

City changes bill due date ahead five days

Starting next month, Oberlin's city utility bills, mailed to customers at the beginning of each month, will be due the 15th instead of the 10th, giving customers a few extra days to pay.

At a City Council meeting last Thursday, interim City Administrator Karen Larson said there had been some questions about changing the due date. Some people don't receive payments until between the 8th and 13th of the month, she said, and the bills being due on the 10th were hard on them.

If people get the utility bills and don't have them turned in by the 15th, then the shut off notices will go out on the 16th. The utility customers will have seven days

to pay before their service will be shut off.

Councilwoman Rhonda May asked about the late-payment penalty. If someone makes a part payment, she asked, is the penalty paid on the entire bill or just what is still owed?

Any penalty, said Judy Wenger, who was filling in as city clerk, is on the unpaid amount.

If moving the due date from the 10th to the 15th of the month makes it easier for low-income people, Ms. May said, she's for it. She made a motion to approve the change, with Councilman Rob McFee giving the second. The council was unanimous in approval.

Airport committee plans meeting

The city's airport committee plans an informational meeting on plans for a longer runway, renovation of the existing runway and a weather system coming soon at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at the airport.

Councilman Bill Riedel said anyone interested in learning about plans for a new, longer runway and renovation of the old one is invited. The committee will talk about the layout for new hangars as well.

People should meet at the airport off of U.S. 83. The committee hopes to have the City Council and interested citizens come out and get a look at the airport plans.

Mr. Riedel said a new automated weather observation system should go up the first week in November and that the self-fueler system is working.

There are two planes stationed at the airport and possibly more coming.

Interim City Administrator Karen

Larson said the high school's Halloween annual cleanup has been postponed to Monday of next week to allow time for more leaves to fall. The city provides apples and hot dogs for the event. Mrs. Larson asked the council if the city wanted to do that again this year, and the members agreed.

In other business, the council:

- Held closed sessions for 20 minutes and 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel with Mayor Joe Stanley, the council, Police Chief Wade Lockhart, Mrs. Larson and Preston Pratt, filling in for the city attorney. There was no action taken.

- Heard Mayor Stanley had received an e-mail from the owner of a house at 110 S. York which is overgrown with trees. The council tabled any action on the house until the members can hear from the owner.

Health department will give flu shots

The Decatur County Health Department will offer flu shots at The Gateway next week.

Administrator Marilyn Gambelin said the staff will be at The Gateway from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, giving flu shots to anyone interested.

People don't need an appointment, but do need to bring their

insurance cards or money, she said. The shots cost \$25, and the department takes Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Medicaid or Medicare. They also accept cash or checks.

The vaccine this year should help protect against the regular seasonal flu and the H1N1 virus commonly known as "swine flu."

Church members plan fall bazaar Saturday

The United Church will open its doors from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday to anyone looking to buy crafts and baked goods at its annual fall bazaar.

The church is at 109 N. Griffith. There will be goodies for sale as well as raffle tickets. Tickets can

be bought one for \$1 or six for \$5. Winners will receive a handmade queen-size quilt for first, a twin-size comforter for second place and a wall cross for third.

There will be ham and beans starting at 11 a.m. for lunch and coffee and rolls in the morning.

Author to sign books

The author of a novel about a boy from southwest Nebraska plans to hold a book signing in McCook on Saturday.

Todd Burpo, who wrote "Heaven is for Real," will sign his work from

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the downtown New Life Christian Book Store.

The story tells an Imperial boy's story about his trip to Heaven and back.

In the kitchen



DURING the Oberlin Covenant Church's turkey dinner last Wednesday, Neil Marshall helped dry the dishes. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Man picks six right

Three people picked six right out of eight possible winners for this week's Pigskin Pick-em contest, leaving it up to the tie breaker game to determine first through third place.

First place this week went to Jim Hollowell, who was the closest to the tie breaker score between Goodland and Phillipsburg. In that game, Goodland beat Phillipsburg 48-28. Mr. Hollowell wins \$15 in scrip money.

Second place went to Tom Martin, who will receive \$10 in scrip. Kelly Brown took third to win \$5. He, too, guessed six right.

Four people picked five right, including Mason Ahlberg, Travis Raile, Ivis Hanson and Rusty Addleman of Oberlin.

Twelve people had four of the winners, including Zach May, Kenny Gee, Charley Keller, Charissa Huff, Shirley Simpson, John Sater, Amanda Adams, Kel Grafel, Wilbur Reichert, Gary Anderson, Norm Wendelin and Cheri Kastens.

Two people picked three winners, including Linda Hollowell and Jacob Gee. Justin Gee picked two.

Money won in the contest can be spent: Ward Drug Store, the LandMark Inn, Fredrickson Insurance Agency, Decatur Co-op and Ampride, Creative Collision, Farm Bureau Financial Services and *The Oberlin Herald*.

Scores of this week's games:

- University of Kansas over Texas A&M, 45 to 10.
- Baylor University over Kansas State University, 47 to 42.
- University of Nebraska over Oklahoma State University, 51 to 41.
- Norton over Thomas More Prep, 63 to 14.
- Ellis over Oberlin, 35 to 8.
- St. Francis over Wichita County, 56 to 23.
- Clay Center over Colby, 13 to 12.
- Rawlins County over Oakley, 21 to 20.

Cabins for rent at the lake

By JUDY SHERARD
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It's now possible to savor the outdoors at Prairie Dog State Park between Oberlin and Norton while enjoying many of the comforts of home.

Two new cabins were dedicated at the Park on Friday. A crowd, including members of the Norton Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors, was on hand to hear remarks about the program from Mike Hayden, secretary of the Kansas Department Wildlife and Parks.

The cabins named Prairie Dog and Eagle View, are Nos. 93 and 94 completed in a statewide program, he said, but the first in the area.

They are the product of a collaboration among his department, the Greenbush Southeast Kansas Educational Service Center, the Norton Correctional Facility and the Kansas Wildscape Foundation. The Parks Department provides the location and maintenance. Inmates from a correctional facility provide the labor while receiving job training through Greenbush, and Wildscape provides money.

Inmates receive a certified education and hands-on experience in construction, Mr. Hayden said. Certification from the National Center for Construction Education and Research helps them get a job later.

Each cabin costs about \$70,000 to build, Mr. Hayden said in an interview, including about \$38,000 for materials. Other expenses include supervision of inmates by the Corrections Department, landscaping and site work.

No tax dollars are used for the program, he said. The foundation borrows money from the Gardner National Bank with a revolving line of credit to buy materials and supplies. The loan is secured with

the existing cabins and repaid with rent money.

It usually takes three to five years to pay off a loan, Mr. Hayden added. The foundation accepts donations from those who would like to sponsor a cabin or help to offset general costs of the program.

Because Wildscape is a nonprofit foundation, the current economic problems haven't affected the program, Mr. Hayden said.

The cabins have modern conveniences, including running water and toilets, a microwave oven, and are handicap accessible. The Prairie Dog cabins are close to the boat ramp and the beach. Each one sleeps six in a double bed, a futon and a pull-down Murphy-style bed. Each has a full kitchen with dishes and utensils. Renters need bring only bedding, personal toiletries and towels. However, in true camping spirit, there is no television, Internet or telephone.

Check-in time is 2 p.m. and check out time is noon. Guests are asked to leave the cabins clean.

They rent for \$70 per night.

The program usually has 10 to 12 cabins in construction at a time, Mr. Hayden said, with about 10 completed each year. As many as four to six of them eventually could be built at the park here if demand warrants.

Cabins at all of the state parks can be reserved online. The two new ones at Prairie Dog Park are already reserved through November. There also are two more primitive cabins in the Park.

"There's a lot of folks like me who are getting older and want to come out and enjoy the area, but don't want rustic conditions," said Frank Meyer, a member of the state Wildlife and Parks Commission.

The new cabins can be used year around, extending the use of



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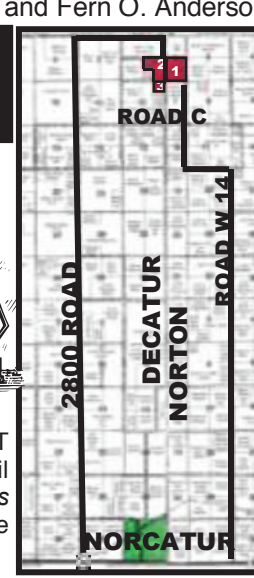
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