

## County considers helping pay for pool

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The Decatur County commissioners said Tuesday they would have to think about whether the county should raise taxes or do a bond issue to help build a new pool.

Members of the city's pool committee asked the commissioners if the county could help since it would serve the entire county. The existing pool is over 50 years old and in bad shape, they said.

The commissioners said they needed some time and wanted to know what people who live in the

### County Countdown

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Talked with a group raising money for a new livestock building at the Decatur County Fairground. Story below.
- Talked with the city pool committee about possibly raising county taxes or issuing bonds to help build a new pool. Story at left.
- Received 85 pages of training material for National Incident Management training which they are required to take. Story on Page 8A.

county think about the idea. Anna Shaw, a committee member who lives in the county, said when

the group got the plans back from Water's Edge Aquatic, they had "sticker shock."

She said the architect didn't give them exactly what they wanted. Mrs. Shaw said the committee asked for a plan for both an outdoor pool and an indoor/outdoor pool option. Although the group wanted to know the prices of slides, floaties and other extras, they didn't want them built into the plan.

She said the group wanted room to put in a slide if down the road there was a fund raiser for one, but didn't want it included in the plan.

The pool firm sent back plans showing an outdoor pool at \$2.5

million and an indoor and outdoor pool at \$5.5 million. Mrs. Shaw said City Administrator Gary Shike was going to call the firm and ask them to cut back the extras and any fat on the plans and get new numbers.

Although the pool committee has been holding fund raisers and received some donations, said Mrs. Shaw, it looks more and more like they will need a tax increase or bond issue.

It would take a lot longer to raise money through the city taxes, said Sue Glodt, another committee

member. Mrs. Glodt said the committee started by talking with other cities about prices and architects.

Dori Pauls, also a committee member, said they have also talked about putting in a new pool in stages, like replacing the bath house first and moving on from there. The group has also looked at grants, but there isn't much available for an outdoor pool.

"On a project like this," said Mrs. Shaw, "the entire county needs to" (See POOL on Page 8A)

## Barn builders show plans for livestock

### Commissioners get look at new fairground facility

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Decatur County commissioners saw plans for a new livestock building and arena at the Decatur County Fairground at their meeting last Tuesday.

Clay Anderson, Michael Wasson, Merlin Anderson and Kem Bryan talked with the commissioners about the project. Clay Anderson said they wanted to bring the plans for the building in because they want to keep everyone informed.

Commissioner Patricia Glenn asked if the plans had been shown to the fair foundation board.

Mr. Anderson said they had shown the plans to the foundation board and they have another meeting coming up with them. He said they are trying to work with the foundation on the project.

Mr. Wasson said the project started when some people raising money to replace the current livestock building contacted him and Clay Anderson. The men started to talk about having a fund raiser where people donate steers to the project. Next thing they knew, he said, they had all these steers to feed and they were picking them up.

If the prices hold, he added, they think they have around \$30,000

worth of steers. The building will cost around \$50,000, he said.

Mr. Wasson said they didn't go to the Fair Foundation board first because they just didn't know that they were supposed to.

There aren't any problems now, said LaMoine Wolfram, foundation board president. He said the board and the two men are working together.

Clay Anderson said they think there is some money in the foundation set aside for the project, but they weren't sure.

These young men, said Mrs. Bryan, saw a need and a project and they went after it. She said people started to raise money for the project in 1994. It has always been the intent to get a new building.

These are young farmers, she said, the next generation of leaders, who saw a need and are working on getting it done.

Mr. Wasson said not going to the Fair Foundation board first was due to a lack of understanding on his and Clay's part. He said they want to work with the foundation.

Commissioner Doyle Brown apologized, saying he used to be the county representative for the board (See COUNTY on Page 8A)



AT THE COUNTY RECYCLING TRAILER, Abby Vineyard and Emily Miller (above) checked out their No. 2 plastics before they put them in to be recycled Friday. Caleb Hileman (below) got help from his teacher, Penny Arnoldy, to climb onto the trailer and recycle his bottle.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

## Special section features women

Inside today's edition of *The Oberlin Herald* is a special section devoted to Working Women in Decatur County.

Each woman, whether retired, a business owner or working in the county, tells how she got started and gives advice to those who want to go into their field. The section covers women who work with flowers, sell property, write, operate a store and more.

### THE OBERLIN HERALD'S Working Women



## Legislators plan to visit with voters

The Kansas attorney general will join Decatur County's state legislators at the courthouse in Oberlin to talk with citizens from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday.

The legislative coffee with Sen. Ralph Ostmeier, Rep. John Faber and Attorney General Phill Kline is sponsored by Decatur County Farm Bureau and the Decatur County

Republican Women. Their talk will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

The men will start at 8 a.m. at the Dusty Farmer Restaurant in St. Francis, then visit Williams Brothers Grocery in Atwood from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. They will be at the Town and Country Kitchen in Norton from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

## Students recycle old junk

There was a nip in the air as the Head Start students stood in line waiting for their turn to climb up to a large green container and drop in their piece of trash.

The kids had newspapers, milk jugs, juice bottles and pill bottles. Each one got a chance to recycle their stuff at the Decatur County recycle trailer at the old county shop.

The 17 students waited patiently Friday morning, each one checking out their piece of trash. At the recycle bin, they learned a little about what kind of things can and can't be recycled.

The Head Start program offers breakfast, lunch, health screenings and preschool activities to students who qualify, both low and higher income.

Head Start is held in the morning from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Oberlin Elementary School. The kids are ages 3 to 5. Enrollment



has started for next year. Anyone interested should call the teacher, Penny Arnoldy at 475-3935.

## Tickets available for farmer, rancher appreciation dinner

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

There is still time to get signed up for the Decatur County Chamber of Commerce Farmers and Ranchers Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, March 11, at The Gateway.

So far around 30 tickets have been picked up or reserved at the Chamber office on Main Street, said Chamber Manager Glenva Nichols. People have until Tuesday to call

475-3441 or to stop by the office to get tickets

The idea of the dinner, she said, is to honor ranchers and farmers who work in Decatur County.

"Without those farmers and ranchers," said Mrs. Nichols, "the county wouldn't be as viable."

So far, said Kem Bryan, a farmer's wife

and Chamber board member who is organizing the event, there has been tremendous support for the dinner. There have been donations in both money and items for door prizes from both local businesses and others that do business in the county. She said she has been amazed at how giving this community has been. It has been a good experience, said Mrs. Bryan.

With the support of the businesses, the Chamber is able to make the event free to everyone.

Mrs. Bryan said they have received a grant from Pioneer Seed and have one more out there.

The evening will start at 6 p.m. with dinner, which will be cream-can style. The menu includes corn, potatoes, carrots, on-

ions, cabbage and polish sausage. Mrs. Bryan said it got its name because it "honors goodness is cooked in a cream can."

After dinner, Mill Yield, played by Thayne Cozart, will tell humorous stories about growing up on the farm and working in agribusiness.

Although the idea of the dinner is to honor (See DINNER on Page 8A)