



Vote Tuesday!

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Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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County may name, number its roads

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

A committee of Decatur County employees is drawing up a plan to name rural roads to make it easier for package delivery services and emergency crews to find houses.

County commissioners met with Road Supervisor Tim Stallman, Appraiser Alan Hale and Peggy Gassman last Tuesday in the appraiser's office to talk with Melinda Valley from the Phillips County appraiser's office.

Phillips County has already named its roads, so they have been through the procedure which Decatur County is starting.

Commissioner Doyle Brown asked her how long it took to assign addresses. Mrs. Valley said it took a couple of months to send out postcards to people to let them know their new address and get everything installed. She said it only took a week to do the actual addressing. Everything has to be correct and then double checked, she said.

She said the first thing they did was get a group of people, including the emergency medical service, head dispatcher and city clerk, together and decide where the center of the county would be.

One of the main reasons a dispatcher was involved was so when a road name was proposed, they would act like they were dispatching a call to see if it could be understood.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said the idea they had was to number the north-south roads and name the east-west roads. He said they are talking about using names that are relevant to the area.

In some cases, said Mrs. Valley, the roads have been named something for a hundred

years. She said sometimes you can't work everything around those.

She said her county used a grid. Mr. Unger said he thought that would work, but they talked about starting in a corner and working through the county.

Is the post office on board? asked Mr. Hale.

They were at the first meeting, said Mr. Unger, and then said to let them know once a plan is in place.

It sounds like the post office will be receptive to the idea of addresses, said Mr.

Hale.

Are there any smaller cities in Phillips County that don't use the Phillipsburg zip code? asked Mr. Brown. Mrs. Valley said yes.

Mr. Unger said they don't want to use road names that are already used in cities or ones that sound like them.

Mrs. Valley said they set up the system so the county was split into blocks. For example the first block was 0-99. Then depending on where a house was, that was (See COUNTY on Page 10A)

Voters to decide on law Marriage rule may be affirmed

Along with choosing school board and city council members next Tuesday, voters will say yes or no to a state constitutional amendment on marriage.

A "yes" vote would support amending Article 15 of the state Constitution to define marriage as between "one man and one woman."

A "no" would leave the constitution as it stands, with no section on marriage.

There has been little to almost no talk in Oberlin about the amendment. A few brochures have popped up supporting the amendment, but there hasn't been any controversy over it.

The Rev. Doug Hasty, pastor of the Oberlin United Methodist Church, said he favors the amendment, primarily because he believes people should uphold traditional marriage between one man and one woman. That is a biblical view, he said, how God sees marriage.

A statewide nonpartisan group called the Kansans for Fairness was formed to defeat the amendment. (See MARRIAGE on Page 10A)

Election to be held Tuesday

Decatur County voters will go to the polls Tuesday to elect city and school representatives and decide on a marriage question.

Although there are three seats open for the Oberlin City Council, there are only two candidates.

Incumbents Joe Stanley and Jay Anderson both filed for re-election. The other spot is held by Stan McEvoy, who decided not to run again after eight years.

That means that there is one spot open.

The top three vote getters will win council spots whether they have filed or not, said County Clerk Marilyn Horn, county election officer. If three write-in candidates get the most votes, they will win seats on the council.

Write-in candidates must get more than three votes apiece to be elected, said Mrs. Horn.

All registered voters in the city can cast ballots, since the council members are elected at large, she said.

As of Monday afternoon, there weren't any known write-in candidates for the council.

On the Oberlin School Board, there are three seats open. All three incumbents have filed and so has Jody Robertson for District 4. She and Delayne May, a veteran board member in that district, have the only race for the election.

Mrs. Robertson filed back in September for the seat. Although she was called several times last week (See VOTERS on Page 10A)



The spoils of Easter

AT CITY PARK on Saturday, Spencer Wishon, 2 (above), ate candy he collected during the annual Easter egg hunt. A group of kids (right) took off from the start line to pick up candy spread in the grass by members of the Oberlin Lions Club. The older, more experienced kids seemed to have a game plan in mind before they took off.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



Committee tables assisted-living idea

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The Decatur County commissioners and their health committee decided to put research on an assisted living facility here on hold at their monthly meeting last Tuesday morning because the county doesn't have the money to build a new facility or to remodel one.

Commissioners met with the health committee members, including Hospital Administrator Lynn Doeden, Good Samaritan Administrator Janice Shobe and Cedar Living Center Chief Nursing Officer Margee Wilson.

Mrs. Shobe said she asked if the center could get grandfathered in for assisted living so they wouldn't

have to have a bathroom in each room. She said there isn't a way to do that, and the center would have to comply with all the state rules.

She said she talked with Randy Fitzgerald, regional vice president of the Good Samaritan Society, about residential health care. With residential health care, said Mrs. Shobe, people need a smaller living space than with assisted living rooms. It sounds like the rooms would need a sink and toilet in them, but not private tubs or showers, she said.

What is the difference between assisted living and residential? asked Commissioner Doyle Brown. The care is less and the cost is less

for residential units, said Mrs. Shobe.

It sounds more like 24-hour care, said Mr. Brown.

Maybe if a nurse is put in at Wheat Ridge Terrace, then some of those rooms could be used for residential care, said Mrs. Doeden. Mrs. Shobe said she thought they would need more staff than that.

Mrs. Doeden said to do some rooms with 24-hour care at Wheat Ridge it would cost around \$50,000 for a year for salaries, and she didn't think they could fill six rooms.

Mrs. Shobe said she thought they would have to charge the same for residential care as they would for assisted living.

There are two rooms at Cedar Living Center, said Mrs. Wilson, that are smaller, and hold only one resident, but with bathrooms in them. Maybe those would work for something else.

Mr. Brown said he didn't think new construction was something to consider. There needs to be something at either Wheat Ridge or the nursing home. He said he liked the idea of coming up with some new names for the services.

One advantage to assisted living over 24-hour care, said Mrs. Shobe, is that Medicare will pay for it.

The question is, said Mr. Brown, do we continue to look at options? (See ASSISTED on Page 10A)

Church travels to ranch

Boys get word through ministry

By JAN KATZ ACKERMAN

Members of a small nondenominational church in Hoxie have found a way to spread the word of God to teens making their way through the judicial system at Sappa Valley Youth Ranch.

Members of Living Word Fellowship, under the leadership of the Rev. Dan Rohm, share their love for God through a ministry to boys housed at the ranch.

"We come to bless the boys with candy, chips and pop, with love, hugs and encouraging words," Mr. Rohm said, "to encourage them with the love of God, and remind them there is hope."

"Many boys have deep wounds and abuses. We bring a drama, a word of testimony and a message of the love of God. We give an opportunity for them to accept Christ as (their) Lord and Savior."

He said church members learned of the need at the ranch through one of their fellow members who works there.

"One of the board members is an employee at the Ranch, a guard, and he told us of the need," Mr. Rohm said.

Several of the people who minister at the ranch live in Oberlin, although they attend church in Hoxie.

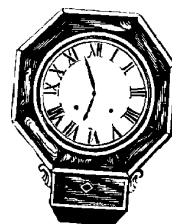
Sappa Valley Boys' Ranch, operated by Clarence M. Kelley Detention Services of Kansas City, Mo., is two miles east of Oberlin in a relatively isolated and rural setting.

The campus has several buildings, including three residential units which can house up to 38 boys. The ranch, owned by the City of Oberlin, serves a 17-county region of northwest Kansas for placement of youths from across the state. It was established to handle juvenile offenders who are being released from state correctional facilities and need some help with the transition back to their home towns.

It also takes youths who do not meet guidelines for a lockup facility. (See CHURCH on Page 10A)

Spring forward

The evenings will get a little longer beginning Sunday, as Daylight Saving Time begins and clocks spring forward an hour.



As the weather gets nicer outside, you'll have more time after work and school to enjoy it.

Remember to set the clocks forward an hour before going to bed Saturday night or when getting up Sunday morning. Just don't forget, or you'll be late for church.