

New addresses mean new licenses

People with new addresses in Decatur County will need to update their driver's licenses, county officials say.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn said anyone in the county who received a letter in the mail showing a new address for the Enhanced 911 system will need to either go to the courthouse or the Department of Motor Vehicles office in Colby to update their license.

If it is just a regular license, said Mrs. Horn, with no special conditions, then the person can have the address changed in the county treasurer's office at the courthouse

here. People will need to bring their current license with the map sent in the mailing that shows the new address.

Anyone with a commercial or other special license, like a motorcycle or commercial license, will need to go to the state office in Colby. Again, said Mrs. Horn, they will need to take their current license and the address map. It will cost the license holder \$4 for a new one at either place.

Mrs. Horn said people are supposed to get the license changed within 10 days of the address change.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said there

are some things people can check on to make sure their new address is correct. Any east-west road is called a lane and has a letter designation, such as Lane A. Any north/south road is called a road and has a number address, such as Road 1200.

When comparing the new address to the neighbors', said Mr. Unger, all of them should ascend or be larger as you go to the east or south.

Zip codes didn't change, he said, as long as the town didn't change. There are some addresses in Leoville that changed to Dresden or Selden, in which case the person's

zip code changed.

If anyone has questions or has an address they think is wrong, he said, now is the time to call the county Road Department at 475-8111.

There isn't a big rush for people to start changing their address on things like checks and other documents, he said, because the county and post office are still in a review period.

The commissioners, he said, will talk with township officers about putting up signs at the end of driveways to mark the new addresses.

With the changes in the county, the circulation manager at *The Oberlin Herald* asks that anyone who subscribes to the newspaper and has a new address please call her to change the mailing address. Anyone with a change can call Pat Cozad at 475-2206.

Rob McFee, with the Oberlin post office, said the people should continue using the old addresses until everything is straightened out. Once the final change is made, said Mr. McFee, the post office will deliver mail sent to the old addresses for a year.

Cardboard crunched by large baler

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
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A county worker turned the key on the west side of the machine, setting the large, sharp-looking teeth inside into action.

The 12-foot-tall, bright blue machine moved its insides slowly down, compressing the flat brown objects inside more and more. As it finished, it spat out a 4-foot by 5-foot by 3-foot, half ton bale of what had been cardboard boxes.

Decatur County got the baler at the end of January, said Sarah Fredrickson, who works in the noxious weed department and the county recycling program. Since she was hired by the county in November Mrs. Fredrickson said, she has been working on the recycling program, including picking up cardboard and other materials from businesses in town.

Mrs. Fredrickson said she takes the cardboard and puts it in the baler, which compresses it for shipment to Colby. Then she runs wire around the bales and stacks them in the county's metal shop building east of town.

Since January, she said, she has made six bales of cardboard, with the lightest one weighing just short of 900 pounds.

Mrs. Fredrickson said she started to pick up cardboard from businesses around Thanksgiving. Although the county hadn't received the baler yet, she would load up the Teens for Christ van with it and drive to the Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling Center in Colby.

Now, she said, she picks up cardboard from Dollar General and the grade and high schools daily. Other businesses, she said, she goes to once or twice a week. Most of the businesses, she said, help her load the materials or some have the items on a cart, which is nice.

With cardboard, she said, the business needs to have the boxes collapsed down, which makes them easier to pick up.

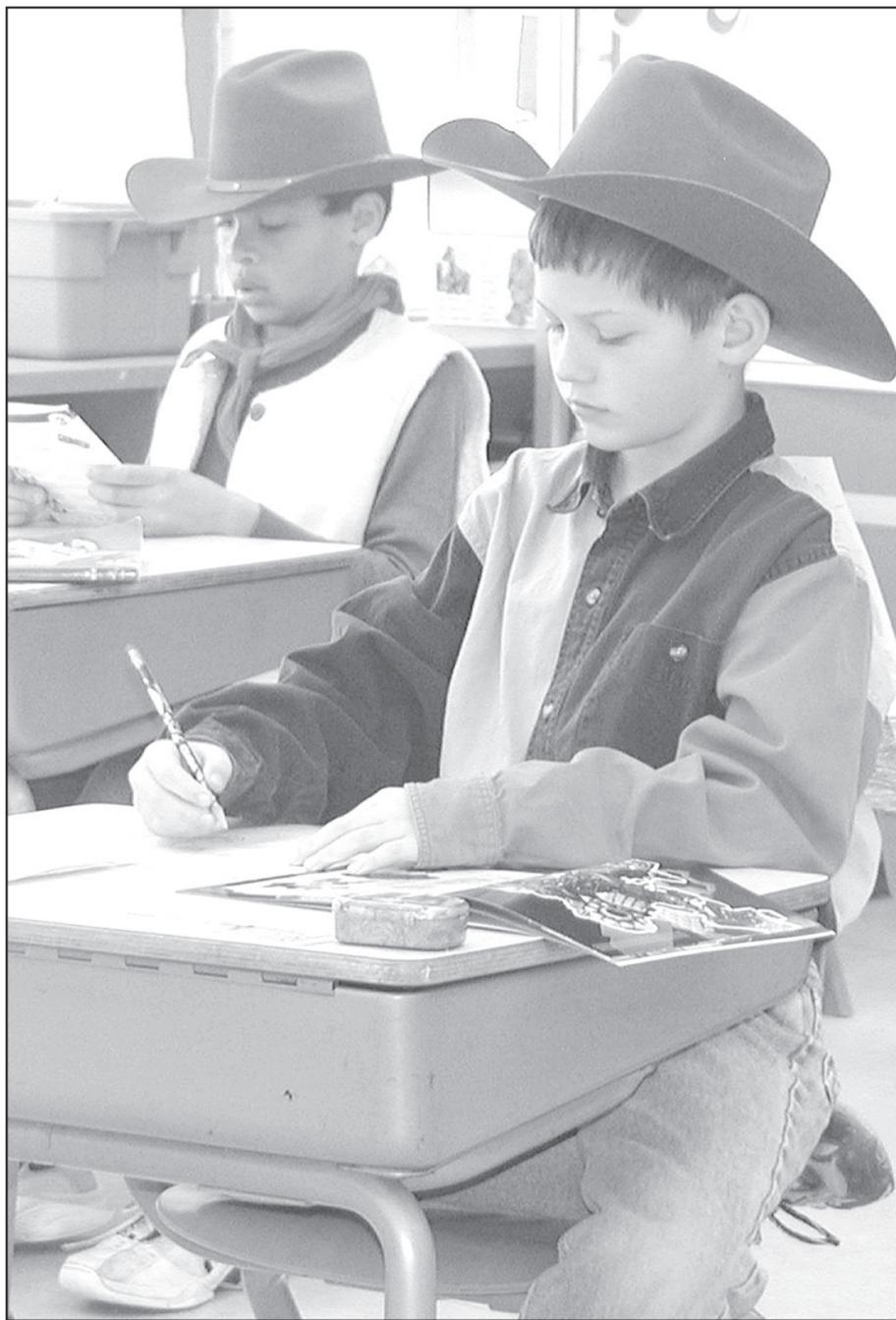
The county has been part of the recycling program based in Colby for almost three years. In July 2005, when it started recycling, the county paid \$1 for each person in the county to join and received the trailer which (See MACHINE on Page 8A)



Students celebrate reading

SIXTH GRADERS Haley Schiessler (above back) and Ashley Witt laid on the floor of their classroom in their pajamas and read Monday morning as part of reading day at the grade school, which also celebrated the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Luke Koerperich and Dante Robertson (left) worked on papers, dressed as cowboys in one of the third grade room. Each of the classrooms were decorated in different themes from a slumber party, to the ocean to a western motif for reading day at the grade school.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



Elected officials plan tour Saturday

Everyone is invited to talk with state Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer and Rep. John Faber at a "town hall" meeting at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Decatur County courthouse.

The legislators will be touring western Kansas, talking to people about ideas and issues coming up in the 2008 Kansas Legislature.

The meeting will be sponsored by

the Decatur County Farm Bureau. County Clerk Marilyn Horn said they will have pizza for everyone. There will be a donation can to offset the cost.

The meeting will be held in the courtroom on the third floor. Mrs. Horn said there is an elevator for anyone who needs it.

Days seem longer as time jumps ahead

The evenings will seem a little longer starting Sunday and the sun will seem to hang in the sky later, as Daylight Saving Time begins.

That's right; clocks will spring forward an hour at 2 a.m. Sunday. It's the first time that will happen in March under a new federal law. Remember to set the clocks forward before going to bed Saturday night — or evening.



you might miss church.

The time change means as the weather gets nicer, people will have more time to enjoy after work or school.

Daylight Saving Time will end Sunday, Nov. 2, right after Halloween, but for the next eight months it's time to take advantage of the extra time to get outside in the

Women's section inside today's paper

The Oberlin Herald's annual Working Women section is inside today's newspaper.

The section includes features about an insurance agent, a jeweler, a woman who works in the family store, the school nurse and school cooks in Oberlin.

THE OBERLIN HERALD'S
Working Women

A salute to the contributions made by women in business.



School board tables vote on new member

The Oberlin School Board tabled the vote to select a new board member at the special meeting Monday night, with one of the candidates home sick.

At a special meeting in February the board interviewed Doug Brown, Jerry Chambers, Abby Hissong, Colleen Rittmann, Dr. Gary Fredrickson and Jess Randel. The board voted that evening, leaving in a three to three tie

between Mr. Brown and Mr. Chambers.

Although the board discussed flipping a coin at the meeting to break the tie, instead the group decided to wait and call the legal service with the Kansas Association of School Board to get advice. The legal advice was that the board needed to vote until there was a definite winner, which is when the special meeting for Monday night was scheduled.

Board President Dewayne Jackson suggested the board table the vote as Mr. Chambers was home sick with a high fever. He said the board will vote at the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the district office next Monday.

Mr. Brown was in the audience. The board approved the vote to table the decision



AT THE SHOP, Sarah Fredrickson fed cardboard boxes into the baler, which is part of the Decatur County recycling program. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

*Machine makes bales

(Continued from Page 1A)
is parked on East Victoria Avenue, by the noxious weed office southeast of town.

The trailer is always in the parking lot for people to drop off recycling, said Mrs. Fredrickson, unless she is taking it to Colby to be dumped. She said she plans to take the trailer every Thursday, although there are times it's full before that. If the trailer starts to fill up more than once a week, she added, they would take it more often.

So far, said Mrs. Fredrickson, her biggest load to Colby was 2,640 pounds. She said the recycling group provided "gaylords," huge, heavy-duty cardboard boxes, to dump into. When one section of the trailer is full, she said, the stuff ends up in the gaylords.

Then when Thursday comes around, and one section, for instance the newspaper slot, isn't full, Mrs. Fredrickson will take papers out of the gaylords and add into the trailer.

A truck from Colby will come to Oberlin, said Mrs. Fredrickson, to pick up the bales and gaylords when they get 30 of them. For instance, if the county has 15 bales of cardboard and 15 full gaylords, a truck will

come get them.

The recycling program will take newspaper, cardboard, chip board (small boxes), phone books, cans both tin and aluminum, glass bottles and plastics, both No. 1 and No. 2.

The program doesn't take plastic shopping bags, she said.

Bottles and containers need to be rinsed. The recycling program asks that people rinse things three times to make sure each one is cleaned out.

The hardest part of the program, she said, is getting people at home in the habit of recycling instead of throwing everything in the trash. When that happens, all of these recyclables end up in the county landfill, she said, filling it before its time.

Mrs. Fredrickson said her family used to fill four to five cans full of trash out of their house each week. Now that they are recycling, she said, they are down to one or two.

She suggested that people start out recycling one type of item and put an extra container in the kitchen or garage for that, then build up to other items.

She said her family has separate containers for the recyclables in the kitchen, which works for them.

In the future, said Mrs. Fredrickson, she would like to get the separate sections of the recycling trailer detached so that each one can sit on the ground. That will keep people from having to step up on the trailer to get rid of their items, she said.

Currently, Mrs. Fredrickson said, she picks up from Dollar General, Decatur Community High School, Oberlin Elementary School, the LandMark Inn, American Legion, the Oberlin Clinic, A&W, Napa, Quality Truck, the courthouse, Fredrickson Dental, Culligan Water, Bargain Box Plus, Fine Spirits, Pizza Hut, Decatur Co-op, Ultimate Fertilizer, *The Oberlin Herald*, the Re-Load, R&M Service Center, Ward Drug Store, Stanley Hardware and the U.S. Department of Agriculture office.

Any other business interested in having cardboard picked up can call her at 475-4304.

In the summer, said Mrs. Fredrickson, she plans on keeping up the program. She will help spray weeds in the morning and then work with the recycling program in the afternoon. In the afternoon, she said, the crew often won't be able to spray because of the wind.

Chances to win baskets on sale now

Students at Oberlin Elementary School are bringing in items for baskets that will be raffled off during the school carnival at the beginning of April.

The baskets are part of a Support Our Schools promotion. Anyone can buy tickets to win one or more of the eight baskets.

Tickets, \$1 each or six for \$5, are available at Stanley

Hardware, the school office or during the carnival on Tuesday, April 1.

Each student has been asked to bring in items for the baskets. Each grade has a color theme: the preschool has pink, kindergarten red, first orange, second yellow, third purple, fourth blue, fifth green and sixth white.

Petition comes too late to change addresses

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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The Decatur County commissioners received a petition signed by 38 people asking the county not to change rural addresses, but decided to ignore it, saying it had come too late.

The petition says the people prefer the "rural route" address system and don't want to change their addresses.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said at the meeting Feb. 19 that he thought the petition was too late. Yes, said Commissioner Doyle Brown, the county has worked for three years on the new addresses and no one said a word. He said the deal is done.

There is no legal requirement that the county do anything with the petition, said County Attorney Steve Hirsch.

After letters went out to everyone in the county who will receive a new address, the road and bridge department received several phone calls about wrong addresses. Tim Stallman, road and bridge supervisor, said they are making a list of corrections.

The mistakes are disappointing, said Mr. Unger, because some of the same addresses were fixed several

County countdown

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Found out that the state hadn't contacted the emergency management director about deer waste from a recent test for chronic wasting disease going into the city's sewer system. Story on Page 3A.

- Approved setting up three accounts for the \$650,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the speciality clinic addition at the hospital. Story to come.

- Heard that the fair board had elected a president, vice president and secretary/treasurer. Story to come.

- Suggested that the emergency management director and health administrator talk with members of the township boards about an upcoming survey to find out special needs of people in the county in case of an emergency. Story to come.

times on the maps contractors did for the county, and the addresses were still mailed out wrong.

The commissioners called Marty Bieker with R&S Digital, the contractor that made the maps, and he told them the county should send all of the corrections in at one time.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn said the Leoville addresses have two different zip codes, which needs to be changed.

Mr. Bieker said the county needs to make a list and send it in so the company can make the changes. He said he would appreciate not getting

a few changes to the addresses every day, but maybe a batch every three to four weeks.

Can you explain how people are getting mail at their new addresses prior to the letters going out? asked Commissioner Stan McEvoy. Maybe the phone company has already updated the addresses, said Mr. Bieker. He said his company just doesn't give out addresses.

Someone in Commissioner Brown's district got a bill to the new address before the person received the letter with the new address, Mr. Unger said.

County questions director

The Decatur County commissioners talked with the director of the noxious weed department to straighten out the recycling program.

Director Gaylen Huntley said at the meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 19, when he hired Sarah Fredrickson, they hit the recycling hard because there wasn't enough work to keep her busy otherwise. The weed department and road and bridge can cover her salary, he said. The idea, said Mr. Huntley, was never to take the salary out of the general fund.

He said he wanted to keep the time spent on recycling separate so he knew how much time was being

spent on it. Mr. Huntley added that he thought Mrs. Fredrickson's pay was coming out of the weed department. Unless she is working at the county health department, he said, the salary shouldn't come out of the general fund.

When the weather starts to warm up, said Mr. Huntley, and spraying picks up, then Mrs. Fredrickson will switch to that. He said he doesn't plan to hire another person to work with the recycling for the summer. The county, he said, may get some complaints about recycling falling behind then.

To get recycling moving forward, said County Clerk Marilyn Horn,

the county needs a building for it.

Tim Stallman, road and bridge director, said he was under the impression that Mrs. Fredrickson was hired to do a little bit of everything, from cleaning the health department, to spraying for weeds and filling in where needed.

Who's in charge of getting the recycling trailer to Colby? asked Mr. Huntley. They all agreed he should be, even though Jack Benton and Mrs. Horn are on the board for the Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling group.

Mr. Huntley said he is still looking for a pallet jack and a fork lift to share with Mr. Stallman.



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**Legislative Town Hall Meeting with
Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer & Rep. John Faber
Saturday, March 8, 2008**

**11-12:30 p.m. CT - Oberlin
Decatur County Court House**
Pd by Ostmeyer for Senate, Lori Edwards, Treasurer
Rep. John Faber; Ed Carson, Treasurer

Internet tonight! Call 475-2206!