

# City council talks it out over ordinance

Code Enforcement Officer Jan Ackerman will continue to do her job citing blighted property, the City Council determined Thursday night, though she will no longer be allowed to enter onto properties without permission.

The compromise was made after a 10-minute closed-door session to discuss attorney-client privilege near the end of the night, and then an open discussion between council members, primarily councilman Josh Williby and Mayor Rob McFee. That debate at times turned ugly. At the end, however, the two apologized if they had offended each other, and the decision was made.

Mr. McFee has long opposed enforcement of the ordinance on the ground that he thinks property owners have a right to do as they please on their own land. Mr. Williby maintained that if you live in the city, you must abide by the city's rules, since what you do to your property affects the value of others.

The council has been debating enforcement of the nuisance ordinance for much of the year, and decided Thursday to continue researching ordinances in other cities to work with for rewriting this one. In the meantime, council members decided, Mrs. Ackerman will be allowed to do her job, but only at a distance.

The question of right of entry came up after a complaint to the council that Mrs. Ackerman held her camera over a privacy fence to snap pictures. Councilman Tim Bowen asked at a previous meeting, if the violation was behind a privacy fence, then why write it up at all? Who was it hurting if you couldn't see past the fence?

More than that, he said, the right of entry granted to her violates the 4th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, though City Attorney Steve Hirsch said he didn't think that would hold up in court.

Mr. Hirsch said other ordinances he's found so far, right of entry wasn't stipulated because it was assumed that a person living in city limits has no reasonable expectation of privacy.

In other business, the council:

year for the city to have new water rights approved for a well field it is drilling. This could push back the date by which the city will be pumping water that falls within federal regulations for levels of uranium. This conflicts with the city's set deadline of having the whole system up and running by August 2014, but the state water people said they could not expedite the process.

- Approved the one bid received for lawn mowing services next year, from Fought Enterprises, including a 10 percent increase. The rate last year was \$50 per hour and this year it will be \$55. Last year's total cost was about \$11,000, said Mrs. Larson.

- Agreed to look into what kind of signs to put at the airport limiting how much weight the new runway can take.

- Agreed to allow Kevin Brown of Sappa Valley Construction to build a new hangar on lot 28 of the airport for a lease fee of \$200 per year.

- Heard that it will cost \$1,800 to \$2,500 to paint the round-top hangar at the airport and \$800 more to paint the terminal. Mrs. Larson said that the Airport Advisory Board wants the money to buy the paint and members will donate their own time to paint it.

- Heard that water specialist David Sporn had winterized the pool and that the levels of the city wells are stable. Mrs. Larson said that Mr. Sporn reported that use has not gone above 500,000 gallons a day since the city lifted watering restrictions last month.

- Heard from Sexton Jeremy Tally that the new directory for the cemetery will be installed by the end of the month, or at the latest, in November.

"We're still about \$2,000 short (of the total needed to pay for the computer system)," Mr. Tally reported, "but Modern Woodmen have agreed to match any more donations that we get, up to \$2,500. It'd be a great way to finish up the total amount, so we need to tell as many people as possible."

He said supporters are selling tickets at \$5 for 6, which enters you into a drawing to win one of three cash prizes of \$100, \$50 and \$25.

## A pair of strong arms



**DEB MARSHALL OF NORCATUR**, who is taking treatment for breast cancer, was the guest of honor at a pizza party benefit Sunday evening at the old Norcatatur school building. She held Carter Nelson, 2 1/2 month old son of Pastors Chris and Sharon Nelson, of the Oberlin Covenant Church. — Herald staff photo by Carolyn Plotts

## Pizza benefit helps Norcatatur woman

By **CAROLYN PLOTTS**  
c.plotts@nwkans.com

The multi-purpose room at the former Norcatatur Grade School was packed Sunday evening for another benefit.

Norcatatur's city clerk, Deb Marshall, has been taking treatments for breast cancer. Her many friends, relatives and co-workers gathered to show their support and raise some

money to help her family with medical and travel expenses.

Norcatatur's volunteer fire fighters and City Council, assisted by Betsy Jakowski and many other volunteers, prepared 72 pizzas and dozens of salads and desserts for the benefit. Mrs. Jakowski said over 150 people went through the line, but many others who couldn't attend sent donations.

After the meal, left-over pizza and desserts were sold.

Cathy Anthony, her husband Gary and brother-in-law Keith all attended the benefit. "Deb's a special lady," Mrs. Anthony said. "We're glad we could do something for someone who deserves it. And the food was wonderful, as usual."

## \*Housing forms reset grant system

(Continued from Page 1A)

the state had any suggestions for cities starting out, and Mr. Zodrow said they did.

"She said start as soon as possible," he said, "and get as many organizations as possible involved right at once. A lot of communities need a ringleader

to pull it together, and (economic development) directors often were the ones to get it going...."

"I gathered that they're tired of getting applications and finding out that people don't really know what they want or need, and that's where this tool came in, so people take a real hard look at what they need."

## \*Trial begins Oct. 22

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home for a visit. Mr. Cook's death was the first homicide in Decatur County in 15 years. In 1997, Ernest J. Isenhour, 52, was found beaten to death in the Star Motel after having picked up a hitchhiker. That hitchhiker, Gary R. Grant, then 50, was arrested

less than a week later in Arkansas, where he had lived at one time. He was found guilty of first-degree murder and aggravated robbery, and sentenced to life in prison.

He died Feb. 14, 2009, while being held at the Hutchinson Correctional Facility.

## Contestant gets a perfect score for Pick'em

Only one person guessed all of the winners correctly for this week's Pigskin Pickem contest.

Ryan Leitner picked all eight winners and got the tiebreaker right, too. He will take home \$15 in scrip money for first place.

Clayton Carter guessed seven of the eight winners correctly and was the closest to the tiebreaker game. She will take home \$10 in scrip money for second.

Rusty Addleman also guessed seven of the eight winners and won

third place to receive \$5.

Eight others picked seven of the winners correctly, including Wilbur Reichert, Sarah Smith, Alex Heeger, Anna Carter, Cheri Kastens, Tyler Bruggeman, Tom Martin, Gary Anderson and Tim Hrnchir.

Three people picked six winners, including Kelly Brown, Megan Carter and Jordan Davenport. Reece Grafel was the only one who picked five of the winners correctly.

Last week's games and winners:

- Oberlin over Perkins County,

21-12.

- Kansas State over the University of Kansas, 56 to 16.
- Ness City over Hoxie, 38 to 6.
- Norton over Colby, 26 to 23 for the tiebreaker.
- Lindenwood over Fort Hays State University, 20 to 17.

• Ohio State over Nebraska, 63

to 38.  
• Scott City over Goodland, 51 to 15.  
• Oakley over St. Francis, 30 to 6.  
• Atwood over WaKeeney, 26 to 8.

Be smart about your health!  
Schedule a yearly mammogram.



"Be proactive in getting a yearly mammogram. Don't put it off!"

-Pam Wolford  
Pictured (left) with her mother, Linda Linke

As teachers, Pam Wolford and her mother Linda Linke have taught generations of students to be smart about their study habits. As mother and daughter, they want you to be smart about your health, too.

When Linda's breast cancer was diagnosed in 2001, her daughter, Pam, learned that family members have a higher-than-normal chance of getting the disease. That's why Pam gets an annual mammogram. Cancer-free for 11 years, Linda recommends every woman schedule a regular mammogram.

Early detection is crucial in the fight against cancer, and Community Hospital is proud to be accredited with the American College of Radiology.

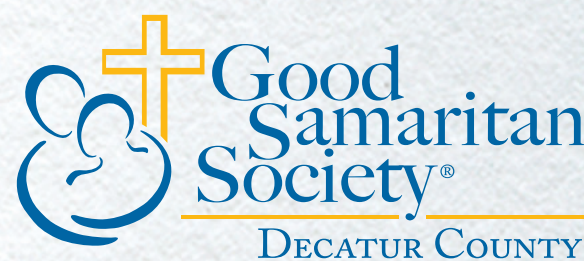
To schedule your mammogram, call 308-344-2650 today!



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