

Noxious weeds popping up all across county

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

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Musk thistle has been popping up all over, and the county is going to have to buy more weed killer to get rid of the nasty stuff.

Noxious Weed Control Director Gaylen Huntley told the Decatur County commissioners at their meeting Tuesday that he needs more of the weed killer Milestone to take care of the infestation.

"We're completely out," he said, "and that's our main tool for fighting musk thistle."

Mr. Huntley said that he had sold 60 gallons of the weed fighter this spring,

which would account for about 2,500 acres sprayed for the noxious weed.

The compound is expensive, running about \$300 a gallon, he said, so the county will be putting out about \$7,500 to replenish its stock.

Mr. Huntley said that he has been sending out a friendly reminder to landowners on whose land the weed has been seen, and he was thinking of sending one to the commissioners since some was spotted on the courthouse lawn.

In fact, he said, he ended up mowing the courthouse lawn the week before because the maintenance man was planning to

mow on a Friday and instead the lawn got sprayed for dandelions. Since the mowing couldn't be done right away after spraying, he said, he mowed it a few days later and spotted a couple of musk thistle plants near the sidewalk.

He said that he's also got his crew spraying along the highways for musk thistle under a contract with the state.

Mr. Huntley said that three townships, under contract with the county, have been sprayed for broadleaf weeds and two more should get done soon.

His crew will start putting 2-4-D on the roads where they find puncture vine, he

said, and he also expects the bindweed to be bad.

"Bindweed will be nasty this year because of the drought last year," he said.

Commissioner Sid Metcalf asked him to check the city airport, adding that he'd seen something up there that might be bindweed.

Mr. Huntley said that there is always bindweed at the airport and that they spray it every year. It's getting less, he said, but they have to keep after it.

There is also some hoary cress out at the golf course, he told the commissioners.

"You don't see it very much," he said. "I

think most of it comes in with the hay they transport. With all the hay moving back and forth, we're open to that sort of stuff."

Mr. Huntley said that the sliding doors at the recycling center needed some work and he was looking for some replacement parts for the slides. Shale has been put in the potholes in the road near the recycling building, he said.

He said that the recycling went out on May 20 and as of a week later there were already 13 to 14 full containers ready to go so the county will need to get rid of them sometime in June.

"Everyone's spring cleaning," he said.



Leona Hilker (left) watched as Julianne Shoup helped Lyle Hilker set up his Facebook account.

— Herald staff photo by Ramell Taylor

Facebook class taught at museum

By RAMELL TAYLOR

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Social Media 101 was in session for those who came to a "Connect With Facebook" class in the parlor of the Last Indian Raid Museum on Friday.

The class teaches people how to use the Internet site to connect with their families and explains the basic fundamentals of the interface.

Julianne Shoup, a Twin Creeks Extension District agent, teaches the class. She said she has been doing it for two months now in area counties.

This was the second class here in Oberlin for Ms. Shoup, and she said more than twice as many people came out this time.

The free class began with a quiz intended to help make everyone aware of how familiar they are with the digital world. Some people found it amusing to find themselves classed as either "digital immigrants" or "digital natives."

The class had the luxury of watching Ms. Shoup perform instructions on a projector screen. She used her personal Facebook profile and even added friends during the class.

Along with demonstrating, Ms. Shoup handed out instruction worksheets to the class so they could use them as references. The handouts came from the Facebook Center.

"Go home and practice," Ms. Shoup told the class. "You won't retain the information you learn unless you use it."

If anyone messes up or gets lost, she added,

they shouldn't become discouraged because "it's not the end of the world." Just ask someone for help, she said.

The class learned how to upload pictures, how to tag family and friends in their pictures and security precautions to take when putting personal information on the web.

Leona and Lyle Hilker attended the class for the first time on Friday. They said they wanted to learn how to work with pictures, along with other tricks to use on the site.

They agreed that the class was helpful and the instructions given by Ms. Shoup were thorough.

Ms. Shoup said she will be back in Oberlin next week to teach a third class at 2 p.m. Thursday, June 13, at the Museum parlor again.

Coaches approved for next school year

The Oberlin School Board approved hiring coaches for the 2013-14 school year during its May meeting.

At the high school the coaches hired include:

- Joe Dreher, head football coach;
- Caleb Howland and Shane Bird, assistants.
- Brandon Gehring, girls basketball, with no assistant hired yet.
- Tim Breth, assistant boys basketball coach with the head coach spot still open.
- Carol Brown for golf.
- Cricket Ketterl, head volleyball coach, and Melissa Dreher as assistant.
- Pat Dorshorst for cross country.
- Mr. Dreher as head wrestling coach with one open assistant spot and the other held by Mr. Bird.
- Mrs. Dorshorst for head coach for track with Mr. Dreher as assistant and Sherri Ruf as assistant.
- Sheri Jacobs for senior high cheerleading.
- Charlie Haag for concessions stand manager.

At the junior high, the coaches hired include:

- Jason Ketterl, head football coach, and Mark Bricker as assistant.
 - Jeni Henningson as head girls basketball coach and Gina Witt as assistant.
 - Mr. Bird as head wrestling coach and Brent Olson as assistant.
 - Mrs. Witt for head cheerleading coach.
 - Mrs. Witt as head volleyball coach with the assistant spot open.
 - Mr. Breth as head boys basketball coach open and Josh Williby as assistant.
 - J.D. Johnson as head track coach, with Mr. Breth and Mr. Howland as assistants.
- Activity sponsors at the high

schools include:

- Susan Nelson, director, and Janell Marchello, assistant director, for the school musical.
- Ms. Marchello as head speech coach and Elizabeth Edmonds as assistant.
- Mr. Ketterl for FFA advisor.
- Brenda Breth for yearbook advisor.
- Wendy Scott for Teens Acting and Caring Together.
- Candy Dejmajal for National Honor Society.
- Mrs. Edmonds for the all-school play.
- Ms. Marchello as the Kays sponsor.
- Mrs. Breth for high school student council.
- Marlene Moxter for scholar bowl coach.
- Mr. Breth for junior high student council.

Physician assistant returns to home town

By RAMELL TAYLOR

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A physician assistant student joined the Decatur Health Systems Family Practice Clinic last Tuesday, looking to gain experience working with patients and watching the doctors and practitioners at work.

Amber Lorentz attends Union College in Lincoln, Neb.

Mrs. Lorentz said she grew up north of Oberlin, and her parents, Lyn and Marci Reynolds, still live on a farm near Cedar Bluffs.

A lot has changed since she graduated from Decatur Community High in 2004, she said.

She married Derrick Lorentz and is currently in her third year of graduate school.

"I'm happy to be back in the community I grew up in," Mrs. Lorentz added.

The first two years of physician assistant school has been mostly textbook learning, she said.

"I finally get to do the 'hands on' work," she said. "I'm excited to be working with patients."

She said this is her first of 11 rotations.

Mrs. Lorentz said she has to do another rotation for family practice and hopes that could mean another visit to her home town soon.



A. Lorentz

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Medical service sports new face

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

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Decatur County has a new, full-time emergency medical technician on the ambulance crew and what's hopefully a short-term problem with its 911 emergency system.

Emergency Medical Services Director Linda Manning told the commissioners during their meeting last Tuesday that she has hired Melvin Martin as a full-time emergency medical technician. He will start June 4 and already has his certification, she said.

She also told the commissioners about a problem with the county's 911 system.

She said that about 4 a.m. May 25, an emergency call was received through the nonemergency dispatch line about a man having a seizure. She said she later learned that the man had called 911 but the call had been rerouted. Because the non-emergency line is not hooked up to the county's locator system, the emergency medical technicians had no way of knowing where he was except that he was on U.S. 36 and had just passed some buildings with equipment around them.

"That could be anywhere," she added.

Normally, when a call comes into a 911 emergency line, the system

uses global positioning software to pinpoint where it came from so that emergency workers can find people even if they don't know where they are.

Both Norton and Decatur County deputies searched for the man, Ms. Manning said. The Decatur County crew finally found him near Reager, which is in Norton County just east of Norcatour.

Commissioners Brad Marcuson and Stan McEvoy said that they tried to call 911 on their cell phones but were rerouted to the nonemergency number. Commissioner Sid Metcalf said that he had gotten through to the emergency number.

The commissioners called up to the dispatch office on the fourth floor of the courthouse to ask about the problem.

Chief Dispatcher Marilyn Mack said that the problem is with a new Nex-Tech tower on Oberlin's water tower. Calls that go to that tower are going to the administration line instead of the emergency line, she said. Nex-Tech knows about the problem and is fixing it, but it will take a day or two. All of the other towers route the calls correctly, she said.

"Tell them it could have cost a guy his life," Ms. Manning said.

Courthouse elevator doors are repaired

The elevator doors at the Decatur County Courthouse were fixed last week after a man head-butted and jammed them while being taken to jail.

James Schild, 44, was found in contempt of court after arguing with Judge Paul Lueschen in Municipal Court, officials said. Undersheriff Bret Marietta, who was escorting Mr. Schild, says this is only the second time since 2010 that Judge Lueschen had found someone in contempt.

Even after the exchange, Mr. Schild still was furious enough to head-butt the elevator doors on his

way to jail, the officer said.

Though the impact was enough to put the elevator doors out of order, Mr. Schild did not require medical attention afterwards.

Ron Keefover, education information officer for the Kansas Judicial Department, said that no criminal case had been filed so far as a result of the incident.

Mr. Marietta said he didn't have any problems with Mr. Schild after that.

"He still seemed angry," the undersheriff said, "but he didn't hit anything else."

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