



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.

**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!

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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