



## Kids have lots to do at school

**IN THE ART ROOM** at Vacation Bible School last week at St. John's Lutheran Church, Troy Juenemann (above) made a jungle picture frame with the help of Greta Wendelin. Justin Gee (left) swung a bat to try to hit the ball. Kids had the chance to do art, sing songs, play musical instruments, get some exercise and hear stories from the Bible.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



# Recycling trailer makes first trip with a full load

### People can take reusable stuff to old county shop south of town

Decatur County's recycling trailer is here and has already been filled once and taken to Colby to dump.

The green trailer provided by the Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling Organization is parked between the county noxious weed building and the old county shop on East Victoria, just outside of town.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn said she and Jack Benton picked up the trailer in Colby at the end of May.

The county paid a little over \$3,000, for \$1 for each person in the county, to join the recycling program.

It doesn't cost anything for county residents to drop something in the trailer.

The trailer has several bins covered by black doors. On each door is a sign saying what goes in that bin.

On the north side, the bins are for:

- Clear plastic, including clear green bottles and containers. All have to be rinsed and the lids removed.
  - Junk mail and office paper, but no newspapers or magazines.
  - Magazines and catalogs, but no junk mail or newspapers.
  - Books, phone books and chip board, but no magazines or catalogs.
  - Newspapers, but no junk mail or magazines.
- On the south side the bins are for:
- Colored plastic bottles and containers, but no motor oil containers. All the bottles need to be rinsed and the lids removed.
  - Clear brown or green glass. It

needs to be sorted and bagged separately.

• Tin cans and aluminum beverage cans. This does not include paint cans, pressurized containers, tin foil or foil containers.

• "Natural" plastic, including milk jugs, colored bottles and containers. They need to be rinsed, smashed and lids rinsed.

A few people, including Mr. Benton and Marion Wenger, have helped straighten up the bins. Mrs. Horn said anyone who wants to help out at the trailer should call her office at 475-8102 because they want to keep track of the volunteer hours.

There is no spot in the trailer for shredded paper, said Mrs. Horn, but they will try to get a separate trailer for it. The shredded paper can stay in plastic bags and the bags be dumped into the trailer, she said.

Mrs. Horn said it is important for the county to have the recycling program because they don't want to fill the landfill with things that can be reused. In the long run, she said, the program will save the county money.

When the trailer gets full, she said, it is hauled to Colby and the people at the recycling center bundle it and sell it. That money will come back to the counties involved in the group, said Mrs. Horn.

Currently, she said, there are just three counties — Wallace, Sherman and Sheridan — that aren't involved in the recycling group. Sherman County belongs to a recycling group based in Colorado.

# County considers conservation fund

Two of the Decatur County commissioners agreed that the county should try to continue giving the Soil Conservation District \$10,000 a year, but said they will have to wait until budget time for a final decision to be made.

Board members Lawrence Jennings, Ron Bryan, David Huff, Vernon Ketterl and Carl Wahlmeier and secretary Diana Solko presented the 2006 district budget to the commissioners at their meeting last Tuesday.

Mrs. Solko said the budget is basically the same as it was last year, with the county giving \$10,000. The board also receives matching money from the state.

The budget, said Mrs. Solko, has three pages, one for the operations budget, an agreement with the county for the money and an enterprise report which shows the money the board brings in on renting out drills and other items.

The part of the report about Wildlife and Parks, she said, includes matching money the board received from Pheasants Forever for programs to improve habitat for pheasants.

The money in the account has been spent, she said, unless the Pheasants Forever Group donates more.

Commissioner Doyle Brown asked if the board receives any money from the federal government. Mrs. Solko said it is all from the county and state.

With the Legislature trying to come up with more money for schools, other programs might lose money, said Mr. Brown.

Mr. Brown and Commissioner Patricia Glenn said the county would try to give the \$10,000, but they need to wait until budget time to make a decision. Commissioner Ralph Unger was not at the meeting.

# Ambulance chief gets annual evaluation

Decatur County commissioners spent 35 minutes behind closed doors Tuesday, May 17, to discuss Ambulance Director Patrick Pomeroy's evaluation.

The commissioners met in closed session for 25 minutes and then for another 10 minutes. They evaluate

the department heads yearly.

Before the review, Mr. Pomeroy told commissioners the department had worked 134 calls as of Monday. Last year at this time, he said, they had received 102 calls.

Mr. Pomeroy said he is purchasing training equipment through a

Homeland Security grant that Bert Cool, emergency preparedness director, received through the Kansas Highway Patrol. The ambulance department received \$24,000 of the grant, which Mr. Pomeroy said he will use to buy new radios.

Mr. Pomeroy said he has been

elected to the board of the Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association. He has already attended one meeting and planned to go to another one last week. The association, made up of technicians, instructors and directors, provides a newsletter and training.

# City sells surplus buildings, buys new backhoe

The Oberlin City Council sold two structures and bought a backhoe at their meeting Thursday night at The Gateway.

In May, the council decided to advertise for bids for a surplus building at Sappa Valley Youth Ranch and also for one at the old Cochran farm. Both properties belong to the city.

The city received one bid on a lean-to at the boys ranch, \$510 from Marvin Hansen.

A building at the old Cochran farm drew one bid, from Rocky Diederich for \$100.

Both bids were accepted.

In May, the council received two bids for a new backhoe, one from Sellers Tractor of Salina for a JCB

for \$56,166, with the city's trade in, and one from Martin Tractor of Colby for \$58,070.

Willard Perrin, with the water department, and Foreman Dan Castle got to drive both tractors.

City Administrator Gary Shike said Mr. Perrin preferred the JCB because the controls were more like those on the old back hoe.

The council approved the purchase.

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