

Post office wants Jennings responses

By **STEPHANIE DeCAMP**
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The deadline for Jennings residents to complete a survey about their post office — one that could affect whether or not it stays open — is Tuesday, and a community meeting to discuss the issue is set for noon Tuesday, Feb. 5, at the Jennings Masonic Hall, 106 Main St.

Mayor Marjorie Hartzog said that anyone who's interested, even if they don't live in Jennings, should attend the meeting. A soup dinner with dessert will be served beforehand, from 11 a.m. to noon, courtesy of the Historic Building Preservation Committee, but donations will be appreciated.

The survey, sent out Christmas Eve, asks two questions: the first being which of four options you would prefer if the post office had to change, and the second asks what hours you would prefer it be open if it had to downsize to only four a day.

The survey and meeting are all part of the U.S. Postal Service's POST Plan — whose mysterious acronym's meaning couldn't be tracked down — which is intended to help the beleaguered federal agency from going under completely. A letter accompanying the survey, from

POST Plan Coordinator Sharon Predoehl, said that unless more than 60 percent of the residents want to conduct a "discontinuance study," the service will maintain the office, but only for four hours each workday, as well as the regular Saturday morning hours.

"Listening to our customers and gathering their input via public meetings and surveys is a critical part of plan," the service says on its website. The letter it sent out goes on to say that no decisions will be made until after the town meeting, where the survey results will be presented and open for discussion. Local management, the letter says, will conduct the meeting.

The survey reads: "Please select the alternative below which you most prefer (choose only one):

1. Keep the post office open, but with realigned weekday window service hours, based on actual office workload. In the case of the Jennings Post Office, hours would be changed from eight hours each weekday to four hours each weekday. Current Saturday window service hours will not change as a result of POST Plan and access to your delivery receptacles will not be impacted by POST Plan.
2. Conduct a discontinuance

study for the office and provide roadside mailbox delivery. Retail and delivery service would be provided through a rural carrier. Mail delivery points will be established or maintained and customers can purchase most postal services through the carrier or other alternate access points. If you currently receive delivery service, Post Plan will not affect that service.

3. Conduct a discontinuance study for the office and find a suitable alternative location operated by a contractor, usually at a local business. When businesses are found that meet the criteria, these establishments are contracted through the United States Postal Service and offer stamps and flat-rate products with service hours generally more expansive than what the local Post Office may be able to offer.

4. Conduct a discontinuance study for the office and relocate P.O. Box service to a nearby Post Office."

The letter also said that the service is seeking local business and organizations that might be able to serve as "contractor-operated postal retail units." For information, go to about.usps.com/news/electronic-press-kits/expanded-access/welcome.htm.



REPAIRING ONE OF THE FOUR stoplights at Penn Avenue and Hall Street, city workers David Perrin (up in the air) and Logan Fortin got the lights into blink mode Friday. The four-way stop sign, which has been decorating the middle of the intersection (and at Christmas was decorated), has now been put away. — Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

Traffic lights up and glowing

While they may have been blinking through the weekend, the traffic lights at the intersection of Penn Avenue and Hall Street were finally back up and running as of Monday.

The blinking was due to "breaking the lights in," said City Foreman Dan Castle.

"They're back up there," he said Monday morning, "but they were flashing red and orange because we were breaking them in. They're supposed to run like that for a couple days. We got them done Friday, I think."

Mr. Castle said that the lights flashing yellow on Penn warn drivers to proceed with caution, but the ones flashing red on Hall mean that your vehicle should come to a complete stop before driving on, the same as a stop sign.

"(The lights) were taken down during the water project this last summer," Mr. Castle said. "It was just because we had to work around them, so we had to get them out of the way with those big holes on the street."

"It took so long because we were just waiting on parts from the company we ordered the lights from. I think the guy who said they would order them must have been on vacation," he said laughing. "It just took a while to get them."

As for the reception the lights will get, Mr. Castle predicted it to be mixed, much like the stop signs.

"I heard a lot of people liked the stop signs," he said. "So it makes about 50 percent of the people happy and the other 50 percent mad. But that's life, isn't it?"

Hoxie irrigation dealer honored

Reinke Manufacturing Co., a manufacturer of mechanized irrigation systems, has recognized Hoxie Implement as one of the top five highest selling dealers in the west central territory for 2011-2012.

Hoxie Implement also received a Gold Reinke Pride Award. The firm was honored during Reinke's annual fall convention in Hershey, Pa.

"Reinke congratulates Hoxie

Implement on this well-deserved recognition of their ongoing hard work and success over the past year," said Vice President of Marketing Tim Goldhammer. "We are proud to have them as a dealer and appreciate their ongoing commitment to Reinke."

Gold, silver and bronze Reinke Pride awards were given to 107 dealerships. The Reinke Pride awards are determined as part of

an incentive program that distinguishes superior achievement levels according to an evaluation based on a dealerships' exterior and interior housekeeping and maintenance, indoor and outdoor displays, safety, retail environment, merchandising, professionalism, promotions and event participation and market share.

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From the Record

Courthouse

These transactions were taken from the records in the offices of the Decatur County clerk, sheriff and register of deeds:

DISTRICT COURT

- Traffic**
 Dec. 23: Pamela Marie Anderson, Oberlin, left of center, \$173.
 Dec. 23: Paul Gene Bruggeman, Rexford, speeding 79 mph, \$167.
 Nov. 24: Timothy R. Burgess, Colorado Springs, speeding 76 mph, \$149.
 Nov. 21: Shane T. Diederich, Oberlin, no seat belt, \$10.
 Dec. 9: Kyle Vincent Field, Almena, speeding 83 mph, \$191.
 Dec. 21: Burton Thomas Helmbolt, Pleasant View, Colo., no seat belt, \$10.
 Dec. 23: Barry J. Schmidt, Lincoln, Neb., speeding 77 mph, \$155.
 Nov. 21: Dawn Muskrat Sheaffer, Oberlin, speeding 84 mph, \$197.
 Dec. 3: Harold A. Shields, Oberlin, no seat belt, \$10.
 Nov. 21: Jeremy W. Sproul, Norton, no seat belt and speeding 78 mph, \$171.
 Jan. 9: Rena Avion Unger, Oberlin, no seat belt, \$10.

JAIL BOOKINGS

The following were booked into

the Decatur County Jail:

Cheryl Parrish, 35, Norcat, was arrested by the Decatur County Sheriff's Office on Sunday, Dec. 30, for domestic battery after allegedly assaulting Thomas Baker, 56, Norcat.

The altercation was physical, said Undersheriff Allen Marcum, and she was the aggressor. Because the two had a relationship, it was considered a domestic crime.

She was booked into the jail on the 30th, Mr. Marcum said, and was required to serve 48 hours, so was released on Jan. 1.

REGISTER OF DEEDS

Elwood G. Brock Revocable Trust, Shirley Lee Mayber and Brenda Ward, trustees, to Jerry and Patricia Foster, Lots 15-18, Blk. 14, City of Jennings.

Francis D. Haag to Gary Haag, undivided 1/2 interest in N/2 Sec. 5; undivided 1/4 interest in NW/4 of Sec. 7, T1S R26W; undivided 1/4 interest in NE/4 of Sec. 12, T1S R27W.

City Hall

MUNICIPAL COURT
 Thursday, Jan. 10, Gene Morford, Oberlin, stop sign, \$153.

Steven Wright, Oberlin, driving while suspended, illegal tag,

\$2,193.

POLICE BLOTTER

The Oberlin Police Department worked this call last week:

• A report was made of identification theft, said Police Chief Troy Haas, after Travis Riffle, 39, Oberlin, was contacted by CashNet USA about a loan he was supposedly taking out.

Mr. Haas said somehow, somebody got a hold of Mr. Riffle's personal information to try and take out the loan, though he couldn't say what information was used or how much the loan was for.

Mr. Riffle said that the theft must have happened somewhere between July 15 and Saturday.

"It's pretty common," Chief Haas said. "You go a while without checking your credit report, or you apply for something new, and there it is — a transaction you never authorized. This case was actually caught in a pretty short span of time. A lot of the time, people won't notice for far longer."

Mr. Haas said that the department doesn't work cases of identity theft often, but that it is a common occurrence.

"In general," he said, "It's a good idea to check all three of the major credit bureaus every year. That's usually how a lot of people find out about this kind of theft."

Group forms action teams

By **STEPHANIE DeCAMP**
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A Decatur Tomorrow meeting last Tuesday drew 28 people who have formed into three "action teams," ready to take on new projects to help improve the community.

"It went extremely well," said Ruth Miesner, co-convenor of the group's steering committee. "We had about 35 who responded positively to participate, and that's just a phenomenal number. I couldn't be more pleased. Of the 28 who were there, 60 percent had lived in Oberlin less than eight years. That speaks a lot to how open the community is to newcomers, and how open the newcomers are to being an aggressive part of the community."

"It speaks to both sides of the equation, and it's really exciting to us."

Mrs. Miesner said that the action teams will narrow down their focus to one or more specific projects they want to pursue.

"The first one," she said, "is the website team, and they have about eight people. Their goal is to unify the various city and county websites, so there will be one that is the primary go-to place for information on the county. They want to solidify the efforts to open up the community for not only internal communications, but external advertising as well. They're going to modernize them, link them and streamline how information gets to them."

The second group, she said, is focused on the medical community,

and includes the new administrator of the Decatur County Hospital, Jonathan Owens.

"That group has 14 people," she said, "and it's a very, very strong team. The new administrator came and will be an active part of the group, so they will be working on projects that he sees as valuable to the hospital, and to the growth of the medical community."

The third group, she said, is the business development team, and is the biggest one with 20 members.

"They're using the word amenities," she said, "which is just so perfect a word to describe the conditions under which the town will be better off, like improvements to community at large: It's clean, it's attractive, growing, will hopefully have a new motel, a new restaurant ... all those benefits that make Oberlin not only a great place to live, but a great attraction to coming here."

"So it's pretty large in scope, and they can go in a number of different directions, and because for their

size, they really can if they want to. They also had something in there about growing agriculture, and to further the community in growth and development of it."

Mrs. Miesner said that next up for the groups is to meet again within the next two weeks on their own. For the groups' first two meetings, they will have a temporary convener, but once they all get acquainted, they'll select their own and take their projects from there.

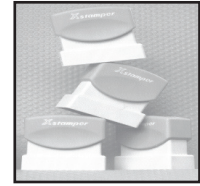
"The next stage we call 'storming,'" she said. "We would expect them to disagree at this point about the goals of the group, and they will work it out until those goals get very fixed in their minds."

"So they're up and running. It's so amazing to me, it speaks volumes of the community to welcome newcomers like this and give them a voice at the table."

If you're interested in getting involved with one of the teams, Mrs. Miesner said to call her at 475-2380.

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RAWLINS COUNTY HEALTH CENTER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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January 2013

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		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Dr. Rubinowitz Oncology	8	9 Dr. Frankum Surgery	10 Dr. Reeves Podiatry	11 Dr. Reeves Podiatry	12
13	14 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	15 Dr. Frederick C. Miller Cardiology	16 High Plains Cardiologist	17 Kirsten Angel Dietitian	18	19
20	21 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	22 Dr. Frederick C. Miller Cardiology	23 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	24	25	26
27	28 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	29	30 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	31		

To schedule an appointment with a visiting physician, **PLEASE CALL (785) 626-3211**

Cheryl Banister, RN
Specialty Clinic Director