

Council receives cost estimates to move water

The Oberlin City Council received estimates from its engineers at the meeting Thursday night breaking down the cost of putting in a pipe from the new waste water treatment plant to Sappa Park to move water for a wetlands.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the spreadsheet from Miller and Associates was an estimate of the cost. He said he talked with Thaniel Monaco with Miller to see if the water could be moved to the park by gravity or if it would need to be pumped. There wasn't enough information to make that decision, he said.

Estimated cost for the pipe and equipment to disinfect the water is \$868,200.

The council signed contracts for a \$400,000 Community Development Block Grant for the sewer lagoon system.

Mr. Shike said Mr. Monaco had been notified that the project for well No. 12 is eligible for grant money. The council authorized Mr. Shike to sign the papers needed for the grant.

The council talked with city Foreman Dan Castle about work at the cemetery. He said they are still working on replacing dead or dying trees. In the fall of 2004, the city planted five "spring snow crab" trees.

This year before Memorial Day, he said, they plan to plant grass around the Indian Raid monument and on as many bare graves as possible. They would also like to plant six new trees parallel to the Veterans Memorial and fix the opening in the wall to make it accessible for wheel chairs.

Mr. Castle said they have created a plan for improvements through 2008.

In other business, the council:

- Heard that the city is still operating under an extension of the previous power contract between the Kansas Municipal Energy Association and Sunflower Electric. St. Francis is still ironing out some areas in the contract, which includes Oberlin, St. Francis and Sharon Springs.

- Heard that the city crew had the first safety training through Kansas Municipal Utilities. It was a two-day session. The crew will continue to have training one day a month.

- Heard the sign committee has already met with two companies about the sign for The Gateway and has one more they will meet with at 5:30 p.m. Thursday.

- Talked with Police Chief Wade Lockhart, who said the department has served eight notices for violations of the inoperable or non-licensed vehicle ordinance. He said there are more to serve, but it will take the officers another week or more to get pictures of the vehicles and send out the letters.

- Received a letter from Cebridge Connections, the cable provider, saying that there will be some adjustments in billing amounts. The basic service will increase \$2, digital tiers 51 cents, any three tiers or other digital packages 95 cents, first premium movie service \$1 and second premium movie service \$1.

- Held a 30-minute closed session for attorney-client privilege with Chief Lockhart and Mr. Hirsch.

- Appointed Randy Ostmeyer to the Economic Development Corp. board and Gary Walter and Rocky Diederich to the Tree Commission.

- Named The Bank, First National and Farmers Bank and Trust as city depositories.

Man talks equipment



AT THE COVER YOUR ACRES conference, David Stapp (left) talked with a representative about John Deere equipment.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Man asks for hearing

An Oberlin man asked the City Council for a hearing for a letter he received about seven inoperable or junk vehicles on his property.

Rob McFee, who lives on North Beaver, told the council Thursday that he received a notice for the vehicles on his property. He asked if he got the vehicles tagged or titled, would that get rid of the notice. Five of the seven vehicles are operable, he said, and two are being worked on.

Mr. McFee said he came to the meeting on Thursday, held in the basement of the city library, to see if he could clear up the notice or request a hearing at the first meeting in March.

City Attorney Steve Hirsch read the ordinance and said that if the vehicles are junked, wrecked or abandoned, it would help to tag them.

Would it stop the legal process? asked Mr. McFee. That would be up to the council, said Mr. Hirsch.

Mayor Ken Shobe asked why Mr. McFee received the notice. Police Chief Wade Lockhart said he received a complaint on one of the vehicles and others weren't tagged.

A truck in the back yard, said Mr. McFee, is tagged now. He said he just wants to know what he needs to do to clear up the notice. What he'd really like to see, he added, is for the council to repeal the ordinance and throw it out the window.

Mayor Shobe agreed to the first meeting on Thursday, March 3, for a hearing.

Volunteers still needed

Anyone interested in working on the Decatur County Relay for Life committee is invited to a meeting at Sarah Fredrickson's house on East Frontier Parkway at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

Mrs. Fredrickson, who will co-chair the event with Chris Dempewolf, said they still need a few more committee people. Cancer survivors or volunteers should contact either Sue Black or Ralph Unger.

The relay will start a 7 p.m. on Friday, June 17, and end the next morning.

Flu shots available

There are 12 flu shots still available at the Decatur County Health Department.

Health Nurse Marilyn Gamblin said it isn't too late to get a shot, with flu season continuing until the end of March.

The shots cost \$17 and are available now to people of all ages. Both Medicare or Medicaid will pay for the shot.

Young man dies after car accident

The son of an Oberlin graduate was killed in a traffic accident just after midnight Saturday near Colby.

The victim, Jordan Douglas Harris, 20, played on the Colby Community College basketball team, and the college canceled its games Saturday after officials found out about the wreck.

Thomas County Undersheriff Jason R. Moses said Harris was driving west on a private road which extends east from East Ninth Street about 12:35 a.m. when he apparently lost control of his 1996 Chevy Blazer. Moses said the truck rolled into the ditch and Harris was thrown out.

Mr. Harris, along with his three passengers, Tanner Brown, 20, and Steve Young, 20, both of Colby, and Tyler Baker, 20, of Fort Collins, Colo., was taken to Citizens Medical Center by the Thomas County ambulance.

The three passengers were treated for minor injuries. None of the four was wearing a seat belt, Mr. Moses said.

The sheriff's office and the Kansas Highway Patrol were continuing the investigation Monday. Capt. Kelly McGuire, Troop D commander in Hays, said patrol specialists mapped the scene in an effort to reconstruct the incident.

Sheriff Mike Baughn said freshly-laid sand could have been a factor that caused Harris to lose con-

trol. Harris, a 2003 graduate of Colby High, played on the college basketball team.

After news of his death, college officials canceled both the men's and women's games that would have been played at the Colby Community Building that night.

In high school, Harris was one of two Colby seniors making the first team on the All-League basketball team in March 2003.

Mr. Harris was born Nov. 17, 1984, in Hugo, Colo., the son of Douglas and Eileen (Guilfoyle) Harris. His father is a 1974 graduate of Decatur Community High School.

He was a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Survivors include his parents; a sister, Angela Marie Harris, Manhattan; and his grandparents, Don and Anne Guilfoyle, Colby. Shane Harris of Oberlin was a cousin.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Don and Irmadene Harris.

Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. today at the Colby United Methodist Church with Pastor Jerry Vincent officiating.

A memorial has been designated for an athletic scholarship through Colby High School. Contributions may be sent to Harrison Chapel, 190 S. Franklin Ave., Colby, Kan., 67701.

Couple gives van \$500 gift

Decatur County received a \$500 gift for the transportation van at the end of the year which officials plan to use to advertise the service.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn said the transportation van is set up to give people in the county rides at little to no cost to them. People use the service to get to doctor's appointments, the hair dresser, grocery and other places.

Although the van is mainly seen in Oberlin, the service is available throughout the county.

At the end of the year, Keith and Maxine Sauvage gave \$500 to the service. Mrs. Horn said because the van was bought with state grant money, one of the requirements is that the county has to keep upgrading the advertising they do for it. She said they will use the gift to help with the expense.

This year, the county would like to make posters to be hung in businesses and buildings to let people know about the service.

Mrs. Horn said the county has had a bus for at least the last 20 years. The first vehicle purchased through a grant administered by the Kansas Department of Transportation was a 1984 maroon bus. In July 2002, the county got a new white mini van.

Although the county gets state



THE COUNTY transportation van, driven by Eldon Huntley, received a \$500 gift from a Decatur County couple.

and federal money to run the service, county dollars subsidize the program.

The county normally gives around \$5,000 each year for the program, the grant is around \$15,000.

In 2004, Mrs. Horn said, the van was driven 12,000 miles, which averages out at 1,000 miles a month.

The van runs during business hours Monday through Friday, said

Mrs. Horn, but has run from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. when it is needed.

Mrs. Horn said they encourage people who ride in the van in Oberlin to pay \$1 a trip, but it isn't required. She said the clerk's office sells 11 tickets for \$10.

To get a ride, people can call dispatch at 475-8100, the clerk's office at 475-8102 or either of the drivers, Eldon Huntley and Alvina Gamblin.

Two players will win flowers

Two people with the best poker hands will win bouquets worth \$50 just in time for Valentine's Day, thanks to Oberlin merchants.

All poker players must be 18 years or older. Pick up a randomly drawn card at sponsoring Oberlin business. After collecting five cards, bring them in to *The Oberlin Herald* by noon on Friday.

The highest two poker hands will win a bouquet from Prairie Petals or Flowers by Lee.

Sponsors include the Dresser, Prairie Petals, Goltl Home Planning Center, Flowers by Lee, Stanley Hardware, Rocking R, R&M Service Center, Addleman Drug Store, Ward Drug Store and the Washboard.

Public invited to school

Students from the Oberlin and Jennings grade schools will get to learn about the Lewis and Clark Expedition on Tuesday, and you can, too.

The Decatur County Chamber of

Commerce has invited Neal Corey of McCook to tell about the expedition, which took place 200 years ago. The lyceum starts at 1:30 p.m. in the gym at the Oberlin Elementary School. The public is invited.

NEW ON THE MARKET



SPACIOUS 7 bedroom, 6 1/2 bath, brick ranch home with newly renovated kitchen opening to cozy family room with fireplace. Newer amenities include roof, furnace/air conditioner, water softener, hot water heater and windows. This home is sited on a corner lot and is ideally located. Call today for more details!

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MACHINERY AUCTION

Sat., Feb. 12, 2005 • 11:00 AM

LOCATION: 11 1/2 miles south of Cambridge, Nebraska on Hwy 47 and 1/2 mile east OR 1/2 north of Hwy 89-47 junction and 1/2 mile east.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION

What is AMD?

AMD Stands for Age-related Macular Degeneration, a disease that breaks down the macula. It blurs the straight-ahead vision required for activities such as reading and driving.

What causes AMD?

The causes of AMD are still unknown. One form of AMD (Dry) may be caused by aging and thinning of the macular tissues, pigment deposits in the macula, or a combination of the two. The other form of AMD (Wet), results when new blood vessels grow beneath the retina and leak blood and fluid. This leakage causes retinal cells to die and creates blind spots in central vision.

What are the symptoms?

Early symptoms of AMD includes blurred vision or dark spots in the center of vision. The symptoms can appear painlessly and gradually, making early detection and treatment essential.

Who is at risk?

Risk factors for AMD include: Smoking, High Blood Pressure, Obesity, and Family History of

AMD. Also, whites and females are more prone to AMD.

How can AMD be detected?

Early-stage AMD can be detected through a comprehensive eye exam that includes a visual acuity test, dilated eye exam and tonometry. If AMD is detected, further tests may be required.

Can AMD be cured?

There is no cure for AMD at this time. There are, however, certain treatments that can slow or minimize vision loss, and, in some cases, even improve vision.

How is AMD treated?

There are several treatment options that your eye doctor may consider, including vitamins, drug therapy, laser surgery.

It is estimated that between 13 and 15 million Americans have evidence of AMD. If you or someone you know is at risk for AMD, schedule a comprehensive eye examination with Dr. Stamm or Dr. Gray today.



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