

Jennings to get new storm siren

The Decatur County commissioners agreed to pay for a new storm siren for Jennings at their meeting last Tuesday.

Bert Cool, county emergency preparedness director, said the siren hadn't been working so he had to order one. The commissioners agreed to ratify the purchase of the new siren for \$3,200 from Century.

Mr. Cool said it will take four to six weeks for the new siren to come in. Until then, he said, he talked to Fire Chief Kerry Green and fireman Stann Hartzog, who will drive around town with the fire truck siren on to warn people of a storm.

The new siren has a two-year warranty, he said. The purchase was made from the emergency preparedness account from the general fund.

Mr. Cool said he has looked at a generator for the emergency shelter in Norcatar.

That would cost around \$6,000, not including installation. The Norcatar City Council, said Commissioner Stan McEvoy, had a meeting recently about whether to keep the old school or sell it.

The commissioners suggested that Mr. Cool contact the council and see if there is an alternative shelter.

County finishes off paperwork for cash

Decatur County commissioners held a public hearing last Tuesday to close the grant application for an ambulance the county bought this year.

Amy Griffey, with the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission, presented a bill for \$9,250 for administration of the grant. The commissioners agreed to pay the bill and signed the final paperwork for the money.

The county received just over \$64,000 in state and federal money for the new ambulance. Mrs. Griffey said that leaves about \$302 of the grant that was never requested.

The commissioners briefly discussed a grant from Wal-Mart that the Decatur County Fair Foundation wants to apply for. All grants sought on behalf of a county group have to go through the commissioners.

Commissioner Stan McEvoy said he would let the fair board know at the next meeting about the grant application.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Talked a little about allowing personal time off for employees. The group had many questions and County Attorney Steve Hirsch said he would call Bud Cowan with Kansas Workers Risk Cooperative for Counties to get some answers. The men talked about going ahead with raises for the employees and holding off on the other item.
- Heard that the recycling trailer is now taking plastic bags, which it

County Roundup

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Ratified the purchase of a new storm siren for Jennings, since the old one died. Story above.
- Agreed to give \$300 each to 10 county organizations from the history book fund, but didn't name the groups. Story to come.
- Heard the county weed control director would like to hire a few part-time employees to help this summer. Story to come.
- Held a public meeting to close the grant for the ambulance the county purchased this year. Story at left.

hadn't in the past.

- Appointed Lee Don Scott to the Fair Board.

Received a contract from the group Blood Sweat and Tears, which plans to hold a race at the Oberlin Speedway on Monday. The commissioners said they are waiting on a certificate of insurance.

- Held a 15-minute closed session for nonelected personnel with Ambulance Director Linda Manning and Larry Mack, who drives the transportation bus. There was no decision made.

Goodland postmaster reassigned to Oberlin

Goodland Postmaster Stephen E. Schultz will be the new postmaster in Oberlin whenever he completes a temporary assignment in Omaha.

A notice from the U.S. Postal Service said Mr. Schultz has been named postmaster, postal officials said, but the date he will take over the job hasn't been decided.

A 23-year veteran, he started with the service in March 1984 as a part-time clerk/carrier in Goodland and later moved into a full-time job. In 1995, he was promoted to postmas-

ter in Winona and in 2001 he became postmaster in St. Francis. In 2004, he moved to the Goodland office.

The postmaster position came open in January when Linda Smith transferred to a job in Arizona. Kenny Zerr, postmaster in Tribune, has been officer in charge here since Mrs. Smith left.

Mr. Schultz was called for an interview, but didn't return the phone call.



Traffic shifts over

STRIPPING OUT the old, construction crews wasted no time ripping up the asphalt on the north side of the U.S. 36-U.S. 83 intersection last week. Signs (right) diverted traffic on the north-south route onto a "shoo-fly" detour, and drivers had to negotiate some tricky turns to get through town on U.S. 83. After the concrete cures, crews will rip out the south side, sending traffic around The Gateway.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



Watch those \$20s

An Oberlin business is out \$20 after taking a counterfeit bill sometime in mid-May.

The Decatur Co-op Ampride Station at U.S. 36 and U.S. 83 took a counterfeit \$20 bill sometime between May 11 and May 14, said Police Chief Wade Lockhart.

Chief Lockhart said the bill appeared to have been made on a color copier using a good grade of rag paper, which gave it a more real feel.

However, he said, the edges were uneven, with more space on one side than the other.

Real bills have special features, including a vertical strip which says "USA" and the amount which shows when they're held up to the light, but not in a copy.

Area pelted by rain, lots of hail

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
kldavis@nwkansas.com

Gardens were left under water and a few tree limbs were in the road Friday morning after it rained on and off Thursday.

Workers on Main Street spent a lot of the afternoon outside on Thursday, watching storm clouds come in and move out of town.

The Cedar Bluffs area had 1-inch hail and winds up to 45 mph.

Christine Krause, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Goodland, said they had no reports of funnels or tornadoes.

For the day, Oberlin reported .81 points of rain.

Last Tuesday, said Ms. Krause, some parts of the weather station's coverage area were getting an inch of rain an hour.

During the storm, the city power crew was called out for a limb down on a wire on Jefferson Street, where there was no damage, and to Dave Bergling's house southeast of town. At Mr. Bergling's place, a



NEARLY AN INCH of hail covered the pavement near Cedar Bluffs on Thursday. — Herald staff photo by Dave Bergling

downed power line started a fire in a tree. The city crew had to turn the power off so the Oberlin Volunteer Fire Department could get the blaze out.

As it turned out, the city crew had to turn the power off, got it back on, then had to turn it off because the fire started back up again.

Last Wednesday, said Ms. Krause, areas in northwest Kansas and southwest Nebraska were under

flood warnings. She said that included the Republican River in McCook, but the river stayed in its banks.

This spring has been busier than last year, she said. There certainly has been more severe weather this year, said Ms. Krause. This has been an active spring, she said, adding that she said she wouldn't say that means it will be an active summer.

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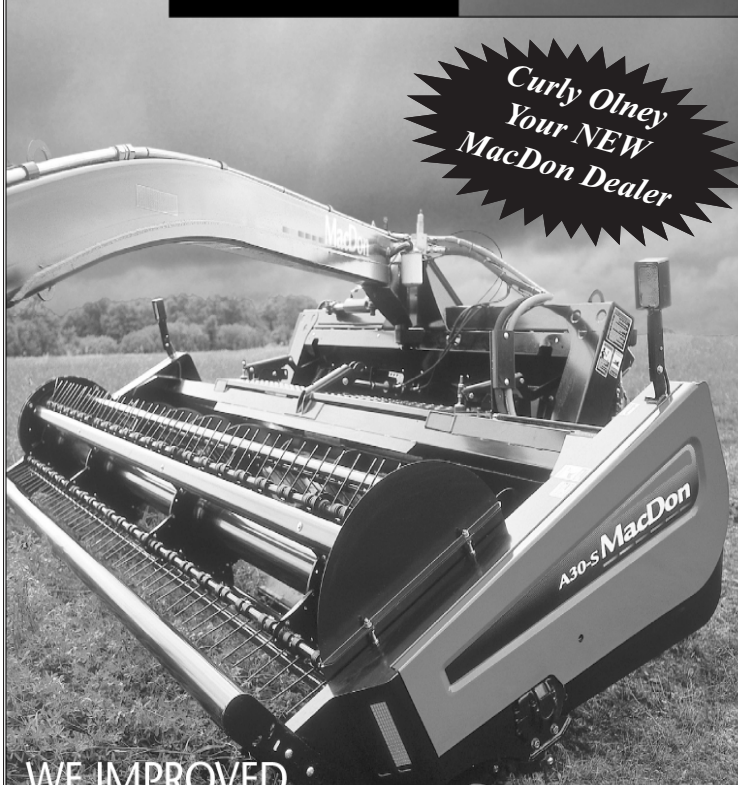
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ESTATE AUCTION

SAT., JUNE 16, 2007 • 10 A.M.

Location: Auction will be held at the Muirhead home, 223. S. Buffalo, Oberlin, KS

SELLERS: Karolyn Muirhead
 Revocable Trust

Furniture

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Hammond organ | (2) bedroom sets | Lazy-Boy rocker/recliner |
| Dining room table w/3 leaves | Double bed | Speed Queen gas dryer |
| (2) Kitchen tables w/chairs | Day bed | Coffee table |
| | Twin bed | |
| | Several dressers | |

Household and Miscellaneous

- | | | | |
|--|--|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Lg. assortment dishes, some antiques | Lots of sewing & embroidery supplies | Baby high chair | Clocks |
| Filing cabinets | Shelves | Baby gates | Fans |
| Card tables and chairs | (2) Stereos, turntable, radio, tape player | Canning supplies | Radios |
| Angel collection | Record Albums | Pots & pans | Lamps |
| Dry sink | CD's | Baking pans, Cake and cookie | Vases |
| Microwave | Videos | Silverware | Pictures/wall hangings |
| Small kitchen appliances including toaster, coffee pot, can opener | Tapes | Glass party plates and cups | Phones |
| Pfaff sewing machine | Baby bed | Patio fountain | Books |
| | Bassinet | Bedding, pillows, bedspreads | Toys |
| | Baby stroller | Quilts | Games |
| | Baby swing | Christmas decorations | Lots of knick-knacks |
| | Baby walker | Vacuum cleaners | Flower pots |
| | | | Garden tools |
| | | | Hand tools |

Lots of Miscellaneous too Numerous to Mention!

CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE AT: www.johnson-real-estate.com

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