

Showing off new phones



SHOWING OFF THE LATEST in cellular telephones from Nex-Tech, Vickie Sowers manned the Ultimate Fertilizer booth at the Oberlin Farm and Home Show at The Gateway on Saturday.
— Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

Gateway roof bid gets OK

The Oberlin City Council approved a \$119,485 bid from Murray Roofing and Construction of Colby to replace the roof on The Gateway at its meeting Thursday, but put off a decision on replacing heating and cooling equipment.

The council received bids from three companies at the meeting on Thursday, March 19. The members revisited the bids at the meeting Thursday, approving the one from the Colby company. The city also received a \$100,010 bid from Washington Roofing and Weatherproofing out of Great Bend and two for \$544,237 and \$731,576 from Roofmasters Roofing and Sheet Metal Co. out of Hays.

The city received \$1,134,000 from the Fred and Henrietta Bremer estate, said Administrator Austin Gilley. So far the city's made \$2,946 in interest on that money at 6 percent.

The roof is the most pressing need at The Gateway, said Mr. Gilley. The bid from Roofmaster includes a lot of structural changes. The council can ask for new bids, pick one of the bids it has, or let the roof continue to deteriorate.

The council has talked about solar panels on The Gateway, he said. There would be up-front costs, but it would take care of at least some of the electric costs on the building.

The bids the city has for heating, ventilating and air conditioning, said Mr. Gilley, didn't include duct work, so he's getting some more numbers.

Court gets stalking petition

A Norcatuar woman has filed a petition for protection from stalking against the city's mayor.

Michelle Armbrister, next-door neighbor, filed for the order for herself and her children in Decatur County District Court. The order states that she fears for the safety of herself, her family and their pets.

The order against Mayor Mike Helm basically says that he can't follow, harass, telephone or communicate with the victim. Any violation could constitute stalking.

The defendant isn't allowed to enter the victim's residence or the immediate vicinity, the order says, with a violation constituting criminal trespass. The order, signed by District Magistrate Judge John Bremer, was filed March 23.

A hearing on the order was set for 4 p.m. Friday in Judge Bremer's chambers.

Council looks at circle drive

The Oberlin City Council asked the city administrator Thursday to find out more about a bid to put a circle drive in front of The Gateway for \$35,451.

Administrator Austin Gilley said he received the bid for a circle drive at the front door of the building from W Design Associates out of McCook. The bid also includes a drive for \$32,244 on the west side that would go up the hill near the building so people could be dropped off at that door.

Dirt work would be needed, said Mr. Gilley, so the circle drive would change the appearance of the front of the building.

The city could do both of these projects with money from the Bremer Estate, he said.

He suggested replacing the units on the roof that have any kind of problem with heating or air, but not until new bids are provided.

Councilman Rob McFee said he thought Murray had the best bid for what he is willing to spend on a roof.

Councilwoman Rhonda May asked how much of the stuff in the Roofmasters bid really needs to be done. Maybe the city should still do a few of those construction items, said Councilwoman Marcia Lohoefer.

The circle drive would be a one-lane roadway with six inch thick concrete. Mr. Gilley said the grading and everything is included in the price.

Mayor Joe Stanley suggested putting handicap parking in the middle of the circle.

From the drawing, said Councilman Rob McFee, the pedestrian access to the building would be gone. He said he wouldn't want to walk where people are driving.

It isn't any good to fix The Gateway up and then not have it be accessible, responded Councilman Jay Anderson.

The council asked Mr. Gilley to get more information on the project and to find out about the sidewalk and handicap parking.

Foreman Dan Castle recommended replacing the duct work on the roof for heating and air because it's deteriorating. Ms. May agreed that if the duct work is rotten, it needs to be replaced.

Although Ms. May made a motion to replace the heating and air units that aren't working, she later rescinded it.

Mr. Gilley said he will get bids from Glassman Corp. out of Hays and Trenton Electric Co. out of Nebraska.

State tells city its water could cost \$5,000 per day

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**

k.davis@nwkansas.com

The City of Oberlin received a consent order, without any deadlines, from the state, proposing fines of \$5,000 a day if the city doesn't do something to remove arsenic and uranium from its drinking water in the near future.

The order from the Department of Health and Environment doesn't have a completion date, but says that the city's public water source needs to meet federal standards for uranium and arsenic. Since early 2007, the city has had to send notices out to water users about the arsenic and uranium being higher than the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency allows.

It's been costing the city \$5,160 a year to send out violation notices, said Administrator Austin Gilley.

The administrator added that the more he looks into the idea of drilling into the Dakota Aquifer, a deep reservoir of salt water, it gets riskier and riskier.

Exploration into the Dakota would cost an estimated \$40,000. It's risky and the city could never get any money to pay for it.

In recent meetings, the council has talked about getting some money from a settlement between Kansas and Nebraska over the Republican River to explore and drill into the Dakota Aquifer.

The council has some options, said Mr. Gilley. The city could contest the regulations, move forward with the plan for a water treatment plant using ion exchange

or move forward with exploring the Dakota.

He recommended abandoning the Dakota idea, then working on the consent order and moving forward with the water treatment plant plan.

If there was already good water quality here, said Mr. Gilley, he would be all for contesting the regulations.

The plant comes with a \$4.4 million price tag, he said, but the U.S. Department of Agriculture has offered a Rural Development loan for 40 years at a 2.75 percent interest.

Oberlin has already tried to fight the regulations, said Councilman Jay Anderson, with communities in Nebraska. It went all the way up and the communities lost.

Councilwoman Rhonda May asked if the city could clean up the effluent out of the waste water plant and reuse that water.

Some cities that are doing that, said Chris Miller, with Miller and Associates, the city's engineering firm, but the idea doesn't get a great public response. If the water was being used to water the cemeteries or yards, that would be different, he said, but when it's going back into the drinking water, people don't like it.

Keep in mind, Mr. Miller said, that in the price tag for a treatment plant, there's \$1 million in distribution improvements that are needed to put the plant into use.

What's it going to change if the city does nothing? asked Mr. Anderson. It could cost \$5,000 a day

in fines at some point, said Councilman Rob McFee.

If the city gets a consent order from the federal agency, they won't negotiate on the deadline, said Mr. Miller. That could mean a short turnaround for the plant to be done and the city might have to pay a premium for construction.

There was some talk about doing a coagulation plant and putting in a reverse osmosis system later to take out minerals that make the water taste bad.

That could be done, said Mr. Miller. The plan would include putting in a bigger building so the reverse osmosis can be added. With coagulation, water waste is 2 to 5 percent, he said, but with reverse osmosis it's more like 20 to 25 percent. The city would also have to have a way to dispose of the solid waste from reverse osmosis.

The federal agency's goal is zero contaminants, said Mrs. Lohoefer, so the city has to be ready to make changes in the future as the amount that's allowed for uranium and arsenic keeps going down.

Ms. May said she's not ready to give up on the Dakota Aquifer. Mr. Gilley is right that it's risky and the city could have to spend more than \$40,000 and may come up with nothing. It might be worth it, though, she said.

Mr. Anderson suggested that Dan Nedland, Ms. May's husband, who is a retired petroleum geologist, look at information about wells on the oil fields for more information about the Dakota Aquifer.

Man gets probation for arson

An Oberlin man convicted of arson in February will serve two years on probation, which means he might never serve any jail time.

Kenneth Morgan was found guilty of arson in a fire at Centennial Bowl and the Red Crown Lounge discovered in the early morning of May 30, 2005. Mr. Morgan was part owner of the establishment. The

insurance carrier, a unit of Lloyds of London, refused to pay saying he had either set it or had it done.

Late last month, Mr. Morgan received a one-year prison sentence in the case, but was granted the two-year probation, which means he could not serve any time in prison unless he violates his probation.

Judge Bill Elliott also fined him

\$10,000 and assessed more than \$2,200 in fees, including \$172 in court costs, \$100 for a DNA database entry, a \$362 witness fee, a \$400 Kansas Bureau of Investigation lab fee, a \$50 probation fee, \$100 to apply for a court-appointed attorney, up to \$950 in attorney fees, \$45 for booking, \$34 to the sheriff's office and \$25 for drug testing.

Museum plans rummage sale

With the weather warming up, it's time for a little spring cleaning, which may mean finding things that haven't been used in a while.

The Last Indian Raid Museum wants those unused or "gently used" items to sell during its upcoming

rummage sale.

Anyone can donate items from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday, up to Friday, April 17, at 258 S. Penn Ave.

Board members ask that no large appliances or exercise equipment

be brought in.

The sale is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, April 18 and 19, in the old Bohemian Hall.

Money raised will go to the museum. The sale is being sponsored by KFNH Radio.

SPRING MACHINERY REDUCTION AUCTION

Saturday, April 18, 2009 • 10 a.m.

Location: 5 miles South of Selden, KS on Road 481

Consignments will be taken until April 17, 2009!

Combindes, Headers, Etc.

1983 IH 1480, 24', 810 head, electric over hydraulic, Wittetoe double spreader

(2) 30.5x32 Tires & rims for IHC combine

Sprayers

1987 220 Spray Coupe, wide front, 2900 hrs.

Spray Coupe, Model 220, S.N. 208911951, 3-wheel

Big A 3-wheel sprayer, 60" tires, 80%, new style booms

Pickup box sprayer, 30' folding booms

Miscellaneous

John Deere 1999 4x2 Turf Gator, power lift bed, bed liner, front bumper

(2) New Black Max generators ready to go, Honda 13 H.P. commercial engine, 8450 maximum watts, 6750 running watts

1,000 Bu. bulk bin

Calkins seed cleaner, wooded, stored inside, C-10-1-51195

Hydraulic post driver

Headache rack for S-10 pickup

Winch and gin poles

Mowers, Windrowers, Hay Equipment

John Deere 567 Mega Wide baler, always shelled, new pickup teeth, 1-1/2 rolls net wrap goes with baler

2007 Vermeer 605M DCF wide pickup, net or twine monitor

1988 New Holland 855 baler w/bale command, S.N.768843

Gehl grinder mixer

Farmhand 900 B tub grinder

John Deere 1380 14' swing tongue swather, S.N. 553333E

Woods B 320 20' folding Bat Wing mower

Rotary mower, 5', 3-pt.

(2) IHC sickle 7' mounted mowers for H & M

Tonutti 10-wheel rake

Massey Ferguson 6 bar side delivery rake

IHC 375 hydro self-propelled 14' swather

Blair remix feed wagon

Stack mover, 5th wheel tracks on back

1972 Ford truck, 15-1/2' 40" sides, all steel box, single hoist, near new 9.00 tires

1968 Dodge truck, 16' steel box, hoist

1967 IHC truck, 15' box, hoist

1989 3/4 ton GMC Super cab pickup

1989 GMC 4x4 Super cab, no box

1975 Chevrolet 4x4 pickup

Tractors

1976 750 Versatile 4x4

1976 750 Versatile 4x4

Case IH MX275 Magnum, 1800 hrs., Product ID Z6R202357. Subject to prior sale

1937 WC Allis w/fenders, spoke rims, new tires, S.N. 47853

1950 W.D. Allis, S.N. 57864

1939 B Allis, wide front, S.N. 23536

1953 CA Allis, wide front, live PTO, S.N. 27114

1949 IHC M, S.N. 192463

1947 IHC H, S.N. 26849

(2) IHC wide fronts for H or M 3-Point for H or M

Tillage Equipment

John Deere 7100, 3-pt., 8-row, 30" planter, S.N. 042983A

IHC 150 Drills, 3-8', 12' spacing, end movers

Richardson sweeps, 7x5, pick-ers, fertilizer

Rolling cultivator, 8-row, 30"

(2) Double tool bars

Crustbuster, 42' w/harrows

Blue Jet 7-shank sub tiller

John Deere 6-row 825 cultivator w/rolling shields

9 Shank fertilizer w/Orthman coulters

Pull-type 15' rotary hoe

Sukup 8-row, 30" cultivator, guide hitch

Melroe 282 14' drill, hyd. mover

Be on time! No Small Items!

All buyers must have a letter of credit with their checks or have certified funds.

Not responsible for accidents. All guarantees are between sellers and buyers. No items are to be removed until paid for. Announcements Day of Sale take precedence over printed matter.

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