

# \* Hangar would house aircraft for business

(Continued from Page 1A) Councilwoman Rhonda May. A hangar and office space, said Mr. Brennan.

Currently, said Mr. Shike, the city leases land at the airport to those who want to build hangars. This would be a little different, he said, because the company wants to buy the land.

Mr. Brennan said he could assure the council that the company would use the land for aviation purposes. Often in situations like this, he added, the sale includes transfer restrictions because of the Federal Aviation Administration. He said the company will accept those restrictions.

As far as negotiating a price, said Mr. Shike, that can't be done in closed session, but he can have conversations with representatives from the company and bring that

back to the council. City Attorney Steve Hirsch agreed.

This ground isn't collecting tax dollars now, said Councilman Joe Stanley, but a building would mean tax revenue. In fact, said Mr. Shike, the land costs the city because it has to be mowed.

Mr. Brennan said this would mean property tax revenue and also business activity for the city.

Mayor Shobe said he knows that the whole council is behind the bus project and the airport expansion. Any construction in the city and county is good, he said.

Mr. Brennan asked if the council could have the administrator work with the company to negotiate a price and work with the airport consultants so the improvements wouldn't interfere with the upcoming project. The council agreed.

# Hospital, jail having trouble getting bills paid

The Decatur County sheriff and hospital administrator tried to work out a payment schedule for inmates treated at the hospital at a commissioners' meeting last Tuesday, then decided to get a Medicaid payment schedule and go off that.

Administrator Lynn Doeden said the hospital gets about 14 percent of each bill paid now.

The jail sends the bills off to an agency in Tennessee which works with the bills and sends the hospital a payment. The jail, said Mrs. Doeden, pays the agency, Correct Care Solutions \$17.50 a bill and the hospital gets about 14 percent of the total. The hospital has received from 14 to 43 percent on bills sent into the firm, she said.

The rates, said Deputy Patti Skubal, are set by the state, adding that in some cases, the agency gets more than the hospital.

Does the hospital currently get Medicaid rates? asked County Attorney Steve Hirsch. No, said Mrs. Doeden.

Sheriff Ken Badsky said he thought the hospital was receiving the Medicaid rates.

Is there such a thing as rural and metro rates? asked Sheriff Badsky.

There could be, said Amanda Farr, hospital business manager.

Fourteen percent, said Mrs. Doeden, doesn't keep the doors open.

Maybe the commissioners, the hospital administrator and sheriff could have a conference call with Correct Care, said Commissioner Stan McEvoy, and work this out.

Maybe the jail needs to agree to pay all of a bill if it is under a certain amount, he said, like \$200. That way the jail doesn't have to pay the \$17.50 to the agency.

Mrs. Doeden said on one bill for \$67 sent to the agency, the hospital got just \$9.30.

Sheriff Badsky said in one case, the jail kept a prisoner who had \$30,000 in medical bills. What's fair? he asked. 35 percent?

Mrs. Doeden said she thought the hospital could get by with 35 percent of all of the bills.

Maybe the bills shouldn't go to the agency, said Sheriff Badsky; instead the jail could just pay the 35 percent.

## County Roundup

At a meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Approved a contract with the architect and the low bid for construction at the Decatur County Hospital, but held off on the construction contract so the county attorney can review it. Story on Page 3A.

- Heard that the county, including the museum and Oberlin School District, suffered around \$800,000 worth of damage during the New Year's storm, with 75 percent of the cost being reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Story below right.

- Tried to work out a payment schedule for inmates from the county jail who are treated at the hospital. Story at left.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch said the county needs to know what the Medicaid rates are because that's what the statute says the jail will pay, not just a percentage. He suggested that someone call the Kansas Health Policy Authority, who sets the rates.

If the hospital continues getting paid only 14 percent, said Mrs. Doeden, then the facility might not be able to afford to treat the inmates unless it is an emergency.

Mrs. Skubal said she talked with one of the women who helped set up the system and she said the hospital should get rural Medicaid rates, which is supposed to be a higher percentage.

The hospital wants to make this work, said Mrs. Doeden, so the jail isn't sending \$17.50 out of town, but they have to pay the bills to keep the doors open.

Mr. Hirsch asked if the county had signed any contracts with the agency. County Clerk Marilyn Horn said she looked, but couldn't find any.

Mr. Hirsch said someone should call and get the Medicaid rates and the group could go from there.

# \* Baby wins gifts from merchants

(Continued from Page 1A) Decatur County Hospital this year, Keirra won several prizes including a \$10 gift certificate from Ward Drug Store, a \$25 gift certificate from Addleman Drug Store, a gift from Ray Jewelry, a \$20 gift certificate from Carol Morford with Mary Kay, a \$10 gift certificate from the

Dresser, a \$25 savings bond from First National Bank, a case of baby food from Raye's Grocery, a \$10 gift card to Stanley Hardware, a gift from Fredrickson Insurance Agency, a \$25 gift certificate from Rocking R, a pizza for two from Pizza Hut and a free year's subscription to *The Oberlin Herald*.

## Home show next week

Mark your calendar for the annual Home and Garden Show hosted by KFNH Radio and the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce starting Saturday, March 17. The two-day show at The Gateway ends on Sunday, March 18.

People can visit Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is the fifth year for the show under the Chamber. Admittance to the show is free. The Gateway staff will sell lunch.

## Lining up a shot



**THE NORTHWEST WINDS** Special Olympics basketball team beat a group of teachers and volunteer firemen 29-28 in a game Saturday at Oberlin Elementary School. Here, Rich Griffin went for a free throw toward the end of the game. The team practices every Saturday in Atwood and plays one game a year in Oberlin. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

## Seeds of Hope raises \$13,105

After a final count of donations, the annual Seeds of Hope Telethon raised \$2,105 more than its \$11,000 goal.

The event Saturday, Feb. 3 at The Gateway raised \$13,105 before expenses. The telethon committee met last Tuesday to pay the final bills and write the checks to the 18 organizations chosen to receive money this year.

Paying the bills, included the

sound men and using the sound equipment. The committee agreed each group will get \$650, \$25 more than groups received last year.

Recipients include the Decatur County Fair Foundation for the new livestock building, Kansans for Life, the Norcat Public Library, the Norcat Museum, Teens for Christ, the Oberlin Area Concert Band, Decatur County Relay for Life, the Oberlin Lions Club, Cre-

ative Movements Gymnastics, the Jennings Czech Museum, the Decatur County Last Indian Raid Museum, the Decatur County Ministerial Association, the Jennings City Library, the Tripple Creek Riders, FROGS Summer Camp, the Salvation Army, the Oberlin Girl Scouts and the United Explorers, an after school program at the United Church.

## County should get storm help

The Decatur County commissioners heard last Tuesday that the county, including the museum and Oberlin School District, counted around \$800,000 worth of damage during the storm at the end of December, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency is paying about 75 percent of that.

Tim Stallman, road and bridge supervisor, said the county will get 75 percent of that payment, or around \$600,000. Some of that damage included a leaky roof at the Last Indian Raid Museum and snow removal for the school district.

The biggest chunk of the damage, he said, was to the county and township roads.

Each of the agencies, he said, met with representatives from the federal agency. Each group getting

money needs to have a special account for it and needs to keep records on how it's spent. Mr. Stallman said he has set up the records for the seven townships he takes care of.

The state might still step up and pay for 10 percent of the damage, he added, but no one knows for sure.

The road damage, said Mr. Stallman, is based on the number of miles and amount of snow removal work. Some areas received more snow and wind, so the roads were worse than other places. Those roads will cost more to repair and so those townships got more money for the work.

The county hasn't received the money yet, he added, but the theory is to bring the roads back to the condition they were in before the storm.

Mr. Stallman said they have 18 months to spend the money.

He said the crew has worked on the county roads, knocking down the ruts, then moved on to the township roads to do the same.

Mr. Stallman said he thought he would need to order fuel before the next meeting. The commissioners authorized Mr. Stallman to purchase two truckloads.

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