

# County reviews fire ban

By STEPHANIE DeCAMP  
sdecamp@nwkansas.com

No fires that have been reported resulted from lifting the county's burn ban, commissioners heard at their meeting last Tuesday, but people still need to be extra careful as the drought continues.

"If you're going to do a controlled burn," said Commissioner Ralph Unger, "you need to let dispatch know. And probably your neighbors, too. People are still pretty easily spooked."

To reach dispatch, call (785) 475-8100. Authorities will then know that you are controlling your burn in case anyone else calls in to report the smoke, and they'll also know what's going on should the fire get out of hand, said Marilyn Gamblin, administrator for the Decatur County Health Department.

"They've been pretty good overall," said Ms. Gamblin about the fires. "They're just controlled burns, like people burning trash, and nothing's gotten out of control."

Commissioner Unger urged those who are going to have a fire to watch it until the last ember has gone out, and to have a water source nearby just in case.

"A gallon of water at the right time can save an awful lot of trouble," he said.

In other business, commissioners:

- Heard from Road Supervisor Tim Stallman that the Road and Bridge department will try to grade and re-spread the gravel for all the township gravel roads before the first snow. The roads have rippled in a lot of places, he said, due to traffic and the dry heat.

- Heard that commissioners-elect Sid Metcalf and Brad Marcuson will be sworn in at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 15.

- Decided to serve prime rib and chicken for the county's employee appreciation banquet, which will be at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, at the American Legion hall.

- Moved the banquet time up to 5:30 p.m. from 6 p.m. Kari Ketterl, who is on the committee planning the event, said that last year the time spent waiting bothered a lot of those who attended because it took so long to get food, and a football game was on that night.

- Approved a motion to spend the same amount of money on the appreciation banquet this year as they did last year, purchasing \$1,500 for "Santa Bucks" and \$100 for gifts, including two history books and the plaques they plan to hand out.

- Heard from Emergency Preparedness Director Jacque Boultinghouse that reworking the county's radios for narrow-band frequencies shouldn't take more than a few days, once all of the repeaters are done.

- Approved a motion to accept two handheld radios worth \$5,400 and a ventilator worth \$482 from the Department of Homeland Security.

- Heard from Mr. Stallman that the Decatur County Landfill received a surprise inspection from the state last Monday but had no violations.

- Approved two highway permits, one authorizing Cholla Productions to put an electric line under the 600th road to an oil well, and the other for Brad Uehlin to run an electric line under 1600th road to a water well. If Mr. Uehlin decides to trench under the road, said Mr. Stallman, they may have to close it for a while.

## Selling their holiday wares



**THE BOHEMIAN HALL** was alive with the bustle of commerce Saturday, as Danielle Leitner (above), an aesthetician, was giving free manicures to shoppers, and Chamber of Commerce members Ruth Miesner (below right) and Galen Olson greeted guests at the door with holiday baked goods.

-Herald staff photos by Stephanie DeCAMP

# City puts off pool decision until Dec. 20

By STEPHANIE DeCAMP  
sdecamp@nwkansas.com

The City Council has put off a discussion of the pool project until its meeting Thursday, Dec. 20, instead of this week as planned, so the mayor and others can be present.

The city's financial advisor, John Haas of Ranson Financial Services, will be there to report on possible financing for the project, and members of the city's pool committee plan to come and support it.

Although voters approved a sales-tax increase to pay for the pool by a nearly 2-1 margin, 567 to 311, it's still up to the council to pursue building a pool, which will require the city to borrow about \$2 million.

The pool committee has recommended that the city set up a Public Building Commission, which could borrow the money on the city's behalf, leaving the city's credit untouched. But some council members have reservations about that plan, which is why Mr. Haas has been asked to give them a perspective on their options.

The last time Mr. Haas came to talk with the council was at their April 26 meeting, and his report was regarding the city's financial ability to embark on projects like the pool and airport.

"It is not my job to tell the city that you need an airport project," Mr. Haas told the council at that meeting. "It is not my job to tell you that you need a swimming pool project."

"It is my job to tell you what your alternatives are and how that is going to affect the city financially. I'm not here advocating any project."

Mr. Haas went on to suggest during that meeting that the council, if it goes through with the pool project,

do exactly what the pool committee has recommended — set up a Public Building Commission.

He pointed out that both Plainville and Phillipsburg used public building commission revenue bonds, paid for by a sales tax, to pay for their new swimming pools. The tax pays for both the debt service on the bonds and for the operations of the pools, he said.

A public building commission is set up to issue revenue bonds, he explained. This commission has the ability to issue bonds, but no ability to collect money to pay for them. The city could lease the pool or other property from the commission, he said, and use the tax money to pay the bills.

The members of the building commission — it can have from three to nine — would be selected by the council and can include members of the council.

The city already has more than \$6 million in outstanding bonds, said Mr. Haas in April, but debt on utilities (like water and sewer) is not subject to its debt limit.

On the other hand, he said, a pool could use the city's bond authority, and the city would not be able to take on any more debt.

"If you just go with the swimming pool project for \$2 million in general obligation bonds," he said, "you won't see me for a long time."

City Administrator Karen Larson said at the last city meeting that if the council passes the tax ordinance, it will go into effect on April 1. If it puts the decision off until January, it couldn't go into effect until July 1. Construction of the pool would begin next September, with the new facility to be open on the same site as the old one, for Memorial Day 2014 if all goes well.

## Work off those pounds

Three new exercise programs have started up in Oberlin, just in time to get the edge on those holiday pounds.

There's a boot camp, a "Mommy and Me" program and a Zumba dancing class.

"Zumba is a Latin-inspired, dance-fitness class that combines fast and slow rhythms that tone and sculpt the body," said Molly Olson, a registered nurse, about her class. "What I love about Zumba is that it gets the blood pumping, and you feel more energized."

Mrs. Olson said that the class will start in January, on Sundays at 4 p.m. and Thursdays at 8 p.m. at the Golden Age Center. All ages and fitness levels are welcome. The classes are \$5 a session.

Kerrie Wahlmeier, who used to teach aerobics classes at Fort Hays State University and is now doing the Mommy and Me class, said that the focus of her program is to get kids, as well as their parents, involved in exercise.

"People should know that this is a free class, and it's all about having fun with your kids."

Mrs. Wahlmeier said that the class is going on now, and is from 6 to 6:30 p.m. on Mondays in the Oberlin Elementary School gym. (The Dec. 17 class has been moved to Tuesday, Dec. 18.)

"Boot-camp" classes, taught by Rena Unger, are from 6 to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays and 9 to 10 a.m. on Saturdays at the Decatur Community High School track or gym. The cost is \$5 a class, Ms. Unger said, and it is geared toward all levels of fitness.

"It is a variety of different things," she said. "I combine strength training, cardio and high-intensity interval training. It's a different workout every time."

"The class is for anybody. People think it's intimidating because of the name, but it's for all ages and fitness levels. I do things in timed increments, so stop when you need to."

# New directory installed

By STEPHANIE DeCAMP  
sdecamp@nwkansas.com

The Oberlin Cemetery has received and set up its new electronic directory after more than a year of raising money.

The directory, paid for with donations, cost just under \$20,000, said sexton Jeremy Tally.

"We got donations from organizations, individuals and memorials," he said. "The community definitely pulled through and got the money we needed. Right now, I would say we're maybe \$1,500 short of our goal."

The digital directory is built to last and made to stay outside, he said, and the company that produced it, Windy Prairie Systems of Indianola, Neb., will come out and fix any bugs or kinks that might arise. They're the only company that makes these kinds of machines, Mr. Tally said, and they're great to work with.

The directory is based on the old paper one, Mr. Tally said, which needed to be replaced because it was full. The old one is still up,

surrounding the new one, and will likely remain as a community bulletin board, he said.

The old directory lists the name of the deceased, their dates of birth and death, and in what block and lot number you can find their gravesite.

"The new one has all of that, but you can do more," Mr. Tally said. "It has a digital map, so it's easier to find graves, and you can do virtual memorials with pictures, obituaries and videos."

"The pictures in the obituary and stuff, that's something the family will have to purchase. The basic information is all on there for everyone, but the virtual memorial has a one-time fee for the family, and then they can put pictures and all sorts of stuff on there."

Mr. Tally said it is \$40 to put a picture in the directory, and prices go up from there.

"It's up and ready and usable," he said. "We've already had lots of people stop to play around with it. We've also got plans to put a roof

over it sometime soon; we budgeted for it in next year's budget."

But the best part of the new directory, he said, is that every time someone buys one of the features, the cemetery gets some of the money, which it will then use for repairs and upkeep of the machine and the cemetery as a whole.

"I just can't believe we did this all through donations," Mr. Tally said happily, "and honestly, this is nothing I did myself. It's something they did, something Oberlin did."

### This month at Decatur Health Systems

**Providers**  
Dr. Robert Rosin, MD  
Dr. Allen Hooper, MD  
Lynnetta Ward APRN-BC  
Tricia Carney APRN-C

Schedule appointments with the Family Practice Clinic at 475-2015.

Schedule appointments with the hospital and Specialty Care Clinic at 475-2208.

The Fitness Center is open daily from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Call 475-2208 for membership information.



810 W. Columbia  
Oberlin, KS

**Caring and Sharing from the Heart**

### December 2012

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>3</b> Dr. Rosin Lynnetta	<b>4</b> Dr. Rosin Lynnetta Tricia	<b>5</b> Dr. Rosin  Surgery Sonogram Cardiac rehab	<b>6</b> Dr. Rosin	<b>7</b> Dr. Rosin
<b>10</b> Dr. Rosin Dr. Hooper	<b>11</b> Dr. Rosin Dr. Hooper Tricia	<b>12</b> Dr. Rosin Dr. Hooper  Surgery Sonogram Cardiac rehab	<b>13</b> Dr. Rosin Dr. Hooper	<b>14</b> Dr. Hooper
Cardiac rehab	Cardiology	Cardiac rehab	MRI	Cardiac rehab
<b>17</b> Dr. Rosin Dr. Hooper	<b>18</b> Dr. Rosin Dr. Hooper Tricia	<b>19</b> Dr. Rosin Dr. Hooper	<b>20</b> Dr. Rosin Dr. Hooper Lynnetta	<b>21</b> Dr. Hooper Lynnetta
Cardiac rehab	Cardiology	Sonogram Cardiac rehab	MRI	Cardiac rehab
<b>24</b> Dr. Rosin	<b>25</b> Merry Christmas!	<b>26</b> Dr. Rosin	<b>27</b> Dr. Rosin Lynnetta	<b>28</b> Lynnetta
Clinic open from 9 a.m. to noon.	Clinic closed.	Sonogram Cardiac rehab	MRI	Cardiac rehab
Cardiac rehab				
<b>31</b> Lynnetta Clinic open from 9 a.m. to noon.				
Cardiac rehab				

**Emergency care available**  
24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**Let It Snow Let It Snow Let It Snow**

November 12, 2012  
Through  
December 15, 2012

See Some White & Save Some Green!  
If Weather Command measures 6" or more of SNOW on New Year's Eve, your purchases could be FREE!  
\*See participating merchants for details\*

**Participating Businesses**

- Brown's Show Fit Company
- D & S Hardware
- Garrisons-McCook Lettering
- Hershberger Music Company
- High Plains Radio
- Hometown Family Radio
- Longnecker Jewelry
- McCook Area Chamber of Commerce
- McCook Daily Gazette
- New Life Christian Bookstore
- Peterson Jewelers
- Samway Floor Covering & Furniture
- Sehnert's Bakery & Bieroc Café
- The Sports Shoppe
- TOP Office Products
- Tri State Spas & Auto
- VK Electronics

**Let It Snow Let It Snow Let It Snow**