

Addresses to change in March

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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Letters with the new addresses for most people in rural Decatur County under the Emergency 911 system should be in the mail within the next 10 days, county officials say.

The goal is for the Postal Service to start using the new addresses by the end of February for the beginning of March, said Commissioner Ralph Unger.

Mr. Unger said the letters will tell people in the county what their new address is and give them a place to call if they have any questions.

For months now, the commissioners and Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman have worked on maps for the 911 system, which includes re-addressing all rural homes and some businesses, plus a few in town.

Basically, anyone receiving mail at a rural route will receive a new address.

Mr. Unger said people will have to let anyone they have written correspondence know that they have a new mailing address. For example, senders of magazines, bills and newspapers which people receive

in the mail will need to be notified. So will relatives, friends and people who send Christmas cards.

Oberlin Postmaster Steve Schultz said people with new addresses won't have to fill out a change of address form, but should let people they get mail from know about the change.

For people who receive *The Oberlin Herald* in the mail, said Managing Editor Kimberly Davis, it can take two to three weeks to start receiving the paper at a new address because the labels are printed in advance and sent to the printing plant in Goodland.

One of the reasons the county is implementing the new addresses, said Mr. Unger, is to improve Emergency 911 service. With this system, he said, if someone on a cell phone calls in with an emergency, the computer in the dispatch office can pinpoint where the call came from.

Another thing that prompted this change, he said, is that a lot of businesses won't ship or deliver items to homes with rural route addresses or post office boxes without some (See ADDRESSES on Page 5A)

Wildlife officials denied landfill use for deer carcasses

The Decatur County commissioners decided last Tuesday not to allow the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to put deer remains in the county landfill after it does a special hunt to test deer for chronic wasting disease.

Tim Stallman, road and bridge supervisor, said he talked with Ken Pal from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, who said the county could deny the request. Mr. Stallman said Mr. Pal urged the county to cooperate with the wildlife program.

The wildlife department asked to use the county landfill building to test the deer carcasses and then dump the deer in landfill. The department plans to test more deer after three shot in the past hunting season tested positive for the disease.

The commissioners suggested they use a Department of Wildlife and Parks building at the Prairie Dog State Park, west of Norton, which isn't very far away.

Mr. Stallman said Mr. Pal told him there isn't enough history on the disease to say whether it can be passed on to humans.

Bob Mathews, with the department at the Pratt office, said there really isn't a comment from the department. He said he hasn't talked to anyone directly in the department about the commissioners decision. The department will probably have to truck the deer remains to a different location, outside of the county, although Mr. Mathews hasn't heard a plan yet.

Deer meeting set for tonight

An informational meeting about confirmed cases of chronic wasting disease found in three deer shot along Sappa Creek in northeast Decatur County this past hunting season is scheduled for 7 p.m. tonight at The Gateway.

Officials with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks will talk about the disease, which can kill deer, elk and moose, including Bob Mathews from Pratt; Lloyd Fox, big game project leader from Emporia; and Ruby Mosher, wildlife disease coordinator from Emporia.

The officials will give some information about the disease, answers questions and talk about the agency's plan test more deer in Decatur County.

The three confirmed cases were the first for Decatur County. There was a positive test in Red Willow County, Neb., a month ago and one in Cheyenne County, Kan., two years ago.

He said it would probably be one of the things talked about during the public meeting tonight.

Conservation awards announced in section

Four families received Kansas Bankers Awards from the Decatur County Conservation District this year for superior soil conservation, water quality and windbreaks.

Each year, families in the county are honored for their work with the land. In today's Oberlin Herald is the annual Conservation Section, which has stories about the families that received the awards this year.

THE OBERLIN HERALD'S
Conservation '08



ON SATURDAY, Sid Metcalf (above) sang about his favorite things about getting older and his wife Cheryl accompanied him on the piano during the Seeds of Hope Telethon at The Gateway. Cassidy Shields (below) sang a Disney song and Gatlin Hissong (bottom) played the piano.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Auction raises money

Locals show off multiple talents

The Gateway arena fell silent Saturday afternoon as members of the Oberlin American Legion carried the American and Kansas flags in front of the Seeds of Hope Telethon sign.

The Legion color guard kicked off the annual telethon Saturday, posting the colors and saluting as teacher Susan Nelson sang the national anthem.

Each year for the past 13 years, a volunteer committee has organized the telethon at the beginning of February to raise money for civic organizations throughout the county in one big event.

This year's recipients include Teens for Christ, the Decatur County Museum, the City of Jennings, the City of Norcat, Kansans for Life, Oberlin Area Concert Band, Oberlin Lions Club, Salvation Army, Relay for Life, Decatur County Ministerial Association, Tripple Creek Riders, Decatur Professional Women, Oberlin Girl Scouts, Creative Movements, Awana Club, the Golden Age Center, Decatur County Fair Board and half an amount to both the Decatur County Summer Recreation Program and Frogs Day Camp.

For about six months, committee members Jack Benton, Bill Duncan, Peg Smith, Brenda Ulery, Kristi Smith and Tim and Kimberly Davis have met, brainstorming and preparing for the telethon.

At the end of the day, the tote board read \$9,310, but on Monday that jumped to \$9,693. There are still some donations to be counted, Mrs. Davis said, and the total doesn't include what was made at the concession stand. The final number won't be in for at least a week, she said. The take was down a little from last year, she added, but there was another fund raiser going on in the county the same day.

Over the last six months, committee members found volunteers to run cameras, work in the kitchen and help during the event. The committee also found talent, asked for donations and filled in where they were needed to make the nine-hour event come together.

On Friday, said Mrs. Davis,



the members carried in television equipment to connect into local access cable channel 7. Next to the control panels, the sound guys, Larry Henderson and crew from Norton, set up their equipment.

While that was going on, others set up chairs, the interview area and talent spots and prepared for the auction.

Around 11:30 a.m., the arena started to come alive as volunteers, the sound crew and committee members prepared for the long day.

In the kitchen, Marilyn Horn headed up a team making sandwiches and cutting goodies donated by the civic organizations receiving money that day.

Others made sure the cables and sound worked, while others fixed the nine-hour schedule.

By show time, all of the committee members and other volunteers were in place.

Throughout the day, emcees Sid Metcalf, Janice Cundiff, Roma



Grafel, Stan McEvoy, Johanna turns interviewing members of Mason and Carolyn Plotts took (See TELETHON on Page 5A)



MICROPHONES IN THEIR HANDS, Patience Carman, 5, (left) and little sister Moraiah, 2, sang two songs about God at the Seeds of Hope Telethon Saturday night. Susan May and Gary Walter (above) looked at auction items before they announced them on air. — Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

*Telethon raises money for 19 civic organizations

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 the 19 civic groups to receive money and introducing talent.
 Talent included people of all ages singing, including Miki Dorshorst, Cassidy Shields, John Juenemann, Kindred Flame, Nora Urban, Terry Rose, Joel Shaw, Mr. Metcalf and Terry Hanke, to name a few. Patience Carman, 6, who made her debut last year at the telethon, sang two songs about God with her younger sister Moraiah, 2, in the evening.

The kids from St. John's Lutheran Church played their bells and sang two songs; several performed on the piano, including Gatlin Hissong, Emily Larson, Kelly and Kade Brown, Zach and Hannah May, Janet Meitl, Myrna Jones and Peg Smith.
 The Community-wide Band got people moving around with the song "Wipe Out," the New Harvester Singers featured Bob Virgil with cowboy poetry, the United Methodist praise team, Faith, Hope and Charity, helped start the event, while girls

in leotards and shorts from Creative Gymnastics flipped, did somersaults and just amazed the large crowd.
 Sarah Marcuson did a dramatic reading and adults and kids offered many other talented performances.
 While all of this was going on, said Mrs. Davis, the phones were ringing as people at home placed bids on donated auction items.
 Auctioneers for the day included Susan May, Gary Walter, Bronson Scott, Joe

Stanley and Linda Schroer, who took turns talking about the items which included a wooden tool box, a cooler that could be plugged into a truck to keep it hot or cold, gift certificates for meat, shampoo and conditioner, a large mirror, a print from a local artist, porcelain dolls, a framed picture, other items of all sizes, and gift certificates for services and food.
 The telethon committee will still accept donations for this year's event. Either give the donation to one of the committee

members or mail a check to Seeds of Hope Telethon, Box 135, Oberlin, Kan. 67749.
 Mr. Benton said, the telethon has given over \$100,000 to 199 groups.
 "The committee sends a big thank you out to the community for their continued support," said Ms. Smith. "Also to the talent, volunteers and all of the businesses who donate items for auction which keep making the telethon a success year after year."

Authority elects new officers

The newly elected members of the Decatur County Amusement Authority and two veteran members met last week to elect four officers to head the group, which runs the home-owned carnival each year at the Decatur County Fair.
 After the carnival last year, seven members of the authority resigned, turning in their keys to the Oberlin-Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce, including President Ward Votapka, Secretary-treasurer

Kristi Gallentine, Lynn Groneweg, Jason Fortin, Ray Ward, Peggy Ream and Kelsey Gallentine.
 At the January Chamber banquet, members elected 10 people to fill the spots on the 12 member board. Veteran members on the board are Vicky Ray and Dana Marintzer. New members include Tim Thornton, Candy Ketterl, Stephanie Blau, Jim Wesch, Elden Huff, Kevin Ketterl, Dana Koerperich, Jennifer Schissler, Melinda Grafel and Judy

Scott.
 Mrs. Grafel said the members met last Tuesday to hold elections. Ms. Scott was elected president; Mrs. Blau, vice president; Mrs. Grafel, secretary; and Mrs. Ketterl treasurer.
 Mrs. Grafel said all of the members weren't able to make it to the meeting, so the group didn't pick a time for the next meeting.

*Addresses will change in about a month

(Continued from Page 1A)
 hassle. With the change, he said, there won't be any rural route addresses.
 Basically all of the north-south roads in the county will be numbered and be called roads. Those will start at 100 and work up to 2900.
 The east-west roads will be known by letters and be called lanes. Some of the lanes will have a single

letter and some double letters, from A to CC.
 The lower letters and numbers will start in the south and west part of the county and increase as you go to the north and east.
 The road on the western county line will be known as Rawlins Road on the Decatur County side, while the road on the eastern county line will be known as the Norton Road on the Decatur County side.

Best cards will win three prizes

Who knew that being good at cards could help win your sweetheart's love?
 This year it could, with the Oberlin merchants' Valentine's Day promotion, the "Don't Gamble with Love" giveaway featured in *The Oberlin Herald*.
 The contest offers three prizes, including a bouquet of flowers worth \$80 from Prairie Petals, a \$20 gift certificate to Stanley Hardware or an Ultimate Pedicure from Diederich's Salon of Design.
 Each time you visit a sponsoring business, featured on Page 12A of today's paper, you can collect one randomly drawn playing card. Once you have five cards, turn them in to *The Herald* to see whose poker hand is the best.
 All cards must be turned in by 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13. The three highest poker hands will win. Participants must be 18 or older to win.
 Sponsoring businesses include Addleman Drug Store, Ward Drug Store, Stanley Hardware, Prairie Petals, the Dresser, Diederich's Salon of Design, R&M Service Center and the Re-Load.
 Maybe you'll be lucky in love.

Meeting planned for grain haulers

Anyone hauling grain or using a farm truck might want to attend a free informational meeting about federal laws governing those trucks that officials say will be enforced.
 The meeting, sponsored by the Kansas Corporation Commission Motor Carrier Division and the Kansas Highway Patrol, will be from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday at the 4-H Building at 126 Park Street in Norton.
 The county treasurers from Decatur, Norton and Phillips counties, who issue vehicle registrations and license tags, and the Farm Bureau Associations of all three counties will sponsor the meeting.
 Decatur County Treasurer Jean Hale said the federal laws aren't new, but state officers and inspectors plan to start enforcing them.
 At the meeting, she said, farmers and owners will be able to ask questions and discuss federal regulations, including those affecting farm trucks hauling grain to elevators and out of state, licenses, driver qualifications, safety requirements, U.S. Department of Transportation numbers and markings, weights and scales, barter exchange and farm-use tags to name a few

Hospital plans open house

Decatur Health Systems will hold an open house at 1:30 p.m. Sunday for the new speciality clinic and Cottonwood Home Care.
 The clinic, on the east side of the hospital near the entrance to the hospital emergency room, is being used by visiting specialists in cardiology, urology, oncology and ophthalmology.
 Administrator Lynn Doeden said they will be offering tours of the new facility and refreshments during the open house. Everyone is invited.

City Council will meet on Thursday

The Oberlin City Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday upstairs at The Gateway for its first meeting of the month.
 It is open to the public and will be aired on local access cable channel 7.

Senator plans talking tour

Mark your calendars for the upcoming town hall meeting with state Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer from Grinnell and Rep. John Faber of Brewster.
 The two will be in Oberlin on Saturday, March 8, although neither a time nor a place has been set.
 Sen. Ostmeyer said it's hard to say what subjects they will talk about, as it's a month away and a lot of the issues can change in that time.



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