

Bids approved to replace valves and thermostats

At a special meeting Wednesday, July 15, the Oberlin School Board approved a bid to replace valves and thermostats in classrooms and office areas of the high school building.

Superintendent Duane Dorshorst said the bid was from Garrett Plumbing, Heating and Electric out of Norton for \$61,270.

The auditorium, he said, is not part of this project. It covers the classrooms and office areas in the original part of the building.

The bid had three alternates, including one for \$11,978 for the auditorium which was rejected; one for \$11,760 for the locker rooms and hallways, which also was rejected; and one for up to \$4,971 for an exhaust fan, which was approved.

There was an additional bid for steam-pipe installation for \$2,965 which was also rejected.

Mr. Dorshorst said the high end on the exhaust fan would be the bid price, but it could come in lower than that.

At the board's regular meeting on Monday, July 13, the members opened original bids from both Garrett and Glassman Corporation out of Hays.

The board talked with Jay Con-

nolly of Connelly and Associates, a consultant who's been working on the project since its inception.

The bid from Garrett was for \$99,905 and from Glassman at \$99,750, and Mr. Connelly said both were above his estimate of \$48,500.

There were alternate bids as well for additional electrical including work in the second floor hallway and some in the auditorium from the roof to the basement, with three varying plans including bids at \$26,750 from Glassman and \$33,265 from Garrett, another which included possible demolition of the old ceiling and framework with a bid of \$21,500 from Glassman and \$33,575 from Garrett and a third for \$45,500 from Glassman and one from \$39,222 from Garrett.

Board members decided to break the project up and re-bid it, but wanted a quick turnaround so the job could be started before school starts in August.

Although the bid requirements were sent out to both companies that bid the first time, only Garrett sent in a re-bid, he said.

Board approves life-saving pens

The Oberlin School Board approved buying three epinephrine pens, used to moderate severe allergy attacks, for the schools and training personnel, just in case a child or adult needs one.

Superintendent Duane Dorshorst said the Kansas Legislature passed a law to allow use of the pens in schools this year. They provide an injection which can help stop a severe allergic reaction.

He said he has talked with Dr. Elizabeth Sliter, who will be the physician supervising use of the pens, and with Kurt Vollertsen, owner of Ward Drug Store, who will be the registered pharmacist.

The pens last 14 months, he said, and cost \$60. The district will need two for people 60 pounds and over, one at each school, and one for kids 60 pounds and under for the grade school.

The pens, he said, will have to be replaced every year. The faculty will be trained on how to use them.

It would be horrible if a student went into shock and died when the school is allowed to have and use an

epinephrine pen, he said.

Mr. Dorshorst said he's received some numbers from the district's health insurance company, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, which shows an increase of a little over 46 percent due to usage for next year. That would raise the cost for a single from \$227 to \$333, for an employee with children from \$440 to \$644, for an employee and spouse from \$487 to \$716 and a family from \$700 to \$1,027.

He said he will hand the numbers over to the district's insurance broker and see if he can dicker with the company for a lower price.

The technology department, he said, could use an assistant for the rest of the summer to help install new computers bought last year. An assistant could be hired without any money coming from the general fund because there's money in a grant. The work would cost \$1,000 to \$1,500, he said, and they know someone with the training to help.

In other business, the board:

- Approved membership to the Western Plains Arts Association again this year for \$160.

- Approved a home-rule resolution allowing the district to do business without specific authority in state law.

Expect delays along U.S. 36

People driving east out of Oberlin to Norcatour should be ready for some delays as U.S. 36 gets a facelift.

The "chip seal" job, which started last week, should only last a few days, depending on the weather, said Eric Oelschlager, area engineer with the Kansas Department of Transportation in Atwood

Work will stretch from the east side of Oberlin to the Decatur/Norton County line, around 18 miles. That stretch will receive a thin layer of asphalt, covered with rock chips that will be pressed into the road.

Traffic will be only one lane during work hours, meaning a 15 minute delay or less, Oelschlager said.

The job, estimated at \$546,899, will be done by APAC Kansas Inc. of Emporia.

All in a day's fun



AT SUMMER CAMP over the past two weeks, Teens for Christ members played games and learned about God. Sierra Lohofener took part in a water fight at Camp Joy, between Alma and Republican City, Neb.

Spree over in a week

Shoppers only have one week left to sign up to win \$1,000 in the Oberlin Merchants' Big \$1,000 Shopping Spree.

For the past five weeks, anyone 18 or older has had the opportunity to sign up to win the spree. Boxes will be picked up from the sponsoring businesses by 4 p.m. Tuesday.

The winner will be drawn during the Chamber of Commerce-sponsored Back-to-School picnic at 6:30 p.m. next Wednesday at City Park. If the weather is bad, the drawing and picnic will be moved inside the high school cafeteria.

The drawing will take place sometime during the picnic. The person whose name is drawn must be present to win.

You can sign up to win the spree at Dale's Fish 'N' Fun, Culligan Water, Ward Drug Store, Stanley Hardware, Raye's Grocery, Shear Creations West and Day Spa, Rocking R and The Oberlin Herald.

The winner has until the end of the month, Monday, Aug. 31, to spend the scrip. The shopper has to agree to an interview and to notify The Herald so a photographer can go shopping with them.

The scrip is good for merchandise only, and only at sponsoring businesses. No change will be given.

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