

A cool treat



ON THE PLAYGROUND at Oberlin Elementary School on Thursday afternoon, (from left) Hunter May, Gavon Uehlin and Gage VanMeter ate popsicles after the annual sixth-grade-versus-teachers kickball game. All of the students received a red-white-and-blue popsicle. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

County lights up ambulance barn

The Decatur County commissioners have agreed to pay \$505 for lights that were put up inside the ambulance barn in Jennings.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said the ambulance crew there needs to know that the county normally takes bids prior to work being done.

Marj Hartzog, representing the ambulance crew, talked with the commissioners a while back about the lighting project and the commissioners said they authorized her to get bids, but not have the work done.

The commissioners received a \$505 bill from Bailey Electric of

Norcatour for four new lights, wiring and labor. They approved paying the bill, agreeing that it was a misunderstanding.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman talked with the commissioners about map options from R&S Digital. He suggested purchasing 150 17-by-22-inch maps at \$8 and 50 36-by-48-inch maps at \$15 each. Both sizes will show the new road designations approved by the commissioners, he said.

The commissioners approved the contract. Mr. Stallman didn't say when the maps would arrive.

Janet Meitl, clerk of the district

court, talked with the commissioners about some repair work needed on the third floor, including sheet rocking one of the walls in the jury room, work on the staircase and replacing the cushions on the jurors' chairs.

She said she needs 15 new cushions, but would like to buy 18, so she has a few spares. The cushions will cost \$15 each for a total of \$270.

The commissioners approved the purchase. They suggested calling a few people about the work on the wall.

Mrs. Meitl also brought in a letter from Chief Justice Robert Davis

about the unpaid furloughs for court workers in the next budget year.

- Approved buying \$7,000 in chemicals for the weed control department.
- Heard that some windows had been broken out at the recycling building. The sheriff was called to look at the building. It will cost \$35 to \$40 a window to replace the glass, said Gaylen Huntley, weed control director. He recommended fixing the windows.
- Heard that the road crew is busy mowing for Memorial Day weekend.

Ideas discussed for restrooms at Sappa Park

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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It's costing \$280 a month to have a pair of portable restrooms in Sappa Park, the Oberlin City Council learned at its meeting on Thursday.

When a state inspector discovered that the old outhouses at the park did not have the required holding tanks, they were closed and the portables set up on June 13, said City Administrator Austin Gilley.

He asked the council on Thursday what it wanted to do about the privy problem, noting that he had been getting a lot of calls.

The city's choices include putting in real restrooms with flush toilets or redoing the outhouses with proper holding facilities, he said.

Councilman Rob McFee pointed out that toilets with running water would require heat in the winter.

Councilman Bill Riedel, who's wife Connie had asked the city to clean and repair the old toilets prior to the summer season, noted that if the city is going to market the park as a recreation facility, it needs proper restrooms.

He suggested that facilities could be drained in the winter, noting that both Atwood and St. Francis, smaller towns than Oberlin, have such facilities. Atwood has a restroom at its lake and St. Francis at its roadside park in town, he said.

"An outhouse in this day and age is not a very marketable commodity," Mr. Riedel said.

Mr. McFee said that he thought that the old privies need to be tore down and the city needs to start all over again with flush toilets and possibly showers, or toilets that flush into a vault and a separate area for showers, since, he thought, water from them doesn't have to go into a vault.

Councilwoman Marcia Lohoe-

Council Roundup

At a meeting Thursday, the Oberlin City Council:

- Decided to buy an electronic piano to replace an upright kept in the second-floor meeting area. Story on Page 7A.
- Asked for public comment on where to put a driveway up to The Gateway for those who have trouble using the long front sidewalk. Story on Page 1A.
- Put on hold a proposed ordinance allowing golf carts and similar vehicles on city streets until July, when state law will allow the change. Story to come.
- Learned that the city is owed \$80,000 in delinquent utility bills. Story on Page 1A.
- Decided to find out who owns the Sappa Valley Manor buildings before deciding on who gets to pay for replacement of electrical transformers there. Story to come.
- Asked for information about the costs of putting new restrooms and a septic system at Sappa Park. Story at left.
- Voted to purchase five aerators for almost \$174,000 to get rid of the smell at the city sewer lagoons. Story on Page 2A.
- Learned that the city administrator would like to have more help dealing with the airport committee and its projects. Story to come.

fener suggested that the city check out the north side of the shelter house at the park, where the old showers for swimmers were.

The council asked Mr. Gilley to get an estimate of what a septic system would cost for the shelter house area.

Bible schools next week

Kids from age 4 up to those just finishing sixth grade will have something fun to do next week with two Vacation Bible Schools planned.

Those who just finished kindergarten through sixth grade can attend "Studio Go" from 9 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday at the Oberlin United Methodist Church. The Vacation Bible School is being organized by the Methodist, Lund and Oberlin Covenant, Faith and St. John's Lutheran and United churches.

Organizers are asking for a \$1 do-

nation for each child to go towards service projects.

Registration forms are available at the churches, the Oberlin City Library and Raye's Grocery.

Kids who will be 4 by September up to those entering kindergarten are invited to God's Kids Pray Vacation Bible School from 9:15 to 11:30 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church the same week.

Registration forms are available at churches or people can contact Shirley Shields at 475-3293, Denise Abbey at 475-2698 or Norma Unger at 475-2560.

Domestic abuse group asks county for money

The Decatur County commissioners were asked to continue giving \$500 a year to Northwest Kansas Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, but didn't give a yes or no answer.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said the commissioners will see if the county can maintain the \$500 a year, but will have to wait until budget time. The state is cutting money it sends counties "all over the place," he said.

Daniel Blake, a representative of the group, said he's been in Decatur County five or six times in the past couple months. It seems

that as the economy starts going down, they see more domestic abuse and sexual violence.

The group has offices in Hays, Colby and Phillipsburg and one of the workers comes here once a month to see clients.

Statistics show that one in three women will become a victim of domestic violence and one in eight men.

He said they would like Decatur County to keep the \$500 a year or increase it if possible.

The commissioners said they will work on the county's budget this summer.

Women plan pond tour

The Decatur Professional Women plan to try something new this summer, a pond and garden tour similar to their Holiday Homes Tour to raise money for scholarships.

Each year, the women's group sponsors the homes tour in December to raise money for scholarships they give to graduating seniors from Decatur Community High and women going back to college or continuing their education.

The group has decided to take a year off from the holiday tour and hold the summer garden and pond

tour instead. In December 2010, the group plans to go back to the homes tours.

The garden and pond tour is scheduled from 7 to 9 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 23. So far, the group has scheduled five yards. There will be finger foods and entertainment at the homes.

Tickets will cost \$7 for one or \$12 for a couple. Tickets are not yet on sale, but the group encourages people to mark their calendars so they can attend.

Beautification starts here

The Decatur Tomorrow Beautification Committee plans to start cleaning up the city a block at a time with volunteers.

Once a week, a volunteer for each block in the city will go out and pick up the trash off the sidewalks and streets, but not on private property, said Shayla Williby.

Having a volunteer be responsible for each block will get the trash cleaned up, she said. The committee wants to try the block beautification until the middle of September.

Anyone interested in volunteering can call Deanna Castle at 475-3227 or Kem Bryan at 475-3395. Both are involved in the committee.

student of the week



Name: Dannay Rhein
Parents: Bryan and Danna Rhein
Grade: 8
Age: 14
We've nominated this student because: she is a very punctual, responsible and polite student. She is very conscientious about her work - quiet and polite in the classroom

and always on time. She is friendly to everyone and very deserving to be recognized as a model student.

Student Comment: Thank you for choosing me. I am flattered.

Activities involved in at school: I am involved in sports and choir. They are a lot of fun.

My choice of movies, books, and games: Movies: Horror. Books: Twilight. Games: I love board games.

After I leave Decatur Community High School I intend to ...: I want to go to college and work with computers.

And 10 years from now, I think I'll be ...: working hard and trying to get a good job.

Favorite Quote: I don't have one, but if I were to get one I would want it to be about strength and determination.

CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE AT: www.johnson-real-estate.com

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Going Out of Business Liquidation Sale

It is with much regret and remorse to announce the closing of Addleman Drug Store after 103 years of service to the community. It has been a pleasure and honor to service our faithful and loyal customers all these years and hope you will continue to let us provide your prescription needs until we close Saturday, May 30th.

ALL MERCHANDISE (excluding diabetic supplies and prescriptions) will be

90% OFF or better

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

Johnson Realty, Inc. is pleased to welcome Dianne Bremer as the newest addition to their sales team as a Realtor. She has recently become a member of the National Association of Realtors and the Kansas Association of Realtors and is employed as a licensed property and casualty insurance agent and office manager for Great Northwest Insurance Agency of Oberlin. The daughter of Arthur and Alice May, she was raised on a farm in rural Oberlin and attended Traer country school before transferring to Oberlin where she graduated from Decatur Community High School. Dianne and her husband, John, have two daughters, Kristen and Jessica.

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