

Getting a good look



AT THE DECATUR COUNTY HOSPITAL on Sunday, Lee and Estella Waldo enjoyed a tour of the new speciality clinic by hospital employee Jean Ann Leitner during an open house for the addition. — Herald staff photo by Kim Davis

Grant to help replace bridges

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
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The Decatur County commissioners approved grant papers for two bridge projects for the year at their meeting last Tuesday, both southwest of town on Sappa Creek.

The paperwork now goes to the Kansas Department of Transportation for the federal-state grant process. Tim Stallman, road and bridge supervisor, said the county will pay 20 percent of the cost while the rest will come from state and federal money.

Mr. Stallman said the grants are for the "Morford" bridges, about 2 1/2 miles southwest of Oberlin on two township roads. The bridges are right around the corner from each other, said Mr. Stallman.

The county would replace these bridges this summer with new concrete spans, with the state taking bids on the projects. The old bridges, built of wood, are restricted to 7 tons or less, he said, far less than a full harvest truck weighs.

The county had a similar bridge collapse near Norcatour during corn harvest about three years ago. Two cars went into the creek, but no one was hurt.

Commissioners Ralph Unger and Stan McEvoy talked with Commissioner Doyle Brown, who is recuperating from surgery at home, on the phone, and Mr. Brown gave his OK for the bridge contracts.

The three discussed the two applications they received for seats on the Economic Development Corp. Both Kevin Rippe, who works at The Bank, and Jim Wesch, a retired engineer, applied for the open seat replacing Greg Lohoefer.

The commissioners appointed Mr. Rippe, with Mr. Unger abstaining. He said Connie Grafel, marketing director for the corporation, had contacted both Mr. McEvoy and Mr. Brown about the appointment, but not him.

The commissioners appointed

County roundup

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Approved grant papers for two bridge projects for the new year. Story at left.
- Approved a county policy to continue taxes on minerals. Story to come.

Melissa Stern, who works at the Frontier Restaurant, to the Decatur County Fair Board to fill a seat that was vacated by Chris Petit in Mr. McEvoy's district. Mr. Unger said he is still trying to find someone to serve for his district to replace Pam May.

Mr. McEvoy said Barry Richards might decide to stay on the board for another term, which would cover Mr. Brown's district.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Held a 15-minute closed session for attorney/client privilege with Mr. Hirsch, the commissioners and county clerk. Afterward, they agreed to send a letter to the district coroner in Hays to ask an autopsy question.

• Signed papers to allow revenue bonds to be sold to pay for the speciality clinic addition at the hospital.

• Transferred \$10,000 from the general budget to the recycling account so they could keep a budget trail.

• Approved a tax abatement of \$292 for Bernard Corcoran because of property damage.

• Heard that the landfill would be closed that day because of snow.

• Signed papers allowing Logan County to join the Household Hazardous Waste Group, of which Decatur County is a member.

City Council appoints new billing clerk

The Oberlin City Council approved hiring a city treasurer and billing clerk at a meeting Thursday night.

The council approved promoting Judy Wenger to city treasurer. City Administrator Gary Shike said Mrs. Wenger had been the billing clerk with no change in pay putting her at \$10.63.

The council also approved the hiring of Renee Roethler, who recently moved here from Minnesota, as the billing clerk. The group approved a

Council countdown

At a meeting Thursday, the Oberlin City Council:

- Approved the low bid for the purchase of a 2008 Chevy Impala

for the police department. Story on below.

- Approved hiring a treasurer and billing clerk for the city. Story at left.

pay rate of \$9 an hour.

Although City Foreman Dan Castle wasn't at the meeting, the council complimented Mr. Castle and the crew on the snow removal

throughout the city after the last storm. Mr. Shike said the council voted to donate two family swim passes to the Oberlin-Decatur County Area Chamber of Com-

merce for the upcoming Farmers and Ranchers Banquet.

Mr. Shike said at the end of the month that he and council members Jay Anderson and Rhonda May, Mayor Joe Stanley, county Commissioner Doyle Brown, and Connie Grafel, marketing director with the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp., plan to attend the Kansas Association of Airports meeting in Topeka, Tuesday, Feb. 26, through Thursday, Feb. 28.

Crowd gathers to support Jennings man

About 350 Decatur County people gathered together to raise around \$11,000 for a Jennings man injured in a farming accident in October.

Mike Tacha, known as "Possum," was run over by a tractor on the family farm northwest of Jennings several months ago and has been recovering since. After several surgeries, an extended hospital stay and rehabilitation, said Marjorie

Hartzog, an organizer of the benefit, people got together on a fund raiser for him.

The hog roast and auction on Saturday, Feb. 2, at the Jennings Community Building brought in around \$11,000, with a \$750 match from the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. The dinner, served for a donation, brought in most of the money, she added, with the auction

netting around \$600.

Mrs. Hartzog said that Allen Braun donated a hog for the dinner, Scott Hartzog and Carl Lyon cooked and prepared the meat, the Cardinal Bar and Grill donated paper goods, Gary Gawith at the Jennings Co-op paid for grocery items and Merle Snyder made potato salad for 400.

The Old Czech Country Store, Hoxie Feedyard, Jennings Museum,

Raye's Grocery and Daryl and Marjorie Hartzog donated items for the auction.

"Organizers ... regretted that the benefit was held on the same night as the Seeds of Hope Telethon in Oberlin," said Mrs. Hartzog, "but the date was chosen to coincide with a weekend when Tacha was not scheduled for a checkup in Wichita."

Council approves new patrol car for police chief

The Oberlin City Council approved the purchase of a 2008 Chevy Impala from a McCook dealer after looking at three bids at a meeting Thursday night.

All three bids were for 2008 Chevy Impalas, with one for \$18,499 from Wagner Chevrolet of McCook, one for \$19,237 from Hays Chevrolet and one for \$20,215 from Taylor

Motors of Colby.

During budget time this past summer, the council allowed a \$20,000 line item for the police department to buy a new car.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the Chevy would replace a 2005 Impala Chief Wade Lockhart drives, the oldest car the department has.

*Storm closes schools for two days out of week

(Continued from Page 1A) Tuesday, members of the Oberlin City crew got to work clearing off the streets.

City Administrator Gary Shike said they normally have eight crew members cleaning roads, but because of injuries, there were only six out this time.

The crew started during the first morning of the storm and cleared off the snow routes and downtown, he said. That afternoon, said Mr. Shike, they really started getting the snow moved. Some of the crew members were out as late as 10:30 p.m., clearing downtown and other areas.

Last Wednesday, he said, the

crew finished up the snow removal, getting all of the streets in the city bladed.

Mr. Shike said he probably heard more comments and compliments after this removal than any other storm. The crew took a lot of heat around the holidays, when several small storms — not one enough to plow — left streets slippery for a month.

Besides the streets, the city crew cleans the parking lots at The Gateway and city library, sidewalks around the parks and the driveway at the fire station. The crew also has to get the areas around city well houses opened and be able to get out to the

waste-water treatment plant.

Out in the county, said Tim Stallman, road and bridge supervisor, the crew worked 10 motor graders starting Tuesday evening to clear areas around the courthouse and hospital.

Early last Wednesday morning, he said, the crew cleaned off the runway at the city airport and started on the county roads.

They worked from 6 a.m. to about 6 p.m. to get everything cleaned in a day. Mr. Stallman said they had minor breakdowns, but nothing too bad.

There were a few drifts, he said, with around nine inches falling in

the north central and northwest part of the county. Closer to Jennings, he said, only three to four inches fell.

The Decatur County sheriff's office didn't report any accidents during the storm.

The state crew was out cleaning during the storm also, but members couldn't be reached for comment.

Town hall meeting planned on Monday for congressman

U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran plans to stop in Oberlin on President's Day to talk with people here.

Everyone is welcome to attend

the "town hall" meeting at 10 a.m. Monday at the Business Enhancement Entrepreneurial Center in downtown Oberlin.

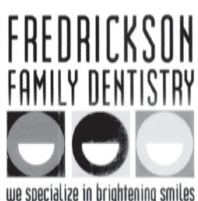
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AGR-Lite Workshop

This program is designed to help Kansas crop and livestock producers learn about the structure, availability, and appropriate use of Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite combined with other RMA risk management tools.

- Update from USDA Risk Management Agency
- Introduction to AGR-Lite
- What is covered under AGR-Lite
- How coverage is established and how claims are calculated
- Issues with AGR-Lite
- Examples, discussion and questions
- General crop insurance information up-date

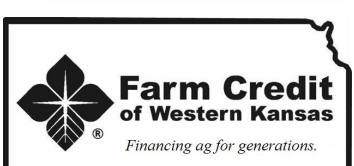
When: February 20, 2008; 10:00-5:00 with noon meal included
Where: Colby Community Building—Little Theater, 285 E 5th
Who: Art Barnaby, K-State Extension Specialist, Risk Management

Call: 785-462-6714 to reserve your meal

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