

Decorations, bonfire rev up school spirit

THE NIGHT OF THE HOMECOMING BONFIRE on Friday was wild and fun. Football coach Joe Dreher (above) joined Principal Ben Jimenez and football players smashing a car labeled "Norton Blue Jays" with a sledgehammer. Earlier in the week, high school classes decorated their locker areas, including this Senior class football ape (right) "going bananas." Sammy Meitl (bottom) helped set up float decorations for the big parade. — Herald photos by Susan May



County to buy new computer system

By **STEPHANIE DeCAMP**
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County commissioners agreed to review a sales order for a new computer system for the county at their meeting last Tuesday, which they expect to sign this week.

The new system is part of a complete update of all county computer equipment, which should make the system faster, more efficient and in sync with state programs in Topeka.

The current system is 11 years old, said Kevin Juenemann, a software engineer with Thomson Reuters Tax and Accounting out of Colby. Though it is working surprisingly well for its age, he said, it will need to be replaced with the IBMAS400 system. The AS400 is a mid-range

system, he said, bigger than a personal computer but smaller than a mainframe. It will house the county's database, security and user interface, all tied into one working system that will also include printers and other equipment.

The cost of the new system, three years of maintenance, a firewall and two printers is \$21,866, less than the cost of two years' maintenance on the current system, he said.

"So you think we should replace it?" asked Commissioner Stan McEvoy.

"Oh yeah," said Mr. Juenemann. "You and Sheridan have the oldest systems in the state."

"So what does it take to be the oldest?" Mr. McEvoy said, laughing. Mr. Juenemann, smiling, said that

he would have to ask the commissioners down in Sheridan to hold off on their updates.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved the purchase of a new transmission and other needed parts for \$4,298 to repair a Mack truck for the Road and Bridge Department. Road Supervisor Tim Stallman said that the truck has about 450,000 miles on it, and that it won't stay in gear and is getting worse. The crew will order the parts and do the work themselves, he said.

- Approved renomination of the existing trustees for the Kansas Workers Risk Cooperative for Counties: Bonnie Swartz, Gray County clerk; Linda Buttron, Jefferson County clerk; and Michelle

Garret, Morris County clerk.

- Decided that Commissioner Ralph Unger will be the delegate to the Risk Cooperative's annual meeting Wednesday, Nov. 14, in Topeka. County Clerk Colleen Geihlsler was chosen as the alternate.

- Considered an offer from Fred Anderson of Oberlin to be the county's part-time information technology consultant. Mr. Anderson, who works part-time as a county dispatcher, said that he could handle all of the county's system updates and security. Most counties now have someone doing this, he added.

The commissioners asked him to draw up two proposals, one based on an hourly rate and another on a monthly rate.

* Property rules could change

(Continued from Page 1A)

ibility to maintain their properties to a certain degree, so as not to affect the values of the properties around them. I think it's a good thing to have."

Mr. Bowen said that a particular concern to him was that people in violation of the ordinance are only given 10 days to fix things up. If they wish to contest the violation, then they are supposed to go before a review board, which the council has never appointed.

Mr. Bowen said that Mrs. Ackerman should be required to furnish credentials, and a more specific

outline of her duties needs to be drawn up, so that her powers are not abused. There was one case, Mr. Bowen said, where she took a picture of someone's yard over a privacy fence, which rubbed him the wrong way. Mr. Hirsch said that privacy law goes back and forth in the Supreme Court, but that it couldn't hurt to look into how other cities have handled this problem.

"If you want me to get some examples of these current ordinances and codes, I can do that," said Mr. Hirsch. "I can get samples from around the state to you. I think there's enough variety that it can

give you a good idea."

Councilman Rusty Addleman noted that Oberlin isn't the only town dealing with the issue, pointing out the controversy recently in Salina over some of the same things.

Mr. Hirsch said he doubted he would be able to get all the needed information to the council before the next meeting, at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 4, at The Gateway, but said he will do it as soon as he can. The council decided that until the sample ordinances are reviewed, no changes would be made to the current one.

* Citizens given chance to discuss budget

(Continued from Page 1A)

proposed tax rate at 66.257 mills, your county tax bill would be only \$331.

While the tax rate will be down, however, the county's total spending is projected to increase \$242,045, from \$4,351,647 this year to \$4,593,692 next year. That's a spending increase of about 5.6 percent.

Three county funds will see a decrease in the amount budgeted,

debt service (-\$31,459), health nurse (-\$7,500) and wireless E911 (-\$4,101).

Funds getting some extra money include the general fund (+\$64,000), road and bridge (+\$50,000), special bridge (+\$6,000), hospital maintenance (+\$31,450), mental retardation (+\$1,500), noxious weed (+\$10,000), employee benefits (+\$76,500), special alcohol/drug (+\$4,176), special park/recreation (+\$1,097), 911 phone

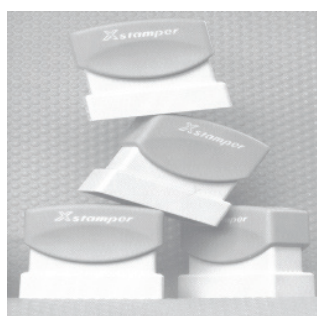
(+\$19,766), noxious weed capital outlay (+\$7,959), health nurse capital outlay (+\$12,657) and rural fire district No. 1 (+\$112,350).

Capital outlay funds are used to save money or pay for equipment purchases or improvements like land and buildings.

A 4 percent pay increase is proposed for county employees, though whether or not they get the raise will be up to the commissioners.

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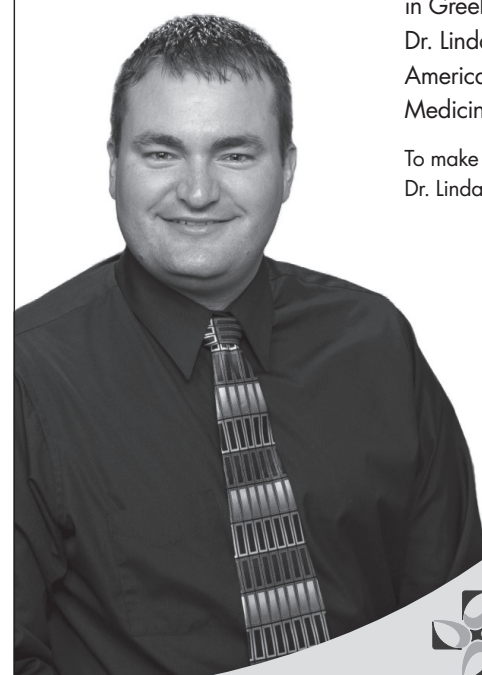
We're proud to welcome Brett Lindau, D.O.

Dr. Brett Lindau is now seeing patients at McCook Clinic as Community Hospital's newest physician

Dr. Lindau earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Nebraska at Kearney (2003), and his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from the Chicago College

of Osteopathic Medicine in Downers Grove, Illinois (2009). He completed his Family Medicine Residency at the North Colorado Family Medicine Residency Program in Greeley, Colorado (2012). Dr. Lindau is certified with the American Board of Family Medicine.

To make an appointment with Dr. Lindau, call 308-344-4110.



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