

# \*Postal Service to increase stamp prices

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Mr. Sperry said the overall average price increase across all mailing services is capped by law at 2.1 percent, based on the rate of inflation shown by the Consumer Price Index.  
The price increase is one way for the service to deal with its financial crisis, he said, and hopefully bring the agency back to its feet.  
He said the service adjusts prices annually, just like other shipping companies, but doesn't add sur-

charges for fuel or residential or Saturday delivery.  
A timeline of letter prices issued by the service shows the price of a stamp was 2 cents in 1885. It took 32 years to require a 1 cent increase in 1917. The price went to 4 cents in 1958 and 5 cents in 1963.  
Since 2006, the service has had a price increase every year except 2010. The last stamp increase was in May 2009, from 42 cents to 44 cents.

# \*Food pantry needs donations

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said two years ago, the number of people using the service jumped from around 300 to more than 500. Since then, the pantry has remained steady, with 507 last year and 479 this year. Some users are counted more than once, she added, because people may draw food and other items up to three times a year.  
This year, she said, the pantry helped 99 families, with 163 adults and 73 children, plus many singles. Those numbers have been about the same the past couple of years, Miss Anderson said.  
She also said the pantry has fallen short on cleaning supplies and personal hygiene items the past six months. She said if people struggle to have enough food, they are also going to struggle with these things, but they need them to stay clean for their jobs and job interviews.  
Miss Anderson said representatives of the Kansas Food Bank out of Wichita seemed impressed when they came here for a tour. She said they commented on how our community comes together to help those in need.  
The team told Miss Anderson that many food banks across the state are struggling, but the pantry here is doing well. The representatives couldn't believe how successful the pantry has been, she said.  
The Wichita-based agency sends a truck once a month with food and other items. There are no requirements for people to get these, she said. Anyone who is struggling with their budget or needs extra help is welcome to them.

## Goal met in food drive

Another successful year for the food drive at Stanley Hardware.  
As of last week, the drive was 262 short of its goal of 2,000 items set by owner Joe Stanley. This drive started Nov. 25, giving people about five weeks to make donations.  
Mr. Stanley said he started to worry Thursday when the drive was still 209 items short. It would have been the first time in 12 years the store didn't make the goal, he said.  
In the final days of the drive, however, customers pushed to total up to 2,040 items. Mr. Stanley said these donations all came from individuals.  
He also said they plan to take the food and other items to the Decatur County Food Pantry in the basement of the United Church today after school gets out. Members of the junior high student council will help load and unload the food.

The pantry, in the basement of the church, is open for distribution from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.  
Donations can be dropped off from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the church, 109 N. Griffith Ave.

# \*Fire will hurt city's bottom line

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bought this one in 1984, he said, so there will be some depreciation deducted from its value.  
Prairie Land Electric Power Co., the Norton-based cooperative that serves the area around Oberlin, is taking care of the city's electricity needs for now, Mrs. Larson said. The co-op's lines connect to the city's, she said.  
"I feel we have a really good friendship with Prairie Land," she said. "They stepped in and helped us out."  
However, she noted, it's more expensive to get electricity this way and with the repairs, the city's electric reserve fund could be about tapped out by next year.  
"This sort of took the wind out of our sails for any extras," she told the council.  
The electric reserve is where the city gets money to pay for many things, from street repairs to supporting the operation of The Gateway civic center and the Economic Development Corp.  
The only other items of business at the special meeting was to pay end-of-the-year bills and to note that the city has finished the year within its budget.  
All five council members were

present, along with City Attorney Steve Hirsch.



OFFICER SCOTT ZEIGLER stood near the back of the high school with activities director Joe Dreher and custodian Kenny Black after the students and staff had been evacuated in May because of a bomb threat. — Herald file photo

# \*Paper covers lots of news

(Continued from Page 1A)  
cember 2010 for poaching deer in the county pleaded guilty to reduce charges. John Jacobs III, 53; John Jacobs IV, 30; and Joseph Jacobs, 23, of De Pere, Wis., pled guilty to one count of commercialization of wildlife, a class A misdemeanor, and one of unlawful possession of wildlife, a class C misdemeanor.  
The Wisconsin men each had to pay \$1,000 restitution to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and \$5,000 in fines and court costs.  
• Crossroads Express convenience store celebrated its 10th Anniversary.  
**In June:**  
• Around 140 people gathered at The Gateway to discuss health care issues in the county during a Decatur Tomorrow "community conversation."  
**In July:**  
• The city started to look into a digital directory for the cemetery. The city continues to take donations for the directory.  
• Band teacher Sarah Bricker was named the state's 2011 Outstanding Young Bandmaster by Phi Beta Mu, a band sorority, and the Kansas Bandmasters' Association.  
• Sean Conroy, a physician assistant, was hired to work at the Decatur County Hospital and its Family Practice Clinic.  
• Oberlin lawyer Preston Pratt took the oath of office as judge of the 17th Judicial District, serving Decatur, Norton, Graham, Phillips, Smith and Osborne counties.  
• The county was hit by 88 mph winds and rain just before the Fourth of July.  
**In August:**  
• Center rumble strips were added to U.S. 83 south of Oberlin by the Kansas Department of Transportation as part of a repaving project.  
• Both the county and school district worked on their budgets for the year. The county cuts its proposed tax increase in half before publishing a budget. The school district approved a 3.637-mill increase in the property tax levy, but the rate was still under where it was two years previous.  
**In September:**  
• The outbound mail cutoff was moved up to 1:50 p.m. from 4:15 p.m. as part of a Postal Service reor-

ganization. Mail sorting was moved from Colby to Salina to save about \$140,000 a year.  
• The City of Oberlin resumed the search for water outside of the town, hoping to avoid the need to build a \$4 million water treatment plant which could cost up to \$200,000 a year to run.  
• Dr. Steven E. Albert was hired to work at the Decatur County Hospital and Family Practice Clinic. Dr. Albert had worked in the emergency room at the hospital for two years in 1993 to 1994.  
**In October:**  
• A crowd turned out in Norcatur to fight against closing the town's post office.  
• Airman Corey Ryan Cook was shot to death at a home northwest of Jennings. He had just graduated from security technical training in Texas and was home on leave.  
• Dylan Coryell, 24, was booked on charges of first-degree murder, felony murder and aggravated battery for allegedly shooting Airman Cook and a companion.  
• The Oberlin School District was down 13 students from the previous year in the official numbers after the state count day.  
**In November:**  
• The Decatur County Feed Yard celebrated 40 years of service. The operation got its start with the help of area investors and bankers.  
• The Oberlin City Council talked about the nuisance ordinance, with the idea to make complaints on run-down properties more specific.  
• Dale's Fish 'N' Fun celebrated 50 years of service. The business started in a couple's garage in 1961.  
• Decatur County Health Systems reopened satellite clinics in both Norcatur and Jennings.  
**In December:**  
• The preliminary hearing in a murder case against Mr. Coryell was postponed.  
• Voters said no to a 1-mill property tax to help pay for a director for a recreation commission, with 439 people saying yes and 471 no.  
• A raccoon got onto the city's main electric transformer, causing a fire which damaged the main substation. That left the city without power for a few minutes to several hours. Damage was estimated at well over half a million dollars.

# Bus to go to towns in county

The Decatur County commissioners talked with representatives of Decatur Tomorrow about a plan to use the county bus to pick people up in Norcatur and Jennings so they could come to Oberlin to shop.  
Connie Grafel, marketing director for the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp.; Norma McCallister of Norcatur; Pat Hall of Jennings; and Mike Gawith of Oberlin talked with the commissioners about the idea at a meeting Tuesday, Dec. 20.  
Ms. Grafel said Decatur Tomorrow had worked on ideas for grocery stores in both Norcatur and Jennings, where old stores went out of business several years ago. Both communities, said Mr. Gawith, would like to have a store. Everyone realizes that starting new stores in the towns might be difficult, they said.  
One idea, said Mr. Gawith, is that when people from Norcatur and Jennings come for follow-up appointments at the Family Practice Clinic on the county transportation bus, others could come to Oberlin to shop. It sounds like there would be a two-hour window for people to be in Oberlin, he said, which might be too long for just grocery shopping, but they could maybe go downtown for other items or have coffee.  
The commissioners had previously given the OK for the county bus to go to both towns to get people for follow-up appointments after seeing a doctor or practitioner at the satellite clinics in both towns.  
Mrs. Hall said she didn't think the people in Jennings realized that the bus was available.  
If several people want to shop on the same day, said County Clerk Colleen Geihlsler, they could take the big bus. The clerk's office would need to know how many people were planning to ride a day ahead, she said, so the correct vehicle could be sent.  
Commissioner Ralph Unger asked if the follow-ups are on different days for the two towns, adding that he thinks this is a good idea.  
Mr. Gawith said he would talk with owner Kirk Brown at Raye's about the idea.

## The Stamps

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## Cover Your Acres January 17 and 18, 2012 Winter Conference The Gateway in Oberlin, KS

Presented by Kansas State University and Northwest Kansas Crop Residue Alliance

Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4
7:45 8:15 Registration			
8:15 8:20 Welcome			
8:30 9:20 Kochia History, Biology & Implications (P. Stahlman) <sup>12</sup>	Utility of Cover Crops (J. Holman) <sup>1</sup>	Enhanced Fertilizer Products (K. Martin) <sup>1</sup>	Chloride: Wheat & Row Crops - Evans Enterprises (I)
9:30 10:20 Kochia Recs for Row Crops (C. Thompson) <sup>12</sup>	Crop Rotations with Limited Irrigation (A. Schlegel) <sup>1</sup>	Vertical Tillage & Corn Production (D. Presley) <sup>1</sup>	Add Profit w/ SoilBuilder Cover Crops - Arrow Seed (I)
10:20 10:50 View Exhibits			
10:50 11:40 Kochia Rec for Wheat & Fallow (P. Stahlman) <sup>12</sup>	Sprayer Set-up (B. Klein) <sup>12</sup>	Palmer and Marestail Control (D. Peterson) <sup>12</sup>	Ag Estate Planning - KS Community Foundations (I)
11:50 12:40 Kochia: Growth Regulator Resistance (P. Westra) <sup>12</sup>	Utilizing Yield Monitor Data (L. Haag) <sup>1</sup>	Lunch	
12:50 1:40 Trends in Crop Leases (T. Dumler) <sup>1</sup>	Enhanced Fertilizer Products (K. Martin) <sup>1</sup>		
1:50 2:40 Palmer and Marestail Control (D. Peterson) <sup>12</sup>	Kochia History, Biology & Implications (P. Stahlman) <sup>12</sup>	Sprayer Set-up (B. Klein) <sup>12</sup>	Monsanto Product Update Monsanto (I)
2:50 3:40 Farmer Panel: Attacking Weeds	Kochia Recs for Row Crops (C. Thompson) <sup>12</sup>	Ag Estate Planning - KS Community Foundations (I)	Strip-till: Seedbed Prep & Fertilizer - Brothers Equip (I)
3:50 4:40 Vertical Tillage & Corn Production (D. Presley) <sup>1</sup>	Kochia Recs for Wheat & Fallow (P. Stahlman) <sup>12</sup>	Solutions for Managing Weed Resistance - BASF (I)	Maximizing Your Yield w/ Solutions - Cargill (I)
4:50 5:20 View Exhibits			
5:20 6:10 Utilizing Yield Monitor Data (L. Haag) <sup>1</sup>	Trends in Crop Leases (T. Dumler) <sup>1</sup>	Max Yields w/ KQ-XRN and KS Fert - Kugler Co (I)	Strategies for Weed Control - Sims Fertilizer (I)

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### Like to Attend?

#### Early-Bird Registrations

Due January 10.

Circle when you would like to attend.

Tuesday, Jan 17 Cost \$30.00  
Wednesday, Jan 18 Cost \$25.00

Both days - Jan 17 & 18  
Cost \$45.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include information for all attending.

#### After January 10

\$50.00 per day

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