

Telethon needs workers

The committee for the annual Seeds of Hope Telethon needs volunteers to work on and off the camera for the event on Saturday, Feb. 3.

Each year, the committee puts on an all-day telethon to raise money for organizations in Decatur County. The group needs help from volunteers to work in the kitchen, as emcees, perform, answer phones, run cameras and more. Anyone interested in any position should contact one of the committee members, Jack Benton, Bill Duncan, Regina Stanley, Brenda Ulery, Kristi Smith, Kimberly Davis and Peg Smith.

Mrs. Davis said Peg Smith is in charge of the auction again this year and is starting to ask for items from businesses. All donated items are put on the auction, which is aired on local access cable channel 7. The auction, she said, raises a huge part of the money needed for county organizations each year.

This year, said Mrs. Davis, the committee decided to up the fundraising goal from \$11,000 to \$12,000.

The group is also looking for people who want to perform — sing, play an instrument, gymnasts and others. Call Miss Smith or Mrs. Davis at 475-3510 or Mrs. Davis at work at 475-2206.

Recipients for the 2007 telethon include the Decatur County Fair Foundation for the new livestock building, Kansas for Life, Norcat Public Library, Norcat Museum, Teens for Christ, Oberlin Area Concert Band, Decatur County Relay for Life, Oberlin Lions Club, Creative Movement Gymnastics, Jennings Czech Museum, Decatur County Last Indian Raid Museum, Decatur County Ministerial Association, Jennings City Library, Tripple Creek Riders, FROGS Camp, Salvation Army, Girl Scouts and the United Explorers.

'Tis the season



ON SUNDAY Ryan May lit the first candle in the advent wreath during the service at St. John's Lutheran Church. — Herald photo by Sarah Fredrickson

Commissioners OK lease papers for Gateway

The Decatur County commissioners approved a lease agreement of The Gateway for their annual employee appreciation banquet scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 14.

The county will pay \$150 to lease The Gateway, with the meal costing extra. The commissioners OK'd the lease.

The commissioners also approved the signing of a Homeland Security Equipment Agreement which will allow Mutual Aide Operations Communications radios to communicate throughout 18 north-west Kansas counties. All commissioners in those counties have been asked to sign the agreement, said County Attorney Steve Hirsch.

The agreement, said Mr. Hirsch, means the equipment will be turned over to the county as long as the county agrees to insure it. Mr. Hirsch said six counties are using the system already.

In each of the 18 counties there will be a base station, antennas and the wiring to set the system up. The system will allow for the counties to have a wider variety of radio frequencies. This way if another county's emergency agency comes here to help they will have a frequency on the radio so they can communicate to each other and to dispatch, said Mr. Hirsch. Counties should be able to talk from one county to bordering county from dispatch.

The commissioners asked about the recent state inspection of the ambulance department. Director Linda Manning was unable to attend, but Karen Eskew, emergency management technician, gave the commissioners her copy of the narrative.

Commissioner Patricia Glenn said the narrative discussed the changing of directors and a few things that need to be corrected.

Commissioner Doyle Brown said

County Roundup

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Approved a lease for The Gateway for the county's annual Employee Appreciation Banquet on Sunday, Jan. 14. Story at left.

- Talked with the county's noxious weed director about the controversy in Logan County over treating prairie dogs. Story on Page 5A.

- Approved closing part of a road bordering Center and Alton townships and turning the other part into a minimum maintenance road. Story at left, below.

- Approved the removal of a large tree next to the parking lot behind the Good Samaritan Center. Story on Page 5A.

he knows Ms. Manning has been in Jennings to update the supplies. Commissioner Ralph Unger said it is easy to have supplies on the shelf that are out of their "good until" date. It is a common infraction, he said.

The commissioners discussed who will serve as the Midstates Port Authority representative since Decatur Co-op Manger Karol Evans is retiring. County Clerk Marilyn Horn said she called Mr. Evans, who said the group was set up in the early 1970s to help preserve the Kyle Railroad line across the south end of the county. Mr. Evans said the elevator in Oberlin uses a different rail line, although the Kyle still goes through Jennings. He suggested they talk with someone from the elevator in Jennings.

Apartments get face lift

Parkview Apartments was rededicated last Wednesday after a recent remodel job on the apartment complex.

The apartment complex, located at 311 N. Garfield, provides family living units for persons with very low to moderate incomes.

The facility was originally built with financing through the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development's Multi-Family

Housing Program.

The remodeling, which included new siding, was also financed through the United States Department of Agriculture as well as the State of Kansas.

"We are pleased to see these complexes renovated, and again ready to provide safe and affordable rental housing for residents of these areas," said Chuck Banks, state director for the agency. "These commu-

nities appreciate Congress approving funds to help with the updating of these needed housing facilities. Helping support affordable rural housing is an important goal for USDA Rural Development, a goal that is being achieved across Kansas each and every day."

The agencies helped build and remodel another facility similar to Parkview Apartments in Phillipsburg.

Fire destroys house

A Jennings man lost his house to a fire at the end of November.

Fire Chief Kerry Green said they received the call around 7 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 26 about the fire at the Lane Naiman home two miles east, three south and half a mile east of Jennings, formerly owned by the late Walter Warren.

Chief Green said one of the neighbors down the road called the fire in after seeing the glow of the fire when they woke up. Mr. Naiman wasn't at home.

The house, said Chief Green, was destroyed, but the firefighters were able to stop the fire from spreading to other buildings on the farmstead.

There weren't any injuries. The firefighters stayed at the site until about 11 a.m.

Chief Green said he thought the fire was caused by an electrical short.

Road closed at man's request

Decatur County commissioners approved closing part of the road between Center and Alton townships and turning the other part into a minimum maintenance road after a hearing last Tuesday.

Road No. 7E, seven miles east of the U.S. 36 and U.S. 83 intersection, runs on a two-mile stretch along the east edge of Center and west edge of Alton, said Tim Stallman, road and bridge supervisor.

Gary Gawith requested the road be closed on behalf of Gary Orr.

Dave Simpson, who lives in Oberlin, but owns land in Alton Township attended the hearing to protest the closing of the north half mile because he has a field he needs to access. Gerry Tally agreed that closing that part of the road would make it hard to get to the fields. Mr. Tally said he farms for Karon Scott off the north half mile of that road.

The land off the other mile and half of the road is owned by Mr. Orr, who said he was in favor of closing the road. The commissioners talked about putting up minimum maintenance signs for the half mile of road that Mr. Simpson and Mr. Tally use. Everyone agreed that would be OK.

The commissioners approved the half mile of minimum maintenance road and that the rest of the road would be closed.

Home lighting contest to be held

It's time to dust off the tiny sparkling lights and get out the extension cords, life-size nativity sets, reindeer, snowmen, angels and Santa Claus.

Christmas is almost here, and with it comes the annual Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce lighting competition, held with the help of the City of Oberlin and Midwest Energy.

In Oberlin, call the Chamber of Commerce office at 475-3441 to

enter the contest. In Jennings call 678-2348 and in Norcat call 693-4461 to get on the judging list.

Anyone who wants to be in the contest needs call, said Glenva Nichols, manager, and then remember to have their lights on every evening between now and Dec. 13.

Letters to Santa wanted

The Oberlin Herald wants children's letters to Santa to run in a special section coming up this month.

Each year, the newspaper runs the kids' letters and artwork. Any child who wants to have a letter to Santa

in the paper can put in the large mailbox downtown in front of Stanley Hardware or mail it to the newspaper at 170 S. Penn Ave.

All letters need to be in the mailbox or at the office by Saturday, Dec. 9.

Town Hall Conversations

Important Water Meeting, **Everyone** needs to attend!!!

What's in Your Water????

The Smoky Hills Conservation and Development Area, Inc. invite **all rural and urban residents** to attend the Town Hall conversations

Monday, December 18, 2006

- Oak Tree Inn / Penny's Diner 11:30 a.m.
801 N. Hwy 27, Sharon Springs, KS
- Healy High School Commons Area 6 p.m.
5006 N. Dodge Rd, Healy, KS

Tuesday, December 19, 2006

- Colonial Steak House 11:30 a.m.
464 Hwy 83, Oakley, KS
- Western Electric Coop Community Room 6 p.m.
635 S. 13th St., Wakeeney, KS

The **Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS)** process is your opportunity to voice concerns about the Smoky Hill River Watershed.

We will be divided into smaller discussion groups so your voice, opinion and suggestions will be heard. Plan to make it a point to attend one of these sessions to see how you can protect our water resources.

Meals provided at no charge, RSVP's appreciated by December 8, 2006; please call Carolyn at (785) 346-2128 Ext. 304 or Teresa (785) 425-6647 USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

PUBLIC NOTICE



WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 20

is the last day you can pay first half taxes without penalty.

NOTE: All personal property taxes come due if first half is not paid by Dec. 20.

Jean Hale
Decatur County
Treasurer

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