

# County defers radio decision

The Decatur County commissioners put off a decision about a new radio for the dispatch office at their meeting last Tuesday because one of the three members was gone.

Chief Dispatcher Marilyn Mack said \$33,429 of the cost would be covered by a grant, \$22,000 by money from the 911 fund and they would need \$15,215 from county general funds.

If the commissioners don't want to get a new radio before the end of December, said Mrs. Mack, they need to file for an extension on the grant.

The commissioners said they would wait to make a decision until Commissioner Gene Gallentine, who was not at the meeting on Tuesday, could be present. Commissioner Ralph Unger said they should have County Attorney Steve Hirsch

## County roundup

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Decided to wait for the third commissioner to be at the meeting before making a decision about a new radio for dispatch. Story at left.
- Signed a grant application for the Health Department to receive \$14,763 for response to the H1N1, or swine, flu. Story to come.

review all grants and contracts.

Mr. Hirsch wasn't present at the time, but when he came in later, he questioned whether the 911 fund could be used to buy a new radio.



**AFTER THEIR WEDDING** in Africa, Kerry and Spring (below) after he had just shot this zebra while on their African safari. Louderback (above) kissed. Spring smiled at her husband

# Couple marries in Africa

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**  
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An Oberlin couple traveled 20 hours, more or less, to exchange wedding vows and go on their first safari.

Kerry and Spring Louderback traveled to Klerksdorp, South Africa, in August to be married.

Mrs. Louderback said she'd never hunted before going to South Africa, but her husband was a hunting guide and outfitter in Imperial, Neb. While dating, the couple met the outfitters with Eland Safaris at a trade show in Pennsylvania.

The couple decided to travel to Klerksdorp to get married and go on a safari, a once-in-a-lifetime trip.

The flight, said Mrs. Louderback, was about 20 hours. On the first day, Aug., 23, they did a photo safari. That evening the couple got married.

The 16-year-old daughter of the couple who run Eland Safaris was her maid of honor, and their 9-year-old son was the ringbearer.

The couple married inside the main meeting room, which was also where they ate all their meals.

Mrs. Louderback said she had a traditional wedding dress, a Sottero and Midgley strapless, A-line silhouette dress in ivory with pewter accents and a corset closure. The empress taffeta gown featured a sweetheart neckline and an asymmetrically draped, fitted bodice accented with embellished lace motifs. The sparkling lace motifs ran down the front and back of the skirt.

Following the ceremony, she said was a huge wedding feast.



The next day the newlyweds started hunting. They spent five days in South Africa, four of them hunting.

In that time, she shot a black wildebeest and her husband shot a kudu, gembok, zebra and blesbok.

The couple doesn't yet have the animals they shot while on safari because the South African government has to release them. Mrs. Louderback said that could take up to two years, and then the animals will go to the taxidermist.

They would like to go back to South Africa sometime.

"Maybe for our five-year anniversary," said Mrs. Louderback.

It's a completely different world, she said, adding that you could go out in a day and see so many different animals.

While Mr. Louderback is an avid hunter, this was her first hunt. She said she does plan on taking the hunter's safety course here.

Spring is the daughter of Gary and Marsha Richards and Steve and

Marilyn Diederich and Kerry is the son of Dean and Ardith Louderback, all of Oberlin.

The newlyweds had a reception at The Gateway to celebrate their wedding on Sept. 26.

The Gateway was decorated with zebra print and hot pink. The cake table held a cupcake tree for the guests and a two-tier cake for the bride and groom. Serving cake was the sister of the bride, Brandi Diederich, also her sisters-in-law, Arlie Diederich, Jamie Richards and LaDawna Richards.

Flowers on the cake matched the bride's bouquet. Decorations, she said, were designed by her mother.

Thanks to their many friends and family who helped decorate, she said The Gateway was transformed into a magical place.

During the reception, a slideshow of Africa, put together by Fred Anderson, was shown.

The Louderbacks, both graduates of Decatur Community High School, live in Oberlin.

# Council looks at budget revisions

The Oberlin City Council talked briefly about revisions for the 2009 budget which need to be made before the end of the year.

Administrator Austin Gilley said the council has talked about revisions needed in the general, library, water, Gateway and community growth funds before, because the city spent more than was budgeted for 2009, although not more than the city had available.

A notice for the budget amend-

ment is printed on Page 5A of today's paper.

To revise the budget, said Mr. Gilley, the city needs to publish notice of a public meeting in *The Oberlin Herald* 10 days in advance.

Councilwoman Marcia Lohofener asked if the budget revisions have been voted on by the council. No, said Mr. Gilley, that will be done at the meeting after the public notice.

In other business, the council:

- Heard that someone talked to the mayor about the idea of the city having "site councils" like the school district. These might cover operations like the civic center, Sappa Park and the airport. Members, mostly people who aren't on the council, would look at The Gateway a couple times a year and come up with some ideas.
- Gave the city crew a round of applause for the job they did cleaning up after the snow storm last week.

# The Gateway could get a park, playground

The city administrator plans to talk about plans for establishing Bremer Park around The Gateway when the Oberlin City Council meets at 7 p.m. Thursday.

The council first heard about the park idea at a special meeting last Thursday. Administrator Austin Gilley said he now has more information about the park idea, including more on playground equipment.

Mr. Gilley said they have had

a few applicants for the city treasurer's job, so that, too, will be discussed.

He said he will go over the information on the budget revisions, although there won't be a vote, because the meeting won't be the required 10 days after publication in the newspaper.

The council will also have a policy proposal on annual leave for city personnel to consider.

Mr. Gilley said they could pos-

sibly talk about a blighted-property ordinance, but that might hold until the next meeting.

Depending on the results of the special election on the airport, he said, there could be information on that.

The other item on the agenda is Mr. Gilley's evaluation.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m., upstairs at The Gateway. It is open to the public.

# Jail prisoners get new home due to water leak

A water problem at Decatur County Courthouse left the jail without any prisoners.

Because a leaky or broken pipe hasn't yet been found, all water for the courthouse has been shut off.

County Clerk Colleen Geihlsler

said on Thursday that custodian Bob Berls could hear water running and started to check for a leak. She said he found water seeping through a basement wall under the stairs.

Although plumbers have found the pipe, said Ms. Geihlsler, they

haven't found the break yet.

With no water in the courthouse, the three inmates have been moved to the Norton County Jail, said Undersheriff Allen Marcum.



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