

# County discusses drug cards for those without insurance

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The Decatur County health administrator talked with the commissioners last Tuesday about the county joining the Care Mark program for prescription drug discount cards that people in the county could use.

Administrator Marilyn Gamblin said Harvey County is in a pilot program. People in the county who don't have insurance can use these cards to get a discount on prescription drugs. She said she had a few samples and gave one to a person who didn't have insurance. They received a break on their prescription.

The annual dues to make the cards available here is \$370, said Ms. Gamblin. She said the cards work at Ward Drug Store, but she hadn't had a chance to get in touch with Addleman Drug Store.

The discount isn't a lot, she said, but it helps, especially if people don't have insurance.

The county has belonged to the Care Mark group before, she said. County Clerk Marilyn Horn said it will basically cost \$1 a day.

The commissioners didn't make any decisions.

Ms. Gamblin said she has been talking with the hospital about doing a "table top" exercise for bioterrorism. Everyone involved would get together and work to figure out what would happen and what role each person plays.

Mrs. Horn said she had been the public information officer but she can't do that and be the freedom of information officer also.

The commissioners appointed County Attorney Steve Hirsch to be the public information officer.

Ms. Gamblin said signs for the clinic need to be up by the end of August. She said she talked with people in town and they couldn't do them. She said she got in touch with Commercial Sign Company of Colby.

The cost will be \$1,597, with the clinic paying for \$394 and the health department the rest.

Commissioners approved the

## County Countdown

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Talked with the health administrator about the county becoming a member of the Care Mark program for prescription drug discount cards for people in the county to use. Story at left.

- Talked with the courthouse custodian, who asked the commissioners to take a look at crumbling cement in the steps on the south side of the building. Story on Page 2A.

- Received a budget request from a representative from the Northwest Kansas Family Shelter for \$500 for next year. Story below at right.

signs.

Ms. Gamblin said she had a call from a woman in Hill City who had three raccoons from Decatur County. The critters were taken out of a nest here and taken to her so they could be nursed.

The babies died, said Ms. Gamblin, and the woman wants the critters tested for rabies. Ms. Gamblin said she talked with one of the veterinarians who didn't think the rabies test was necessary and it won't be done.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard the county is going to be in a pilot project for an Internet immunization registry. That way a person can go online and find out what kind of immunizations a person has or needs.

- Held a 10-minute closed session for non-elected personnel for Ms. Gamblin's evaluation. There was no action taken.

- Heard the director is still working with the Oberlin Rotary Club on getting Hepatitis B shots for high school students.

- Heard that she is still attending classes for a public health certification.

## In a day's work



**CLEANING UP THE HIGHWAY**, Oberlin City Administrator Gary Shike was one of nine Rotarians who were out last Tuesday policing a two-mile stretch of U.S. 83 south of town. — Herald photo by Cynthia Haynes

# County gets money request from shelter

Decatur County commissioners heard a budget request for \$500 from the Northwest Kansas Family Shelter at their meeting last Tuesday, but said they would wait until budget time in July to make a decision.

In the past, said Donna Musch from the shelter, the county has given \$500 a year. In 2004, she said, the shelter worked with eight clients from Decatur County.

Although the shelter house is in Hays, she said, most of what they do involves outreach.

Commissioner Doyle Brown said

they will do the best they can. He said it will be September before the budget will be done.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn said Fire Chief Bill Cathcart took truck No. 10 into Wagner Ford in McCook because it has blown a head gasket. He said it would cost more than \$500 to fix. The commissioners approved the repair based on that price.

That afternoon, Chief Cathcart called Mrs. Horn and said the repair would be \$3,000 or more. The commissioners will discuss it at the next meeting.

Bert Cool, emergency preparedness director, said a sign maker he checked on would cost \$6,000. Mr. Cool said when the commissioners name the roads, they need to put the letter first, like J Road, not Road J, and should not use O Road because it will be confused with 0. He said he heard the letter needs to go first for the post office. Postmaster Linda Smith said the system here can handle either one but if you go with Road J the word road should be spelled out and if it is J Road then it can be abbreviated.

In other business, the commis-

sioners:

- Approved an amendment for Corporate Plan Management Health Insurance for the county to set up elected officials by their office to be covered under the plan.

- Heard that the tax foreclosure sale has been set for Tuesday, July 26, with two real estate parcels and one mineral interest in Lyon Township.

- Received the deed for a mineral interest in Cook Township which will cancel the delinquent tax notices and restore the land owner as the owner of the mineral rights.

# District needs to replace roofs

The Oberlin School District will get around \$260,000 in insurance money to help replace hail-damaged roofs on three buildings, but the school board still needs to decide what kind to put on and how to pay the rest of the cost.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt said the current roof, made of PVC material, was damaged by hail. If the board decides to use the same material to fix the roofs, he said, then the \$260,000 will cover the three buildings.

The insurance agent, Fredrickson Insurance, has said if the district goes with the same material, the roofs will no longer be insured, said Mr. Glodt.

He said he has spent some time researching roofs that are acceptable to the insurance company,

but hasn't chosen one yet.

At a June 30 special meeting to close the books for the year, said Mr. Glodt, he thinks the board will be able to make a decision.

All three roofs can't be done at the same time, he said. Mr. Glodt said he thought the district will start with the grade school, doing it next summer, and then move on to the high school and district building.

The district will have to figure out a way to finance the work, said Mr. Glodt, and talk of a bond issue did come up.

The \$260,000 will not cover the new roofs, he said, so the district will have to pay the extra money. The district won't know how much extra is needed until bids are taken.

# Kids ask board not to change graduation

Seven soon-to-be seniors and a handful of parents asked the Oberlin School Board at a meeting last Monday to keep graduation on Sunday and not change it to Saturday next year.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt said a few months ago, the calendar committee talked about changing graduation from Sunday to Saturday. The committee, said Mr. Glodt, weighed all the pros and cons, but didn't

make any decisions.

The students, Sharee and Melinda Dempewolf, Amber Barrett, Kaitlyn Stapp, Kellen Doeden and Josh Fortin, had asked to be on the agenda at the board meeting to give their view. They told the board they want to graduate on Sunday like past classes because it's a tradition.

Former Principal Gordon Matson said several years ago baccalaureate was on Sunday night and graduation

was on Monday night. Around 15 years ago both were changed to Sunday afternoon. Now graduation is held during the afternoon Sunday and baccalaureate is held during the week.

There has been no change in the graduation day yet, said Mr. Glodt, and he didn't know if there will be. He said there are pros and cons for every day of the week.

The calendar is set up in Decem-

ber and accepted by the board. The board and calendar committee don't set the day for graduation, however.

Mr. Glodt said that is done at the building level.

Principal Charles Haag said there hasn't been any change yet. He said if the school decides to change graduation, he would take it to the board. The recommendation came out of the calendar committee, he said.

# Council will hold hearing to close alley in July

The Oberlin City Council agreed to set up a hearing on Thursday, July 21, to discuss closing the alley in block 19 of the Summit Addition at the request of homeowners in the neighborhood.

At a meeting Thursday, the council received a petition signed by six

property owners asking the council to close the alley, which is north of Hall, south of Coldren, west of Elk and east of Wolf.

City Administrator Gary Shike said there hasn't been any opposition to closing the alley. The city would maintain utilities.

Foreman Dan Castle, who signed the petition, said the property owners thought the alley was already closed.

City Attorney Steve Hirsch said

a notice has to be published in the paper and then a hearing could be set 20 days from that. The hearing will be held at the second council meeting in July.



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