

County pays to recycle

The Decatur County commissioners agreed to pay \$2 for each person in the county to continue using the regional recycling program based in Colby.

The \$2 for the 2,961 residents, according to the 2010 census, comes to \$5,922, but that's just the bill the county got in January. It will cost the county another \$1 per resident in July and again in October, for a total of \$11,844, commissioners said.

Commissioner Gene Gallentine said at the meeting Jan. 10 that information from the regional groups says the program will take electronic waste at 25 cents per pound.

Mr. Gallentine said he did an informal study in Norcat, and just about all the people he talked to are using the recycling system, but no one wants to pay extra for it.

The county budgeted \$25,000 for recycling, said County Clerk Colleen Geihlsler.

Noxious Weed Director Gaylen Huntley said he just moved in a new baler, used to bind up cardboard for shipment, that morning. Someone is going to need to wire it into the electrical service, said Mr. Huntley.

Mr. Gallentine asked if it's worth keeping the recycling program.

It is a pain sometimes to do, said Mr. Huntley, but he added that he would hate to be the one to tell people the county isn't going to offer it. Mr. Huntley added that he thought people would keep on bringing stuff to the old county shop, now used as the recycling building.

When the weed crew is spraying, he said; it's hard to do both, but when they aren't, recycling gives the crew something to do.

The commissioners asked Mr. Huntley to get bids on the wiring for the baler.

Moving snow



WORKING WITH A GRIN, Pastor Royce Leitner was out blowing an inch of snow off the parking area and sidewalks of the Oberlin Assembly of God Church last Tuesday. The snow arrived sideways, but by afternoon the skies had cleared and people were out clearing pavement. The town got .08 of an inch of moisture, and the low that night was 3 degrees.

— Herald staff photo by Steve Haynes

*People question hospital board

(Continued from Page 1A) the city offers any help it can provide for the hospital and clinic. The city is strapped for money, he said, but wants to see that the hospital succeeds.

Bill Ladehoff said Dr. Elizabeth Sliker, who left the hospital and clinic last year, saved his life. She got "booted out" of town, he said, adding that he thinks "problems like that" need to be remedied.

Jim Koger said he is disappointed with what's happened. Something has to be done and quick, he said, adding that he moved back to town seven years ago, and since then "everything has gone downhill."

Jay Anderson, a retired veterinarian, said he and his wife moved back to town several years ago, after living here and then leaving to travel. Dr. Anderson said when they decided to retire here, one of the things they looked at was the hospital.

He said he went to a meeting some months ago, and some of these same things were brought up then. Dr. Anderson said he sees more and more people in McCook for health care.

He said he thought so much has been piled on Mrs. Doden that "she has reached her burn out stage."

"We can't put anymore on her," he said. "We need to lighten her load."

Steve Arnold said he likes the nursing staff, the hospital and the lab. Everyone does a nice job, he said, but he doesn't feel confident that he can come to this hospital and get the care that he needs. He added that he is seriously considering going somewhere else.

No matter what has gone on in the last few years, said Amy Haas, a nurse at the hospital, the town has never been without an emergency room, x-rays or lab work.

Dianne Bremer said she would like to see the hospital succeed, too. It's a large employer. She said that she would like to see it keep the pro-

viders it has and add to the list.

Dr. Anderson said the town used to have a doctor procurement committee, made up of civic and business leaders. He asked if it still functions.

Mr. Walter said it's his understanding that there is still a committee, although it hasn't been active.

The hospital board meetings have never been closed, said Mr. Walter. Some items, like the discussion on the purchase of the former Oberlin Medical Arts clinic business, have been confidential. So are some other negotiations, he said, and the board goes into closed session to discuss employees.

If someone is interested in serving on the hospital board, the chairman added, they should throw their hat in the ring.

He said the board has discussed including something about the minutes of the meetings in the hospital newsletter.

Mr. Walter said he is disappointed that since a community meeting at The Gateway last year, some people seem to be questioning Mrs. Doeden's integrity.

Some of the comments made to him, he said, have been that a doctor has made a mistake and misdiagnosed them and so they are going to go elsewhere.

"Where did we get the thought that doctors walk on water?" he asked.

As far as questioning the integrity of the administrator and the people on the board and their commitment, Mr. Walter said, that is wrong. The personal attacks are wrong. Before ridiculing someone, he said, put your name in the place of that person you are going to ridicule.

There were a few other comments, including one from an emotional young woman who said she would like to move back to Oberlin and be a doctor here but thought her husband has fallen in love with the city. Then the board moved onto other business.

Line to be replaced

The Decatur County Hospital Board approved the lowest bid to replace a sewer line under one of the restrooms in the hospital during its regular meeting last Monday.

Jim Sullivan, plant operations and information technology manager, said the sewer in the dietary rest room was clogged. When it was cleaned out, he said, they pulled back sand. Mr. Sullivan said they hired someone to run a camera and found at least one break in the pipe,

possibly two.

Mr. Sullivan said the hospital got two bids, one for \$25,675 from Snell Services out of North Platte and the other for \$35,803 from Glassman Corp. out of Hays.

While there was quite a price difference, he said, the two businesses were quoting the same job.

The dietary department will have to be relocated for four days to get the job done, he added. The board approved the bid from Snell.

Tourism group looks at new signs on highways

Members of the Oberlin Convention and Visitors Bureau board discussed new signs to advertise Oberlin at their meeting last Thursday.

Sharleen Wurm, a board member and Decatur County Museum director, said she would get some prices. Actually, she said, she just got some prices for signs for the museum.

Gary Anderson, owner of the LandMark Inn, brought up the idea

of getting permission to possibly put a sign out by Elephant Rock, a landmark near Traer, of what it used to look like.

The formation collapsed after rains several years ago.

The sign could include information on the history of the Indian battles in that area of northwest Decatur County, he suggested.

There was some discussion about working with the museum to do one

big sign up by the Pizza Hut, replacing smaller ones that are already in that location.

The group decided to pay a registration fee for the Kansas Sampler Festival at the beginning of May in Liberal.

The members talked about putting photo presentations on digital photo frames for the festival.

The bureau received a check for the bed tax money from last year for \$2,180.

The bed tax is paid by people who stay in hotels and motels in the city. That money is then sent to the city

and passed on to the group.

City Administrator Karen Larson said Oberlin is actually one of the few cities that still pass the bed tax along. Other cities keep the money and use it themselves for tourism promotion.

The more people who come and stay, she said, the more money the bureau gets.

Mr. Anderson asked if the bureau members are required to turn a budget in to the city. No, said Mrs. Larson, not that she is aware of.

The board members also talked about advertising opportunities.

Air Force band to perform

The Air Force Heartland of America Band's ensemble, Brass in Blue, will land in Colby on Thursday to perform "Once Heard, Never Forgotten..."

The free concert, sponsored by the Colby Free Press and Western Plains Arts Association, will be Thursday at the Colby High School auditorium. Guests can begin arriving as early as 6:30 p.m. and need to be seated at least 10 minutes before the 7:30 p.m. start.

Call the Free Press, (785) 462-3963, about free tickets, which are

required for admission.

The 12-member symphonic brass ensemble will feature a vocalist for this concert, a special treat. Guests can expect a combination of brass and percussion as the group presents a repertoire featuring patriotic favorites, jazz standards, new compositions and other arrangements.

The Brass in Blue is one unit of 45 that makes up the Heartland of America Band, which represents more than 325,000 Air Force service personnel. The full band performed in Colby several years ago.

CITY OF JENNINGS, KANSAS ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2011

Funds	Balance 1/1/2011	Receipted	Disbursed	Balance 12/31/2011
Bond & Interest	4,809.36	595.94	0.00	5,405.30
Capital Improvements	2,031.43	0.00	0.00	2,031.43
Com Bldg Renovation	697.94	0.00	0.00	697.94
Employee Benefits	7,496.44	1,764.54	4,496.12	4,764.86
General	53,849.98	45,734.49	40,834.90	58,749.57
Library	1,138.57	1,940.58	3,079.15	0.00
Muni Equipment Reserve	780.00	0.00	0.00	780.00
Sewer	22,833.43	4,415.35	4,278.15	22,970.63
Special Highway	23,739.12	1,969.80	0.00	25,708.92
Special Projects	169,027.00	368.80	0.00	92,697.28
Water	36,830.82	19,080.95	22,451.17	33,440.60
Totals	306,904.37	75,481.65	135,139.49	247,246.53

I hereby certify that the above statement is correct.
Paula Krizek
City Clerk

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Our 26,000 square foot, state-of-the-art surgery wing will be finished in early April, and will feature the latest technology for the highest level of patient comfort, safety, security and service.

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