

* Council fails to take a vote on animals

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petitioned to have a miniature horse at her home. Both Ms. Cunningham and Mrs. Eskew had been keeping the animals, asked for permits when told that was not allowed, and were told they did not have enough land to get a permit.

Both the present ordinance and the proposed change require a permit from the city Board of Zoning Appeals before anyone can keep livestock. The current ordinance allows permits to be issued only if someone has more than an acre of land.

If it is in the best interest of the general public not to allow chickens in the city, if there are health issues, Mrs. Enfield said, then the city wouldn't have to issue a permit.

But if the city allows someone to have four dogs, she said, three chickens create a lot more poop in a week than three chickens.

So the city should decide whether an animal is allowed on how much waste they put out? asked Councilman Jay Anderson.

Councilwoman Rhonda May said she thought Mrs. Enfield was trying to say it was a fairness issue.

The proposed ordinance, said Mayor Ken Shobe, basically leaves the decision up to the zoning board. He said he isn't going to promote or oppose the proposal, but he didn't want to spend as much time on it as the council had at the previous meeting.

"Melinda has had her fair share of time," he said.

What happens if the ordinance dies on lack of a motion? asked Ms. May.

Then it's up to Mrs. Enfield, said Mayor Shobe. She said she has a petition to put the changes on the ballot and it does have signatures on it, although she doesn't know how many.

Is there a motion? asked Mayor Shobe.

Has the county attorney looked at the ordinance and approved it? asked Councilman Rob McFee.

City Attorney Steve Hirsch, who is also the county attorney, said he has approved the circulating of the petition and the language is adequate. He said he hesitates to use the word approve.

Are miniature barnyard animals included? asked Ms. May. Those animals aren't exempt, said Mayor Shobe. It would be up to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Councilman Ray Ward said he has already stated his opinion that farm animals don't belong in the city.

The real issue is if anyone wants to make a motion to pass the proposed ordinance, said Ms. May. She said she didn't.

Mr. McFee made a motion to pass the ordinance, but no one spoke up for a second.

The supporters, including Mrs. Enfield, left.

* Claim received by city council

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eration of a sewage lagoon at its intended location renders the claimant's property useless for its intended purpose," the claim states.

The council held two closed sessions for attorney-client privilege at the meeting last Thursday, one including representatives of the engineering firm that designed the plant, Miller and Associates of McCook. Presumably, the members discussed

the claim and got legal advice on it. There was no action taken.

City Attorney Steve Hirsch said the paperwork is just a claim, not a lawsuit. Ms. Cunningham might still decide to sue or not, he said, depending on what happens next.

He said she has 120 days to act on the claim, sometime in the middle of June.

He said it has been sent to the city's insurance company.

Hotline formed to report bird flu

The Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment have teamed up to establish a toll-free hot line for people to report concerns or ask questions about avian influenza, also known as "bird flu."

The number is (800) 566-4518. "Many Kansans either raise poultry, hunting birds, or do both," said

Dr. Gary Anderson, director of the K-State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. "Given that every case of avian influenza in humans has occurred primarily because of very

close contact with an infected bird, it makes sense to offer Kansans a number to call if they have questions."

The state Department of Wildlife and Parks has an on-line link available on its home page updating Kansans on information on bills under consideration in the Legislature affecting outdoor recreation in Kansas.

The Department of Wildlife and Parks on-line web site is www.kdwp.state.ks.us, then go to "KDWP Info," and click "Legislative Update Report."

Dresden woman to run for mayor

With one person on the ballot for mayor of Dresden, Krystal Hollars says she decided to run a write-in campaign.

Ms. Hollars' name will not be on the ballot for the April election, since she didn't register before the cutoff for candidate filing on Tuesday, Jan. 23, but she says she will be running a write-in campaign.

She has lived in Dresden for two years.

Scott Taylor, who drives a truck for Sara Lee and has lived in Dresden for five years, did file to be a candidate and will be on the ballot.

Currently Russell Rhodes holds the seat, but he is retiring after six years as mayor.

Bread-making class Saturday

Anyone interested in learning the basics of bread making can sign up for a class from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday at the Golden Age Center.

For questions or to enroll, call

Denise Abbey, who is teaching the class, at 475-2698. The class is sponsored by the Decatur Tomorrow vision group on Maximizing Existing Facilities.



AT THE HIGH SCHOOL cafeteria last Thursday, Dorothy Moore helped serve soup at a fund raiser for a new van for the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Lutherans raise over \$2,000 for center

Over \$2,000 was raised last week during a fund raiser to buy a new van for the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center.

The soup supper last Thursday brought in about \$2,200, said Jan Badsky, with the cen-

ter, with Smoky Hills Thrivent for Lutherans matching \$1,000.

That means the center got about \$3,200, Mrs. Badsky said.

Donation cans will be up until the end of the

month at banks in Oberlin, Mrs. Badsky said, and people can make donations at the center.

The van will be used to take residents to appointments and on other outings, replacing a 1984 Ford Club Wagon.

* Challenge reaches high schoolers

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Oberlin eighth grader Megan Wentz said, "My favorite part was when they showed the poems and journals she had written. I learned that you don't judge people by how they look and always to give people a chance."

"My favorite part about Rachel's Challenge was seeing her care for and being nice to everyone and treating them the way she wanted to be treated," said seventh grader Saeger Grafel. "I learned that kindness can go a long ways."

"(The program) was amazing, inspiring, and worthwhile," said sophomore Heather Ploussard.

"It was a very good program with a very important message, said sophomore Nathan Simonsson. "I am glad to have been able to experience it."

As a child, Rachel told her family and friends that she would someday be famous. There are uncountable stories about her kindness to others, including new students and the handicapped. She believed no one is better than anyone else, and

that we should appreciate each other.

In her journals, Rachel wrote her thoughts and drew pictures of what she believed would happen. Her last drawing, sketched the morning of the shooting, showed eyes in the sky crying. The tears rained on a rose where they turned to blood. One ironic thing about this drawing is that the number of tears on the picture is the exact number of students killed at Columbine that day.

Rachel always knew she wasn't going to live to be old and that she was going to touch millions of people's hearts, her friend said.

"Don't let your character change color with your environment. Find out who you are and let it stay its true color," she wrote in one of her six journals.

At the seminar, the speaker presented five challenges to the students, referred to as Rachel's Challenge:

- Look for the best in others.
- Dare to dream.
- Choose good influences.
- Do acts of kindness.

• Start a chain reaction.

"I thought that Rachel's Challenge was an awesome presentation," said sophomore Elleigh Walker. "I intend on trying my hardest to abide by it. I went on the Internet when I got home. When I got to her website, right away I clicked on 'I accept.'"

After the general sessions, most of the Oberlin students came home, but Teenagers Acting and Caring Together (TACT) and junior high student council members stayed for a break-out session.

TACT sponsor Wendy Scott said the second session gave kids ideas for ways to reach out to those who might be struggling.

"My favorite part," she said, "was the testimonial given about how hard school can be if you're new or handicapped because it is easy for others to forget to put themselves into another's shoes."

According to her dad, Rachel always felt sympathy for people less fortunate than herself, and she tried to reach out to people. Rachel especially reached out to the handi-

capped, those new at school, and those picked on or put down.

"I learned she helped and cared about people and not to pick on people 'cause we are all the same. It was worth the time of leaving school to go to it," said Eduardo Fuentes.

Sophomore Alyssa Rippe said, "I learned that you have to be nice to everyone and acknowledge they're there. The after session was about starting Rachel's Challenge in our school. I thought it was a really good idea."

"My favorite part about Rachel's Challenge was actually hearing what happened from someone who was there," said sophomore Joe Dunham.

"I learned that if you help someone and stand up for them, it will make them feel good and that you shouldn't pick on people," said eighth grader Dakota Soderlund.

If you would like to learn more about Rachel Scott and Rachel's Challenge, you can go to these websites: www.rachelschallenge.com, www.racheljoy-scott.com or www.rachelscott.com.

Students write about what they can do to change

This past week, Brenda Breth's sophomore English classes wrote about Rachel's Challenge. Here are some of their comments:

"The smallest things can be taken seriously. School would be a lot easier if people were kinder to each other." — Tamara Ketterl

"If everyone could truly be kind, we would be one step closer to having peace on Earth." — Chris Larson

"I learned a lot about what happened that day because I was only 9 at the time. If everyone was kind to each other, things could be a lot better." — Makenzie Nelson

"I learned that all people have a good side to them. All you have to do is find it." — Everett Urban

"I wish I could have seen the program before because I could have made an impact bigger than the one

I want to make now." — Haley Barrett

"It doesn't matter how you are dressed or how you look, because that doesn't show who you really are." — Derek Chambers

"Just a little impression on someone could really help that person in a lot of ways." — Logan Fortin

"We need to show a little kindness to everyone because you never know if that one act of kindness could save that person or save you." — Annamarie Larue

"You can make a difference in a person's life even if you don't do much." — Cole May

"You need to look for the best in people and not judge them." — Ryan McEvoy

"Everyone can make a difference in the world if they are nice and treat

people with respect." — Ethan Merrill

What can you do to make a difference?

"I can talk to a person when I meet them and not pay attention to how they look." — Derek Chambers

"I can stand up for people who are being judged." — Joe Dunham

"I could stop judging people by their first impression that they have on me. I could also give a chance to the people that I usually don't talk to." — Logan Fortin

"I could help someone who is getting picked on by sticking up for them." — Lucas Juenemann

"I will get to know someone before I label them." — Cherish Manning

"I can be everyone's friend." — Ethan Merrill

"I could take the time to help people and stand up for others." — Stephanie Stone

"I could listen to what people have to say, and treat everyone with respect." — Des Shields

"I could confront people when I hear them teasing others and reach out when I see someone who looks like they are drained and having a bad day." — Chyanne Lahe

"I could be more tolerant of those who can't do things as quickly. I can treat people a lot better than I usually do. I could also help people instead of putting them down when they do something wrong." — Jacinta Carter

"I can start seeing the good in people and not judging them by what they look like or how they act." — Everett Urban

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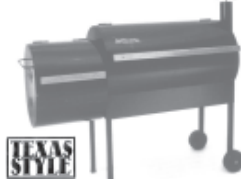
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