

# Horse group wants electricity at their arena

A member of the Tripple Creek Riders asked the Decatur County commissioners for help in getting an electric line run from near the train tracks at the county fairground south to the horse arena.

Kristin McHugh said the club is independent, not part of the Decatur County Fair Board, although it works with 4-H youths who ride. Mrs. McHugh said the group provides an arena for the 4-H kids, has practices on Friday nights during the summer and helps with the 4-H horse show.

In April 2005, she said, the fair board talked about helping run electricity to the crow's nest at the horse arena. It needs to be a 220-volt line, she said, and if the board gets it to the crow's nest, the horse club can get it from there.

Mrs. McHugh said they need electricity for lights and to run the chute for roping.

She said the group received a grant, but they couldn't use it to buy lights because they didn't have any written estimates. Instead, said Mrs. McHugh, the group bought roping equipment and grandstands.

The first roping event is scheduled for Saturday, June 2, she said, and they will need electricity by then.

When the arena was in the middle of the current race tracks, did you have lights? asked County Attorney Steve Hirsch. Wasn't the arena

moved for the race track? Yes, said Mrs. McHugh.

The power needs to come from the train tracks and over to the arena, she said, adding that she had talked to Kevin Brown, with Sappa Valley Construction, who was working on the livestock building. It sounds like he could get the electricity to the arena while he is already at the fairground, she said.

Maybe, said Commissioner Ralph Unger, they could get used poles from Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, which is replacing many lines in the area. Mrs. McHugh said the group already got some poles from the co-op for the lights around the arena.

Mr. Unger said he would talk with Mr. Brown and see if he can run the power.

The commissioners suggested that Mrs. McHugh talk with the fair board, which she said she has done in the past. Mr. Unger said he would talk with Greg Long, fair board president.

The group has 26 families as members, she said. They plan several events for this summer that will bring people to town, she said, and it would be nice to have the power for the lights.

The crow's nest has a smaller power line, said Mrs. McHugh, but it doesn't always work even to run the speaker system and it won't run the lights.

# Business members to sign airport letter

The Oberlin Business Alliance agreed to write a letter of support to the Federal Aviation Administration and elected officials about the Oberlin Airport improvement project.

Connie Grafel, marketing director for the city and the Economic Development Corp., said they are encouraging groups and individuals to write letters endorsing the airport project, which includes lengthening the runway to around 7,000 feet.

"The more support we can get from the community," said Ms. Grafel, "the better."

She said she has the addresses of the senators, representatives and the aviation administration for anyone who needs them.

Jay Anderson, Oberlin city councilman, said it is important to get support from the community and businesses. It's a good idea, he said, to send a copy of the letters to Ms. Grafel. Senators, representatives and congressmen respond to voters, said Dr. Anderson.

One thing that stands out in all other economic development

projects is that support, said Dr. Anderson. The state looks favorably on strong local support.

The alliance agreed to write a letter and sign it.

The alliance agreed to sponsor a hospitality room for visiting alumni at the Business Enhancement Entrepreneurial Center on Friday, May 25, from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The group needs someone, maybe a couple, to host the room. Members volunteered to make a few dozen cookies for the room.

The group talked about the bill for Fourth of July fireworks, since the alliance hasn't received one for the last five years at least. Rusty Addleman, owner of Addleman Drug Store, said he talked with County Attorney Steve Hirsch, who said the statute of limitations on that is three years. Although the fireworks distributor has been contacted, the alliance still hasn't received a bill.

The alliance agreed to sponsor a trophy for the Last Indian Raid Museum Summerfest Car Show again this year.

# English teacher decides to resign

At a special meeting last Monday, the Oberlin School Board accepted the resignation of a teacher who had worked at the high school, then the former Sappa Valley Youth Ranch and now teaches English at the junior high.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt said Susan May, who joined the district in 1998 after teaching at McCook, sent her letter in Friday, April 27. Mrs. May was one of the teachers

released under the district's reduction-in-force policy after the youth ranch closed. The layoff is effective at the end of the school year.

Mrs. May appealed the decision, asking for a hearing. Her resignation, said Mr. Glodt, voids that appeal.

Before accepting the resignation, the board held closed sessions for 10 and 5 minutes for nonelected personnel.

# Golden Age Center receives \$200 grant

The Decatur County commissioners learned last Tuesday that the Golden Age Center had received a \$200 grant from the Community Fund through Midwest Energy.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn said the center applied for the money to help pay for a new building. She said they would set the \$200 aside for that purpose.

With races at the Oberlin Speedway this weekend, Commissioner Ralph Unger asked if Rick Salem of Salem Racing ever turned in a copy of his certificate of insurance. Mr. Unger said they need one before the race on Saturday, and the other commissioners agreed. The group tried to call Mr. Salem, but didn't get in touch with him. The race was held

Saturday.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Held a 15-minute closed session with Ambulance Director Linda Manning for nonelected personnel. There was no action taken.

- Appointed museum Director Sharleen Wurm to the Sherman Township cemetery board, filling the position held by Melvin Smalberger, who moved to town.

- Signed a solid waste agreement sent out by Randy Hrabec from the Northwest Kansas Regional Planning and Development. Jack Benton, from the county recycling group, said without the agreement, the county can't get any grants or financial assistance for recycling.



# Students practice for show

**ON THURSDAY**, Jamie Soderlund (above right) and Haley Schiessler played their clarinets with the fifth-grade band during a rehearsal of its spring concert. Jude Walinder (right) played drums with the band. The sixth-grade band and the fourth graders on their recorders also played through their songs and the kids practiced their singing.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



# County discusses emergency plan

Decatur County commissioners spent 25 minutes behind closed doors discussing security measures at the meeting last Tuesday, but didn't take any action.

Patti Skubal, sheriff's deputy and assistant emergency preparedness director, met with the commissioners about the county's emergency plan. She said she didn't know that she was supposed to be at the meeting the previous Tuesday when the commissioners talked to Bert Cool, emergency preparedness director,

about the plan.

Commissioner Stan McEvoy said they heard the plan was on her computer and they wanted a copy of it.

Mrs. Skubal said she had been given a plan from 1990 and apparently there is one from 1995. County Attorney Steve Hirsch said he thinks the 1995 plan is a state plan, not the county plan.

At this point, said Mrs. Skubal, there is no new plan approved by the state. That means until a new plan is approved by the state, the county

operates off the old one from 1990.

She said the new plan she is working on is web based, so all of the work is being done on the computer. The only department head she heard from was Health Administrator Marilyn Gamblin, Mrs. Skubal said.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said it would probably be good to have another meeting of the Local Emergency Preparedness Committee, which is responsible for working on the plan.

Mrs. Skubal said the commissioners had some questions about exercises and the plan. She said the county can actually use one of the blizzards last winter as an exercise as long as someone does the paperwork.

Commissioner Stan McEvoy said he would still like to do some kind of exercise, besides the actual blizzard. The county plan, he said, really needs to be updated.

**DCHS ALUMNI BANQUET RESERVATION COUPON**

The DCHS Alumni Banquet will be held in Oberlin, Saturday, May 26, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 5:30. Mail reservations and remittance to: Alumni Assn., P.O. Box 201, Oberlin, KS 67749. Price per plate is \$14.00 - This includes dinner and 50 cents for the Smick Memorial Loan Fund.

Alumni's Name	Class	Year to be seated with
Spouse or Guest	Class	Year to be seated with

Space allows for alumni and spouse/guest. BE SURE to give class year and maiden name and year you wished to be seated with.

Deadline for reservations is May 19, 2007.

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