

*Taxes may rise

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year average of the state figures for each type of land in each county, he said. This year, 2011 was added to the list.

One thing pushing up valuation, he said, is the higher farm prices the last few years. Figures for those years have pushed earlier years,

when grain prices were lower, out of the average, Mr. Hale said, but that alone doesn't explain the increase. The state says it's made adjustments to some of the math used to calculate income for some classes, he said, but the average has nothing to do with actual market prices for farm land, high as they are.

*Water rates rise to fund project

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some of the crowds that events bring to the park.
• Heard that the city has sent its last invoices on repairs to the main electrical substation and transformer, which were nearly destroyed more than a year ago in a raccoon-caused fire, to its insurance company. Mrs. Larson said that the city hopes to get another \$70,000 to \$80,000 on its claims.
• Learned that the city's insurance bill for such things has gone from \$63,535 last year to \$80,339 this year. Mrs. Larson said that she was told that rates had simply gone up and the increase was not because of

the city's claim.

• Heard that Mrs. Larson has placed an ad for The Gateway in the *Kansas Economic Development* magazine.

• Heard Councilman Rusty Adleman ask for a proposal from city Foreman Dan Castle to update the electrical system, preferably set out in phases.

"We need a plan for the whole city," Councilwoman Fonda Farr added, noting that the water lines will also need replacing, and if the city had a plan, the council would know what was next to repair or replace, and what was most important.

Muffins With Moms



AT OBERLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL last Wednesday, Mackenzie Urban (above right) and her sister Madison had a muffin with their mom, Nora (just outside photo). Students at Oberlin Elementary School invited their moms to school for breakfast at "Muffins With Moms," sponsored by Supporting Our Schools.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

*Pool moves forward

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and the commission could plan to issue bonds later that month. After legal publication and a period allowing for protest, which would end June 1, the bond sale could get started. This would take the rest of June and most of July. By mid-August,

if all goes well, the bonds would be sold and the money — estimated at just over \$2 million — delivered to the city for building the pool.

The city will repay the bonds from a 1.5-cent sales tax approved by voters last fall.

*Trial will have heavy security

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will be allowed, he added, unless news reporters get advance permission from the court. Even then, there will be a list of witnesses who don't want to be photographed or recorded.

Nicole Romine, an assistant Kansas attorney general stationed in Goodland to handle major cases in northwest Kansas, is representing the state. Justin Barrett of Colby, an Oberlin graduate, is the court-appointed counsel for the defendant.

Mr. Coryell was escorted to court wearing slacks and a dress shirt. A deputy remained in the back of the courtroom during the hearing.

Judge Pratt said he was not aware of any last-minute motions to be decided, and the attorney's agreed. He noted that the defense was to provide Ms. Romine with the report of an expert prepared for the trial, and was told it would be delivered that day.

"It won't be a problem, your honor," Mr. Barrett said.

Ms. Romine said the state and the defense has reached an agreement on most of the evidence to be presented at the trial, adding that she and Mr. Barrett would go over the rest of the list that afternoon and try to agree on as many as they could.

Of about 60 exhibits, he said, fewer than 10 had not been agreed to.

The judge said the county had bought a wide-screen television which could be used to show "electronic evidence" to the jury. He noted that a dozen or more new potential jurors had been called in, and the lawyers would get their questionnaires. Some from the original pool were removed after one side or the other challenged them, and the judge advised the lawyers to file sealed motions if they objected to any on the new list.

The trial will open with jury selection Monday, he said. Potential jurors will be brought into court in groups of 25 for questioning, with extra seats set up for the process.

Judge Pratt said spectators and others in the courtroom will be asked not to come and go — except for one assistant for each lawyer — and if anyone must go out, they won't be readmitted until the next break. Jury selection will begin at 9 a.m., he said, "or earlier if we're all here."

After the jury is selected, he said, both sides should be ready to start the trial. If that comes at midday, Ms. Romine responded, it might take a little while to round everyone up.

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