

Bill collection over 80 percent for ambulance

The Decatur County commissioners commended the ambulance director on the excellent job she's doing collecting bills during their meeting last Tuesday.

Director Linda Manning had a prepared sheet with the number of calls the department has worked, how many have been billed and paid, how much has been collected and other information.

So far in 2009, the department has worked 230 calls, she said. In 2008 there were 338 calls, in 2007, 274 and in 2006, 322.

While there are more than 100 calls less so far this year, Ms. Manning said, there's still three months of the year left.

In 2008, she said, the department had an 89 percent collection rate on bills, while this year the department is sitting at 84 percent.

Over 80 percent collection is an improvement, she said, noting that it used to be in the 30 to 40 percent range.

Commissioner Ralph Unger commended her. Not only is she doing a good job on collecting the money, he said, but he gets good feedback about emergency calls, too.

Ms. Manning said she has some really good technicians.

At the Tuesday, Sept. 22 meeting, Ms. Manning called in from the Jennings Ambulance Barn about a water leak.

She said she thought the plumbing problem is now fixed. The pipe

County Roundup

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Hired a new chief dispatcher, after previously interviewing three applicants. Story to come.

- Talked with the road and bridge supervisor about his vehicles and whether any of the items need to be replaced, but didn't make any decisions. Story to come.

- Commended the ambulance director on the job she's doing collecting bills for the department. Story to left.

from the meter to the building, said Ms. Manning, had lots of little leaks in it. It has been replaced.

Although they tried to get someone in with heavy machinery to dig it out, she said, the 12 foot long trench had to be dug by hand.

Ms. Manning said she had the Emergency Medical Services plan for the hospital that has to be updated every two years. The only items added are more air ambulance operators.

The commissioners had her leave the plan with County Attorney Steve Hirsch for him to look through.

Man wins contest with five guesses

This was a tough week for Pigskin Pick-em contestants, with no one guessing all seven or even six out of seven football contests right.

St. Francis's win over Goodland, Colby's victory over Phillipsburg and Miami's edging out Oklahoma tripped up a lot of entrants. This week, however, only two made the mistake of going against the Oberlin Red Devils.

Owen Wilson, Oberlin, was the only entrant to get five out of seven right. He wins first place this week and the \$15 scrip money prize.

Eight people were able to come up with four out of the seven, so the tiebreaker game of Fort Hays State versus Washburn was invoked. Washburn was able to beat the boys from Hays 28-14 and Ryan Leitner, Oberlin, came closest to the winning score, guessing that Fort Hays would score 14 and only be four points off on Washburn's score.

He gets the second weekly prize of \$10 in scrip.

There was a tie for third place, as both Mabel Zimmerman, Oberlin, and Cher Kastens, Herndon, were off by seven points. A coin toss gave the prize to Zimmerman, who will collect \$5 in scrip.

Others guessing four out of seven were Gary Anderson, Oberlin, 18 points off; Zach May, Oberlin 21 points; Amanda Adams, Danbury,

Neb., and Travis Raile, Oberlin, 28 points; and Kelly Brown, Oberlin, 31.

Four people — Norm Wendelin, Ivis Hanson, Valisha Raile and Jordan Davenport, all of Oberlin, came up with three out of seven.

The money won in the contest can be spent only at the sponsors: Ward Drug Store, the LandMark Inn, Fredrickson Insurance Agency, R&M Service Center, Farm Bureau Financial Services, D&M Sinclair and *The Oberlin Herald*.

Each week for the next eight weeks, the official Pigskin Pick-em entry blank with the football games for that week will be in the paper. Other entry blanks are available at sponsoring businesses. Only entry blanks from the paper or from the sponsoring businesses are eligible to enter the contest. No copies will be accepted.

Other scores of this week's games were:

- Oberlin over WaKeeney, 54-12.
- Osborne over Hoxie, 41-7.
- Atwood over Goodland, 26-20.
- Colby over Phillipsburg, 22-14.
- Norton over St. Francis, 36-0.
- K-State over Iowa State, 24-23.
- Miami over Oklahoma, 21-20.

Council discusses economic position

The Oberlin City Council spent an hour and a half behind closed doors Thursday to discuss the economic development specialist position, but didn't take any action.

City Administrator Austin Gilley said the position was a contract job until May, when it was changed to a full-time city job. That brought the city into compliance with Internal Revenue Service regulations, he said, and meant the city could provide benefits. Mr. Gilley added that the person was to help with the airport project and city web site.

The job is held by Connie Grafel, marketing director for the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp.

There's some question whether that person reports directly to the development board or to the city administrator, he said.

This has created some confusion on who speaks for the city, said Mr. Gilley. There needs to be some clear direction on what each official is supposed to do.

Some of this is individual personnel matters, he added, which are best served for closed session.

The council agreed to go into closed session for 30 minutes to discuss nonelected personnel. After the first session, they voted for another 30 minutes. They returned to Morgan Theater, where the meeting was being held, and voted to hold another 30 minute session, after a 10 minute recess.

The sessions included the council, city attorney, mayor and administrator. While Ms. Grafel was in the audience, she was not asked into the sessions.

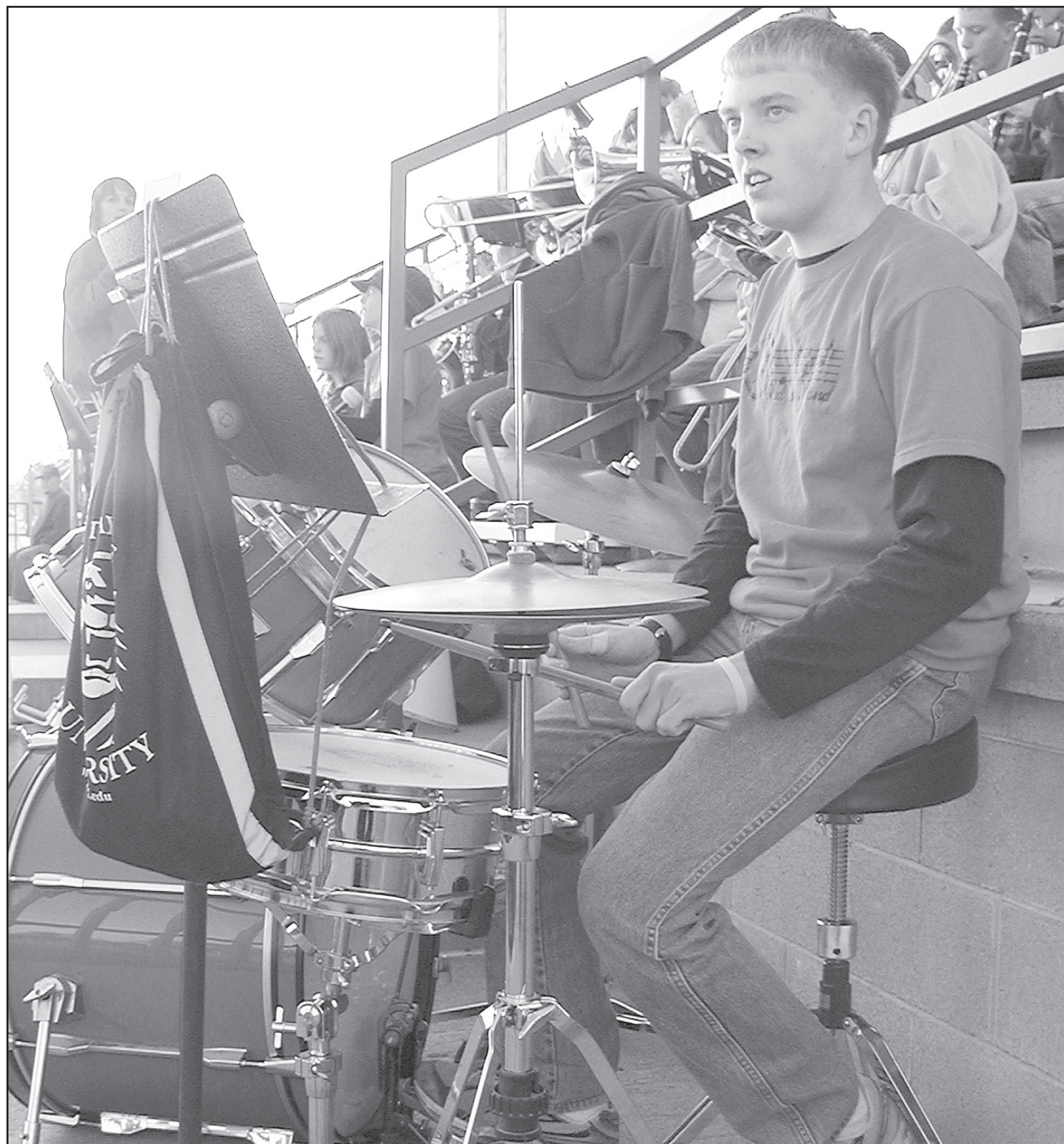
Parents to raise cash for paint

Parents plan to hold a tailgate supper before the Decatur Community High football game Friday night to raise money to buy the paint needed to put the Red Devil mascot on the field for the 2010 football season.

will be served in City Park next to the stadium from 5:30 to 7 p.m. before the Red Devils take on the Goodland Cowboys.

The meal will be served for a donation.

Keeping time



IN THE STADIUM on Friday night, Tim Larson played the drums in the pep band during the Decatur Community High Red Devils football game against Trego Community High from WaKeeney. — Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

Kids collecting box tops for grade school

Students at Oberlin Elementary School are collecting box tops again, this time for a two-week competition among classes.

Secretary Carla Depperschmidt

said the grade school actually collects the box tops off General Mills items throughout the year and then turns them in for 10 cents each. In the past, she said, that money has

been used for playground equipment, memory books and special activities.

Support our Schools sponsors a two-week competition among the

classes each year, with the winning group getting a surprise. The contest started Monday and goes to Friday, Oct. 16.

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