

Santa Bucks expiring

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce Santa Bucks will expire on Saturday, March 31.

That means anyone who has some of the scrip money needs to spend it before the end of March or it won't be any good, Chamber Manager Glenva Nichols told members of the Oberlin Business Alliance at its monthly meeting last Wednesday.

The business alliance discussed a snow melt contest it is sponsoring since no one was sure how to measure when the pile's gone.

Joe Stanley, owner of Stanley Hardware, suggested putting a stick or pole down in the top of the pile. When the pole falls over the person who's picked that day wins.

Rusty Addleman, owner of Addleman Drug Store, said he would talk with the city about having members of the crew monitor the pile.

Connie Grafel, marketing director for the Economic Development Corp., said an agri-tourism seminar will be held on Wednesday, April 4, at The Gateway. Anyone, who wants to put a coupon in the information packets, can, she said. The seminar group, around 50 people, will tour downtown Oberlin about 4 p.m. that day, she said.

The alliance members discussed an offer from Sonya Gillespie for pork burgers, but since the group doesn't need any right now they decided not to purchase any because there is no place to store them.

In the past, the alliance has purchased the meat from Raye's Grocery and has been able to return what hasn't been needed.

The alliance members discussed the college basketball championship giveaway. Forms with the brackets on them will be available at the two drug stores and any other alliance business, which wants them. The winner, whoever guesses the correct team and score, will get a basket full of prizes.

In other business, the alliance:

- Heard the Back to School Picnic will be in City Park on Wednesday, Aug. 15.
- Heard the museum has received some help from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to fix its leaky roof.
- Asked for volunteers to work a fish fry from noon to 1 p.m. Friday, April 6.

See you on the radio



PLAYING DISC JOCKEY for a day, Rotarian John Bremer helped raise money for scholarships and post prom activities during Rotary Radio Day on Sunday at KFNF Radio. — Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes.

County will pay insurance

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The Decatur County commissioners agreed for the county to pay for the liability insurance for the county's economic development group for the Business Entrepreneurial Enhancement Center on Main Street.

Greg Lohofener, with the economic development group, said the cost of the liability insurance for a year through Kansas Counties Association Multi-Lined Pool is \$2,286. The reason, he said, he's asking for help with the bill on the group's behalf is that most of its cash is tied up in matching funds for grants.

Mr. Lohofener said the economic group is making payments to Prairie Land Electric for a 1 percent interest loan. He said the group has paid for a year and by next year there should be more available cash.

With the airport project coming up, he said, the group may need to start putting aside money to help or to hire a firm to promote the project, although this isn't a certainty right now, he said.

The economic development group brings business to the county, said Commissioner Doyle Brown. That means more people and more tax payers to help pay the bills.

The commissioners agreed to pay for the insurance for this year.

Contract approved for hospital addition

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The Decatur County commissioners approved a contract between the county and Rhoads Construction of Goodland to build an expansion onto the Decatur County Hospital.

The commissioners discussed the contract, which County Attorney Steve Hirsch checked. Mr. Hirsch wrote to the commissioners saying that there weren't any legal problems with the contract although there were still some pages listing Decatur Health Systems where it should list Decatur County.

Hospital Administrator Lynn Doeden said she would get those items corrected.

The commissioners voted to approve the contract and to approve the bidding notice, which should

County Countdown

At a meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Approved an agreement with R&S Digital Services out of Great Bend to do the mapping for an Enhanced 911 system for the county. Story below.
- Approved a contract between the county and Rhoads Construction of Goodland to build an expansion onto the Decatur County Hospital. Story at left.
- Agreed to pay the liability insurance for the county's economic development group for a year for the Business Entrepreneurial Enhancement Center on Main Street. Story on right.

have been done before the hospital took bids.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said the notice to proceed needs to be filled out by the architect.

The commissioners called Dave

Barber with the U.S. Department of Agriculture since the county, on the hospital's behalf, applied for a low-interest loan through that agency, to make sure all of the attachments necessary were in the contract.

Mrs. Doeden said she wished someone who's worked with contracts would have gone through this one to make sure everything that needed to be signed was actually signed. She said she isn't a lawyer, but spent the weekend trying to get everything she thought the commissioners needed to sign, flagged.

She said she needs to send the contract to the construction company because they need to sign a few more places.

Where did the contracts originate? asked Mr. Unger. With Mr. Barber, said Mrs. Doeden.

Normally, whoever originates the document flags it, Mr. Unger said. That isn't the county attorney's responsibility.

City council to meet Thursday

The Oberlin City Council will look at a contract for a grant writer for the improvements to the band shell in City Park at its meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at The Gateway.

The council will also hold a public hearing for the vacation of the

north end of Marks Avenue at the request of David Blau, who owns the property on both sides of the street.

Also on the agenda is the appointment of the city administrator to the Kansas Municipal Energy Agency

for a two-year term as a director.

The council will meet downstairs in The Gateway. The meeting is open to the public, but will not be aired on local access cable channel 7.

Enhanced 911 agreement approved

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The Decatur County commissioners approved an agreement with R&S Digital Services out of Great Bend for mapping for an Enhanced 911 system for the county at their meeting last Tuesday.

Although the commissioners approved the agreement they said they want the county attorney to look at it.

Bruce Hardesty of R&S Digital Services presented a draft of a road

map for the county. The map would start in the southwest corner of the county and move northeast. Mr. Hardesty said this is how the mapping has been done in Rawlins and Norton counties.

The commissioners said it would be good to have the roads match Rawlins County. That means the numbers would go north and names, east.

The commissioners said they would like one direction to have the

name road and the other lane. Twenty-five letters of the alphabet will be used, all except the letter P. Then after all the letters are used the roads will be named with double letters.

County Appraiser Alan Hale said he thought the roads with the numbers need five characters. Mr. Hardesty said that he hasn't heard that.

Chief Dispatcher Jeanne Pachner said she would make up a master schedule.

Table decorating contest planned

Plans for a table decorating contest and a fashion show Sunday, March 25, at The Gateway, will help raise money for the Decatur County Stand Against Violence group.

The group, The Dresser and the Northwest Kansas Domestic and Sexual Violence Services out of Hays will sponsor the show.

Anyone who wants to decorate a

table can by contacting Carol Morford or Bev Reiter. Each entry for the table decorating contest costs \$25.

People who attend the show can vote on their favorite table.

Trivia addicts needed

Put on your thinking caps, it's time for trivia night at the Oberlin American Legion.

The Alif Be Khe, a local sorority, will host the night at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 24.

Sorority member Jeni Henningson said the evening is a fundraiser for the organization.

Alif Be Khe gives scholarships to local graduates and does other community projects including helping Sunflower Cinema. Last year, she said, they sent a care package to soldiers in Iraq and this year they sent Christmas gifts to children in Iraq.

The event costs \$5 per person on a trivia team. Each team can have up to 10 people, Mrs. Henningson said. Last year there were 13 teams. This year, she said, they will limit the field to 20 teams.

The group will give \$200 for first place, \$100 for second place and \$50 for third place. Mrs. Henningson said there will also be door prizes.

To register with a team, call Sheila Jansonovich at 475-2648 or Dana Koeperich at 475-2545.

Mrs. Henningson said teams can register at 6 p.m. the night of the event, but she suggested registering early as it is first come, first serve.

Annual ArtFest set for April 20-22

Anyone interested in showing or buying art should mark their calendars for Friday through Sunday, April 20-22, for the annual ArtFest at The Gateway.

Connie Grafel, Gateway marketing director, said the annual gala will be held on Friday. Cheryl Metcalf and the Twice as Nice jazz duo from Norton will entertain. The cost is \$100 per couple and reservations are being taken at 475-2901 through Fri-

day, March 20.

On Saturday and Sunday, April 21-22, the art work will still be on display in the arena.

Ms. Grafel said 30 schools and many professional artists have been invited to exhibit their pieces.

"This is a unique event for our area," said Ms. Grafel. "It's a time to get out and meet the artists and mingle with your neighbors."

'Facing the Giants' to be shown Sunday

Mark your calendars for Sunday night for a showing of "Facing the Giants" at 6 p.m. in Morgan Theater at The Gateway.

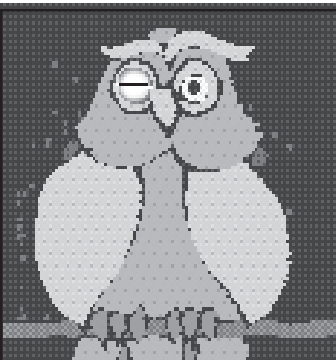
The movie, recently released on video, was filmed by a Georgia church.

It's about a football team, high

school and couple who learn to praise God no matter what giant they face.

The Oberlin Teens for Christ and Decatur County Ministerial Association will sponsor the event.

The movie is free, but an offering will be taken.



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