

County to fix its old scraper

The Decatur County commissioners gave the Road and Bridge Department the OK to get a 1995 scraper repaired.

Supervisor Tim Stallman said the repair bill is \$14,152 to straighten the hood, fix the hydraulics and transmission and other work. Of that, \$11,000 was an insurance claim, subject to a \$500 deductible.

Mr. Stallman talked to the commissioners about doing a contract for fuel, which they said might be a good idea.

The commissioners set the annual road meeting with township officials for 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 20.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Gave Noxious Weed Director

Gaylen Huntley approval to go to the annual meeting for weed directors in the state in Great Bend.

- Authorized Mr. Huntley to take bids on chemicals needed.

- Looked up the information on a vote taken in 1994 on pig and dairy confinement operations in the county. While some thought the vote stopped people from coming into the county to start a dairy or pig operation, it only prohibits nonfarm corporations from doing so. Family farming corporations and partnerships or individuals could establish those operations, said Commissioner Ralph Unger.

- Appointed Ward Votapka to represent the county on the board of the Oberlin-Decatur County Area Economic Development Corp.

Mmm,mmm,good



AT THE GRADE SCHOOL last Wednesday morning, Madison Urban ate a muffin during the Support Our Schools Muffins with Moms event.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

* Group looks at health care

(Continued from Page 1) the department and because the department will need this type of community involvement and study for its own accreditation later on.

The meeting is part of what needs to happen in order for the hospital and health department to make plans for the future, Mr. Vandehaar said.

"We don't want Lynn and Marilyn to write this on their own," Mr. Vandehaar told the group.

He then showed some figures on what was good about health care in Decatur County—a high percentage of immunized children—and what was bad—population losses.

At the end of the meeting, participants had four chances to mark which areas they thought were the most important out of several suggested by the audience.

More doctors and other health providers and a way to replace providers who want to retire or leave

won 19 votes, putting it at the top of most lists. Obstetric care and new baby services were second with 15 votes. Communication of information and advertising got 11 votes, narrowly passing a dentist who accepts Medicaid, with 10, as the third and fourth highest priority items.

Also on the list were an assisted living facility, 9 votes; solving the problem of youth drinking, 6; more mental health services, 5; increased hospice services, 3; and a part-time surgeon, 1.

Mr. Vandehaar said he does freelance strategic planning. He is working with hospitals and health departments in Decatur, Norton, Phillips, Gove, Pawnee, Barton, Thomas, Trego, Ellis and Kiowa counties.

He said the study will be available on the web at a site called Health Matters about mid-May.

* 'Come' back home'

(Continued from Page 1) time less than welcoming attitude, housing (including motels and restaurants), followed by economic erosion, shopping, day care facilities, vision, marketing and medical issues.

The Decatur Tomorrow Steering Committee met Saturday to discuss the results of the conversation. Committee members will be contacting people who were suggested as potential action team-members to help promote Decatur County during Memorial Day activities and the county fair.

"The Community conversation had a great cross-section of residents interested in the flourishing future of Decatur County," said Decatur Tomorrow co-convenor Deanna Castle.

"There were comments and input from all sectors of our residents: business, education, government and human services.

"Several in attendance were surprised that not everyone sees our community in a totally positive light."

Work day planned for park

The Sappa Park Committee plans a work day at the park on Saturday, March 24.

Volunteers interested in helping clean up the park should meet at the shelter house around 9 a.m. that day. Bring chain saws, work gloves and rakes.

Amy Carman, a committee member, said it'd be great if someone brought a tractor to help move larger limbs. The session will last until noon.

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