

Commissioners line up speaker for small crowd

County officials lined up refreshments and a speaker, but only about 20 of 75 township board members showed up for the annual road meeting last Tuesday.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn noted that the attendance was three more than the 17 who showed up last year. Maybe the township officials don't like outside speakers, she added.

Brandon Mann, a risk manager for the Kansas County Association Multiline Pool, an insurance cooperative, talked to the officials about road signs and safety.

He said the pool, known as KCAMP, has decided to offer insurance for townships and cities this year.

The pool formed a few years ago, he said, when counties were having trouble finding insurance at any price. Today, it has 59 members "and growing."

In 2003, he said, the pool paid 162 claims for \$482,000 involving "public works," mostly road and bridge departments. That's only the third-highest number of claims, though; sheriffs are the leaders in claims and payments.

When thinking about insurance, he said, township officials need to think about the total cost of losses, including time spent with the public on claims, higher insurance premiums, negative publicity and problems among employees.

The best thing to do to keep costs down, he said, is to cut the number of claims. Public agencies are good targets for lawsuits, he said, because they have money — deep pockets in lawyer speak.

"If you are a plaintiffs' attorney in this country," he said, "you don't make a living by suing individuals."

Townships have a duty to main-

County Roundup

At their meeting last Tuesday, Decatur County commissioners:

- Met with township officials for the annual road meeting. Only 20 of 75 showed up. Story to left.
- Agreed to hire a local contractor to replace windows at the Good Samaritan Center. Story below right.
- Heard that one of the emergency medical technicians was due for praise. Story to come.
- Agreed to buy some used steel for bridges and got a road report. Story on Page 6A.
- Approved a pay increase for ambulance workers, who are volunteers but get a set amount for each run. Story on Page 2A.

tain safe roads, he said, and if they don't, they can be sued.

He suggested that townships with their own equipment should hold safety meetings for employees, and require an all-around safety check before anyone drives a vehicle or starts a grader.

He said road signs, or lack of them, cause a lot of claims, but the county or township is only responsible if it knew, or should have known, about the hazard and didn't act. If a sign is down, he said, or a road is washed out, fix it.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman went over work plans for the county crew. Gaylen Huntley, noxious weed control supervisor, talked about prospects for weed control and prairie dogs. The meeting, in the courtroom, lasted about an hour and 15 minutes.

Gobble, gobble



A CONFUSED GOBBLER tried to find a way through a chain link fence between houses on Rodehaver Avenue last week. The wild turkey was part of a flock that has been seen roosting in trees southwest of downtown Oberlin. — Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

County agrees on contractor

Decatur County commissioners agreed to go with a local contractor for replacement windows at the Good Samaritan Center.

Administrator Janice Shobe and maintenance supervisor Lavern Burtis brought in bids from three sources at a meeting last Tuesday.

The low bid came from H&H Construction of Oberlin for custom-built Mennard Guardian windows for \$17,064. The Good Samaritan organization could get Marvin windows for \$18,639, but with materials to make them fit, the cost would be more than \$30,000, she said.

For installation, H&H bid \$6,000, Wachendorfer Construction \$4,860 and Jim Dowling \$7,089.

Mr. Burtis said the Mennard windows would be built to fit each window in the center, while Marvin makes stock sizes which have to be adapted.

Mrs. Shobe said the installation bids had been submitted in June, so she would have to recheck them.

Mr. Burtis said he wanted to remove one window to see what the job will entail. They could use a room where there is no patient, he said. The commissioners said to go ahead and work with Brian Hileman of H&H, since he was the contractor on the bids.

The two also brought in bills from Hansen's Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning for 14 new sinks with faucets and traps. The total was \$2,365, which had been approved earlier. They said the work had been done.

In other business, commissioners:

- Heard from Steve Haynes, publisher of *The Oberlin Herald*, who gave them each orange "Govern in Sunshine" bracelets to mark National Sunshine Week.

He said they had brought the bracelets back from Washington, where Sen. Pat Roberts and Rep. Jerry Moran were wearing them. Sunshine Week is designed to remind everyone how important it is in a democracy that people know what their government is doing.

- Approved an amendment to the insurance agreement with Corporate Plan covering details which had been overlooked in the new contract.
- Held a five-minute closed session for possible acquisition of real property at the request of County Attorney Steve Hirsch. No action was taken.
- Noted that the E911 addressing committee planned to meet at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at the commissioners room.
- Approved a contract for Rick Salem to promote mini-sprint races at the fairground on Labor Day week, Aug. 29-Sept. 5.
- Received a letter from the Oberlin Lions Club to the Fair Board, complaining about plans to have something other than the demolition derby on Saturday night during the

county fair.

The fair board apparently is planning to have a tractor pull that night, but the Lions say they can't do their event on Friday.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said the county needs to find out what is going on.

• Learned that they need to fill four positions on the Fair Board. County Clerk Marilyn Horn said Pam May had agreed to serve another three-year term in District 2, and Ron Montgomery would serve again in District 3.

Cody Richards will take the post

for District 1, the fair board said, replacing Shannon Leska. Sonya Gillespie, who held a District 3 seat until she moved from Jennings to Oberlin, would take the at-large position for District 1, which is vacant. She would replace Chuck Votapka.

Commissioners said under their policy, they would advertise the jobs and wait to see if anyone else applies. Other members are Jim Wasson, LaMoine Wolfram, Ken Badsy and Greg Long.

The board is looking for someone to serve in District 3 to replace Mrs. Gillespie.

Relay plans started

Planning for the fourth annual Decatur County Relay for Life is under way, as committee members met on Wednesday.

The relay, a fund raiser for the American Cancer Society, is scheduled for 7 a.m.-7 p.m. June 17 at the high school football field so that walkers can use the track.

The committee met at the home of Dr. Gary and Sarah Fredrickson to start planning. The group will again be selling luminaries in honor of cancer survivors or in memory of those who died of cancer. Last year, 936 luminaries were sold at \$10 each, and this year, the group hopes to sell 1,200.

Last year, volunteers reported, the society helped patients in Decatur County by providing general information to 14 people, paid for one hotel and six mileage reimbursements for patients getting treatment and got two wigs for people on chemotherapy.

This year, Mrs. Fredrickson is the chairwoman for the relay with Chris Dempewolf as co-chair and team recruiter.

Other committee chairmen are Charles Haag, logistics; Regina Stanley, accounting; Dr. Fredrickson, public relations; Peg Smith, luminaries; Lynn Doeden, greeting and reception; Sue Black, survivors; Rhonda May, set up; Ralph Unger, opening and closing ceremonies; and Betsy Haag, clean up.

Mrs. Fredrickson said that she would like to thank everyone who volunteered their time and talents in the past and said she hopes more people will volunteer to help with the relay this year.

Anyone interested in working should call her at 475-3135.

Ms. Smith said that it is not too early to start ordering luminaries. Call her at 475-3414, Carla Depperschmidt at 475-3452 or Jean Hale at 475-2136. The group requests a \$10 donation for each luminary.

Colonel Townsend selects two scholars

Two Decatur Community High students have won Col. Delbert L. Townsend Scholarship for the coming school year.

Kelly Olson, daughter of Gerald and Connie Olson of Oberlin, and Anthony Marshall, son of Troy and Debra Marshall of Norcat, were named as scholarship winners by Col. Townsend.

Both will attend Kansas State University, where their scholarship will pay tuition for four years and set each student up with a new computer. Students pay their own room and board.

Miss Olson plans to enroll in math, science or prepharmacy. Her grandparents are Evelyn Olson and Wilma May of Oberlin.

Mr. Marshall plans to major in apparel design and production and



A. Marshall



Kelly Olson

business. His grandparents are Neil Marshall, Oberlin, and Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Jackson, Norcat.

Mr. Townsend was born and reared at Danbury and graduated from Decatur Community High School in 1938. He lives in Fort Washington, Md., and returns every year to present the scholarships at a dinner which also includes former Townsend Scholarship winners.

Car wreck sends woman to hospital

A Colorado woman ended up with a damaged car and a sore neck after a wreck at U.S. 83 and Hall Street last Monday afternoon, March 14.

Police Chief Wade Lockhart said Eva Smith, 49, Dacano, Colo., was headed north on U.S. 83 opposite the Oberlin Assembly of God Church when the back end of her 2002 Kia was hit by a 1999 Toyota driven by Phyllis Screen, 72, Oberlin.

Mrs. Screen was driving east on Hall and tried to cross the highway before Ms. Smith's car was clear,

the chief said. He said the impact tore the back bumper off Ms. Smith's car and there might be damage to the undercarriage.

Ms. Smith was taken to the Decatur County Hospital complaining of neck pain. She was treated in the emergency room and released, hospital officials said.

Chief Lockhart said that Mrs. Screen's vehicle had little damage but that she got a ticket for failure to yield the right of way.

Telethon gives \$11,875 this year

Nineteen organizations in Decatur County will receive \$625 each from the annual Seeds of Hope Telethon in February.

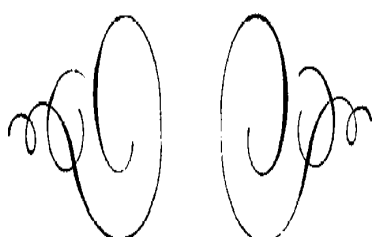
The committee met last Monday night to pay the rest of the bills from the event and figure out how much could be given out.

The telethon raised \$12,835 through donations, the concession stand and auction items. Of that, the group gave out \$11,875, nearly 93 percent.

This year's recipients are the Norcat Pre-School, Decatur County Stand Against Violence, Oberlin Lions Club, Creative

Movements Gymnastics, Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce, Relay for Life, Oberlin pool project, Decatur County Museum, Oberlin Community Fellowship, Jennings City Library, Tripple Creek Riders, FROGS summer day camp, High Plains ArtFest, Decatur County Ministerial Association, American Family Radio, Salvation Army, the Blue Angels, the Decatur Area Theater Association and Sunflower Cinema.

Jack Benton, with the committee, said in the last 11 years the committee has made 182 gifts for a total of \$102,924.



FARM MACHINERY AUCTION

Tuesday, April 5, 2005 • 11 a.m.

Location: From Oberlin, Kansas at the Intersection of U.S. 36 and U.S. 83, go north on U.S. 83 4 miles.

Lunch will be served

Consignments will be taken until day before sale!

Sellers: Francis & Ann M. Kathka & Guest Consignors

Tillage Equipment

- Sunflower fallow king Model 3060-42, S.N. 3091-120
- Sunflower duckfoot, 35' w/ treaders
- Sunflower sweep machine, S.N. 0866, 32'
- Melroe 8-bottom plow
- John Deere disc, 27', S.N. A00235-0626
- Sunflower 21' duckfoot w/ harrows
- The Soil Mover, 5 yd.
- Flex King 5x5 undercutter, down pressure treaders, anhydrous attachment
- King size Kent Hydra-cultivator, 36'
- CrustBuster disc, 20'
- (2) John Deere hydraulic angle back blades
- Flex King 5x5 sweeps, new blades with Anhydrous
- Westendorf 12' speedmover
- John Deere power washer

Miscellaneous Equipment

- (2) 500 Gal. fuel tanks on stands
- P.T.O. Winco generator
- 1,000 Gal. metal fertilizer tank
- Set of 18.4x38 clamp-on duals
- RHF Saddle tanks, 400 gal.
- Cattle working chute w/ automatic head catch

- DuAI 3000 Loader w/grapple fork, with mounts for 4010 or 4020
- Spray and tug, 3 pt.
- Neville, built 2002, 53' flatbed, air ride, spread axle, fold up hay racks, 102" wide, like new. IN9FB53283K175913
- 500 Gal. pull type sprayer, 50 ft., booms, Myco Monitor

Trucks and Pickups

- 1995 Ford 3/4 ton, 5-speed, 460 engine, flatbed w/Dew Eze bale hauler
- 1973 Chevrolet C60, 366 engine, 5x2 trans., 9.00x20 tires, steel box w/racks and hoist
- 1954 Chevrolet truck, 13-1/2' wooden box
- Ford 1 Ton Dually M Series, 4 speed, with dual hydraulics.
- 1971 GMC Semi tractor 318 GM factory motor Astro 95 factory power steering w/13 road range trans. Runs good, good tires.

Grain Equipment

- John Deere 643 cornhead 6-row, 30"
- John Deere 400 bu. grain cart, always shedded
- Versatile 8" P.T.O. auger
- Mayrath 27" B.S. engine
- Hutchinson 6"x36" auger
- 6" auger, 21'

- Merritt cattle pot, 1990 good shape, 48"x102", IMT2N4821LH006975

Tractors

- Versatile 875, 4 hydraulics, 7,000 hrs., complete overhaul at 5,000 hrs.
- Allis Chalmers 7060, 3 pt., duals, 3 hydraulics
- John Deere 8630, Quad trans., 3 hydraulics, P.T.O., 3 pt., duals., 5500 hrs., real clean
- John Deere 4620 sync. trans., cab, 3 pt., P.T.O., new 18.4x38 tires
- AC 8070, 7870 hrs., P.S., Leon 747, ldr/grpl., 3 hyd., 3 pt., new overhaul @6,000 hrs.
- IHC T340 track tractor, rebuilt engine and undercarriage

Drills and Planters

- John Deere 9300 drills, 3 sections, 10-10, w/transport, very good
- Great Plains folding drill, 30' Sunflower Model 9432 grain drill, 30', 7-1/2" spacing, offset openers, like new, drilled 2500 acres
- Buffalo 6-row planter
- IHC 109 6-row, 3 pt. planter

Auctioneer's Note: Francis and Ann have retired from their farming operation and are selling their equipment along with other guest consignors. Be on time as there are very few small items.

All buyers must have a letter of credit with their checks or have certified funds.

Not responsible for accidents. All guarantees are between sellers and buyers. No items are to be removed until paid for. Announcements Day of Sale take precedence over printed matter.

Check out our web site at: www.johnson-real-estate.com

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