to home decorations. During the lunch hour, the Oberlin Girl Scouts opened a lunch booth in the arena at The Gateway.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



## Good Samaritan Center sets up goals for future

Workers at the Decatur Good Samaritan Center met to discuss goals recently and project where they want to be in the next 10 years.

Jan Badsky, activities director at the center, said regional director Randy Fitzgerald was here for a luncheon Thursday to talk about the

centers in Oberlin and Atwood. Department heads from both centers were present. With a drop in population in the schools and in the town, she said, the center will be facing some difficult challenges. They are looking at some added services.

The staff brainstormed and came

up with 14 goals, said Mrs. Badsky.

One is to do some marketing outside of the area to tell people what a small rural area can offer.

Mrs. Badsky said the group agreed that the public isn't aware of what it takes to run a business like this. The average cost to run a facil-

ity like the center is approximately \$105 a day per resident for Oberlin, she said.

She said they want to make the public aware of how many people work at the center and how changes would affect them. At no point in time, said Mrs. Badsky, did they dis-

cuss closing.

Part of making people aware of what is going on, she said, is offering to talk to groups in town. There are lots of things about becoming older that people and their families need to understand, including trusts. (See CENTER on Page 5A)

## Four readers win \$50 in Santa bucks

Four more readers claimed \$50 "instant winner" prizes this week in the annual Christmas on Us promotion.

That leaves just two more instant prizes, since four claimed prizes last week, too. There are four numbers in the ads this week.

The first two winning tickets must be presented at *The Oberlin Herald* by 5 p.m. Friday to claim the prizes.

The four winning tickets all were received from businesses on Main Street. (See INSTANT on Page 5A)

## Angel Tree needs shoppers

The tree is hung with Christmas bows and red forms with sizes, needs and wants of children who are part of families who need a little help this holiday season.

Abby Hisson said the Angel Tree, sponsored each year by the Oberlin Jaycees, has more than 57 kids on it this week. She said eight forms were picked up from Fredrickson Insurance Agency on Friday that have not been returned, so there may be more.

Mrs. Hisson said they also are starting to get forms back that were sent out by the Social and Rehabilitation Services office in Norton.

Last week, the tree only had 12 names. It was a slow beginning and the list of buyers was longer than the list of kids who needed things.

Now, she said, the list of those who wanted to buy has been exhausted and there are plenty of kids left on the tree. It seems this year, she said, there are a lot more families

buying for the kids.

Anyone who wants to be a buyer should stop by Fredrickson Insurance and pick up a sheet off the tree. So far, she said, the youngest child is 1 and the oldest is 15. There is a nice mixture of boys and girls.

Names of kids who need presents should be in by Friday. The tree is available for children up to 17.

Anyone who wants to buy gifts can go into the office anytime and pick up a sheet, she said.

## Decorating the tree



ON FRIDAY, Ivah Alexander (left) and Edla Olson put a couple of their homemade ornaments on the tree at the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

## \* Instant winners get \$50

(Continued from Page 1A)

The first winner to come in was Elaine Marcuson, who got her ticket at the LandMark Inn. Mrs. Marcuson said she planned to spend the money on groceries.

Next it was Elvin Beneda, who received his ticket at Addleman Drug Store. He said he was going to use the money to buy gifts.

Shirley Simpson came in next. She got the ticket from Stanley Hardware and planned to buy Christmas presents with her winnings.

Lastly, Rosalie Bainter came in. She received her ticket from R&M Service Center and planned to spend her money on Christmas presents for the grandkids.

The final drawing for the promotion will be held at 11 a.m. at the gazebo downtown on Saturday, Dec. 18. Tickets will be drawn for the \$1,500 Grand Prize and the \$500 First Prize.

Anyone over 18 years old is eligible to win. Shoppers get one ticket for every \$10 spent at sponsoring businesses. They can also get one free ticket each week at *The Oberlin Herald* office and the Chamber of Commerce office.

Employees of the newspaper are not eligible to win. Employees of sponsoring businesses cannot receive tickets at their place of employment.

Sponsors are Addleman Drug Store, Ward Drug Store, Stanley Hardware, Raye's Grocery Store, Countryside Veterinary Clinic, Southwest Implement, R&M Service Center, Hansen's Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning, Ray Jewelry, Dale's Fish 'N' Fun, Culligan Water Conditioning, Times Past Antiques, the Carpet Center, Prairie Petals, Home Planning Center, Oberlin Mercantile, Fidele Electric, Woodcrafting, Lumber and Hardware, Lifetime Eyecare, Cabin Antiques, Decatur County Implement, the Dresser, Rocking R and Fine Spirits Video. Winners are paid in scrip, which can be spent only at sponsoring merchants.

## Lights to be judged

The Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce is holding Christmas house lighting contests in Oberlin, Jennings and Norcat, with judging scheduled for next week.

People do not have to sign up to enter in the contest; just turn on the Christmas lights outside and they will be judged.

Glenna Nichols, Chamber manager, said the judging will start on Sunday and end on Friday, so keep the lights on.

Oberlin will be divided up into four sections, she said, and there will be judges going to Norcat and Jennings.

In each city, prizes will be \$75 for first, \$50 for second and \$25 for third place. In Oberlin those prizes will be taken off the winners' electric bills. In Jennings, where Midwest Energy is co-sponsoring, and in Norcat, the prizes will be in cash.

In Jennings, the names of winners will be posted on the Post Office door by Saturday, Dec. 18. In Norcat, winners will be announced at a drawing the same day. Winners in Oberlin will be announced during the Oberlin Business Alliance drawing on Monday, Dec. 20.

## \* Center officials set goals

(Continued from Page 1A) guardianships and warning signs when families are getting burned out caring for loved ones.

The nursing home industry is gradually changing, she said. People are growing older, and living in the home is just a different part of their lives.

The center has been going through some physical changes, she said, with the move to neighbor-

hoods. The group talked about changing the center to make it more Christ-centered.

This is the most important time in elders lives, she said, the last living years. In that stage people start to center around the beginnings of their lives and Christ.

They need to know they are allowed to do that and are able to live in it.

She said they would like Decatur

Community High alumni living elsewhere to be more aware of what is happening at the center.

Quality of care shouldn't be measured by the miles traveled to see their parents or grandparents, she said, but what those residents can get from a facility.

"We want to become a better center than we already are," said Mrs. Badsky, "to grow and be here for the next 10 years."

## Board discusses evaluation

The Oberlin School Board held a special meeting last Monday night to discuss the superintendent's evaluation in several closed sessions.

The board had received the evaluation "tool," or form, ahead of time and each member had a chance to fill it out. The opinions the board came up with were then compiled for discussion.

The board called a 15-minute closed session and two five-minute closed sessions with Superintendent Kelly Glodt. The board then held an hour-long closed session without him. Mr. Glodt was called back in for 15 and five-minute sessions.

Mr. Glodt said in each goal area, the board described and discussed the positive things he had accomplished. They then talked about sug-

gestions for Mr. Glodt to focus on in the next six months and lastly any concerns.

"It was very beneficial for me," the superintendent said. "It gave me some guidance on what to focus on."

Mr. Glodt said two things the board discussed with him were moving forward on a list of improvements the facilities advisory council drew up and financial mat-

## Riders will hold dance, fund raiser

The Tripple Creek Riders will be giving away two horses at a dance they are planning on Saturday, Dec. 18, at the Bohemian Hall.

The horse, a 3-year-old sorrel grade mare and a 2004 weanling bay grade stud colt, will be given away in a fund raiser at the event.

The dance starts at 7 p.m. with free finger foods and pop. The band Ren-

dezvous will be playing.

Admittance is \$7 for couples, \$5 for singles over 13, \$3 for children and free for kids under 5.

The club, said secretary Kristin McHugh, is a non-profit organization which connects kids and horses. The group built an arena south of the fairground where they hold fun days and shows. They also do trail rides.

They are members of the Kansas Western Horseman's Association, which allows members to attend those shows.

All the money from the dance will go to arena improvements and events for the members.

Everyone is welcome to event. Memberships to the Tripple Creek Riders are available.

## Center wants to fix up bird aviary

A Decatur County Good Samaritan Center fundraiser to improve its aviary is coming to a close, with prizes to be given away during the yuletide celebration at 3 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 17.

The center's contractor says it won't maintain the aviary, in the main room at the center, because it

is so out-of-date. When a company maintains an aviary, said Jan Badsky, activities director, they know the species of birds and how to take care of them.

To help raise money to fix it the center will be giving away four prizes. The first prize, a robin print,

was donated by the Sunflower Chapter of Pheasants Forever. Second is \$50 in Santa bucks from the center, third is \$25 in gas from Sinclair and fourth is two large pizzas from Pizza Hut.

For information, call Mrs. Badsky at 475-2245.

## Women will hold home tour on Sunday

The annual Decatur Professional Women's Christmas Home Tour will start at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Tickets are \$12 and are on sale at the Dresser or through members of

the club. Homes on the tour this year include those of Judy Scott, Anita Hirsch, Jennifer Auxier and Peggy Carswell.

The ticket price includes both the

tour and a soup supper following at the United Church in Oberlin. The tour will start at the church.

Money raised will go to scholarships for girls and women.

## \* Lake options discussed again at city meeting

(Continued from Page 1A) That would mean a pond about 5 feet wide and three feet deep.

If part of the lake bed was turned into a wetlands, he said, it wouldn't be suitable for farming anymore.

The best they could hope for, he said, would be two cells each with a total of 10 acres of open water. The rest would then be wetlands.

The dam at the lake looks like it is in great condition, he said; it just needs trees cleaned off of it. The outlet pipe could be renovated or replaced economically.

Mr. Haag said it just might be time for the city to put in a pipe from the waste water plant. If that water is used on the city's property, it is already their water. Once it goes into the creek, he said, the city loses control.

Oberlin produces about 100,000 gallons a day or 70 gallons of water a minute. There would be some

natural water coming in.

Jim Abbey, who farms the lake bottom, asked if they would stop the flow of the creek. There wouldn't be anymore dams built, said Mr. Haag, basically just digging out a pit.

The group talked about trucking water to the lake. Mr. Haag said, although they could do that, it isn't economical because trucks would have to be constantly running. The most efficient way is a pipe.

What is the possibility of this happening? asked Councilman Joe Stanley. It depends on the city's drive, Mr. Haag replied.

The council urged the lake committee to continue looking into options for the lake property. Mayor Ken Shobe said the committee should continue and see what is available, but they aren't going to cut off farming this year. Both Dr. Anderson and Jack Benton serve on the committee.

## \* Council receives two bids to farm Sappa lake bottom

(Continued from Page 1A) for hunting, but there is no law saying that it has to stay open.

The lease would set the rent at \$53 per tillable acre per year.

Councilman Stan McEvoy said he needed more information before making a decision. He said he would like to see some figures on how the city has been doing with Mr. Abbey. Dr. Anderson said he wanted to look at some other options for the land.

Councilman Patrick Pomeroy said he would like to know what the park committee thinks about all of this.

The group talked about putting the discussion on the agenda for the first meeting in January.

Mr. Abbey said he could get his 10-year history.

Why is it that all of the city's farm ground for rent isn't up for bid?

asked Mr. Abbey. Mayor Ken Shobe said he didn't know.

There is land at the airport and near the irrigation well the city purchased. Mayor Shobe said they should look at bids on all three. He said they should probably be advertised.

It should be fair, said Mr. McEvoy.

The lake was put up for bids because Councilman Anderson didn't bring anything else up but the lake bottom, said Mr. Abbey.

Councilman Ray Ward said they should get bids with mowing and without it at the airport, since the current tenant mows the ground there.

The city said they would like all the bids by Jan. 1. They talked about doing rent in ways other than cash, but decided to just do cash rent.

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