

# \* Group works on plan

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 laws, which included a rule that each person will be appointed for one year. The committee members can serve consecutive years, but have to be reappointed by the commissioners, he said.  
 Currently there are 17 members, including Mr. Unger, commissioner and farmer; Sheriff Badsky, Bill Cathcart, fire chief and trash; Wade Lockhart, police chief; Marilyn Gamblin, county health administrator; Jim Sullivan, performance improvement/risk management manager at the hospital; Bob Jones, mayor of Jennings; Dr. Mark Olson, veterinarian; Doug Dempewolf, mayor of Norcatgur; Russell Rhodes, mayor of Dresden; Byron Hale, extension officer; Mr. Cool, emergency management director and dispatcher; Patti Skubal, emergency management assistant and sheriff's deputy; Richard Shaw, business owner; Rob McFee, Oberlin councilman and postal worker; Dick Kelley, business owner and Joe Stanley, Oberlin councilman and business owner.

The group approved the bylaws. They will meet again at 8 p.m. Monday, April 24 at the county health department.

# \* Grant money is here

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 Gary Shike, and who is that up to? It should be up to the commissioners, said County Clerk Marilyn Horn.  
 Lt. Rightmeier said the county is getting \$51,236 with \$13,663 of it going for law enforcement and \$37,573 is for homeland security. The county hasn't spent any of this year's money. He said the patrol hasn't received the signed contract from the county yet.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch asked if the patrol keeps a list of what the county has purchased in the past. It should be on a spread sheet, said Lt. Rightmeier. He said he could send it to Mrs. Horn.

Lt. Rightmeier said all he has received is a question on a generator for Jennings with a bid of around \$14,000.

Emergency Preparedness Manager Bert Cool, who has dealt with the money in the past, wasn't able to make it to the meeting because he was running dispatch.

# Upgrade planned for well

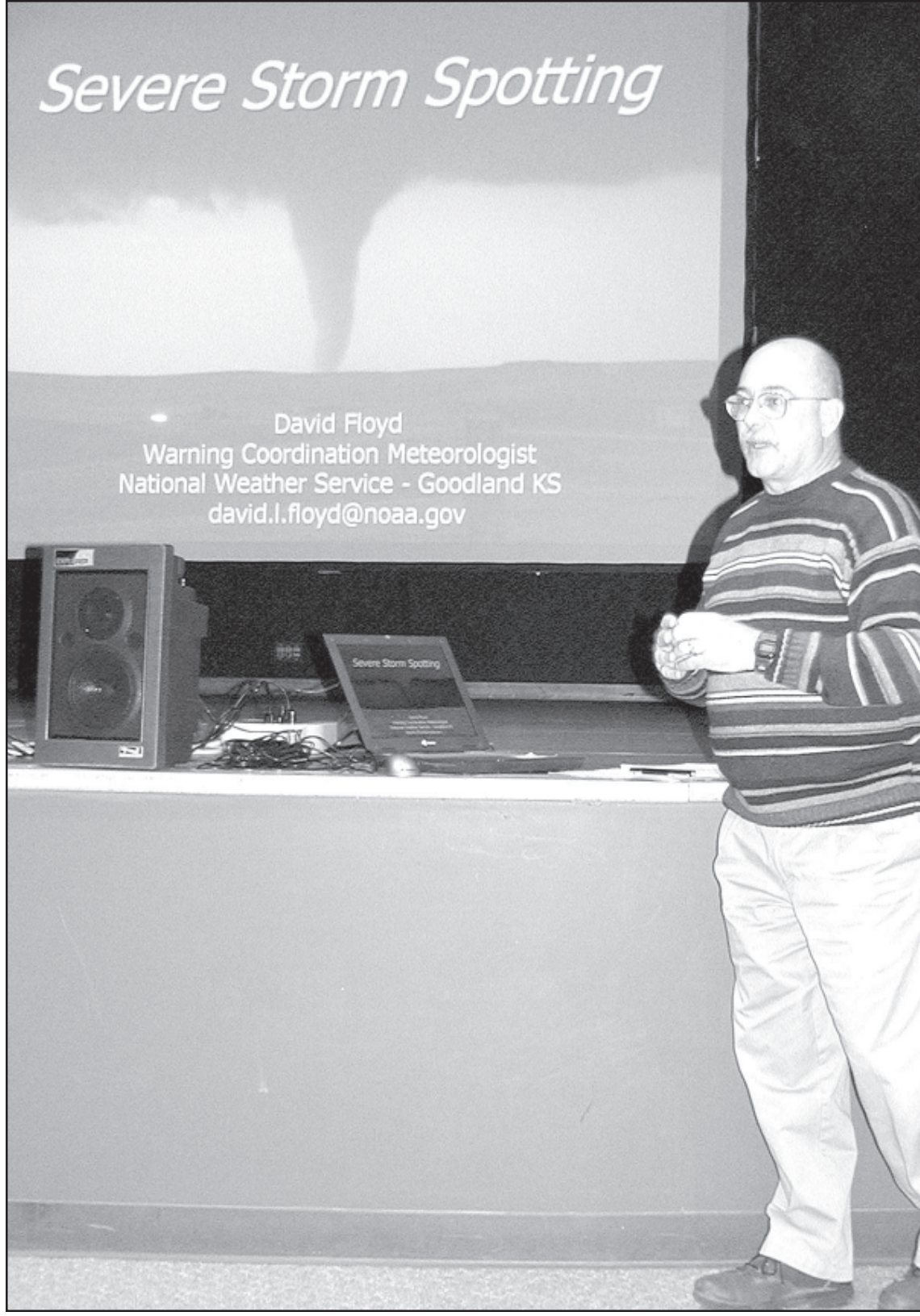
The Oberlin City Council agreed to upgrade the electrical system at well No. 10 so a new emergency generator can be used on it if needed.

The upgrade, said City Administrator Gary Shike, will cost just over \$5,000. The electrical hookups will be compatible to the new well No. 11, he said.

The council has been discussing the possible upgrades for a few months and decided Thursday, March 9, to go ahead with it.

The council decided not to pass an ordinance saying that vehicles aren't allowed in the cemetery at night. They did ask that people be careful when driving in the cemetery at night so they don't bump into headstones. Mr. Shike said the council also asked that anyone who sees rowdy behavior in the cemetery to call the police.

Mr. Shike said that the city no longer has a dog catcher since Cody John was hired as a police officer and doesn't have the time to take the dogs he catches to McCook. The city will be looking for a new one, he said.



AT THE GATEWAY, Dave Floyd, a National Weather Service meteorologist, trained around 40 people to be storm spotters last Wednesday. — Herald staff photo by Jim Merriott

# \* Storm spotters trained

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 For years, he said, the weather service has been handing out numbers to the spotters. When a person signs up now, they still get a number, but mostly the service identifies them by their name.

The service is able to put that person's name on a location map in the county in which they live. That

way when the spotter calls in, they can call up that person's name on the map and know exactly what the spotter is looking at.

Mr. Mentzer said spotter certification lasts three years. Later in the spring, the service is planning an advanced class but the date and place haven't been set yet.

Normally, he said, storm season

starts around May 1 here and goes through the end of July, with May and early June being the peak times. The area can get hail and other bad weather as late as August and September and often there is some severe weather at the end of March.

The thing to remember, he said, is that a tornado can happen at any time.

# Rescued horses to be sold at auction

By PAT SCHIEFEN  
 The Goodland Star-News  
 Ten horses seized by the Sherman County sheriff's office in a cruelty case will be sold at 3 p.m. Monday at the Colby Livestock Auction.

"There is an agreement by the parties that the horses be sold," said Scott Showalter, who is handling the case for the Sherman County attorney. "The proceeds go to the court to pay for the case of the horses."

The sheriff seized the horses when a man reported they were hungry and some were dead.

Deputy Jason Showalter and Undersheriff Roger Studer investigated the report at the home of Tim and Shaunna Armknecht, 6975 K-27, about five miles north of Goodland.

Deputy Showalter reported finding 10 horses that, by their appearance, had no food or water for several weeks. He found four dead ones in the corrals with the 10.

The officers found enough hose after hunting to get water to the animals. With some encouragement,

the horses were loaded into a trailer owned by Charley Herl and taken to the Prairieland Animal Clinic under the care of Dr. Gary Smith. Dr. Smith said the horses were malnourished but otherwise OK. The horses were moved to pasture as their condition improved.

Tim Armknecht was arrested when he came home and was taken to the Bastille. Later he posted a \$5,000 bond.

The Armknechts will make their next court appearance on Monday, May 8. They will face 14 counts of animal cruelty, a Class A nonperson misdemeanor, and four counts of unlawful disposal of dead animals, an unclassified misdemeanor with a possible fine of \$100 for every 24 hours for each count.

Sheriff Kevin Butts said they had had calls from all over the state from people offering pasture and food for the horses. They did receive some money to help pay for their care.

The sale barn is at 125 S. Country Club Drive, Colby, past the railroad tracks south of U.S. 24.

# Director writing specs to get ambulance bids

The Decatur County ambulance director is working to get specifications ready for bids on a new ambulance.

Director Patrick Pomeroy told commissioners last Tuesday he is looking at a wheeled cot for inside the new ambulance. Commissioner Ralph Unger said Mr. Pomeroy needs to make sure he gets all of the things he needs on the bid specs.

The commissioners approved a resolution closing 12 miles roads in Roosevelt Township. They also ap-

proved making 12 miles of roads minimum maintenance in the same township. The township board reviewed all of the section lines and anything that they felt should be closed or turned to minimum maintenance they put in the resolution.

The commissioners scheduled a hearing for those two resolutions at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 11, before taking final action.

The commissioners read a proclamation for Fair Housing Month in April.

# City gets \$13,000 from Uncle Sam to pay for blizzard

The City of Oberlin received more than \$13,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to repay costs from the blizzard in November.

City Administrator Gary Shike said after the storm was proclaimed a disaster, he met with men from the agency twice. The first time was just an initial meeting for federal officials to tell the city and the county what they could claim.

During the second meeting, he said, they went over what they were claiming.

The city received a check for \$12,140 for the electrical system. Mr. Shike said the amount pays for all of the labor, plus damage to the poles and lines. The city sent in anything they could document for the electrical department.

The other check was for \$1,561 for debris and snow removal. The money, said Mr. Shike, will reimburse the city for what was spent on

# Council Roundup

At a meeting last Thursday, the Oberlin City Council:

- Agreed to pay one of the last bills for the new water well east of town. Story below.
- Received more than \$13,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for work during the blizzard in November. Story at left.
- Decided that the second meeting of the month will not be on the local access channel 7 for the next six months. Story below.

the storm. Decatur County sent in claims too, but hasn't received any checks yet.

# City agrees to pay bill for water well

The Oberlin City Council agreed Thursday to pay one of the last bills for the new water well east of town.

The council agreed to pay \$69,748 to Woofter Pump and Well. City Administrator Gary Shike said the council still has to make the final payment, 5 percent of the total which will be paid after everything is approved on the well.

The well is pretty much done except for some clean up, he said. Representatives from the Kansas Department of Health and Environ-

ment will be here this week to inspect the work.

After a short meeting, the council decided to "respectfully request" that the county museum board seek the advice of the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp. to come up with a strategic and marketing plan for the museum. Councilman Jay Anderson brought up the idea, which passed. The city supplies the museum with electricity, but doesn't appoint the board.

# Blood tests available

The Decatur County Health Department is offering blood tests next Wednesday and Thursday.

Health Administrator Marilyn Gamblin said they prefer appointments for the blood draws, but they will take walk-ins.

The one profile will test for kidney, liver, glucose, hemoglobins and the thyroid for \$28. The other

profile is for prostate specific antigen for \$25.

The results will be handed out during the annual Decatur County Health Fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, April 28, at The Gateway.

Ms. Gamblin said those getting blood draws shouldn't eat anything after midnight the night before.

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