

Officials talk with director

The Decatur County commissioners talked on the phone with the summer recreation director about serving again this year during their meeting last Tuesday.

Clerk Colleen Geihlsler said Joe Dreher, wrestling coach and activities director at Decatur Community High, had called and is interested in the job.

She said Mr. Dreher had received a grant for \$500 from Midwest Energy to put toward buying a four wheeler or something to help drag the ball fields. No one else has responded to the ad in the newspaper about the recreation job, she said.

The commissioners agreed that while Mr. Dreher has served as the director for the past several years, he still needs to fill out a job application.

Before anyone is hired, said Commissioner Ralph Unger, complaints from parents who don't want to travel for the summer ball program need to be relayed to Mr. Dreher.

Over the phone, Commissioner Gene Gallentine asked if Mr. Dreher is interested in the job. He said he is.

Several parents, said Mr. Gallentine, complained about having younger children traveling to other towns for games.

Last year, said Mr. Dreher, there were only two teams in the league

Sign-up starts for baseball

Baseball sign up forms are available for those who want to play in Decatur County summer recreation leagues this summer.

The forms can be picked up at the county clerk's office or at the school office at either Decatur Community High or Oberlin Elementary School.

Anyone who wants to form a co-ed softball team should pay the \$150 fee at the county clerk's office by Friday, May 20, so that a summer schedule can be assembled, said Decatur Community High School Activities Director Joe Dreher.

for fourth through sixth graders. He said he talked with the parents, and they said they didn't want the same kids playing each other over and over. The teams traveled to Quinter, Hoxie and Oakley.

Mr. Dreher said he put on the (See DIRECTOR on Page 5A)

Patrons can purchase fuel from co-op here

While Decatur Co-op's Ampride convenience store at U.S. 83 and U.S. 36 has sold, people who want to keep buying fuel from the company can do so at the "cardrol" station south of town on U.S. 83.

A Colorado company announced last week it has purchased Ampride from the co-op, which had run the store for nearly 30 years.

Kurt Anderson, general manager of Decatur Co-op, said the station will close on Sunday, May 15, for inventory and the change of ownership. When it re-opens on Monday, May 16, as Eagle Stop, people who have a co-op gas card will no longer be able to use it at the station.

People who still want to use those gas cards can buy fuel at the fueling station south of town. Mr. Anderson said they offer premium clear road diesel, premium red farm diesel and

unleaded gasoline at the site.

There won't be a change in the bills those with co-op gas cards receive, he said.

Mr. Anderson said the co-op held its annual meeting on Thursday, April 21, at The Gateway with around 175 members and employees present.

He said the cooperative must by law hold its annual meeting within six months of the end of the year, which runs January to January, to release the company's finances.

The co-op, said Mr. Anderson, netted a total income of \$588,228, which was a little less than the prior year.

An independent accounting firm went through the co-op's numbers for the annual audit, said Mr. Anderson, adding that everything (See LOCAL on Page 5A)

Deep cuts proposed for school money

By KEVIN BOTTRELL
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As Kansas legislators resume haggling over the state budget, three lawmakers are proposing even deeper cuts to public education.

The House and Senate have been in negotiations for a week, trying to reconcile their opposing bills into a cohesive budget to send to the governor. However, on Friday, Reps. Owen Donohoe of Shawnee, Anthony Brown of Eudora and Kasha Kelley of Arkansas City offered an amendment cutting an additional \$160 from base state aid to public schools.

The amendment, which has yet to be voted on, would cut \$138 million more, partly by dropping base state aid to \$3,602 per student. The Kansas-National Education Association said base aid hasn't been that low since 1992.

Base state aid is at \$4,012 for this school year after cuts by the Legis-

lature and then Gov. Mark Parkinson last year, and was expected to be cut again to \$3,762. It peaked at \$4,433. State aid is also used to calculate other money sent to schools by the state.

The three legislators, who sit on the House Appropriations Committee, made the proposal to increase the state's budget surplus at the end of the year to about \$203 million. The proposal would also take money from the state prison system and disability services.

The House's current budget plan would leave a surplus of \$65.6 million. The Senate plan would balance the budget, leaving no surplus.

The committee was set to vote on the measure Monday, but the Associated Press is reporting that many morning meetings were postponed so that legislators could attend the funeral of Rep. Rocky Fund of Hoyt, who died last week.



AT THE GRADE SCHOOL on Friday, Matt Barnes, district conservationist with the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service, (above) held up a small blue spruce

tree as he explained to the fourth-grade class how to plant it. Cory Wurm and Alex Hayward (below) checked out one of the tree. — Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Service gives trees

Each Blue Spruce was shipped and handed out in its own plastic bag.

The trees, about a foot tall, with a small root system and a little bit of green, were shipped in clear plastic bags.

On Friday, Arbor Day, Diana Solko, Amanda Sowers and Torrey Morford, with the Decatur County Conservation District, and Matt Barnes, district conservationist with the U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service, handed the trees out to the fourth grade class at Oberlin Elementary School.

Mrs. Solko said 35 Blue Spruce trees were given away, one to each student and teacher.

This is the first year the district has given trees on Arbor Day, Mrs. Solko said, but it's something they hope to continue. It's important for kids to learn about trees and the environment and how they can help, she said.

The district bought the trees though the Fourth Grade Forestry of Kansas Program.

Besides the tree, said Mrs. Solko, each student received a wooden pencil and a certificate declaring them a "forever" Fourth Grade Forester of Kansas.



New council members and mayor to take oath

The recently-elected Oberlin City councilmen and mayor will take the oath of office Thursday night during the council first regularly scheduled meeting of the month.

Prior to the meeting, which starts at 7 p.m., the city will hold a reception in the upstairs foyer of The Gateway for the outgoing mayor and council members, as well as the new mayor and council. The reception starts at 6 p.m.

The new council members are

Rusty Addleman and Jim Miesner. They will take the spots left by Rhonda May and Ray Ward. Bill Riedel was elected to the mayor's post, replacing Joe Stanley.

City Clerk Sandy Rush said at the second regularly scheduled council meeting on May 19, two more members could be appointed to fill the seats left by Mr. Riedel and by the death of Richard Kimble.

Ms. Rush said code enforcement officer Jan Ackerman will be at the

meeting this week to talk about condemned houses and what's going on with a program to find new owners for the properties.

Whether a seven-foot long boa constrictor should be allowed to be kept as a pet inside city limits will also be on the agenda. At the meeting on Thursday, April 7, the owner was told that she had 30 days to find a new home for her pet snake, Goliath, but that she could appeal to the new council if she wanted.

The appeal period will be up Saturday.

While the engineers for the city's airport project were supposed to be at the meeting, said Ms. Rush, they aren't able to make it until Thursday, May 19.

Council meetings are open to the public.

*Director says ball teams will stay here

(Continued from Page 1A) forms this year that the kids won't have to travel if there are enough teams here. The youngest groups, T-ball and the first through the third graders, don't travel, he said. He added that he's not sure what to do to make it better. Commissioner Ralph Unger said some parents told him they would rather not have their kids play if they have to travel. Another idea, he said, is that the kids who want to play could just show up on a certain night and names can be drawn out of a hat and they play. There have been a lot of complaints, he said. With the gas prices increasing, he added, there may be more and more opposition to traveling this year. How long is the ball season going to last? asked Commissioner Stan

McEvoy. People have complained about it being shorter and shorter every year. It depends on how many teams sign up, Mr. Dreher replied. Mr. Unger said he would like them to try to have the season without traveling. Kimberly Davis, managing editor of The Oberlin Herald, asked if coaches can pick the same teams year after year, with the same kids playing. Mr. Dreher said the coaches can pick their kids, but the same ones don't play on the same team each year. Mr. Dreher said he got the money from Midwest, a rural power cooperative which supplies natural gas in Oberlin, and is looking for a four wheeler or riding mower to drag the fields.

*Decatur Co-op makes money during last year

(Continued from Page 1A) looked good. The co-op took in 11 million bushels of grain at the elevators in Oberlin, Kanona, Jennings, Danbury, Herndon, Norcat, Lenora, Edmond and Ludell. The company was able to announce four \$1,000 scholarship winners, all children of co-op members: Sara Kyte and Jacob Larue, Oberlin, and Audrey Basgall and

Jessica Riener, Herndon. Mr. Anderson said the company recognized Hope Brown, Kerry Green and Rusty Bird of the Jennings office for 10 years of service, as well as Roy Jordan of the Danbury office. Lawrence Carter was recognized for 15 years. Larry Roe, Oberlin, was elected as a new member to the co-op's board.

Area Concert Band plans spring show

The Oberlin Area Concert Band will start its spring concert at 7:30 p.m. Sunday in the high school auditorium. The concert is free, but the band will take donations. Director Neal Russell said any money raised will go to buy music. Band members include Christie Morris, Rhonda May, Charissa Huff and Linda Willey on flute, Darbi Rouse on oboe, Pam May, Cheryl Metcalf and Linda Garrison on clarinet, Tim Larson on bass clarinet, Joan Glading and Lori Hilker on alto saxophone, Robyn Rouse on bassoon, Lonnie Weyeneth, Joanne Wendelin and Chris

Nelson on trumpet, Kathy Almquist on french horn, Jim Garrison and Ken Morris on trombone, Mary Jo Lohofener and Katie Glading on baritone, Robert Rouse on tuba and Mike Ford, Gary Anderson, Joy Russell, Darrin Glading and Steven LaBash on percussion. The band will play several pieces, including the "Lexington March," "Ballet Parisien," "Southern Hymn," "Rollin' in My Sweet Baby's Arm," "Lake Geneva Celebration," "Torrents of Fire," "Flight of Fancy," "Thunder and Lightning," "Tango Americano," "My Heart Will Go On" and "Hadrian's Wall."

Hospital sponsors drive to collect blood here

The Decatur County Hospital will have a blood drive next week during Hospital Week, from noon to 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 12. Chief Nursing Officer Suzanne Ahlberg said the drive will be held at The Gateway with the theme "Country in My Blood." The Red Cross drawing will be for someone to win tickets to the Country Stampede on June 26. The hospital will make sandwiches for the event, with volunteers from the high school and

community. While walk-ins are welcome, priority will be given to people with an appointment. To make an appointment, call (800) 733-2767. Anyone 16 and older can donate, the Red Cross says. Those who are 16 must have a parent's signature. Mrs. Ahlberg said people who plan to donate should drink a lot of juice and water for two to three days prior. Donors must have their ID with them, she said.

Antique tractor show scheduled for Selden

The 17th annual Selden Antique Tractor and Classic Car Show is just a month away. The all day event starts at 10 a.m. Sunday, June 5, in downtown Selden. First up is a horseshoe-pitching competition, followed by an antique baler demonstration. Other events throughout the day include a kiddie tractor pull, barrel-roll competition, washer drop, children's raffle, coin tank and the

big parade. The parade starts at 3:30 p.m., with awards given to the top five tractors and cars and top two small engines. There will also be live entertainment after lunch, barrel train rides and food sold all day. There's no fee to enter an exhibit or to get into the show. The event is sponsored by the Selden Community Foundation.

Performing his speech



AT THE PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANTS' day lunch last Wednesday, Baron Green of the Decatur Community High forensics team, presented his reading for an upcoming speech contest. The annual luncheon, sponsored by the

Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce, brought about 50 people to the American Legion. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Deadlines near for farming programs

Deadlines for several Farm Service Agency program are approaching says Diane Barrett, Decatur County executive director of the federal agency. The last day to request a marketing assistance loan or loan deficiency payment for 2010-crop feed grains, soybeans and minor oilseeds is Tuesday, May 31. That also is the final day to report 2011 small-grain

acres. The final date to enroll in the 2011 Average Crop Revenue Election Program and the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program is the next day, Wednesday, June 1. Farmers who incurred losses to their 2009 crops have until Friday, July 29, to apply for the 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program.

Stockmen with excess death loss caused by weather must file a Notice of Loss within 30 days. Proper documentation must be provided. Due to the dry conditions, the Livestock Forage Program may be implemented in counties affected by drought during the normal grazing period, which begins May 1. Other programs include the Direct and Guaranteed Farm Operat-

ing and Ownership Loans, Rural Youth Loans, Farm Storage Facility Loans, the Milk Income Loss Contract Program and the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program. For details, contact the county office at 410 S. Buffalo, call 475-3131 or go to www.fsa.usda.gov.

Vacation Bible School scheduled for summer

With summer schedules quickly filling up, keep in mind Vacation Bible School the first week in June, sponsored by the Oberlin United Church, 109 N. Griffith. Jan Matheny, who is volunteering to head up the week-long program, said it starts on Tuesday, June 7 and runs through Friday, June 10. Vacation Bible Schools is sponsored by the Decatur County Ministerial Association. Theme this year is Panda Mania, with different lessons each day, said Ms. Matheny. The lessons include "God Made You," "God Listens to You," "God Watches Over You"

and "God Loves You No Matter What." Vacation Bible School is open to kids from kindergarten through fifth grade. It costs \$1 for each child to attend. Ms. Matheny said registration forms will be available at the Oberlin Library, Raye's Grocery and the five area churches. Each day, the students will receive a snack. The kids will do a daily noisy coin for the House of Hope in Haiti bringing pennies on Tuesday, nickels on Wednesday, dimes on Thursday and quarters on Friday.

Ms. Matheny added that she thinks this year's Vacation Bible

School is going to be a lot of fun.

4-H Camp planned for three days in June

The Great Northwest 4-H Camp will be held at the Rock Springs 4-H Center near Junction City next month. The camp will be held from Sunday, June 26, to Wednesday, June 29, at the center, nestled in the scenic Flint Hills. While it's a 4-H camp, those attending don't have to be members, said Kerrie Bryan at the Decatur County Extension office. The camp is for kids age 7 to 12 from Decatur, Smith, Phillips, Rooks, Graham, Norton, Wallace, Sheridan, Sherman, Rawlins, Gove, Trego, Thomas, Logan and Chey-

enne counties. Activities and workshops will include canoeing, riding horses, swimming, archery, crafts, fishing, water games, volleyball, rocketry and more. The last day to register is Thursday, May 26. The cost is \$180, with \$50 of the fee non-refundable. The county 4-H Council will pay for half of the fee for active club members. To register, stop by the Extension office on the first floor of the Decatur County Courthouse, 475-8121.

| FINANCIAL STATEMENT | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|----------|--------------|------------------------|
| of Dresden City - DECATUR County, Kansas for the year ending December 31, 2010, for the Preparation of the 2012 Budget | | | | |
| DRESDEN CITY | | | | |
| | Cash Balance Jan. 1st | Receipts | Expenditures | Cash Balance Dec. 31st |
| GENERAL | 2,904 | 7,363 | 7,241 | 3,026 |
| SPECIAL HIGHWAY | 6,845 | 1,155 | 350 | 7,650 |
| SOLID WASTE | - | 2,772 | 2,772 | - |
| Outstanding Indebtedness as of December 31, 2010; \$ _____ | | | | |
| Certified by: Lillian Sutzman City Clerk/Treasurer | | | | |
| *The above named City Officer does certify that the foregoing is a summary of moneys received by the City and expended together with the indebtedness of said City for the year ending December 31, 2010. The above City had -0- Outstanding Indebtedness as of December 31, 2010. Detailed Statement of Receipts, Expenditures and Liabilities are available at the Office of the Decatur County Clerk. Form required by KSA 80-410 Done so by - Colleen Geihlsler, Decatur County Clerk | | | | |

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| Grain Carts '10 J&M 1326-22D Grain Cart '09 J&M 875-18 Grain Cart SF 8750 | Planters, Etc. C-IH 5400 20' No-Till '10 C-IH 2800-16 Coult. Ap. JD-1710 VF12R30 |
| Haying Equipment 2- '08 C-IH RB564 Balers '07 NH 1475 Mower-Cond., 14' | Miscellaneous 'Blu Jet 9400 GT 40' Applicator '95 C-IH 7220 7,400 hrs. |

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The Decatur County Landfill

Will offer one free dump per family during regular hours from May 2 through May 7. Weekdays are open from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. and Saturday, May 7, from 8 a.m. - Noon. The free dump can be used for business or residence, but not both.

Limited to five (5) passenger tires

Refrigerated appliances must have certificate of evacuation or will be charged a \$10 fee.

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