

# Girl Scouts get permission to use old ranch

The Oberlin City Council agreed Thursday that the Oberlin Girl Scouts could use the former youth ranch for a week-long summer camp in July, but said the city needs to get a contract drawn and decide how much the Scouts will pay in rent.

Becky Ayers, membership specialist for the Scouts, asked the council to use the ranch for a week in July for a regional camp on Thursday, Feb. 1, but the council made no decision then.

Mayor Ken Shobe said Thursday he thought they should wait because the city administrator wasn't at the meeting and he didn't have any more information. Mayor Shobe said having the Girl Scouts use the ranch could be a positive thing for the city.

Councilman Rob McFee said he had talked to Mrs. Ayers and the Scouts need to know as soon as possible so they can set up some dates. Councilman Joe Stanley said he talked to her also, and she said they might schedule more camps in July

if the ranch is available. What would it cost the city to open the ranch back up? asked Mr. Stanley. Would it just be turning the water and gas back on? City Foreman Dan Castle said that was about it.

So, the city will just lose the anti-freeze, said Mr. Stanley.

If the city obligates itself for the Girl Scouts to use the facility, asked Councilman Ray Ward, what happens if someone wants to rent it?

The city can't say yes to rent the facility at the same time to two organizations, Mayor Shobe said.

Councilwoman Rhonda May said she thought they should pursue the Girl Scout request.

King's Alcohol and Treatment Center, which has proposed using the ranch, won't know anything until at least July, said Mayor Shobe, although they have shown interest.

The city needs to get a contract going with the Girl Scouts and see how much they are willing to pay, said Mayor Shobe.

# Three teens charged with making money

Three teenagers have been charged with making and using counterfeit \$10 bills here and in McCook. Two brothers allegedly made the funny money on their computer and a third helped pass it here.

Officer Troy Haas said police here got a phone call from the McCook Police Department on Saturday, Feb. 3, about someone passing counterfeit money at Wal-Mart and another store there. Officer Haas said he got the information on Sunday, Feb. 4, and started checking around.

The same day, he said, police got a phone call that Raye's Grocery had received a counterfeit \$10.

Officer Haas said he learned that Steven Overmiller, 16, and Adrian

Overmiller, 18, had made the money on their home computer.

Adrian Overmiller was charged with false reporting and theft by deception by the McCook Police for using the counterfeit money there, he said.

Sean Ybarra, 16, allegedly used the money in Oberlin. Officer Haas said he has taken paperwork to the city attorney charging Mr. Ybarra with theft by deception here.

The Overmillers could also be charged with forgery, he said. The paperwork is with the county attorney.

Officer Haas said making counterfeit money or using it doesn't pay, because the people usually get caught.

# City needs to have archaeology survey

The Oberlin City Council approved the lowest bidder to perform an archaeological survey on land where a new water treatment facility will be built at its meeting last Thursday.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the city hasn't determined exactly where the plant will be, but it will probably be south of town.

Chris Miller, an owner and engineer with Miller and Associates, said that the city is required by federal law to have the survey done to see if the site has some historical importance. A similar survey was done before the city started the new waste water treatment plant south of town, he said.

There wasn't anything found on the land where the waste water treatment plant is being built.

Mr. Miller said he received five bids, from the state Historical Society for \$943; Donald J. Blakeslee, professor of anthropology, for \$1,100; Donna C. Roper for \$1,800; James Enterprises Inc. for \$2,600 to \$3,100; and URS Corp. for \$6,950.

The council approved the low bid from the Historical Society.

The council set a hearing for Thursday, March 15, on the vacation of a street at David Blau's request. Mr. Blau asked the city to vacate the north end of Marks Avenue. He said he owns property on both sides of the street and would like to put in a building on the east side. A city zoning ordinance, said City Attorney Steve Hirsch, says that to build an accessory building, the land has to be contiguous. If the city vacates the street, he said, then Mr. Blau's land would be contiguous.

The street is a dead end.

In other business, the council:

- Talked with City Foreman Dan Castle about drawing up a maintenance plan for Sappa Park.
- Held a 15-minute closed session for attorney-client privilege with the mayor, council and city attorney. There was no action taken.
- Held a second 15-minute closed session for attorney-client privilege with the mayor, council, attorney and representatives from Miller and Associates. Again there was no action taken.

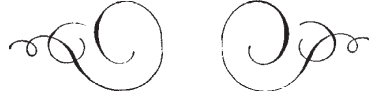
# When will snow pile melt?

There's just a week left to try your hand at guessing when the snow pile west of the Oberlin power plant will melt.

The person who guesses closest to the correct time, day and month of when the large pile of snow and ice will melt will win \$25 in scrip

money from the Oberlin Business Alliance. Second place will get \$15 and third will get \$10.

Anyone can register to win at alliance businesses.



# Picking out his favorites



IN THE LIBRARY at Oberlin Elementary School on Monday, Luke Koerperich picked out a few books to take home and read. Each week, second graders get to return and pick out more books. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

# Tax credits could help nonprofit groups

The Decatur County commissioners learned of a tax credit program last month that could help raise money for nonprofit organizations.

At the end of January, Randy Hrabec, executive director of the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission, talked with the board about the state's Community Service Tax Credit Program.

He said the program could be used

to help pay for expansions to hospitals or maybe to help build a senior center. It can help charitable organizations and public health care agencies undertake major capital fund-raising drives.

"Each year, the Community Service Program has allocated \$4.1 million in Kansas Income Tax Credits or Kansas Privilege Tax Credits to selected non-profit organizations," said Mr. Hrabec. "If the non-

profit group is awarded tax credits and I donated \$1,000 towards the project, I will receive 70 percent, or \$700, in Kansas income tax credit.

"The refund money is paid to the individual donor, whether they actually owe that much Kansas income tax or not. So the total real cost to the donor is only \$300."

If the person itemizes their federal income tax return, they can take the donation off there, too, he said.

He said this is a good way to raise money for projects. If people are interested, said Mr. Hrabec, he would come speak at a forum to explain the program. It is a competitive application process, with projects due the first of May.

For more information, call Commissioners Doyle Brown, Ralph Unger or Stan McEvoy or County Clerk Marilyn Horn at 475-8102.

# County looks for help with ambulance

Decatur County commissioners signed a request for money from a Community Development Block Grant for a new ambulance earlier this month.

Amy Griffey, with the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission, said she talked with Ambulance Director Linda Manning, who said the new truck should be here around Thursday.

Mrs. Griffey said Tuesday, Feb. 6, the commissioners needed to sign a request for the money because it normally takes 10 days to get a check. The money should be put into the county's account electronically a few days before the truck is delivered. The county then has three days to spend the money, she said.

Decatur County, she said, will receive \$55,100 from the grant and will pay \$64,570 from its own money. The commissioners agreed to sign the request.

Health Administrator Marilyn Gamblin talked with the commissioners about the health depart-

ment's advisory board. She said she is supposed to have nine members, but after writing to each of them, only four want to continue: Neoma Tacha, dispatcher Roxie Pomeroy, Good Samaritan Center Administrator Janice Shobe and Pastor Charlotte Strecker-Baseler.

Ms. Gamblin said she needs five more people to serve either one, two or three years on the board.

What are the requirements? asked County Attorney Steve Hirsch.

There needs to be one member from each of the commissioner districts and the rest can be at large, she replied. Each district should have three members serving.

The commissioners approved signing a resolution to show support for keeping driver's license renewals as part of the treasurer's office. The treasurer's office has a petition with 1,389 signatures on it asking for lawmakers to keep the service here. The petition and resolution will be sent to state representatives.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said

he would like the treasurer to check into becoming a testing site for commercial licenses.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved a lease renewal with the Good Samaritan Center. The building is owned by the county and the Good Samaritan Society rents it for \$1 a year. The commissioners agreed that they wanted the parking lot to the north of the building to be included in the agreement.
- Approved an amendment to the

county health insurance plan to say that elected officials will be covered from the day they take the oath of office. Employees are covered starting the first of the month following their date of employment.

• Approved Jeanne Pachner, county dispatch chief, to serve as trustee on the Pleasant Valley Township Board.

• Held a 10-minute closed session to discuss non elected personnel. There was no action taken.

# Appreciation banquet planned for March 10

Oberlin's second Farmer/Rancher Appreciation Banquet dinner, sponsored by the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce, is set for Saturday, March 10, at The Gateway.

The meal will be cream can sup-

per cooked by The Gateway staff, with Cal Siegfried of McCook as guest speaker. The evening will end with live music for dancing?.

To make a reservation, call Chamber Manager Glenva Nichols at 475-3441.

**It is not too early to plan and place your TREE ORDERS**

Please call the Decatur County Conservation District Office at 785-475-3131 ext. 101 OR stop by our office, located on South U.S. Hwy. 83 in Oberlin, Kansas.

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JD 7300 w/Orthman 6RN, 1-1R/Per	1997 Case-IH 9370 Quad., 6,800 hrs.
Orthman 8350 8R30 Cultivator	1971 JD 4320 w/DuAll loader
2 Unverferth 310 Ripper Strippers, 8RN	2006 Case-IH MX285, 800 hrs.
1997 MacDon 500 Mow. Cond., 14'	2006 Case-IH MX285, 650 hrs.
1992 JD 1600 MoCo 14'	2006 Case-IH MX285 250 hrs.
JD 7300 Planter, 8R30	2005 Case-IH MX285, 1,350 hrs.
	1996 NH 8770, 5,000 hrs.
	<b>NEW GRASS TOWN IN STOCK</b>
	J&M 1050-22
	<b>HEADS</b>
	2005 Case-IH 2208, 30"
	1991 Case-IH 1020 25' Flex Head
	6—Case-IH 2208 Corn Heads, '04-05s
	'06 Case-IH 2212 Corn Head
	'06 Case-IH 2412 Corn Head

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