

* Lawyers working on land solution

(Continued from Page 1A)
feet away from the sewer plant is less than two acres, said Mr. Miller. The city could condemn that parcel, he said, and then it would have to pay the market value for the property.

The engineer said he thought it would be much easier to just settle the issue.

"We can make a deal," said Mr. Miller, "and it goes away, or the city condemns the land."

City Attorney Steve Hirsch said the thing the city is concerned about is that when the state signs the last check and that the new sewer plant is licensed by the Health Department.

Mr. Miller said he doesn't know if the city has offered to buy the land, since that would be handled in a closed session, although the council has had some meetings about land acquisition.

He said the state and the federal Environmental Protection Agency know about the complaint because he and Mrs. Cunningham have been in contact with them.

Currently, he said, the firm is waiting for a letter from the Health

Department approving a time extension for finishing the plant so the contractor can wait until spring to put the liner in the lagoons. The plant is supposed to be finished by Dec. 31, but the contractor asked to stop work because the cold weather will prevent proper bonding of the plastic liner.

So far, said Mr. Miller, he has received oral approval for the request but nothing in writing.

After the liner is put in, he said, the contractor will cut over the pipe to send the sewage to the new lagoon system and the old waste water treatment plant will be taken out.

The new plant has a lift station and three lagoons. The waste will be held for 180 days, with time in each cell. Out of the third cell, treated water will flow to Sappa Creek, the same as the old plant.

Mr. Miller said the plant is set up to be continually discharging, and the outflow will have to be tested to see that it meets state standards.

Mr. Miller said he doesn't see any problems with the plant, since the city already has the state approval needed to run it and have it located where it is being built.

County, director discuss prairie dogs

The Decatur County noxious weed director talked with the commissioners a little about the controversy in Logan County over treating prairie dogs and farmers wanting to bring in the black-footed ferrets.

Director Gaylen Huntley said he was planning to attend a meeting in Logan County about the situation that afternoon. Some farmers, he said, want to bring back black-footed ferrets, but since they are an endangered species that could mean that people wouldn't be able to treat for prairie dogs anymore.

The commissioners said they heard about the situation at the Kansas Association of Counties meeting after Thanksgiving and had signed a letter in protest.

Mr. Huntley said the Logan County Farm Bureau sent out information about the meeting.

He said he planned to go to the meeting and had heard that representatives from the offices of Res. Jerry Moran, Sen. Sam Brownback and Sen. Pat Roberts would be there.

Decatur County has a plan for controlling prairie dogs, said Mr. Huntley.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard the weed department budget will need to be amended because they brought in more money than they are allowed to spend. The current budget reads \$139,000 and it needs to be \$175,000, he said.

- Heard that Mr. Huntley has used almost all of his chemicals to spray for musk thistle. He said he would just order as needed for the rest of the year.



ON SUNDAY Linda Fox (left) and Amy McDougal took part in the Decatur Health Systems tasting tea which featured recipes out of the new cookbook which will come out in March. — Herald staff photo by Karla Jones

Tasting tea raises money for hospital

Around 30 people tasted tea and goodies which are featured in the upcoming Decatur Health Systems cookbook on Sunday at The Gateway.

Othelia Vacura, public relations, said the idea of the tasting was to kick off the cookbook

which comes out in March. There are around 600 recipes including ones with wild game, some to make in crock pots and many others. The recipes, said Mrs. Vacura, are staff favorites, including some from Dr. Elizabeth Sliter.

The tasting tea was an opportunity

for people to come in and try some of the recipes. The cookbook, said Mrs. Vacura, is going to be on sale for \$15, which is a real bargain since it has at least half again as many recipes as the one the hospital put out in 2000 which they sold for \$10.

All of the money raised will be put

toward defibrillator equipment and education on how to use it.

The cookbooks will be sent to the press this month, she said. Anyone who wants to purchase a cookbook can contact the hospital at 475-2208 or Mrs. Vacura at extension 230.

Center gets OK to chop down dead tree

The Decatur County commissioners approved the removal of a large tree next to the parking lot behind the Good Samaritan Center at their meeting last Tuesday.

The tree is dead, so it needs to be removed.

Center Administrator Janice Shobe said she received two bids for the removal, from Van's Tree Service of Oberlin for \$1,000, which includes grinding the stump and fill-

ing in the hole, and from Hickert's Tree Service of Oberlin for \$750 just to cut the tree down.

The city, said Mrs. Shobe, will give the center \$100 for removing the stump and filling the hole back in. She said Terry Black, center custodian, could do the clean-up, grind the stump and fill the hole back in. In that case, it would cost \$800 for Van's to take the tree out.

The center would then get the

\$100 from the city, which means the job would cost \$700, said Mrs. Shobe.

The commissioners approved the bid from Van's.

Mrs. Shobe said they are starting to talk about plans for the center for next year. She said they want to do some renovation to the kitchen, including work on the floor and the ceiling. She said there will be some expense with that.

Commissioner Pat Glenn said that the center hasn't paid the county rent for the last three years. The center is supposed to pay the county \$1 a year for use of the building.

Mrs. Shobe said she would get the \$3 to the county commissioners and would probably pay the 2007 rent, too. County Clerk Marilyn Horn said the county has the same setup with the hospital, so they should see if the hospital has paid rent recently.

A special message to our Medicare patients:

The time is now to schedule your annual eye exam

We have an important message for all of our Medicare patients: you've worked hard your entire life to earn your Medicare benefits. At Lifetime Eyecare, we want to make sure you don't waste a dime of this important health coverage.

If it's been more than one year since your last eye exam, the time is now to schedule a comprehensive eye health and vision examination with our office.

Since your Medicare deductible will renew again on January 1, 2006, you'll want to reserve your end-of-year appointment soon (prior to December 31, 2005).

At Lifetime Eyecare, we take pride in offering detailed, personal care and the latest in eye health technology. Our services include glaucoma treatment, foreign body removal, cataract treatment and treatment of eye injuries and infections.

Call our office today, and don't forget to ask about our...

- EXCLUSIVE TWO-YEAR FRAME AND LENS WARRANTY
- NO-LINE BIFOCALS AND MULTI-FOCAL LENSES
- CATARACT & LASER VISION CORRECTION CONSULTATION
- GUARANTEED CONTACT LENS SUCCESS PROGRAM

LIFETIME EYE CARE
YOUR EYE DOCTORS FOR LIFE

Dr. Robert A. Stamm
Dr. Dirk M. Gray
OPTOMETRISTS

105 S. Penn. - Oberlin, KS
785-475-1200
www.mccokeyeclinic.com

Share the sight, donate a pair of glasses and receive \$20 towards a new pair of glasses

**Deveny Motors
4x10
Printed to
Goodland**

**Internet Tonight!!
Call 475-2206!**