

Working as a team



AT THE GRADE SCHOOL last Wednesday students worked in their extended learning families to make sunflowers out of construction paper. Each student made a

petal and wrote what they liked about Kansas on it in honor of Kansas Day next Tuesday.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Commissioners adopt yearly resolutions

The Decatur County commissioners started 2008 out by adopting yearly resolutions and recognizing three men who have worked 15, 10 and five years in the road and bridge department.

The commissioners gave certificates to Ben Bryan for 15 years of service, Seth Lohofener for 10 years and Brad Marcuson for five years at the meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 15.

At the beginning of each new year the commissioners select a new chairperson, which is Commissioner Doyle Brown for 2008.

The commissioners approved the following yearly resolutions:

- Approved the 2008 holiday schedule.
- Designated *The Oberlin Herald* as the official county newspaper.
- Designated the Bank, Farmers Bank and Trust and First National

Bank as the financial institutions for county money.

- Authorized the mileage reimbursement for county employees to increase to 50.5 cents per mile, retroactive to Jan. 1, 2008, to stay in line with the federal reimbursement rate.

- Approved an employee's meal reimbursement at \$25 a day with prices set at \$7 for breakfast, \$7 for the noon meal and \$11 for the evening meal.

The commissioners talked with Noxious Weed Director Gaylen Huntley who said he received the new contract with the state for road side spraying on highways. Mr. Huntley asked if before he sent the contract back if the county needs to change any of the prices.

He said he thought the labor price was OK, but the hourly truck rate maybe needed to increase. Cur-

rently it's set at \$23 an hour, it could go to \$25. Labor is at \$22 for the first person per hour and \$16 for the second person per hour.

The commissioners approved the \$2 an hour increase in the truck rate.

Mr. Huntley said the county received the baler for the recycling program.

Later in the month, he said, the crew will be preparing the spray equipment for the upcoming season. He said he will be back before long for chemical bids.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Talked about the county insurance plan through Corporate Plan Management. The money for the insurance claims currently is in a bank in Topeka. The auditor suggested using a local bank for that money, which the commissioners

have started to check into. Commissioner Ralph Unger said he would do some research on the idea.

- Approved putting the commissioner minutes from 1995 to 2005 on microfilm.

- Talked about the new addressing system. The commissioners decided that if a new address is needed in a rural part of the county it is Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman's responsibility.

For instance, if a new house is built inside city limits, said Mr. Unger, it is the city clerk's responsibility, but when they assign a new address the county needs to be notified so the records all stay the same.

- Approved an abatement for Kenneth and Margaret Carter for \$10.12 and 14 abatements for Midwest Energy Utility.

Commissioner appointed to authority

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
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The Decatur County commissioners appointed Commissioner Stan McEvoy to serve as the county representative to the Amusement Authority, which runs the home-owned carnival in August, at their meeting last Tuesday.

Mr. McEvoy also serves as the county representative to the Fair Board, which runs the county fair. The Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce, which created the amusement authority and is trying to fill its board, asked for a representative from the commissioners and the fair board.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said since Mr. McEvoy serves as a representative to the fair board, it possibly would be a good idea to expand his coverage to the Amusement Authority. Remember, said Commissioner Doyle Brown, that you are just a representative, not an actual member. This way, if there is a

problem between the two groups, it can be headed off before it becomes too big.

The commissioners later talked about seeking a grant through the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service for a septic system for the fairgrounds. The commissioners talked about the grant at the Tuesday, Jan. 8, meeting, but thought it was for one of the restrooms. Mr. McEvoy said the grant is actually for a septic system for the camping hook-up area at the fairgrounds.

The commissioners approved applying for the grant.

Mr. McEvoy said it looks like there were five dates offered to the speedway here for races this year when four Oberlin men, Lee Don Scott, Ron Uehlin, Rusty Montgomery and Dave Bose, attended an International Modified Contest Association meeting recently in McCook. He said they seem to be less desirable dates, but there was some mention that the track here

could get some more.

The fair board will continue to work in conjunction with the race committee to get this going, he said.

Mr. Brown said he would like to see the track used. There are lots of hours of volunteer labor invested into that track, said Mr. Unger.

Mr. Brown said he went to a Decatur Tomorrow meeting recently about Sappa Park. He said he learned that the city apparently has permission from the Kansas Water Commission to retain water, but needs to have an engineer look at the dam, which might need to be improved. Mr. Unger said he would talk with Jim Wesch, a retired engineer, to see if he knows someone they could call.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard that Mr. Brown will be retiring at the end of this term, in January 2009. Mr. Brown announced his retirement at the county banquet on

Sunday, Jan. 13.

- Appointed Mike Ferguson as the trustee in Roosevelt Township to replace Elden Long, who moved to Oberlin.

- Agreed to cancel the meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 12, so that the commissioners can go to Topeka for county government day.

- Heard the recycling baler is in and being set up.

- Signed an agreement with the state Department of Transportation for the county's noxious weed department to do weed spraying along highways.

- Approved an agreement with Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas with the budgeted amount the county will give the agency set at \$25,500.

- Approved a waiver of the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, which is done every year.

- Held a 20-minute closed session for personnel, with no action taken.

School board looks for new member

The Oberlin School Board is looking for a candidate to fill the seat vacated by Delayne May, who has moved to Lawrence. Her resignation was accepted at a meeting last Monday.

Mrs. May said she decided to resign after she moved. Her resignation leaves a spot on the board open until her term expires in April of 2009.

Superintendent Pat Cullen said the board will advertise the position for 15 days.

If someone is interested in the job, they need to write a letter of application to the board. After the meeting on Monday, Feb. 11, he said, the board will meet to look at the applications.

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County gives OK to pay bill for insurance

Members of the Oberlin-Decatur County Area Economic Development Corp. asked the county to continue paying for insurance for the Business Enhancement Entrepreneurial Center last Tuesday and told the commissioners about the many projects the group has taken on.

Connie Grafel, marketing director for the agency, and Bob Strevey, board chairman, asked if the county would continue paying for the insurance through the Kansas Counties Association Multi-lined Pool. He said it costs \$1,900 a year. The county paid for the insurance last year, and said it would again this year, he noted.

The group has been busy, said Ms. Grafel, and has several projects in the works:

- Two revolving loans to Stellar Sales and the Re-Load, both of which are being paid back.
- Working on the runway extension project, including contacting state and national representatives.
- Working on trying to get the National Guard here to look around, which could help with the runway project.
- Meeting with members of the Sappa Park groups and Decatur Tomorrow. Ms. Grafel said it was a good meeting and she thought things will really get moving on this. It was a great meeting and good mediation.
- Helping on the senior center

project. Ms. Grafel said the group has new drawings of the inside of the proposed building, which would replace the current senior center and movie theater.

- Attending a state water meeting to discuss ethanol and cellulosic ethanol. Ms. Grafel said they are still collecting information on this.
- Making contacts to bring a small motel to the area.

- Started computer classes. The first class had three people, the second five and there are more classes to come.

- Have filled up the Business Enhancement Entrepreneurial Center, with eight suites rented. Ms. Grafel said they are probably breaking even on the building, except for maintenance.

Ms. Grafel said Mr. Strevey is the new chairman for the corporation. Greg Lohofener, outgoing chairman, served two terms in a row and now has to take a break, said Ms. Grafel. Mr. Lohofener has agreed to stay on as an advisor, she said, as he is involved in several projects.

Mr. Strevey is working on some things with regional neighbors, said Ms. Grafel.

Mr. Strevey said he plans to keep the wheels turning. Mr. Lohofener did a great job and so does Ms. Grafel, he said. Commissioner Doyle Brown agreed, saying he appreciates the work they have done and the projects the group has brought to the county.

Cover Your Acres to feature no-till

The Cover Your Acres tillage conference continues today at The Gateway, featuring ideas on getting the most crop with no or little tillage or added water, plus information on grain, chemicals and farm machinery.

Anyone who wants to attend the second day can register from 7:45 to 8:14 a.m. at a cost of \$40.

Lunch will be served from 12:40 to 1:40 p.m. and the last session will end at 5:23 p.m., with refreshments served until 7:30 p.m.

The schedule is the same as the first day, said Brian Olson, multi-county agronomist for Kansas State University, so farmers who come today won't miss anything. Mr. Olson said they are planning on around 500 people in the two days. In the past, they have drawn from South Dakota, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Colorado, with about 80 percent coming from northwest Kansas.

The university and industry sessions will include general-interest topics, he said, like improving your success in no till; soil quality changes with no till; 10 crop sequences to transition to no till; the outlook for sorghum crops, for bioenergy, food and export; plant-stand manage-

ment; growing crops for cellulosic ethanol, made from plant residue; avoiding strip-till mistakes; corn amylase, an output trait that pays a premium; and what wheat precision ag can do for you.

Water issues will include water rights and depleting water, the effect of residue on crop-water budgets and improving capture and use of water.

Chemical issues will include phosphorus and use rates in no till and strip till, nitrogen recommendations for wheat, benefits of chloride on wheat and row crops, the state of fertilizer in 2008, spray application technology and managing acid-base balance, or pH, in no till.

Grain issues will include new corn seed traits for no till, grain marketing and revenue protection, comparing corn and grain sorghum performances and "no till wheat 101."

Other sessions will include John Deere technology improvement and growth, a session by the National Sunflower Association and the importance of long-term care in estate planning for family farms.

A farmer panel will discuss crop rotations.

Loan papers received for new hospital wing

The Decatur County commissioners received papers from the U.S. Department of Agriculture last Tuesday showing that a \$650,000 loan to build a speciality clinic at the Decatur County Hospital has been approved, although there are still hoops to jump through and the county hasn't seen any money yet.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said the paperwork for the loan has been approved, but it looks like the closing day still needs to be set. He said the county still doesn't have

the money. County Attorney Steve Hirsch called Gilmore and Bell out of Wichita, the bond lawyers hired to sell the issue. What happens next? Mr. Hirsch asked Sarah Steele with the firm over the phone.

Yes, she said, the bond counsel needs to schedule a closing date, do a resolution and other paperwork.

Typically, asked Mr. Hirsch, what is the time from getting these documents to the closing? Ms. Steele said it might be 30 days.

Vineyard plans a retreat

Rachel's Vineyard Ministry will hold a retreat from Friday to Sunday, Jan. 25-27, for anyone who grieves for their unborn child due to an abortion.

Grandparents, aunts, uncles and former abortion workers also are welcome.

The group was founded by psy-

chotherapist Theresa Burke. For details on the retreat, sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Salina, call (800) 877-4383 or e-mail rachelvineyard@salinadiocese.org. All correspondence is confidential, and the time and location are not published.

Liquidation Sale Continues on the following items:

- Carlton Cards & Party Goods
- Gift Wrap • Leaning Tree Cards • Gifts • Selected Jewelry • Office Supplies

* Sale of items effective January 22-28

DRUG STORE Addleman

137 S Penn Ave - Oberlin, KS - 785-475-2661

NFL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME PARTY

Cook-Off Contest! February 3rd

- 3 Categories...mild, spicy and other
- Crock pots must be at least 5 qt. in size
- Must be 21 or older to enter
- All entrants will be awarded a prize
- Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place
- Entry forms available at the Legion or sign up that day
- Entry must be present 1 hour before kick-off

Join us for an afternoon of fun!

Oberlin American Legion