

# City will decide leases for land at next meeting

The Oberlin City Council decided to look at the various land leases the city has at a future meeting instead of during the special meeting last Thursday.

Three of the leases, said City Attorney Steve Hirsch, come due for renewal this year. He asked if the council wanted to advertise them for sealed bids.

The leases include farm land north of the creek, grass land south and west of the waste water treatment plant and farm land at the airport.

Do those leases normally roll over? asked Councilman Bill Riedel.

Greg Lohofener, who leases the ground at the airport, said his lease was for three years.

Mr. Hirsch said he thinks the city has solicited bids at least once. It's not a bad practice, he said; actually, it's what the city did with the land

on the former lake bottom. Maybe each one should be put up for bid, said Councilwoman Rhonda May.

With the lease to Mr. Lohofener, said Mayor Joe Stanley, he does part of the mowing. Mr. Lohofener said he thinks he mows around 78 acres.

Also, said City Administrator Karen Larson, Mr. Lohofener sprayed the ground, so if he loses the lease, someone will have to take over the spraying or the city will have to hire someone.

The council asked Mr. Hirsch to bring the leases to the meeting Thursday at The Gateway.

The council approved a request for permits to sell beer at the new bowling alley, Crossroads Express, Ampride, the Re-load and Raye's Grocery.

The council also approved paying bills for the end of the year.

# Council to get audit during next meeting

The Oberlin City Council will hold its first meeting of the new year at 7 p.m. Thursday at The Gateway.

Administrator Karen Larson said the council will receive the 2009 audit from Mapes and Miller and

will go through it. She said the council will also discuss four land leases. The council briefly talked about whether to ask for sealed bids on the leases during a special meeting last Thursday, but didn't make any decisions.

# Implement firm renamed Plains Equipment Group

Southwest Implement, the John Deere dealership which began with stores in McCook and Oberlin in 1981, will have a new name to start the new year.

To mark 30 years in business, the stores will be known as Plains Equipment Group in all locations, said the firm's management.

The company's west region added a North Platte location in 2008 and dealerships in Broken Bow, Ains-

worth, O'Neill and Ord, Neb., last year. The east region added stores at York, Osceola, Seward and David City, Neb., in 1997; Crete, Neb., in 1999; and Geneva, Neb., in 2003.

In 2008, the two regions joined to form the Plains Equipment Group.

For details contact the Oberlin store, talk to the sales staff, or go online to [www.plainsequipment-group.com](http://www.plainsequipment-group.com) Lonnie Brewer is parts manager of the Oberlin branch.



# Adults gather for cards

AT THE GOLDEN AGE Center on Monday, Kelda Dryden (above) added up her score during a game of cards while Ivis Hanson (right) waited for his turn to play. Several senior citizens meet at the center on weekday afternoons to play bridge, pinochle and pitch.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



# Man implicated in poaching

A Long Island man received a summons to the Decatur County District Court just before Christmas in a recent poaching incident in the county.

Jake Swisher faces two charges, one count of possessing the carcass of an "antlered mule deer having an inside spread measurement of at least 22 inches" taken in Kansas.

The second charge is for taking an "antlered mule deer having an inside spread measurement of at least 22 inches" in Kansas without a valid big-game permit.

Both charges are class C non-person misdemeanors.

Mr. Swisher, of Long Island, Kan., is scheduled to answer to the charges at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 8.

The deer allegedly was taken on or about Wednesday, Dec. 8.

Five Wisconsin men who were arrested in the alleged poaching case also have a first appearance scheduled for the same time and day in Decatur County District Court.

The men were arrested in the Lyle area, in the northeast corner of

the county near the Nebraska line. Jail records identified them as John Jacobs III, 53; Joseph R. Jacobs, 28; John Jacobs IV, 30; Mark G. Jacobs, 45; and Paul J. Jacobs, 26. The family is from De Pere, Wis.

Each was arrested on charges of illegally killing a trophy-size mule deer and were later charged with a felony count of commercialization of wildlife, which is spelled out in the Kansas statute as knowingly or willingly capturing or killing wildlife for commercial purposes. That includes deer.

# Murder victims' relatives live close

By HARRIETT GILL  
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A double homicide in California has reached into the Norton area, where a niece of the victims settled.

On Christmas night, San Luis Obispo County sheriff's deputies were summoned to the Santa Margarita Ranch, where two sisters had been shot to death.

Beverly Reilly, 64, and her sister, Kathy Yeager, 61, were the victims of what authorities are describing as a random act by a young man who was not taking prescribed medicines.

Dennis Reilly, 70, Beverly's husband, was the only survivor. According to the *San Luis Obispo Tribune*, a family member, John Evans, retold this account he had received from Mr. Reilly:

Mr. Reilly and his sister-in-law, Mrs. Yeager, had returned to the ranch house, which the trio was

house sitting for the Reillys' daughter and her husband over the Christmas holiday. They had been feeding animals, but Dennis's wife, Beverly, did not go with them.

When they entered the home, Dennis did not see his wife and assumed she was napping. Mrs. Yeager went into the bedroom to check on her. He heard a gunshot and saw his sister-in-law fall to the floor.

A young man emerged from the bedroom holding a gun. He charged screaming at Reilly.

Mr. Reilly ran from the house and hid in a ditch, emerging when he went to flag down a passing car. He told the occupants of the shootings. They took his wallet to verify his identity and said they would go to town and call police.

Dennis said he hid until officers arrived. The sheriff's office report confirmed that account and added details.

Andrew Wesley Down, a 20-year-

old man from nearby Atascadero, has been arrested in connection with the killings. Police described Down as a schizophrenic who had stopped taking his medications and allegedly took his father's rifle prior to the shootings.

He is also charged with deadly assault on Glen Johnson, an Atascadero man. Police reported that Down broke in and attacked Johnson with a wrench the day after the killings. Johnson was able to restrain him until police arrived.

Mindy (Yeager) Braun, a niece of Mrs. Yeager and Mrs. Reilly, and her husband Lance, live in Norton.

Memorial services for the women were held New Year's Day at the ranch.

A memorial fund has been established in Norton; contributions may be sent in care of the First State Bank of Norton.

# Chamber to hold annual banquet

The Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce plans to hold its annual banquet at the beginning of the new year.

The dinner is set for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13, at the Golden Age Center in downtown Oberlin.

The dinner, said Manager Carolyn Hackney, will be served for \$15 per person. The event will again be catered by Richard and Carolyn Kimble.


During the banquet, Chamber members will elect new board members. Those whose terms are up include Robert Groneweg, Deanna Castle, Cricket Ketterl and Chris Randel, who resigned.

Those who have expressed interest in serving includes Kem Bryan, who has served on the board before; Judy Scott, who works at the hospital; Carol Stamm, who works at Home Fires Quilting and

Needle Crafts; Patti Skubal, of Cedar Bluffs, who owns a vintage clothing business; Janice Guthrie of Oberlin; and Amanda Grafel, who works at the Dresser.

Board members who will continue to serve include Ken Shobe, Martin Burton, Mr. Kimble, Ken Morris and Shelby Hackney.

Reservations are due today and can be made by calling the chamber at 475-3441.



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