

Nine steps set out in plan for new pool

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Pool committee members and a few citizens heard a nine-step process for replacing the Oberlin swimming pool at a meeting Thursday night at The Gateway.

Of those nine steps, said Michael Fisher, an engineer for Water's Edge Aquatic Design, his firm has been contracted to work on four.

The nine steps include establishing community goals, selecting a site, choosing features, developing a concept plan, identifying budget resources, finding money, cre-

ating a detailed design, construction and operation.

Mr. Fisher said he will help establish community goals, choose features, develop a concept plan and identify a budget. With eight people at the meeting, Mr. Fisher went through the steps and gave examples of what other towns have done.

The pool committee — made up of Anna Shaw, Gary Bartels, Gaylord Shields, Teresa Shaughnessy, Peggy Ream, Sue Glodt, Mirla Coleman and Dori Pauls — started working on raising money and gath-

ering research to either replace or repair the old pool after the summer of 2004. That summer, the Oberlin pool opened almost a month late because of problems in the structure.

The committee needs to reach out to people, said Mr. Fisher. Sometimes, he said, fliers work, maybe something with options that they can mark on and return.

The people and committee need to decide what programs will be offered at the pool, he said. For example, if they want to offer lifeguard training, they will need deeper

water.

From there, he said, a concept plan can be done based on the goals for the facility. Mr. Fisher said he received a list of goals from the committee, including an indoor/outdoor facility with lap lanes, "zero-depth" entry, a water slide, sunshades, an office, concession area and an indoor hydrotherapy pool.

After the committee has community support for the project, said Mr. Fisher, and finds the money, then a detailed design plan can be drawn up.

"It isn't unusual to wait five or more years

after a concept design is done to get funding," he said.

What about a hydrotherapy pool? Mr. Shields asked. Medicare would pay for patients to use that.

Could a small lap pool and hydrotherapy pool be combined? asked Mrs. Coleman.

Generally, said Mr. Fisher, people who use hydrotherapy want the water a little warmer and those who want to lap swim want the water a little cooler.

The committee will also have to choose (See POOL on Page 12A)

Shoppers claim \$50 instant prizes for Christmas

Six more shoppers have claimed their instant winnings in the Christmas on Us giveaway this week.

That means that all 10 instant prizes of \$50 in scrip money have been given away, but there is still a \$500 first prize and \$1,500 grand prize to be given at 11 a.m. on Saturday at the Centennial Park gazebo.

If the weather is bad, the drawing will be moved to the front part of the Golden Age Center.

Winners this week mainly said they were going to use the money on Christmas gifts, although Ed Dean, who got his ticket at Fidele Electric said he was going to buy a door chime from Golt Home Planning Center. Terry Berry got her ticket at Ampride, Mary Long got her ticket at Stanley Hardware, Wade Lockhart picked up his ticket at Addleman Drug Store and so did Brian Keahey, and Marilyn Mack got hers at Raye's Grocery.

A seventh winner, Peggy Roe, came in Friday to claim her prize. Since all of the instant \$50 prizes had been given out, she won a six-month subscription to *The Oberlin Herald*. She got her ticket at Raye's Grocery.

Each year, *The Herald* and

Oberlin businesses sponsor the popular Christmas on Us giveaway. Shoppers get one ticket for every \$10 they spend or can pick up one free ticket each week from the Chamber office or the newspaper office. No purchase is required.

On Saturday, all of the collected tickets are put in a large bin, where they are shaken and mixed. Tickets will be drawn until both prizes have been given away. Winners must be present and show their winning ticket. The winners agree to be photographed and will notify the newspaper when they plan to shop.

The scrip money only can be spent at participating businesses in Oberlin. Those include Addleman Drug Store, Ward Drug Store, Stanley Hardware, Raye's Grocery, Oberlin Mercantile, the Dresser, Shear Creations West and Day Spa, the Carpet Center, the Bank, Countryside Veterinary Clinic, Rocking R, Prairie Petals, Fidele Electric, Home Planning Center, Culligan, Dale's Fish 'N' Fun, Flowers by Lee, Ampride, Lifetime Eyecare and R&M Service Center.

To kick off the drawing, the Bell Ringers from St. John's and Faith Lutheran Churches will perform at 10:30 a.m.

Ready to go on stage



AT OBERLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Monday afternoon, Troy Juenemann (left), Kaine Fredrickson and Gabe Anderson waited to start their performance in the dress rehearsal for that night's Christmas musical. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Writer recounts his grandmother's revenge on attacker

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

A lot of people saw Ellen Lunney shoot Gene McEnroe, but would they convict her of murder?

The true story of a Norton County woman's revenge is now a book written by Douglas Yocom about his grandmother, who was raped in 1894 in Norton County but didn't let her assailant get away.

For 13 years, from 1943 to 1956, Mr. Yocom and his mother, Nora (Dwyer) Yocom, lived with his grandmother, Ellen (Lunney) Dwyer at her home in Lenora.

It wasn't until five years ago, Mr. Yocom said, that he learned his grandmother had been at the center of a sensational murder trial.

Following a career as a reporter, editorial writer, public relations manager and congressional aide, he said, he became intrigued by the stoic, reclusive woman he knew as grandmother.

What he learned has been compiled into a book he titled, "A Matter of Chastity, The High Plains Saga of a Woman's Revenge." In it, he chronicles the events of July 24, 1894.

An excerpt from the book: Ellen Lunney, 19, was a slender, attractive young woman about to embark on a career as a school teacher in one of the local one-room schools. She was a shy, quiet and polite young woman.

Her parents, John and Anna Lunney, along with the younger children of the family, were away for the night visiting family 10 miles away in Decatur County. She and two of her brothers stayed to take care of the chores. Sometime after 10 p.m., Ellen was awakened to find a man, Gene McEnroe, a neighbor from across the river, with his hand over her mouth. She tried to fight

him off but couldn't. He raped her.

The next day when her family returned, it was a shattered Ellen waiting for them. Her brothers, too, were shaken by the enormity of what had happened. John Lunney faced a difficult decision. Filing a complaint would amount to a declaration to all that his daughter had been raped, de-

spoiled, damaged. Would other men still consider her as a bride? Probably not. He knew this would raise a terrible cloud over Ellen. She may have to leave the community, to find a new home where her history wasn't known.

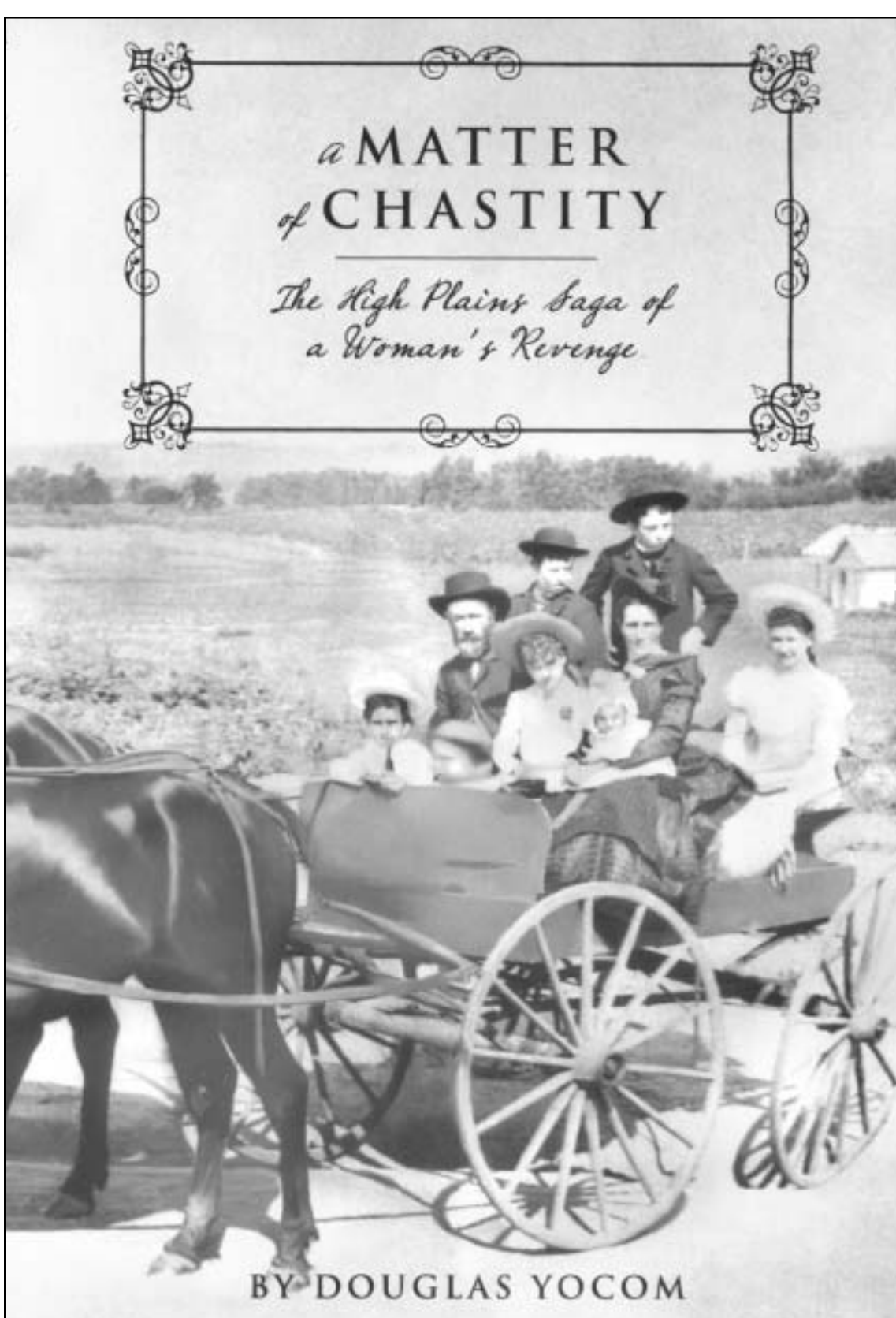
But, Mr. Lunney realized the course of action he must take. A crime had been committed and he knew he must have Gene McEnroe arrested for the rape of his daughter.

Justice was swift on the Kansas prairie. Two days later, Mr. McEnroe was arrested but he was released on \$1,000 bail. The trial was set for July 31, a week after the nighttime of Ellen Lunney's horror.

In the days leading up to the trial, Ellen told visitors she wished he would have killed her, she would rather be dead.

On the day of the trial, Ellen arrived at the Thuma School house, where the trial was scheduled to be held. A crowd had gathered and most of the seats were filled.

What happened next caught everyone by surprise. Ellen spotted Gene McEnroe in the crowd and as she later testified, he "leered" at her. She walked to where he was seated and from beneath her cape, Ellen Lunney drew a revolver. At point-blank range she fired four shots into his body, killing him almost instantly. Ellen was arrested and held for



ON THE COVER of Dwight Yocom's book is a picture of Ellen Lunney's family as they rode in a horse drawn wagon.

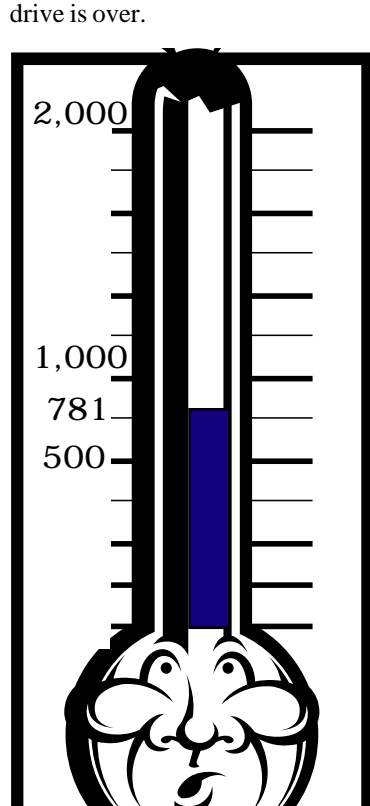
Food needed by pantry

With two weeks and three days left to go, the annual food drive at Stanley Hardware is 1,219 items away from the goal of 2,000 cans, boxes and bags of food.

The drive started slowly after Thanksgiving, said owner Joe Stanley, since many people stayed inside because of the storm and cold weather.

In 18 days, he said, people have brought in 781 food items, paper products and other non-perishable items. After the new year, the food will be taken to the Decatur County Food Pantry at the United Church.

The store is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Any items can be brought in during store hours. All will be put on display in the store's south window until the drive is over.



trial. Modern-day politics has nothing on the political scene in Norton County of 1894. In the book, Mr. Yocom detailed the history and as- (See WOMAN on Page 12A)

* Pool group looks at suggestions

(Continued from Page 1A) features. Mrs. Glodt said they had talked about doing a diving board and a slide or maybe doing a slide in the future.

Mr. Fisher said the diving board is always popular.

No matter the other features, he said, there is always a line for the diving board.

Someone suggested using the diving boards from the pool now. Mr. Fisher said, though, that when he was at the pool, there didn't seem

to be a whole lot of things that could be salvaged.

He passed out a packet of features with prices. The feature packet included things like an open flume slide for \$140,000, a speed slide for \$100,000, a therapy jet seat for \$12,000 and much more.

A pool is all a quality of life issue, said Mr. Fisher.

The committee didn't make any decisions, but Water's Edge plans to develop a concept plan which will be presented in a few weeks.

* Woman took revenge for rape

(Continued from Page 1A) pirations of the lawyers involved in this case. He also examined testimony that implicated others in a plot to kill Gene McEnroe. Throughout the book, he delved into life on the prairie, its hardships and its strict moral code.

Mr. Yocom said he did much of this research at the Norton County Public Library. He said the library has an impressive genealogy department.

The Champion and *The Norton Courier* were newspapers of the time, and both carried stories about the trial and its outcome.

An epilogue lets the reader know what happened in his grandmother's life, and how the event of so long ago changed a family forever.

Copies of the book are available at *The Oberlin Herald*, *The Norton Telegram* and the Last Indian Raid Museum Seeds of Creation Gift Shop in Oberlin.

Ambulance gets four bids for oxygen

The Decatur County ambulance director brought in four bids to fill oxygen tanks at the county commissioners' meeting last Tuesday, but the board made no decision.

Patrick Pomeroy never said who the quotes were from.

The one that sounded the best was with Apria, he said, because they can fill the bottles that the ambulance service already owns.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said normally if a service owns their own cylinders and they can get them filled, that is best.

Mr. Pomeroy said the service owns the little cylinders but he isn't sure about the big ones. Apria said they can guarantee that the county will get its cylinders back.

Are the ambulance service's cylinders tested for safety? asked County Attorney Steve Hirsch. Mr.

Pomeroy said he wasn't sure.

If the company fills the cylinders, do they certify them? asked Mr. Unger.

The commissioners held a 20-minute closed session for non-elected personnel with Mr. Pomeroy. There was no action taken.

During the recent storm, said Mr. Pomeroy, he had to borrow his son-in-law's four wheel drive vehicle because the county-owned Expedition wasn't getting around in the snow. He said he used the county credit card to put 17 gallons of gas in the four-wheel-drive vehicle.

Mr. Pomeroy said he would pay for it but wanted to know if the county could since he used the vehicle to do work.

The commissioners approved the purchase.

City to discuss workers

The Oberlin City Council will discuss employee evaluations at its meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, which means a lot of the session will be behind closed doors.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the council will also receive a pay request for work on the new well

No. 12.

They will decide on at least two beer license renewals. As of Monday, Keeno's and Ron Fowler had applied for new licenses.

The meeting is open to the public and will be held upstairs at The Gateway.

Van mangled in wreck



A NEBRASKA WOMAN was injured and her 2004 van was damaged last Tuesday after she turned in front of a grain truck at the intersection of K-383 and U.S. 83 east of Selden.

The driver, Shirley Alexander, 63, was taken to the Decatur County Hospital. — Herald staff photo by Steve Haynes

Grain truck hits van at Selden junction

Two Nebraska drivers were taken to the Decatur County Hospital after an accident last Tuesday at the U.S. 83-K-383 junction east of Selden.

The Kansas Highway Patrol reported that Shirley Alexander, 63, Kearney, was driving a 2004 Ford

van east on U.S. 83 around 2 p.m. when she went to make a left turn toward Oberlin. She turned in front of a westbound 2000 Kenworth grain truck driven by Matthew Stratton, 26, of Valparaiso.

Although the truck driver tried to avoid the van, troopers said, the

two hit each other head on, mangling the van. After the collision, the van stopped in the middle of the highway and the truck in the ditch west and north of the intersection.

Both drivers were wearing their seat belts, the patrol said.

Sheridan County officers and a

Sheridan County ambulance responded to the accident along with two state troopers. Decatur County firemen and sheriff's deputies went to help, but were not needed. The Decatur County ambulance didn't bring anyone in.

Council puts off gas franchise decision

The Oberlin City Council decided not to do anything with a natural gas franchise agreement with Midwest Energy at its meeting Thursday, Dec. 1, but still has several months to make a decision.

The agreement includes a 2 percent franchise fee for the city, which is passed on to customers. The agreement can be revisited at five-year intervals. City Attorney Steve Hirsch said the agreement is up Feb. 5, and the council has 90 days from

that date to make a decision.

The money pays for the firm's use of city streets and rights of way.

Councilman Ray Ward said with gas prices up and the city needing to raise electrical rates, this would be a bad time to increase the franchise fee.

The council didn't know if the 2 percent paid now was on the whole bill or only a certain part.

Later, the council received a request from the Housing Authority to

see if its director and maintenance person could be put on the city's insurance plan. The authority operates Sappa Valley Manor, with low income apartments. The council said it was OK as long as the housing authority pays for the two people.

Police Chief Wade Lockhart said he received a call from Nex-Tech recently about the city's radio repeater on the water tower. He said there is a part that probably needs to be replaced and a coaxial cable has

a crimp in it.

If anything is replaced, said Chief Lockhart, Nex-Tech suggests that the antenna be replaced, too.

The chief said he wants to wait to do anything on it.

He said the police department didn't have any problems getting around in the snow last week. The first night, they borrowed a four-wheel-drive vehicle from the city crew, he said, and after that they used their patrol cars.

Holiday Dance

Free admission

Friday, Dec 23

9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Mobile Music Express

American Legion

Oberlin, Kansas

**Absolutely no minors allowed*

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Deveny Motors

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