

# Application signed for grant money for hospital job

The Decatur County Commissioners signed the application forms on behalf of the Decatur County Hospital for a \$600,000 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture at the meeting Tuesday.

Steve Barber, with the agency, said he needed a signature from the chairman and the county clerk for the forms. The commissioners voted to approve the two signatures on the forms.

Mr. Barber said the application is for \$600,000 with the hospital contributing 20 percent, or \$150,000.

With this, he said, the county needs to have a public hearing. Mr. Barber said anytime federal funds are applied for, a public hearing has to be held. The commissioners set the hearing for Tuesday, Feb. 20.

The commissioners signed the resolution stating that the low bidder gets the project, unless there is a really good reason not to accept it.

Mr. Barber said he also needs an attorney's opinion which states that the county knows the organization, the hospital, and that they are lined up correctly under Kansas law.

Is there a preliminary architecture plan, said Mr. Barber, which includes where the site is and the cost estimates. Hospital Administrator Lynn Doeden said she can get the information from the architect. The hospital, she said, has already received bids that were within \$50,000 of the price.

How long are the bids good for? asked Mr. Barber. Thirty days, said Connie Grafel, with the hospital board. She said the board didn't accept any of the bids.

Currently the loan, said Mr. Barber, hasn't been approved. The hospital board is ahead of the agency, he said.

Ms. Grafel said the board talked about visiting with the low bidder to extend the number of days which the bid is valid.

Accepting the bid is based on the approval of the loan, said Commissioner Stan McEvoy, or is the board going to go ahead and accept it. Ms. Grafel said they will have to discuss

## County Roundup

At the meeting, the Decatur County Commissioners:

- Heard that the county road and bridge supervisor called in a construction person to look at the damage on the roof of the county shop. Story below.

- Approved the lowest bid for a new garage door on the ambulance barn. Story below.

- Met Mrs. Decatur County, Melinda Enfield, who is running in the Mrs. Kansas Pageant in March. Story on Page 2A.

- Signed the application forms for a \$600,000 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture. Story at left.

that.

Mr. Barber said he can't see why the county wouldn't be approved, but he can't make any promises.

It would be great, he said, if he can get the information he needs from the architect within the next 30 days.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch asked if the cost of the issuance of bonds is included in the amount of the loan? It probably isn't, said Mr. Barber, but it can be adjusted for it.

That will probably cost around \$40,000, said Mr. Hirsch.

Normally the county would bid out for bond counsel unless we sole source it, said Mr. Hirsch. There is an approved list for the bond counsel, said Mr. Barber.

Mr. Hirsch asked him to send him that list and the county will get letters out.

The next hospital board meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 20 and the architect will probably be here, said Mrs. Doeden. Mr. Barber said he would also try to be here.

# County shop roof damaged in storm

The Decatur County road and bridge supervisor said the roof at the county shop is holding after the snow storm at the end of the year, but he has had a local construction person give him a proposal.

Tim Stallman, supervisor, said he had Kevin Brown, owner of Sappa Valley Construction, look it over and give a proposal. Mr. Stallman said Mr. Brown was surprised that the trusses held so long with the dimensions of the roof and no more support than there was.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said he thought they needed stronger trusses and maybe some more beams to support the roof.

Mr. Stallman said he has talked with someone from the county insurance company, although he wasn't sure if the company will pay for the basic repair. Mr. Stallman said the representative did say they would try to help with some stron-

ger trusses.

Mr. Stallman said he had sent out letters to the township officials about the upcoming Federal Emergency Management Agency meeting. He said he did talk with the agency representatives about the roof and he said the work should be turned into the insurance agency first and then they would see what they can do.

The commissioners agreed that they shouldn't let the shop deteriorate since it is such an asset to the county.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved the purchase of a load of fuel for the road and bridge department.

- Approved the purchase of chains and links and other miscellaneous supplies from DC Wholesale \$1,191 for the road and bridge department.

# Commissioners OK bid for garage door

The Decatur County Commissioners approved the lowest bid to replace the garage door at the ambulance barn.

Director Linda Manning said she received two bids.; the first from Fidele Electric for \$8,500 and the second from Sappa Valley Construction for \$3,709, with the county doing the salvage.

The commissioners approved the bid from Sappa Valley Construction.

Ms. Manning said she finished the protocols for the hospital and doctors.

Commissioner Ralph Unger asked if she was using the proper diesel for the winter temperatures and she said she is and they haven't had any problems.

The commissioners approved Barry Richards' application to sit on the Decatur County Fair Board.

# Representatives plan visit

Congressman Jerry Moran and Representatives John Faber and Ralph Ostmeyer plan to visit here on Saturday, March 3.

The three men will be here at the courthouse from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The coffee is sponsored by the Decatur County Farm Bureau.

# Happy Birthday Kansas!



**ON KANSAS DAY**, Taylor Corbett dressed up in old time prairie clothes. Taylor sat on the floor in the gym during the Wichita Children's Theater presentation about the history of Kansas on Monday.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

# Winner gets flowers or dinner

Valentine's Day is almost here, meaning it's time to think about what you are going to get that special person in your life.

That gift could be a free \$50 bouquet of flowers from either Prairie Petals or Flowers by Lee or dinner for two at the LandMark Inn, depending on your poker skills.

Again this year, Oberlin merchants and *The Oberlin Herald* are sponsoring the Don't Gamble with Love giveaway, where two customers will receive the bouquets from the local flower shops or dinner for two at the LandMark Inn.

Each time a person visits a sponsoring businesses, featured on page 10A, they can collect one randomly

# Council to meet

The Oberlin City Council will discuss the contract with Bucher, Willis and Ratliff, the selected airport consultants, at the meeting on Thursday.

City Administrator Gary Shike said although the council has selected the firm to be the airport consultants, the contract hasn't actually been signed. The council will have the opportunity to sign the contract at the meeting.

Chris Miller, said Mr. Shike, with Miller and Associates will be there to talk about the proposed water treatment plant.

The meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Thursday at The Gateway. The meeting is open to the public and also will be on local access channel 7.

# Chili soup cook-off scheduled

The chef hats and aprons are ready as people prepare for the big chili cook-off at the American Legion on Sunday.

The chili cook-off starts at 5 p.m. before the big pro football game. Anyone who wants to register can do so on Sunday, but all slow cookers of chili must be at the Legion by the kick-off.

The contest features three categories: mild, spicy and other, so anyone's chili can fit in. Each cook must be 21 or older and enter a slow cooker with at least 5 quarts.

People can sign up by picking up an entry form the day of the party. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third places.

drawn playing card. Once five cards are collected the hand can be turned in to *The Oberlin Herald* to see whose poker hand is the best.

All hands must be turned in by 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 9.

The three highest poker hands will win.

All participants must be 18 years

or older to win.

The sponsoring businesses include Gold Home Planning Center, Stanley Hardware, Shear Creations West and Day Spa, the Dresser, Prairie Petals, Ward Drug Store, Flowers by Lee, Addleman Drug Store, the LandMark Inn and R&M Service Center.

# Bureau to hold food day

The Decatur County Farm Bureau will host its annual food check-out day at Raye's Grocery in Oberlin on Monday morning.

Dianne Bremer, with the bureau, said she will have a shopping cart full of groceries. People can guess at the cost of the groceries. The person with the closest guess will receive a gift certificate to be used at the grocery store. The food in the cart will be donated to the Decatur County Food Pantry.

This event will celebrate the affordability of food produced by America's farmers and ranchers, said Mrs. Bremer. According to statistics provided by the U.S. Dept of Agriculture, the average American spends only 10% of his or her disposable personal income to pay for food. In just 36 calendar days the average American will have earned enough income to pay for their family's annual food supply.

That same family has to work 52 days each year to pay for health and medical care, 62 days to pay for housing/household operations, and 77 days to pay their federal taxes. Farmers and ranchers receive only 19 cents out of every dollar spent on food at home and away from home. The rest goes for costs beyond the farm gate: wages, materials for production, processing, marketing, transportation and distribution. Approximately 17% of the total U.S. workforce produce, process, sell and trade the nation's food and fiber, but only 2% of the total U.S. population live on farms.

# Supper is Friday

The Oberlin Kids Wrestling Club plans to host their final benefit soup supper for the season at 5 p.m. on Friday.

The supper will be held in the cafeteria at the high school from 5 to 6:30 p.m. before the dual with Colby. Donations for the club will be taken at the supper.

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