

# Prisoners' keep is more than county charges

After doing some figures on what it costs to keep a prisoner in the Decatur County Jail, the sheriff suggested last Tuesday that the county might want to increase what it charges the city for keeping its prisoners.

Sheriff Ken Badsky said with the commission always talking about ways of cutting expenses and saving money, he started to look at what it costs to run the jail.

Sheriff Badsky said the county has a contract with the city to keep the prisoners at \$10 a day.

After looking at the costs from 2009, he said, it actually cost the county \$19.25 a day per prisoner. That number, said Sheriff Badsky, will change every year depending on the number of prisoners and days and utility costs. He said he figured utilities at 40 percent of the bill.

The sheriff said he sent a bill to the city for the \$10 a day, which came to just over \$1,000, but the actual cost is just over \$2,000.

By state law, he said, the county can charge what it actually costs to keep a prisoner.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch, who is also the city attorney, asked if the sheriff had taken into account that the city taxpayers are already paying for the jail in county taxes.

Yes, said Sheriff Badsky, and the city is also getting fine money from its prisoners.

The \$10-a-day contract he said, has probably been in place for 10 years. This isn't something that needs to be done right away, Sheriff Badsky added. He said he was just working the numbers and he thought it could go out in the newspaper so the commissioners could get some feed back.

Sheriff Badsky said the county has a contract with Red Willow County, Neb., at \$25 a day for up to four prisoners.

The commissioners are working on the budget now, said Commissioner Ralph Unger, so this is good information to know.

Keep in mind, said Mr. Hirsch, that the city budget has been done already. The public hearing is set for Thursday.

Mr. Unger said it might be good to get rates from other are counties with jails.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Asked the sheriff if they are getting more reports of vandalism or theft out in the county. Mr. Unger said he is seeing more traffic, people he doesn't know. Sheriff Badsky said they aren't getting more reports, but he's not sure if people are telling him about everything that is going on.

- Approved buying a new computer for the sheriff's office at \$695 and a new digital camera at \$139.

# Planning meeting set for September

Members of the Oberlin Business Alliance agreed last week to start talking about events for the last few months of the year.

The group will hold a planning meeting at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 1, at the Business Entrepreneurial Enhancement Center on Main Street. Anyone interested in helping with the plans or the events is welcome.

Members talked about work on the canopies over the sidewalks on Main Street at the July meeting. Joe Stanley, owner of Stanley Hardware, said he has sent an e-mail to Brad Weisenberger of BWR Engineering, whose father worked on the original canopy project.

Mr. Stanley said he hasn't yet heard anything back.

Kurt Vollertsen, owner of Ward Drug Store, said contractor Wayne Goltl stopped to see him after the July meeting with some ideas on what needs to be done. Mr. Vol-

lertsen suggested inviting Mr. Goltl to the next meeting when the canopies are discussed.

The group talked about forming a committee for the project, but decided to wait until they get more information.

Connie Grafel, marketing director for the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp., said she thought the curb repair on the west side of Main Street looks great. The city is paying for those repairs.

In other business, the members:

- Talked about the Back-to-School Picnic scheduled for 6:30 p.m. tonight at City Park.
- Heard Mr. Vollertsen report lots of good comments on the planters downtown.
- Heard that the group will hold a tailgate dinner before the football game at the high school on Friday, Sept. 24.



**ON MAIN STREET** at Custom Trophy and Engraving, his wife Dana. The couple are the new owners of the Chris Koerperich worked on a trophy, while talking to business. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

# Couple purchases Custom Trophy shop

Chris and Dana Koerperich of Oberlin have purchased the Custom Trophy shop on Main Street in Oberlin.

The couple bought the shop in the middle of July, although he's been working there since the beginning of June. Mrs. Koerperich has worked at the store a few hours a week for the last eight years doing the books.

Mr. Koerperich said it was time for a change. He'd worked at his family's book bindery in Selden with his late father, his brother and

others for years.

While that business stayed in the family with his brother Dan and his wife Katie took over this year, Chris said, he decided to do something different.

Mr. Koerperich said for now, services will stay the same at Custom Trophy and Engraving. He added that he's still learning how to do everything at the shop.

The couple talked some about the gifts they offer, including shirts, sweatshirts and hats that can be embroidered and other gifts that

can be personalized.

He said they plan to keep the gift items, although they might put in some different ones also.

Right now, they offer trophies, awards, lots of plaques, embroidery, medals, ribbons, T-shirts, sweat shirts, letter jackets, pet tags and gifts.

With all the county fairs, he said, they have been really busy. Last week, things seemed to slow down some, said Mr. Koerperich, although a few fairs did call for some last-minute items.

The couple's children, Caleb, Luke and Melody, helped string ribbons for the fairs. Linda Peters also works at the shop.

The Koerperiches said they plan to have an open house, probably in September, although nothing has been set yet.

All of the businesses downtown, said Mr. Koerperich, have been supportive and encouraging since the couple took over.

# Business owner qualifies for horse show

An Oberlin business owner and cowboy has qualified for the world ranch horse show in Denver during the National Western Stock Show in January.

Mick Barth, who has been competing in versatility ranch horse competitions, has qualified to compete during the stock show. His wife Rhonda said Mr. Barth has been to nine shows and not placed under third this year.

Mr. Barth has been competing for versatility ranch horse over the last five years. According to the American Quarter Horse Association, this style of riding shows the "horse's ability to move at a working speed with a rider."

The competition, she said, has different categories that the rider and horse compete in, including cutting, trail, ranch riding, working cow horse and conformation. The classes approximate types of riding

a person would use on a working cattle ranch.

Mr. Barth has competed in Colorado Springs, Hugoton, Wellington, Castle Rock and Greeley, Colo., as well as Plainville and Cheney

in Kansas. He's earned two third places, three seconds and four firsts, his wife said.

Mr. Barth shows two horses. The couple also has a stud horse that's been winning confirmation classes

since he was 2 or 3.

The couple runs about 20 head of horses, she said.

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