

# New windows to brighten up Good Samaritan

The Decatur County Good Samaritan Center is getting new windows and a sprinkler system.

Administrator Janice Shobe and LaVern Burtis, building maintenance supervisor, met with county commissioners last Tuesday to report on both projects.

Mr. Burtis said the window project is going well, with H&H Construction doing four windows a day. Simplex Grinnel is putting in the indoor sprinkler system. Mr. Burtis said its team has run pipes in three of the wings.

He said the crew was in the kitchen area last Tuesday and then had one more wing and the day care area to do.

The team works eight 10 hour days and then takes off six days, he said.

Controls for the sprinkler system will be in the northwest corner of the building and the city has worked on the hook-ups needed.

Mr. Burtis said a connection from the building to the city water main is needed, and the city crew can't do it.

The center has received a bid from Simplex Grinnel at \$8,410, he said, but they are still waiting on a proposal from a company in North Platte.

Commissioners agreed that Mr. Burtis could make the decision on the bids.

Mrs. Shobe said she thinks that assisted living is still something they need to look into.

There are three residents at the center who won't be there long because they need less care than what the staff gives, she said.

## County Roundup

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Talked with the ambulance director about two companies interested in bidding on a new ambulance. Story on Page 8A.
- Decided not to apply for a grant for a recycling building because the county hasn't been in the program very long. Story below.
- Renewed the county's contract with Midwest United for natural gas for another year, but didn't lock in a price. Story on Page 8A.
- Discussed the work going on at the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center. Story at left.

There is excess space at the center, she said, and Cedar Living Center probably has some extra space. It could be changed to resident care, she said, which would be more like assisted living.

Commissioner Doyle Brown said he agreed, and asked if there is a hall that can be changed.

Mr. Unger said some of the terminology needs to be changed so the centers can get business.

There are probably residents at Cedar Living Center who are in the same situation, said Mr. Brown.

If construction is needed, said Mr. Burtis, they can handle it.

# County discards recycling grant idea

The Decatur County commissioners decided not to apply for a grant for a recycling building Tuesday because the county hasn't been in the program long enough to know what is needed.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn said a grant application is due by July 29, and the Regional Recycling group in Colby suggested that the county fill it out.

Since the county has only been in the program for a short time, the commissioners decided not to apply.

Mrs. Horn said the clerk's office decided on a new postage machine from Pitney Bowes of Nebraska. It will cost \$708 a quarter.

The old machine costs \$276 a quarter. She said the machine

seemed more stable. Mrs. Horn said she will call on the new bill because she doesn't think it is right.

Commissioners decided not to give money to the Silver Haired Legislature since it is a lobbying group.

The county received notice that the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission is trying to purchase the building it has rented for years.

Commissioner Doyle Brown said rent on the building has been around \$8,500 and the group can buy the building for around \$35,000.

The commission operates from federal grant money and money which counties in northwest Kansas give each year.

## Bombs bursting in air



AT THE FAIRGROUND Monday, people lined up in the grandstand and parking lot to watch the fireworks display sponsored by the Oberlin Business Alliance. The show, complete with colors and loud booms, lasted about 30 minutes. — Staff photo by Steve Haynes

# Virus can cause West Nile

With summer here, health officials say, it is time to pay a little more attention to mosquitoes, since they are possible carriers of West Nile virus.

The virus is passed by mosquitoes from birds to humans and horses, said Marilyn Gamblin, Decatur County health administrator.

Everyone should take precautions outside, Ms. Gamblin said. First, use an insect repellent with the chemical DEET in it. Kids and adults can use the spray but it shouldn't have more than 33 percent DEET. If it does, it may be too strong for children, she said, especially those under 10 years old.

People should wear long sleeves and pants and limit their outdoor activities at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are out.

Make sure screens on windows and doors are good, Ms. Gamblin said, so the insects can't get into your house.

Don't leave standing water, including children's swimming pools and water dishes for pets. Both should be changed regularly.

A lot of people, said Ms. Gamblin, have West Nile and never have any symptoms. Only 23 percent of those infected will ever show any signs. Some symptoms include fever, headache, tiredness, body aches, a skin rash on the trunk of the body or occasionally swollen lymph nodes.

The virus is more dangerous for people over 50 and those who are already sick. So far there haven't been any confirmed cases in the county, Ms. Gamblin said.

In the past, she said, people have been asked to call about dead birds so they could be sent in for testing. Since the virus is pretty much in the whole state, she said, the birds aren't being tested anymore.

If you have questions, call Ms. Gamblin at 475-8118.

# Couple injured in wreck

An elderly Nebraska couple was hurt when their car ran off the road near Leoville and crashed into a bank on Saturday, June 25.

The Kansas Highway Patrol reported that Jesse Malick, 88, Naponee, Neb., was driving a 2005 Volkswagon west on K-383 when the car went into the north ditch and hit an embankment. The car stopped facing the west.

The accident happened around 10:49 p.m. a half a mile north of Leoville.

Both the driver and a passenger, Bernice Malick, 88, were taken to the hospital.

Mrs. Malick was taken to Decatur County Hospital and Mr. Malick was flown to Kearney, Neb.

Both were wearing seatbelts, the patrol said.

Undersheriff Randy McHugh and a state trooper worked the accident.

## City to view transformer contract

The Oberlin City Council will have contracts with Midstates Energy Works for a power transformer to look at during the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at The Gateway.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the contracts are for the transformer and installation.

Mr. Shike said Dennis Haag from the Watershed Institute will be at the meeting to talk about recommendations for Sappa Park.

There will be a resolution ratify-

ing the mayor's decision to declare a water emergency, which put the city water users on even/odd watering.

The council will have a resolution about paving part of Ingalls Avenue for George and Cecilia Brown. The council has already said OK to the extension.

Mr. Shike said he has had some phone calls about the length of time that people in Oberlin are allowed to shoot off fireworks. Currently, he

said, the ordinance says no fireworks are allowed between midnight and 6 a.m. Fireworks can be sold and used between June 27 and July 5, he said.

Mr. Shike said some people think midnight is too late for people to set them off. He said this isn't on the agenda but he will let the council know about the calls.

The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. upstairs in The Gateway and is open to the public.

# Internet service to get an upgrade

The Oberlin Herald is making changes in its Internet system that should make service faster and more reliable.

Later this week, we will upgrade our line for inbound and outbound traffic. Dialup Internet customers should not notice any changes or problems.

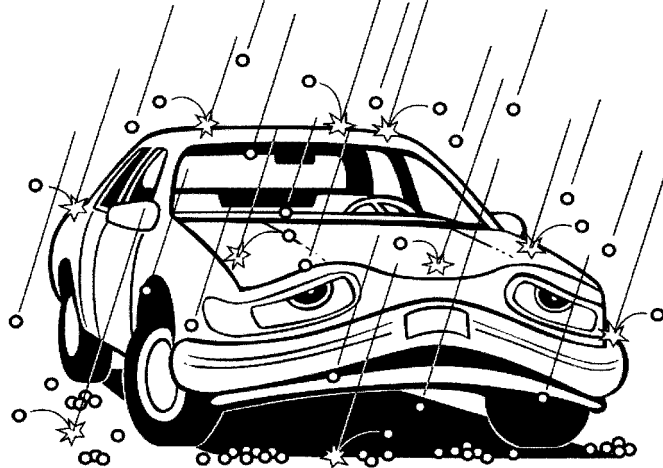
If you do, please call Tom Betz at 785-899-2338, or Evan Barnum,

785-462-3963. They can give you a new domain name server, or "DNS," number to enter into your computer's control panel.

Using the new number may provide faster downloads, even if your computer is working OK. To find out, call Tom.



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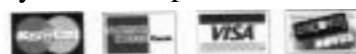
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