

Coin toss chooses a winner

It was the toss of a coin that determined the winner of the Pigskin Pick-em Contest this week.

Eleven people guessed all eight games correctly, with nine of those people choosing K-State to beat Texas A&M for the tie breaker. Valisha Raile and Mary Kinser were both four points off of the tie breaker.

Mrs. Kinser won first place and \$15 scrip while Mrs. Raile got second and \$10 scrip.

Third place went to Travis Raile, who was seven points off the tie breaker, winning \$5 in scrip.

The remaining people guessing all eight games were Cody Jacobs, Dresden; Jacob Helm, Norcatur; Gary Juenemann, Todd Ketterl and Owen Wilson, Oberlin; Rodney Solko, McCook; and Cheri Kastens, Herndon; and someone named Brett from Colby.

Those picking seven games were Brent Juenemann, Ivis Hanson, Zach May, Ron Solko, Kimberly Solko, Gary Anderson and Norm Wendelin, Oberlin; and Amanda Adams, Danbury.

Colleen Gee picked six out of eight games. Mabel Zimmerman guessed five out of eight; Jacob Gee four and Justin Gee picked three.

Contest rules are on Page 5B of today's paper, along with an entry form. Forms also are available at the sponsoring businesses, Wagner Chevrolet, Buick, Pontiac, and Cadillac of McCook, Farm Credit of Western Kansas, Ward Drug Store, Raye's Grocery, the LandMark Inn, Home Planning Center, Fredrickson Insurance Agency, Farm Bureau Financial Services and *The Oberlin Herald* and the *Country Advocate*.

Only official entry blanks will be accepted, no copies.

- This week's winners were:
- University of Kansas over Colorado, 30-16.
 - Goodland over Oberlin, 42-8.
 - Wallace County over Golden Plains, 72-26.
 - Atwood over Plainville, 52-20.
 - Texas Tech over Nebraska, 37-31.
 - Smith Center over Colby, 40-0.
 - St. Francis over Hoxie, 54-6.
 - McCook over Lexington, 49-14.
 - Tie breaker: K-State over Texas A&M, 44-30.

Council to offer guard lease

The Oberlin City Council agreed last Wednesday to offer a 99-year lease at \$1 a year to the Kansas National Guard for the former youth ranch at Sappa Park, including the buildings.

Councilwoman Marcia Lohofener said the council needed to make a decision about what kind of offer the city might make in case the National Guard is interested.

Councilman Jay Anderson said he thought a lease for 99 years at \$1 a year might be a sale clincher.

What does the city currently owe on the ranch? asked Mayor Joe Stanley. Councilwoman Rhonda May said she thinks the debt is in the neighborhood of \$115,000 to \$120,000.

Lt. Col. Eric Peck, with the National Guard has looked at the area, said Mrs. Lohofener. What's out there is usable.

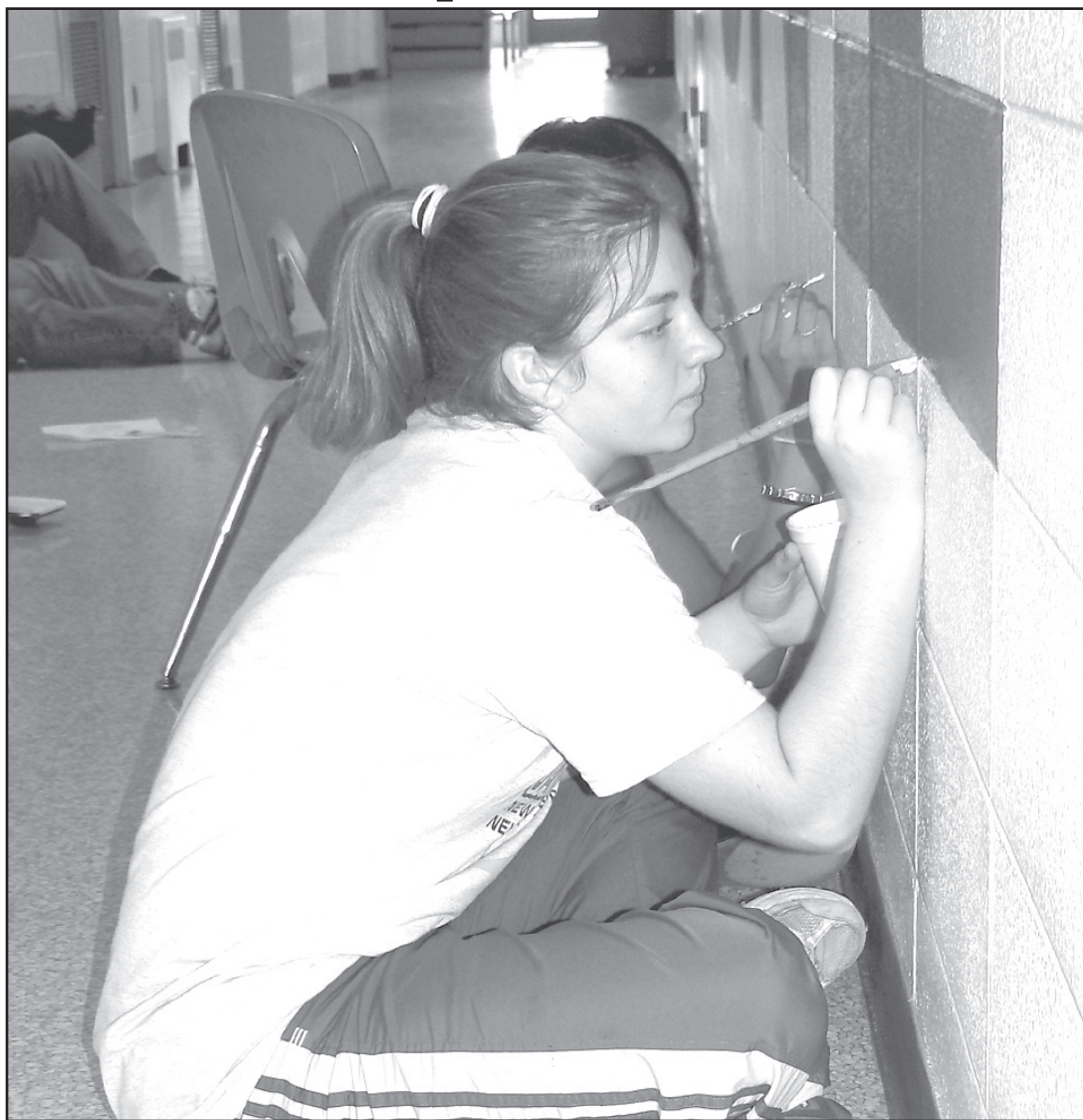
So far, said Ms. May, the city hasn't been very successful in figuring out what to do with the land and buildings at the former ranch. It is a usable and valuable property to someone, she said, but the city just hasn't found that person. A long-term offer to the National Guard would be a benefit to the community and the county.

The National Guard did say they wanted a long-term lease, said Mrs. Lohofener.

Dr. Anderson proposed the city offer the buildings and 15 acres surrounding them to the Guard for a 99 year lease at \$1 a year. Ms. May seconded the motion.

The vote passed 4-1, with Councilman Rob McFee voting against. He said he isn't against the National Guard using the area, but he thinks the city should get more than \$1 a year.

Student Council paints the walls.



ELISHA JONES touched up the huge "UNITY" on a wall outside the Decatur Community High gym. The Senior High Student Council spent all day Saturday painting.

— Dictator Staff Photo

Program stretching water

By ANDY HEINTZ
Colby Free Press

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Some northwest Kansas farmers may be able to sell water rights to the state under a program designed to stretch out the area's water supply and ensure that Kansas sends enough water downstream to Nebraska.

Landowners who are willing to retire their water rights may be able to sell them to the state Conservation Commission at a fixed rate price of \$2,000 per acre foot under the Water Rights Retirement Program, known as WTAP or "Water-TAP."

"People will not want to give up their water rights without an incentive," said Steve Frost, state water conservation manager.

The commission began accepting applications Oct. 1. The state is offering to buy rights in the Prairie Dog Creek basin, which stretches from Sherman County through Thomas and Decatur into Norton County.

The state also is targeting rights six "high-priority" units in the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District.

"It's a pilot program designed to establish a water-based incentive program that will help balance supply with demand," Frost said.

The state hopes to help restore aquifers and stream flows in areas that have seen reduced stream flow and water supply in recent years. A third area the commission is concentrating on is the Rattle Snake Creek Basin, which runs from near Bucklin to Sterling.

The Prairie Dog Basin was chosen because its stream flow affects Kansas efforts to comply with the Republican River Compact with the Nebraska.

The commission has designated six areas of the High Plains Aquifer in Thomas, Cheyenne, Sherman, and Sheridan counties for the program, two in Thomas County.

Payment landowners receive is based on the historic amount of water a farm has consumed, the irrigation area's proximity to a stream and the price the landowner wants, Scott said.

"The state wants to buy water rights at the most affordable price," he added.

Scott said low bids are not the

only element that the commission would consider when it decides who gets grants. For example, he said, a person who wants to retire a well that is near a stream would be given preference over a person who wants to sell a well that is located far away from a stream, even if that person will accept less money.

"We want to evaluate all the variables and decide what gives us the best bang for our buck," Scott said.

There is only so much money, he added, and some people who want to retire their rights will not be able to sell.

He said the people who retire their water rights would be able to practice dryland farming. Some might sell only part of their rights, not all, and continue some irrigation.

The project will last five years. The fall sign-up period will go through Nov. 15. If money is still available, the commission will have a spring sign-up period Feb. 15 through March 31.

For information, contact Frost at (785) 296-8964 or the Groundwater Management District in Colby at (785) 462-3915.

Nine teams enter barbecue contest

Nine teams showed up to cook all day at Sappa Park for the "Up in Smoke" barbecue contest at the beginning of October.

The cook-off, sponsored by the Oberlin American Legion, was held at the park on Saturday, Oct. 4.

Patti Uehlin, who helped organize the event, said they served around 100 people during the evening meal.

The Frosty Mug of McDonald

took first for theme and originality and overall.

Class winners included:

- For the chicken category, the Buffaloafers of Hill City took first, Frosty Mug second and A Touch of Smoke third.
- For ribs, Touch of Smoke took first, Whiskey River of Hill City second and the Buffaloafers third.
- For beans, Frosty Mug took first, Grillin and Chillin of Oberlin sec-

ond and Bob and Dave of Oberlin took third.

• For other, the Buffaloafers took first, Frosty Mug second and A Touch of Smoke third.

• For Pork Butt, Bob and Dave took first, Whiskey River second and Grillin and Chillin third.

• For brisket, Bob and Dave took first, A Touch of Smoke second and Whiskey River third.

County raises equipment rates to cover costs

The Decatur County commissioners agreed last Tuesday to raise the hourly rates on road and bridge equipment to help cover rising costs.

The county raised the rates for the equipment in 2006, three years ago, said Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman. Diesel fuel is up, said Mr. Stallman, road and bridge supervisor, as are other costs.

The increases, he said, are 15 to 25 percent, depending on the machine.

Labor and fuel costs have both gone up in the past three years, said Commissioner Ralph Unger. So has insurance, noted Commissioner Stan McEvoy.

There are a few rates that stayed the same, said Mr. Stallman.

The commissioners looked over the proposed numbers and approved them. Mr. Stallman said he wants the prices retroactive to Wednesday, Oct. 1, since the townships are billed quarterly and that's the start of the fourth quarter.

With the roof on the courthouse being replaced, said Mr. Stallman, is the county paying for the old stuff to be put into the landfill or is that the contractor's responsibility. Mr. Unger said he didn't think the county was, as that should be part of the work for the contractor to do. The contractor said they can haul the plastic roof stuff back to McCook, he said.

Weathercraft, he said, is filling up

County Roundup

At the meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Heard that the recycling trailer is traveling to the smaller towns and people recycling their items in Oberlin will use an old metal building south of town by the county weed department office to dump their recyclables. Story on Page 5A.

- Heard the undersheriff plans to resign at the beginning of November to take a full-time position with the National Guard. Story below.

- Agreed to raise the hourly rates on road and bridge equipment to help cover the rising costs of fuel, labor and other things. Story at left.

the landfill with old shingles from houses. The company pays to dump those, said Mr. Stallman.

Is the county going to pay for flu shots for the employees again this year? asked Mr. Stallman. The commissioners didn't see why not, and suggested he call the health administrator to see when those will be done.

Commissioners approve new rates

Decatur County commissioners approved new rates for equipment hired, Road and Bridge Department last Tuesday.

These prices are used to send bills to townships for road work and for any other entity other than Decatur County. The prices include labor and machine.

The prices increases, first since 2006:

- Grader, \$44.15 to \$54.73 per hour, including operator.
- Grader with plow, \$54.15 to \$64.73.
- Scraper, \$50.15 to \$60.73.
- Small dozer, \$45.15 to \$50.73.
- Large dozer, \$62.15 to \$70.73.
- Loader, \$47.15 to \$52.73.
- Back hoe, \$40.15 to \$45.73.
- Small crane, \$55.15 to \$62.73.
- Small crane carrier, 70 cents a mile to 75 cents a mile.
- Large crane, \$75.15 to \$82.73.
- Large crane carrier, 75 cents a mile to 90.
- Tractor/elevator combo, \$47.15 to \$55.73.
- Tractor/mixer combo, \$42.15 to \$47.73.

- Tractor/mower, \$38.15 to \$45.73.
- Tractor/mower over four foot, \$45.15 to \$52.73.
- Tractor/road groomer, \$38.15 to \$45.73.
- Small tractor, \$27.25 to \$30.73.
- Large tractor, \$34.15 to \$40.73.
- Sheep-foot packer, \$8 to \$10.
- Pickup, 40 cents a mile to 55.
- Medium truck (1 ton), 60 cents to 75.
- Large truck, 70 cents to 80.
- Semi-trailer truck, 75 cents to 85.
- Small trailer stayed at 15 cents a mile.
- Medium trailer stayed at 40 cents a mile.
- Large trailer stayed at 60 cents a mile.
- Portable welder, \$32.15 to \$32.73.
- Water pump, \$22.15 to \$22.73.
- Sickle mower, \$27.15 to \$27.73.
- Chain saw, \$20.15 to \$21.73.

Officer turns in resignation

The Decatur County sheriff told commissioners last Tuesday that his undersheriff has decided to take a full-time job with the Nebraska National Guard and will leave the county around Nov. 7.

Sheriff Ken Badsky said Undersheriff Randy McHugh plans to resign at the beginning of November. At this time, said Sheriff Badsky, he needs to talk with Deputy Jay Tate to see if he wants to move to the undersheriff position.

Sheriff Badsky said he does have someone in mind for the open job, but he hasn't talked to the person yet. If that doesn't work, he said, then he will advertise.

Also, he said, he wants to pay a little more for both positions since the deputy and undersheriff are helping with jail care. That would increase the salaries anywhere from \$200 to \$300 a month.

The commissioners said they didn't see a problem with any of the plans.

Undersheriff McHugh is going to Hastings, Neb., to work full-time with the guard.

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"During the last twelve years that I have served in the House of Representatives, I have cast over 10,000 votes. I have worked hard for the best interests of our district, studying the issues and their importance for the citizens of Northwest Kansas as well as for the state.

Kansas faces many challenges, but I am optimistic about our future. I want to continue developing new and innovative ways to create economic opportunities for rural Kansas. I appreciate the trust that my constituents have placed in me, and I will continue to work hard to serve their needs in Topeka."

John has the experience we need and the vision to succeed:

- Votes to protect "home owned carnivals" from government regulation.
- Also serves on the Education Committee, Education Budget Committee, and Joint Committee on rules and regulations.
- Understands the importance of hard work and cooperation and the issues facing the 120th District.

Paid for by The Campaign to elect John Faber, Ed Carson, Treasurer.