

Club helps county plan for hepatitis

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Decatur County commissioners talked with the health administrator about a joint program with the Oberlin Rotary Club to encourage students going off to college to get hepatitis B vaccinations.

Administrator Marilyn Gamblin said kids going on to college need hepatitis B vaccine and not all families can afford the shots. The disease, while rare, can be severe, and she said she is working on a grant for the project.

Ms. Gamblin said that if everything works out, it will help students who are juniors now before they go to college.

Ms. Gamblin said she has been working with Gary Shike, who will present the project to the Rotary board.

The commissioners looked over grant applications for the health department for next year. Ms. Gamblin said that they were for the same amounts as last year, although that doesn't mean that is what the state is going to give. The total is \$12,201.

The commissioners signed paperwork for Ms. Gamblin to apply for the grants.

Ms. Gamblin said the department held an early detection program for breast cancer on Feb. 17. Around 20 women attended, she said, and one was referred for more tests.

In December, she said, she applied for a scholarship for classes to get her public health certification. Ms. Gamblin said she received \$1,100 and has been taking classes since the beginning of the year. The classes are held the last week of every month for two days.

She said even though she has been in public health for a long time, there is a lot of stuff that she is learning through the classes.

In other business, the commis-

Recycling project in works

After a trip to Colby to check out a recycling center, Decatur County commissioners decided last Tuesday to have a trailer here where people can take items to be recycled.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said that Scott Beims was going to bring over a contract for County Attorney Steve Hirsch to read. He said it would cost \$1 per person to have the recycling here, going by the 2000 census numbers, or \$3,472 a year.

The commissioners will get a trailer from the Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling Group.

Mr. Unger said the group recommends some public education before the trailer gets here (See RECYCLE on Page 5A)

sioners:

- Heard that Ms. Gamblin is trying to get Toby Prine to come here and hold an exercise for the bioterrorism group. Every county department should have a bioterrorism plan, she said.

- Heard that the county has been selected for a pilot project to put immunization records on the Internet.

- Heard that Ms. Gamblin will be attending a Northwest Local Environmental Protection Group board meeting on Thursday. She said at the last one, she mentioned that she didn't like the way the policies were written.

Pool panel wants city to hire firm

The Oberlin Pool Commission will meet with the City Council on Thursday night to ask the city to hire Water's Edge Aquatics to do some planning on the pool project.

Anna Shaw, a commission member, said the group asked the council in February to send 15 questions to the pool architects, and the answers came back recently. She said the commission met and talked about them.

They decided that they needed to think about the answers, she said, and then ask the council to pay the architects \$4,000 to work on the project.

Mrs. Shaw said the commission would like to get three options for a pool drawn up for people to see. That way, they would be able to say which they would like to have and how much they are willing to pay.

She said she thinks Water's Edge is getting the idea that Oberlin and Decatur County are small communities with a small pocket book.

The company started quoting a price of \$8,000 to hire them, she said, and that price is down to \$4,000.

Mrs. Shaw said she took a grant workshop and has been finding information that she takes to Dianne Bremer, who does the research. Mrs.

Bremer has been in grant writing workshops, said Mrs. Shaw, so she is able to throw out bad ideas and ask for more information on things that might work.

The answers to the questions have helped, said Mrs. Shaw, but the commission is at a point where they need to get actual prices.

Even if the architects are hired, she said, the pool commission is in the project for the duration. She said they will continue working with the architects. Mrs. Shaw said they are a vocal group and plan to stay that way.

The council meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday at the upstairs meeting room at The Gateway, and is open to the public.

Lions ready to hide eggs

Oberlin's annual Easter Egg hunt will be Saturday, March 26, in City Park, sponsored by the Oberlin Lions Club.

The hunt, for kids 1 to 9, will start at 1 p.m. near the shelter house. Candy will be provided by the Oberlin Masonic Lodge.



FOUR BLONDES, Jennifer Ploussard, Marci Metcalf, Katrina Wentz and Kim Wessel, wait patiently to listen to the latest music craze during play practice last Tuesday. A fake cat on his lap, Anthony Marshall, who plays Mr. Big, the head of KAOS, talked on his phone to a Control agent.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Students ready to entertain town with 'Smart' play

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Decatur Community High students will showcase their drama skills at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday in the all-school play "Get Smart," based on the old television series.

The plot involves two agencies, Control, the good one, and KAOS, which is evil.

The students in the drama club chose the play by Christopher Sergel, said teacher Leigh Davis, partly because it is a comedy and partly because of the interesting characters.

There are 28 students in the cast and crew. Ms. Davis said they auditioned at the end of January and have been practicing since then.

The play, she said, is a takeoff of the "Get Smart" television series done by Mel Brooks in the 1960s.

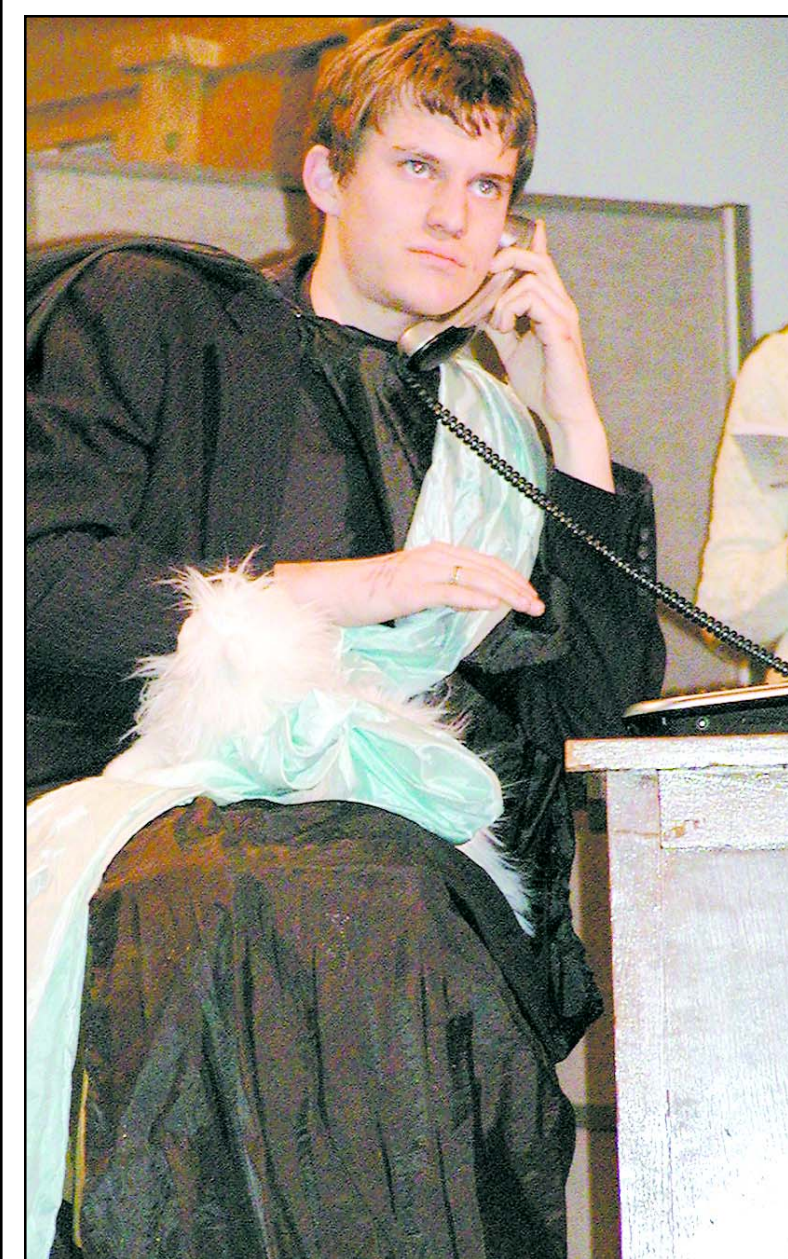
Learning drama is important, she said, because it gives the students a place to express their creativity. It is a release for the students as well as a social activity.

High school theater should be educational, she said, whether it teaches students how to accomplish a task or how something has literary value.

"There is a certain kind of reward that comes from doing something that someone else can appreciate," she said. "There is audience interaction, especially with a comedy."

The students don't have to be part of the drama club to be in the play, Ms. Davis said. The club meets once a month as an extracurricular activity. It sponsors the all-school play in March and then a variety show, which the students write and perform, at the end of April.

Tickets are \$3 for general admission for all ages. They can be purchased at the door, by calling Ms. Davis or from students in the play.



Home show is Saturday

Nothing to do for the weekend? Head up to The Gateway for the annual home show on Saturday and Sunday.

This is the second year the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce has teamed up with KFNF Radio to sponsor the home show.

This year, said Chamber Manager Glenna Nichols, there is room for 40 booths and so far there are 35 signed up. She said some vendors are still trying to decide if they can make it.

There will be a large variety at the (See SHOW on Page 5A)

Gateway to get sign in April

The Gateway will be getting a digital marquee sign, probably by the end of April, on the east side of the center off of U.S. 83.

Connie Grafel, marketing director for the civic center, said she, Kem Bryan, Ron Jansonius and Peg Smith served on the committee to pick the sign.

Ms. Grafel said talk about getting a sign for The Gateway started in 1997. Three years ago, people started to talk about a sign again. Last fall, the City Council formed the committee and they started getting bids and designs.

Recently, they decided on the sign from the Mayhew Sign Co. out of Grand Island, Neb., for \$32,461.

She said the committee didn't have a design, so they asked the bidders to come up with one.

The sign will 20 feet tall. It has a scrolling message center which can produce all kinds of graphics, plus the time and temperature, and can be seen from 800 feet away. Ms. Grafel said it will have a sunflower graphic on top.

She said that the city has set aside \$25,000 for the sign. The committee has raised at least \$5,000 and they are getting \$5,000 from the Hansen Foundation, so the city won't be spending all of the money it has set aside.



Chance for painting back on the market after two drawings

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The city's Pool Commission just can't seem to give away the big prize in its fundraising raffle.

Artist Anna Shaw, a commission member, had offered to do a painting for the winner. She said they ran the prize drawing to raise a little money for their efforts.

People didn't have to buy the tickets, but the commission is asking for a donation. Under Kansas law, she said, if someone doesn't make a donation but they want a ticket, the commission will give them one.

Mrs. Shaw said Bea Rallston from California won the drawing in December, but it turned out that she had died. The family said

they wanted the commission to draw again.

In a second drawing two weeks ago at a commission meeting, the prize went to John Meyers. Mrs. Shaw said he is her mother's boyfriend, so she called the couple in Mexico, where they were on vacation.

They donated the prize back to raise more money for the pool. She said her mom and

Mr. Meyers didn't need a painting; they just bought some tickets to help Oberlin.

So, basically, she said, no one has won the painting yet. And here's your chance to own an original Anna Shaw painting.

Mrs. Shaw said she is offering to do an 18-by-24-inch watercolor or pastel on paper, with \$100 for framing. Tickets cost \$10

each or three for \$25 and eight for \$50.

No date has been set for the new drawing, she said. Old tickets will be included, but since the idea is to raise more money, she urged people to buy some more and increase their odds. Tickets are available from any commission member, or call Dori Pauls at 475-3313.

It's really for the bird

County studies ambulance hike

County Roundup

Decatur County commissioners looked at proposed new emergency medical technician rates, what the volunteers get paid for each run, but didn't make any decisions at their meeting last Tuesday.

The old rates for the ambulance are \$12.50 for an in-county call, \$20 to McCook, Atwood, Hoxie or Norton, \$40 to Hays, North Platte or Kearney, \$75 to Salina, \$95 to Topeka and \$100 to Kansas City, Wichita or Denver.

Ambulance Director Patrick Pomeroy suggested the rates be increased.

The commissioners decided to look at the rates and make a decision at their next meeting.

Mr. Pomeroy said he has been working with Amy Griffey from Northwest Kansas Planning and Development in Hill City about a grant for a new ambulance. To get a grant, the county would have to qualify with a percent of the population in the low-to-moderate income level.

Residents in the county, except Oberlin, which is already qualified because they recently completed the same paperwork, will have to fill out a survey. The information is needed by Sept. 1.

Mr. Pomeroy said he is researching other grants, too.

Larry Kness, with Lifeline, the firm the department bought the last ambulance through, said that they could build a 2006 model according to what the department wants and then use it as a demonstrator for a few months to knock the price down.

Mr. Pomeroy said Mr. Kness is trying to get the department some credit for the two sirens on the new ambulance they had to replace, saying they should have been under warranty for longer than they were.

Mr. Pomeroy said he had attended a Medical Emergency Response Group meeting in Hoxie.

The idea is to get all of the northwest Kansas involved so ambulance, law enforcement, health departments and fire departments will all be able to work together in an emergency.

At a meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Talked about having free dump days at the county landfill the first full week in May. Story this page.
- Looked at new emergency medical technician rates, but didn't make any decisions. Story at left.
- Talked with the health administrator about an immunization program she is working on with Oberlin Rotary. Story on Page 1A.
- Decided to get a recycling trailer here so people can recycle items. Story on Page 1A.
- Talked with representatives from CASA, or Court Appointed Special Advocates, an organization that works with kids involved with the courts, about services in the county. Story to come.

There still needs to be mutual aid agreements signed for all the counties, as has been done in the past, he said.

Mr. Pomeroy said the group has already received \$5,000 in grant money.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard that Chris Green is doing a great job as the new assistant director in Jennings. She and a Jennings High School student are working on an emergency medical services web site. Mr. Pomeroy said it may cost \$20 a month for the site, but will be worth it.
- Heard there are a few technicians who will need their recertification cards for cardiopulmonary resuscitation by April or they won't be able to go on runs.

trip, Capt. Kolb said, and asked to search the car. He said Mr. Ferguson said no, so the trooper called a canine unit and the dog smelled drugs.

The car was searched, and the trooper found an eighth an ounce, also known as an "eight ball," of methamphetamine, a handgun, cash and alleged drug paraphernalia.

Mr. Ferguson was taken to the Hall County Jail and released the next day on a \$25,000 bond.

Man arrested on I-80

An Oberlin man was arrested on I-80 in Nebraska after a state trooper found drugs, cash, drug gear and a handgun in his vehicle during a speeding stop near Grand Island.

Trooper Robert Almquist reported stopping Darrel Ferguson, 49, on I-80 about 10 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 15, for speeding, said Capt. Chris Kolb.

Trooper Almquist was suspicious about the purpose of Mr. Ferguson's

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WITH THE HELP of activities director Jan Badsky, Greg L'Heureux of Oak Creek Aviaries of Campbell, Neb., moved the new bird habitat for the Good Samaritan Center down the hall. The center has been raising money for the new aviary for months now. The new unit and birds were delivered last Tuesday. Both Dennis Brown and Mabel Bailey, who helped raise money for the aviary, were present. Mr. L'Heureux took a few minutes to explain the cleaning procedures for the new aviary to Ellen Horn, since she cares for the birds.

Mr. L'Heureux took a few minutes to explain the cleaning procedures for the new aviary to Ellen Horn, since she cares for the birds.

— Herald photo by Kimberly Davis

County landfill to offer free dump days

The Decatur County landfill will be having free dump days the first week in May, commissioners decided last week.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman talked with the commissioners at their meeting last Tuesday about the dump days, from Monday, May 2, to Saturday, May 7.

It will include one free dump per household or business for the week. The landfill will be open from 10

a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays and until noon on Saturday unless it is closed because of wind or other weather.

Mr. Stallman said he wanted to set up a Hazardous Household Waste Day at the old county shop on Saturday, April 9. People can drop off used oil, paint and other hazardous items.

Mr. Stallman said the crew has been busy running gravel trucks and pulling in the shoulders of the

county and some township roads. They have done work on the Clayton Road and are now on the Hall and Jennings roads.

The crew is also working in Cook and Summit townships and then will move to Oberlin, Bassettville and Olive.

He said Darroll Banzet and Bob Keenan, who are both retired, are helping with the projects since the department is short two employees.

The group talked about bridge projects. Mr. Stallman said he would like to get back to the state five-year plan so the county could get some money for the bigger bridges, which run around \$50,000 to \$60,000.

Mr. Stallman said he would like to continue working with Husker Steel on smaller bridge projects.

Tail light draws cops to dope

A broken tail light got two Oberlin youths in trouble for marijuana possession a couple of weeks ago.

Police Officer Troy Haas said he stopped Rodney Marshall, 18, and his sister Jamie Marshall, 21, at 5:32 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 27 at the intersection of U.S. 83 and 36 because the vehicle Mr. Marshall was driving had no brake lights.

Officer Haas said he asked Mr. Marshall to step to the back of the

vehicle for a pat-down search. He found drug paraphernalia and possible traces of marijuana. Because of that, Officer Haas said, he was able to search the 1996 Ford F150 pickup, where he found a jacket with bags of what he believed to be marijuana.

Mr. Marshall was charged with possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia and Miss Marshall was charged with possession of marijuana.

* Show to offer many booths

(Continued from Page 1A)

show, she said. Some of the booths include mowing machines, coins, games, puzzles, upholstery, piano tuning and repair, appliances, air and water purification, water conditioning, candles, health items, cooking, farm items, engraving and more.

The doors will open at 9 a.m. on Saturday and stay open until 5 p.m., and then from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Mrs. Nichols said admission is free.

The staff at The Gateway will have concessions over the lunch hour, she said.

KFNF will be doing live interviews at the booths both days, she said.

* Recycle unit in the works

(Continued from Page 1A)

so people know how the system works and what can be recycled.

Commissioner Patricia Glenn said she received a call from Nottowood Weed Director Gaylen Huntley last week about some repairs needed on a transmission. Mrs. Glenn said she gave the go ahead. The commissioners ratified the purchase, since it was over \$500.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved the use of the blue meal site van for a group from Oberlin to go to a play in McCook on Sunday. County Clerk Marilyn Horn said she would drive.
- Approved the use of the blue van for Sunday, April 24, for a history tour to Kanona and Norcatar.

Mrs. Nichols said last year they had around 35 booths and had a good turnout. This year, being the second one for the show, she said, they are hoping for more people and better weather. Hopefully, she said, each year the show can grow.

Anyone with questions should call Mrs. Nichols at the Chamber office, 475-3441.

Firemen called to feed yard

Rural firemen made a quick run to the Decatur County Feed Yard on Monday when an equipment shop west of the feed mill caught fire.

Fire Chief Bill Cathcart said workers had been grinding some parts earlier in the day, and it looked like sparks had gotten into some boxes near the wheel. The fire flared after they left, he said, and moved into the west wall of the metal building.

The wall was scorched, and the

Council to get well plan

The Oberlin City Council will discuss the redrilling of well No. 12 east of town when it meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday night since they haven't heard anything official about financing yet.

City Administrator Gary Shike said they hope to have some news about an Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, but haven't received anything official.

At the March 3 meeting, the council talked with Mike Ferguson with the Sunflower Chapter of Pheasants Forever about a lease of the lake ground, but no decision was made. The two are still ironing out details of a contract, and the council will continue that discussion.

Mr. Shike said the swimming pool commission will be in to discuss what's next with the project. The group asked the council in February to send around 15 questions to Water's Edge Aquatic Design, and the commission has received some of those answers back.

plywood interior damaged, he said, but equipment in the shed, including a large earth mover, suffered only smoke damage.

He credited a quick response by six rural fire fighters for the lack of damage.

"We got there quickly, and good a good knockdown," he said.

The fire was reported about 9:45 a.m. Chief Cathcart said the call forced cancellation of the first tornado siren test of the year.

Live and Local

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- 6" Vise on stand
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Grain Augers

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- WW Cattle working pen w/head gate
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- Several Karnes Mfg. cattle panels
- Several Cattle feeder panels
- Blair 12' Feed Wagon, PTO
- 4x10 Blair Feed Wagon, PTO
- 4 Round bale feeders
- Hyd. wire roller and several miles of smooth wire
- 2-Pt. Big bale fork
- 20' Hay feeder trailer
- 3-Pt. Post hole digger
- Wood line and corner posts
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- Electric fence posts
- Hedge posts
- Bridge timbers
- 8 Rolls of new barbed wire
- Electric post hole diggers

Portable Corral and Loading Chute w/16 panels

Henderson 20' 5th Wheel Stock Trailer w/roll off stock rack

32' 5th Wheel Trailer with 10,000-lb. dual axles, new tires, new springs and shackles

Miscellaneous

- DR 6-hp String power mower
- Used tires
- 5'x10' 2-Wheel trailer
- Bin fans
- Cinder blocks

Tanks

- 2-1,000-Gal. Propane tanks
- 500-Gal. Fuel tank w/electric pump
- Barrel pumps
- 8-Ton overhead bulk bin

1990 9030 Versatile Ford Tractor, w/loader, bucket and grapple fork, 3-pt., 4,300 hours, SN: D473047

8-Row John Deere Cultivator, Model 886 with new style sweeps

2-LZ 8'x12" Grain Drills

8-Row Orthman Cultivator with super sweeps

Irrigation Engines & Pipe

- G.M.C. 671 diesel Irrigation Engine, w/clutch and gauges
- Deutz 6-cyl. Irrigation Engine, diesel, w/clutch and control panel
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John Deere Model 70 Tractor, PTO, hyd., SN: 7002588, with Farmhand loader, bucket, and hay fork

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Machinery

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