

Special equipment purchased through state grant money

The Decatur County ambulance department has purchased seven radios, a stair chair and a cardiac monitor with a grant through the Kansas Highway Patrol.

The grant came to the county through the emergency preparedness department and then each department, including ambulance, fire department and sheriff has a certain amount to spend.

Ambulance Director Patrick Pomeroy said the radios should mean they don't need to buy any for awhile.

Does the county own any of the cardiac monitors that were recalled? asked Commissioner Doyle Brown. Mr. Pomeroy said he looked at the recall list and the county didn't have any of those units.

He asked about the tables that Commissioner Ralph Unger was going to pick up for the department at Sam's Club, but he didn't make the drip.

Does the county have a Sam's Club membership? asked Mr. Pomeroy, noting that the closest one is in Salina or Grand Island.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch said they need to be careful what is purchased outside of the county since merchants here can get those items as well. He suggested check-

County Roundup

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners heard that:

- The noxious weed department has been busier this year than last, with more weeds because of the weather. Story below.

- The ambulance department bought seven radios, a stair chair and cardiac monitor with a grant from the Kansas Highway Patrol. Story at left.

- The Decatur County Fire Department has a pickup and a tanker in the shop. Story at bottom.

ing with Joe Stanley at Stanley Hardware on the tables. There isn't much he can't get, said Mr. Hirsch. Mr. Pomeroy said he didn't think about that.

Income surveys are still trickling in, he said. These are needed so the department can apply for a grant to get a new ambulance.

Mr. Pomeroy said he thought they would get an 80 percent return.

He said the crew has already worked 188 calls this year.

Noxious weed crew busy spraying big crop of weeds

With more rain this year, weeds are growing like, well, weeds, and the county's noxious weed crew has been busy.

Director Gaylen Huntley told the Decatur County commissioners last Tuesday that they normally treat 3,200 acres of musk thistle in a year. This year, they have sprayed 2,900 already. Mr. Huntley said he thought they would treat at least 3,500 and possibly more this year.

That will mean the department will use more chemicals than normal, he said.

The Dodge pickup, which was bought new for the department in 2001, just had repairs of \$1,200 for a drive train problem, he said. The department has spent \$7,000 on it so far, he said.

Mr. Huntley said he would rather

get a used pickup than keep fixing the Dodge, especially since the truck gets rough use.

Brad Marcuson, from the road and bridge crew, has been helping spray county roads, he said. It has helped them keep on top of the musk thistle spraying, said Mr. Huntley, although they are a few days behind in bindweed spraying.

He said he would like to look at a cost-share program, but they would need to see what people are willing to pay and what services they want. The department cost-shares chemicals with the farmers so they get a 25 percent discount on some of the chemicals. Either the department or the farmer does the spraying.

For the cost-share to work, the spraying has to be for noxious weeds.



AT THE END of the month, Dr. Wendy Vogel will say goodbye at the Oberlin Clinic and Decatur County Hospital and return home to Canada. Until then, it is business as usual. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Doctor leaving for Canada to be close to her grandkids

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Wanting to watch her grandkids grow up, Dr. Wendy Vogel will be saying good-bye to Oberlin and going home to Canada.

Dr. Vogel and her husband Lorne have three grandchildren in Saskatchewan, Riley, 7; Brody, 6; and Nicholas, 2. She said since the older ones started school, it has become harder for the family to get together. Dr. Vogel said she and her husband are just missing them too much, so they decided to go back home.

The Vogels have two children, Andrea and Tyson, and both live in Saskatchewan, Canada.

Usually, she said, their kids and grandkids try to make it here once a year, but it is a 1,110-mile trip.

On her 50th birthday, the family surprised her and showed up at their house in Oberlin at 1:30 a.m.

“The kids were born and raised in Canada, said Dr. Vogel.

“We were the ones who moved away,” she said, adding that her mother and her husband's mother both live in Canada, and they are getting older, though both are in good health.

Dr. Vogel said she plans to stay in the medical field in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. She has a job as a critical care associate in the intensive care units at two hospitals which she will start in the middle of September. Her last office day here is Wednesday, Aug.

31. Dr. Vogel has served at the Oberlin Medical Arts Clinic since March 1998. She said she was recruited here though Hays Medical Center.

She and her husband came to Oberlin twice to look at the town and then decided to move.

Before that, she was a doctor in Canada.

Dr. Vogel said she started as a lab technician and then when her kids went to school, she decided to go back to become a doctor. She graduated from medical school in 1989.

She said she wished they could take their home, which is up for sale, with them, because she loves it.

There will be a morning in January, said Dr. Vogel, while she is scraping ice off the car window and it's minus 45 degrees and she will wonder what she is doing, but then that night she will go to a grandson's hockey game and she'll know.

Dr. Vogel said she has enjoyed working with the staff at the hospital, clinic and nursing homes here and thanks all of her patients for the privilege of taking care of them.

“I encourage the patients to continue coming (to the clinic) here,” she said.

It has been a pleasure working with Dr. Richard May, Dr. Elizabeth Sliter and Johnna Inman, nurse practitioner, she said. Hopefully a new doctor will be here not too far down the road.

Officer escapes charges

No charges will be filed against a former Oberlin police officer after a domestic disturbance at his home last month.

The case was investigated by the Kansas Highway Patrol and sent on to the state attorney general's office for a decision on charges. County Attorney Steve Hirsch said the attorney general decided the facts weren't enough for a criminal charge.

A temporary order of protection was filed in Decatur County District Court on Monday, July 18, against the officer, Allen Steve Rogers, 43, by his then girlfriend, Brenda Minor. There has been no hearing on the order.

The request says that Ms. Minor was seeking protection for herself and her two children, ages 12 and 13.

She wrote that Mr. Rogers was on duty with the Oberlin Police Department at the time of the incident. He was outside the house and she went to talk with him. She said she put her hand in the car door so he couldn't close it. The temporary order of protection report says that Mr. Rogers shoved Ms. Minor after he gave her “a lawful order” to get away. She sat on the trunk of the car, and when he backed out, the car hit a bump, Ms. Minor fell off and Mr. Rogers drove over her ankle, causing a fracture.

The temporary order of protection states that Mr. Rogers left the scene.

Mr. Rogers was put on administrative suspension from the police department and has since resigned.

Jennings board organizes

The Jennings School Board elected a new president and vice president at the July meeting.

Lawrence Carter was elected president and Lila Jennings as vice president.

Other board members present were Frances Bader, Gary Gillum and Jeanette Krizek, plus Superintendent Emery Hart, and Clerk Lois Heilman.

Neoma Tacha asked the board to consider the Czech Museum as the recipient of school memorabilia. The museum board would also be interested in obtaining school items which could be auctioned, with proceeds going for an addition to house school items.

The board granted permission to the Oberlin and Norton school districts to cross the Jennings district to pick up students in the Hoxie and Jennings districts. Permission was granted to the Norton district to pick up the Lee Juenemann students. However, permission was denied for Norton to pick up another family at the Juenemann residence.

In other business, the board:

- Reviewed state budget information.

- Appointed Mrs. Jennings as the representative for the North Central Kansas Special Education Cooperative Board.

- Approved a warranty deed transferring the football field to the City of Jennings, which had given the land to the school district.

- Agreed to hold a special meeting on Monday, Aug. 22, to adopt a budget.

Two fire vehicles in shop

The Decatur County Fire Department in Oberlin is down to one pickup and one tanker, with two vehicles in the shop.

At the commissioners meeting last Tuesday, Fire Chief Bill Cathcart said truck No. 10, which is a one-ton truck, was taken to Wagner Ford in McCook with a cracked head.

It had been taken back after they picked it up for more problems.

He said truck No. 13 also was taken to McCook to have repair work done on the rear end by Inland Truck of North Platte.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch took time out from the meeting to help at the tax sale. He said the mineral land went for \$105 and the house in Norcatar for \$3,800.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard that County Clerk Marilyn Horn had a couple boys from Sappa Valley Youth Ranch doing community service in her office.

- Heard that a second bridge in the Lyle area is complete. The crew is now working on the third bridge in the summer project, which is seven miles east and about four and a half north of Oberlin.

When the wind howls



THE COW PALACE, a cattle barn which has been a landmark for many years 15 miles south of Oberlin on U.S. 83, fell last month when high winds or a twister came through around 7 p.m. Owner Brad Marcuson said they were washing 4-H calves at their home about that time and noticed that

one suddenly refused to move. A neighbor said it became very hot. A combine header which was stored in the building appeared to have suffered little damage and a nearby windmill wasn't even touched.

—Herald staff photo by Dave Bergling

Council questions contract figures for wetlands

The Oberlin City Council discussed, but didn't sign, a contract with the Watershed Institute for plans, design and permitting assistance for a wetlands at Sappa Park.

At the meeting on Thursday, July 14, the group looked at the contract but held off signing it since there were some questions about money figures.

The job would cost \$6,000, but the contract said that half would be

due up front, which would be \$3,500.

Gary Shike, city administrator, said the contract is fixed and now says \$3,000 will be paid up front.

The council will discuss the contract again at their meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday.

The council approved the 2004 audit from Maples and Miller, which found no violations or problems. It will be sent to the state department

of accounts and reports.

The firm had sent out a three-year contract. Mr. Shike said since it is a significant expense, the council decided to contact other firms for bids. The firms have until September to contact the city.

The council agreed to vacate half an alley at the request of homeowners.

The alley has Coldren to the north, Wolf to the west, Hall to the

south and Elk to the east.

Mr. Shike said the east half of the alley will be kept open so people will have access to their yards.

The council held two closed ses-

sions for non-elected personnel with City Attorney Steve Hirsch, Mr. Shike and Police Chief Wade Lockhart. There was no action taken.

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