

City wants to clean up utility bills

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

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Customers owe Oberlin \$80,000 in delinquent utility bills on the city books for 330 electricity, water and sewer accounts.

Of the 330 accounts, City Administrator Austin Gilley told the Oberlin City Council at its meeting Thursday, about half the people have moved with no forwarding address and many are for people with multiple accounts.

Mr. Gilley said that the city is working with people who have a problem paying, offers budget billing so that people can pay the same each month and is asking the state to help collect from those who have moved without paying but may be getting a tax refund.

"We're using all the tools at our disposal," he told the council, "but we still have a big overhang."

He said the city has a \$75 deposit for electrical services for homes, but that isn't enough to protect against nonpayment. Mr. Gilley said the city's deposit policy is technically

illegal because Oberlin holds the money for two years and the state only allows one.

In addition, he said, the city has no payment agreement authority for those who have trouble paying and has trouble handling hearings for anyone who demands one.

The city gives customers until the 10th of the month to pay and charges a 10 percent late fee, he said.

With the city putting in a new accounting system, he said, this is a good time to clean up the accounts.

He proposed rewriting the utility ordinance so that the city would drop the deposit but increase the reconnect fee for home electricity from \$25 to \$100, adding a provision for payment agreements for up to one year for those currently delinquent. The late fee would be lowered to 5 percent and many fees in the old ordinance which no longer apply would be removed.

To underscore the problems, Mr. Gilley noted that Councilman Rob (See COUNCIL on Page 10A)

Owners retire as drug store shuts its doors

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

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Rusty Addleman plans to shut the doors on his drug store one last time on Saturday, closing the business with a long family history and 103 years in the same family.

Mr. Addleman and his wife Sharon plan to retire at the end of the month, shutting down the pharmacy. The couple sent a letter to their customers at the end of April announcing the closing. They said that in their retirement, they plan to finish some projects, spend time with their families and travel while they can.

Mr. Addleman said they don't have any trips scheduled yet, but he would like to go to Alaska, New Zealand and Australia.

The business at 137 S. Penn Avenue has been for sale for the past five years or better, said Mr. Addleman, but they haven't been able to find a buyer. It's unusual today for a small town to have two pharmacies, he said. There's a dwindling population and lots more government regulations on prescriptions. Of the prescriptions the store sells, he said, 84 percent are priced by the govern-

ment or an insurance company.

Things aren't going to get any better, he added, if the country goes to national health care.

Over the years, he said, he and Sharon have been fortunate to have good, faithful, loyal customers. It's been a pleasure to work for them, he said. Rarely have they had to worry about their customers paying their bills, said Mr. Addleman, and some come in to pay even before they get their statements.

"It's been a privilege of working in a small town and knowing all the customers," he added.

Mr. Addleman said he figures they will miss working some, but a pharmacy in a town this size is a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week job. He gets calls in the middle of the night, on weekends and on holidays.

Since he bought the store from his father in 1977, he said, the technology has changed a lot. Even since he became the full-time pharmacist around 1990, things have changed.

Mr. Addleman said he thought they were one of the first busi- (See OWNERS on Page 10A)

Council ask advice on access

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

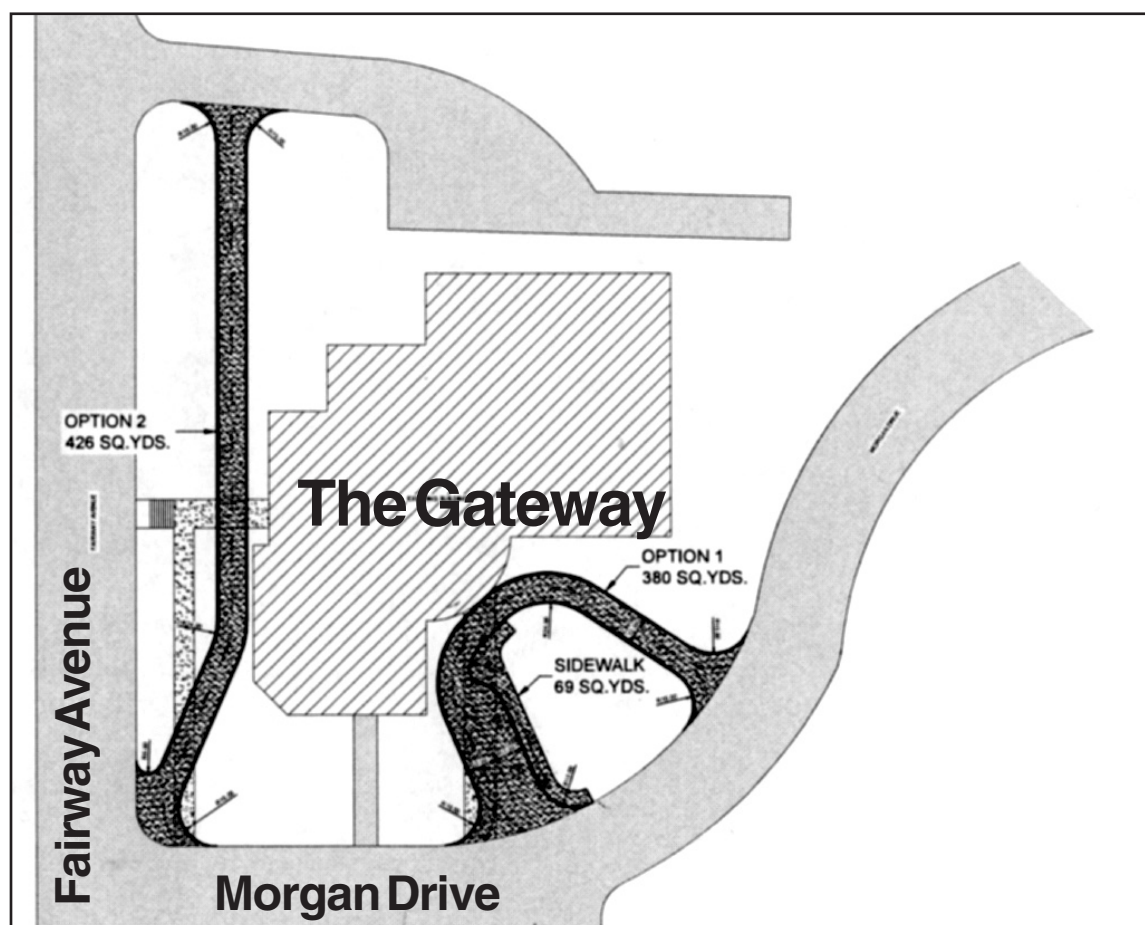
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The Oberlin City Council wants to build a driveway up to the entrance of The Gateway so that those who have trouble walking down the long sidewalk in front can be dropped off at a convenient door.

With money from a bequest from Fred and Henrietta Bremer; the problem of how to pay for a drive has been solved. The next question is where to put it, since the need was not foreseen in the original plans and the civic center is built on a hillside.

Two proposals have surfaced. In the first, a circle would come off of Morgan Drive to the front door and return to the drive. This proposal, called Option 1, would cost \$46,710 and include two handicapped parking spaces.

In the second, Option 2, the road would come off at the corner of Fairway Avenue and Morgan Drive on the west side of the building and (See CITY on Page 10A)



THE DARK AREAS in this drawing show two possible access roads at The Gateway. On the right, Option 1 is a circle road coming off of and returning to Morgan Drive. On the left, Option 2 is a road coming off the corner of Morgan Drive and Fairway Avenue and ending at a short service road behind The Gateway.



PLAYING BUGLE CALLS, Phil Law (above) entertained (below) helped Miss Poppy, Alana Raile, place a cross-shaped wreath at the base of the cemetery memorial as the firing squad watched. — Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes

Service honors veterans

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

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The Avenue of Flags was in full flap for the annual Memorial Day ceremonies at the Oberlin Cemetery on Monday.

As the more than 300 American flags, donated by the families of veterans, flew proudly from the poles throughout the cemetery, members of the Oberlin American Legion, Sons of the American Legion and Legion Auxiliary presented a program. Legion Commander Greg Cundiff was master of ceremonies and Phil Law, a 1954 Decatur Community High graduate who lives in Denver, spoke.

Mr. Law, a music teacher and a member of Denver Symphony Orchestra, played bugle calls and talked a little about the history of the calls, of which, he said, there are 52. He noted that if he were to play them all, the program would go on all day.

He played "Reveille," "First Call" (which is played at the Kentucky Derby each year), "Assembly," "Mess Call," "Drill," "Fatigue," "Officers' Call," "Recall," "Church Call," "Retreat" (for evening colors), "Call to Quarters" and "Extinguish Lights," which was played before "Taps" and written during the Civil War, in 1862.

As he played "Church Call," the



Oberlin tornado sirens went off on their regular Monday test, adding an eerie background to the bugle music.

"That's the first time I've had accompaniment," Mr. Law remarked with a grin.

He ended his performance with service songs from the Coast Guard, Navy, Air Force, Marines

and Army, then encouraged everyone to sing along as he played "American the Beautiful" and "God Bless America".

Assisting in the ceremony were the American Legion Chaplain Stan Chapin, who gave the opening and closing prayer; Decatur Community High junior Mary Olson and graduating senior Ash-

ley Horton, who sang the National Anthem; John and Connie Simonsson, who raised the flag; Jim Miesner and Dolores Koerperich with Alana Raile, who placed wreaths at the veterans' memorial; and the Herndon Veterans of Foreign Wars, who were part of the color guard.

Wheat tour Thursday goes to plot west of town

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

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The wheat test plot west of town is green and looks to be almost knee high, just in time for the annual tour Thursday.

The tour, sponsored by Kansas State Research and Extension Service and the Walter May family, starts at 7 a.m. with breakfast at the 4-H Building. Then it's off to the plot on the south side of U.S. 36.

Brian Olson, Extension area

agronomist, said they used seed from AgriPro, Westbred and public varieties in the plot. Each year, Roger May, a farmer and AgriPro representative, and Byron Hale, county Extension agent, discuss what varieties to plant in the plot. Mr. Olson said he normally makes some recommendations.

The seeds from AgriPro and Westbred are donated and the publicly owned varieties cost \$5 to \$10 (See WHEAT on Page 10A)

Group cleans up river

The tri-state Republican River Riparian Restoration Partnership, a conservation group that works to preserve and improve the riparian area along the river and its tributaries, will hold its quarterly meeting at The Gateway today.

Jennifer Rittenhouse-ten Benschel, executive administrator with Southwest Nebraska Resource Conservation and Development, said the partnership works with the riparian zones along the river and its tributaries in Kansas, Colorado and

Nebraska. The partnership includes landowners and agency workers in the three states. Meetings are open to the public.

The reason it's important to keep the riparian area around the water clean, she said, is because invasive species choke out the river and keep the water from flowing. If that happens, said Mrs. Rittenhouse-ten Benschel, when there's a large rain, the water has no where to go and it floods the cropland next to the (See RIPARIAN on Page 10A)



BEHIND THE COUNTER at Addleman Drug Store, owner Rusty Addleman worked on the computer. The store will close

its doors Saturday after 103 years in the family.
— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

*Owners plan to travel in retirement

(Continued from Page 1A)
nesses in town to get a toll-free (800) telephone number and to use a computer.

Besides the pharmacy and gift side of the business, the soda fountain, open in the past from Memorial Day to Labor Day, will also close.

Things have changed over the years with the fountain, too, said Mr. Addleman. It used to be that downtown was packed on Saturday nights and people would come in for a treat. On Saturday nights, people would come in from the farm to go to the sale barn. Regulars would come in like clockwork for a milk shake or a root beer.

There were three tables up front and they were all packed. It was just different, said Mr. Addleman.

The couple talked about selling the soda fountain on eBay or having an antique auction, but nothing has been set up yet.

Mrs. Addleman said she thought their business and Kary Anderson's Decatur County Implement were probably the oldest on Main Street.

The Addleman family has worked in Decatur County for over 125 years. Mr. Addleman's great-grandfather, Nathan G. Addleman, was

one of the pioneers who settled the county. He served as the deputy U.S. marshal in 1879 and a year later was appointed as county clerk.

Mr. Addleman's great-grandparents had four children, Dott George, Walter, Mabel and Ruth.

D.G. or Dott opened a racket, or variety store, later known as a dime store. At the turn of the century he opened a grocery with Dan Campbell.

He married Nina Bush in 1902 and she died in 1945.

In 1906, he purchased a drug store from Charlie Maddox. Dott ran the drug store for 55 years, hiring a pharmacist, until his only son Ted grew up and went to college.

In 1931, Ted married Neva Russell. He served 62 months of active duty in the Army Medical Administrative Corps and worked at Addleman Drug for 50 years.

The couple had three children Alan, Ruth Ann (Ingold) and George Russell, known as Rusty.

Rusty graduated from high school in Oberlin in 1956, having been a member of the undefeated and untied football team in the fall of 1955. He attended the College of Emporia as his father had, and received a bachelor's degree in business ad-

ministration and sciences.

In the summer of 1960, Rusty said, he went to a two-week training camp with the Green Bay Packers.

He received a bachelor's degree in pharmacy in 1963 from the University of Kansas and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Air Force Medical Service Corps.

The same year, he married Sharon Pollnow, daughter of Ted and Louise Pollnow, a longtime Decatur County farming family, after which he started 3 1/2 months of training in medical administration.

Rusty said he was stationed at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, as the business officer for a 200-bed hospital for 3 1/2 years.

In 1967, he went to the University of Minnesota and earned a Master of Hospital Administration degree through the Air Force. He served in California for a year and later moved around, serving in Colorado Springs, Denver and Korea.

In 1972, Rusty left the Air Force. The couple moved to Tennessee, then returned to Oberlin in 1976 and he headed up Health Underserved Rural Areas Grant, which was a program to help small towns survive, recruit doctors and improve the health of a rural community.

The couple reared three children here, Michelle Renee, Shannon Ree and Chad Theodore, and today they have five grandchildren.

The kids, said Mr. Addleman, are all for the couple retiring.

Mr. Addleman said he and Sharon plan to stay active in the community, but don't want to be asked to help on everything. He said he plans on golfing and working on his and his father's collections. Besides, Sharon said, it will take a while to clean out the store.

*Wheat plot tour includes varieties

(Continued from Page 1A)
a sample bag.

Mr. May and Mr. Hale harvest the plot, said Mr. Olson, so they can get the test weight and moisture off the field.

Although the same varieties can be planted in replica plots at state research stations, said Mr. Olson, it's not the same as having test plots throughout the area. By planting the varieties in each county, people get a chance to see how each variety might do in them. For instance, he said, say a variety is sensitive to high pH, that might show up in a test plot, while it won't at the research station.

The plots, he said, give wheat farmers an opportunity to see how the wheat will do in their area. In northwest Kansas, he added, Extension sponsors 18 plots in the 26 counties.

In some of the counties, said Mr. Olson, they also try to find people to have corn, sorghum and soybean

plots. Where a plot is planted, a farmer or landowner has to be willing to do the work. It does take time to do the plots, he said, and it's sometimes easier to find a farmer to do the wheat plots than the other crops.

Around the area, said Mr. Olson, the wheat looks pretty decent. Some fields are better than others. There are going to be some problem areas, he said, but overall the wheat crop will probably be average to above average.

There are some fields of continuous no-till, said Mr. Olson, where farmers are having problems with bugs. That freeze in April has also caused some damage in places.

The tour is open to anyone who is interested. Varieties planted include Armour, Aspen, Bill Brown, Fuller, Hatcher, Hawken, Hitch, Infinity, Jagger, Millenium, Postrock, Smokey Hill, T136, T129, TT 140, TAM 111, TAM 112 and Winterhawk.

*City wants ideas for access drive

(Continued from Page 1A)
go to the upstairs door before ending up on a service road behind the building. This option is estimated to cost \$32,244.

Both options would be one-lane roads.

Councilman Rob McFee said that he prefers Option 2 because the road is fairly straight and would come closer to the door on the west side.

"I just think it would be better on the west side," he said. "(There would be) less traffic congestion."

While both options would cross an existing sidewalk, the one on the front would cover most of the front walkway.

Councilman Bill Riedel asked about the possibility of putting a driveway on the north side of the building, where there are two doors — one into the kitchen area

and one into the arena, and avoiding the hillside.

The problem with that, he was told, is that it would still be a long way for people to walk if they were going to the theater or meeting rooms, and when there are large events, that is where the caterers and staff park and unload.

Councilwoman Marcia Lohoefer asked if anyone had the plans drawn up by Leslie Bartels when she was on the council, but no one seemed to have them.

Mayor Joe Stanley finally suggested that the council ask for public guidance. He asked that people say which option they would prefer.

To give the council your opinion, e-mail City Administrator Austin Gilley at agilley@oberlinkansas.gov or write The Gateway, 1 Morgan Drive, Oberlin 67749.

*Riparian areas are cleaned

(Continued from Page 1A)
river. The partnership also works in improve the fish and wildlife habitat in the area, she said.

The partnership was formed by Southwest Nebraska Resource Conservation and Development. She said she wasn't sure when, but

*Council looks at bill policy

(Continued from Page 1A)
McFee is on the delinquent list.

Mr. McFee said yes, he did have a problem with a small house he owns. The place is used only a couple of times a year, he said.

Sometime during the winter a piece in the toilet broke and it started to run continuously. Since the city doesn't read water meters in the winter, he said, and since no one visited the place for several months, the problem went unnoticed.

Mr. McFee said he is fixing the toilet and feels that he owes the city for the water that it used, but is objecting to the more than \$70-a-month sewer bill he is getting since the city takes the winter water use to calculate the following year's sewer charges.

Mr. Gilley said that the city officials work with people on problems like this but he would like to change the present ordinance to clarify the city's responsibility.

The council asked City Attorney Steve Hirsch to draft the proposal changes and present them at a future meeting.

since the partnership's inception, members have worked to remove the invasive species along the river. One of those is Russian olive, which chokes out the river.

Last year, said Mrs. Rittenhouse-ten Benschel, workers cleared 2,000 acres in the effort.

"The (group) brings together entities from Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas to serve as a liaison between states in relation to conflicting policies and cross-state-line funding," she said. "Through this effort, the partnership would like to increase economic development throughout the area, increase the quantity and quality of water within the watershed and increase educational opportunities in regard to water quantity and quality."

Recently, she said, Southwest Weed Management, a project of the conservation agency, received a \$300,000 grant to continue with tree removal along the river.

The mission statement of the partnership is "To enhance the water quality and quantity within the Republican River Basin. To promote conservation and protection without compromising agricultural production and economic development."

The meeting starts at 9 a.m., with speakers including representatives from the three states and coordinators from the Southwest and Twin Valley Weed Management areas.

Mrs. Rittenhouse-ten Benschel said anyone interested in the health of the Republican River Watershed and landowners is invited to attend.

Addleman Drug cordially invites our faithful customers to an Open House to celebrate 103 years of service to this community as well as Rusty's retirement. The reception will be Friday, May 29, from 1-4 p.m. at Addleman Drug Store.

DRUG STORE
Addleman
137 S. Penn — Oberlin — 785-475-2661

GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

The staff at Colby Implement would like to invite you to "The Grand Opening" of our new Store on May 30, 2009 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

COLBY IMPLEMENT
Colby, KS
405 W. Horton Avenue
785-462-3391
South of I-70
East of Oasis Truck Stop!

Come spend the day, have some fun and help us celebrate our new store!

Check Out:
The Expanded Parts Department!
More Toys, Apparel and Gifts!
The Large "State of the Art" Shop!
The Spacious Sales Area Inside and Out!

AGENDA FOR THE DAY!
10:00 a.m. - "Exclusive" John Deere Antique Tractor Show!
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Lunch served by the Gem Lions Club!
Music by the McLemores!
1:00 p.m. - Kids Tractor Pull!

Rex Getz Comedian/Magician ALL DAY!
Ballons and Door Prizes Throughout the day!