

Council agrees to pay on repairs for ranch house

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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The old caretaker's house at Sappa Park Ranch, later used as an office, is worth saving, the Oberlin City Council agreed Thursday, voting to put up to \$3,500 into removing mold and other repairs.

The council reviewed a letter from Allan Langness of Langness Repairs of Goodland. Mr. Langness said he has inspected the house and it appears structurally sound. Mold damage can be repaired, he said, estimating the cost of repairs and treatment at \$1,200 to \$3,500 depending on how much needs to be done once the full extent of the damage and material costs are known.

Council members said they thought that the city could afford to do that much to save the building since there is money in a special budget fund for the ranch. A vote on the project passed 4 to 1 with Councilman Rob McFee voting no.

In other business, the council:
• Selected Mr. McFee as the city's No. 2 director for the Kansas Municipal Electric Agency board to replace Mayor Bill Riedel. City Administrator Karen Larson is the No. 1 director and City Foreman Dan Castle is the No. 3 director for Oberlin.

• Set the dates that city residents can burn off lawns and yard waste from the next day, Friday, through Monday, May 7.

• Held a 15-minute closed session to discuss nonelected personnel and voted to promote Logan Fortin to apprentice lineman, since he has

completed one year of training and passed a state test.

• Learned that the city crew would be trimming trees. They will start on the east side of town, Mrs. Larson said, and will try to contact homeowners before major trims but will do whatever they need to do to protect electric lines and remove low-hanging branches that might hit the street sweeper and break a window.

• Agreed to update a citywide survey done in 2009 on what issues citizens thought the council should look at.

• Learned that Nex-Tech Wireless has asked to put a hotspot on the city water tower to provide better Internet access for its Oberlin customers. The company is willing to pay the city \$300 a month rent for the use of the tower and has agreed to take the antennas down if there is ever a problem.

The contact should be reviewed by City Attorney Steve Hirsch before any action is taken, the council decided.

• Was asked by Councilman Rusty Addleman why the lease with Pheasants Forever on Sappa Lake property is so much shorter – 10 years as opposed to 40 or 50 years – than similar leases with the golf course and gun club.

Council members said that they thought that was because Pheasants Forever had wanted the shorter time to evaluate the projects the group had going at the park.

• Set the next meeting for 7 p.m. Thursday, April 5.

Members discuss ideas for table tents

Members of the Oberlin Convention and Visitors Bureau talked a little about changing the "table tents" they help put together every two months to let people know what's going on in town.

The "tents," printed on 8 1/2-by-11-inch card stock and foiled into a tall triangle, give a schedule of events for two months at a time.

Member Ruth Miesner suggested possible doing just one month at a time, instead of two. Often, she said, the second month is missing some events.

The colored table tents out now are for February and March, with Chamber Director Carolyn Hackney working on the one for April and May now.

The tents then are put out at restaurants and other locations around town.

Perhaps, said Mrs. Miesner, if it's

just one month of activities and then the hospital and clinic information on one side, another group would want to use the third side.

Connie Grafel, marketing director, for the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp., said while she understands some of the events not being on the tents, it helps people trying to plan an event for the next month to look at the table tent and see if something else is scheduled for that day.

There was some discussion about doing the next one for April and May and then doing another one in May that would just include May activities.

Gary Anderson, owner of the LandMark Inn, said maybe they could put some information on one side to advertise area stores and businesses.

Girls play outside

FRIDAY MORNING dawned bright and beautiful, and kids in Oberlin were on spring break. Some, like Marci Weigel (above), decided to play monkey in a tree, while others, like Emily Willis, 5 (left), went for a bike ride.

— Herald photos by Cynthia Haynes



Fire destroys man's country workshop

A fire Sunday night destroyed an Oberlin man's workshop and all its contents.

Fire Chief Bill Cathcart said the call came in around 7:45 p.m. A woman with a Colorado phone number reported the fire, he said, but didn't leave her name.

The shop, two and 3/4 miles north of U.S. 36 on the Traer Road, was

fully engulfed when Oberlin and Decatur County firemen arrived. It was owned by Chris May, who lives in town.

The building, he said, pretty much burned to the ground. Part of a nearby windbreak was burned also, he said.

With the high winds on Sunday evening, he added, it didn't take

long. Chief Cathcart said they put as much water on it as they possibly could. There were a few building studs still standing, but everything inside was destroyed.

The fire appeared to be accidental, he said. It probably started on the inside of the building and had burned for a while before someone

saw it. The fire fighters didn't return to town until around 11 p.m.

Board to pay driver for band trip

The Oberlin School Board approved paying for the fuel for a bus, plus a driver's wages and meals, for an upcoming band trip to the Kansas City area.

Teacher Sarah Bricker said at a board meeting last Monday that the kids have been working hard to raise money for the trip on Friday.

The plan, she said, is to leave Friday after school and come back on Saturday night.

The 27 students will meet with a percussionist in the Kansas City area to tour his studio and do a workshop on world music. Mrs. Bricker said it'll be a hands-on session. Later, they'll go to the jazz mu-

seum in Kansas City and do an arcade-lasertag event. The students will cover the cost of their hotel and souvenirs and the money the band raised will pay for the museums and items like that, she said.

Superintendent Duane Dorshorst estimated the cost to the district at \$500.

School district sells old activity bus

The Oberlin School Board approved selling a used 2001 Bluebird All-American activity bus at its meeting last Monday night.

The district received one bid, from Masters Transportation of Kearney, Neb., for \$12,000.

Superintendent Duane Dorshorst said the bid was probably only good for another week or two. There was

some discussion that the bus could possibly bring a higher price, but no one knew for sure.

Only two groups showed interest in the bus, he said, and the other one never submitted a bid.

The price, asked board member Abby Hissong, is as is, with the buyer picking the bus up? Yes, said Mr. Dorshorst.

Board member Jerry Chambers made a motion to accept the bid for \$12,000, which was approved by all members.

The district bought a 2001 Van Hool 57-passenger motor coach to replace the old team bus this fall. The Van Hool is more of a tour bus, with comfortable seats and lots of equipment space.

Commissioners hire a new custodian

After interviewing five applicants, the Decatur County commissioners hired a new custodian and maintenance person for the courthouse.


During their meeting last Tuesday, the commissioners hired Roger Robinson for the job. He said he's

done a little bit of everything and a lot of construction work. He said he didn't have a problem with working a split shift and thought starting at least at \$10 to \$11 an hour would work.

In other business, the commissioners:

• Received a \$600 refund from the Kansas Counties Association Multi-line Pool since the county's insurance loss ratio had been good.

• Decided to start running an ad to hire a summer recreation director.




RAWLINS COUNTY HEALTH CENTER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

707 Grant Atwood, KS 67730 (785) 626-3211

Bringing Specialized Healthcare To Your Community

March 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Dr. Reeves Podiatry	2 Dr. Reeves Podiatry	3
4	5 Dr. Rubinowitz Oncology	6 Dr. Frederick C. Miller Cardiology	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Dr. Frankum Surgery	15	16	17
18	19	20 Dr. Frederick C. Miller Cardiology	21 Dr. Curtis Cardiology	22	23	24
25	26	27 Dr. Frederick C. Miller Cardiology	28	29	30	31

TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH A VISITING PHYSICIAN, PLEASE CALL (785) 626-3211 Cheryl Banister, RN Specialty Clinic Director

