

# Commissioners receive reports about extension

Members of the Decatur County Extension Council reported to county commissioners last Tuesday about what their office on the first floor of the courthouse has been doing.

Members Rick Doeden and Dr. Elizabeth Sliter said the council meets once a month. Mr. Doeden said they want to start coming to the commissioners' meetings more often to let them know what's happening.

He said they asked Extension Agent Byron Hale and secretary Donna Groneweg to write up everything they have done, and they gave the commissioners copies of those reports.

Part of the job of the council, said Mr. Doeden, is helping to set salaries. They get guidelines from Kansas State University, which pays part of the cost. The rest comes from the county's budget.

Mr. Doeden said they have been conservative on raises this year and wondered what the county did for cost of living increases.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said the county, too, has been conservative on payroll. Probably the highest increases were around 2 1/2 to 3 percent, he said, but the county didn't actually do a percentage raise.

The last few years, he said, the county employees have received an across-the-board raise. For example, everyone received \$50 more a month this year.

Mr. Hale, said Dr. Sliter, is good at making resources stretch. He hired a young man who helped redo the extension website. It was a good investment, she said, because there are already more people using it. The site is [www.oznet.ksu.edu/decatur](http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/decatur).

The extension service does pro-

## County roundup

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Agreed to give the city-county Economic Development Corp. \$10,000 to help pay a private contractor for dirt work for a runway near Jennings. Story to come.
- Discussed getting more than two voting machines for the county, which would allow having more than one polling place, but made no decision. Story below.
- Received reports from members of the Extension Council. Story at left.
- Heard the Drug and Alcohol Board will cut back on handouts during the Decatur County Fair this year. Story on Page 12.

grams for all age levels, said Mr. Doeden.

Commissioner Doyle Brown said he has heard that the county amusement authority, the fair board and everyone else involved with the county fair don't seem to be on the same page.

The extension council, said Mr. Doeden, has nothing to do with the fair. The council oversees the office and the only time the group talks about the fair is when Mr. Hale says what he is doing to help with it.

Both Mr. Doeden and Dr. Sliter said if the commissioners hear comments about the service or employees, they would like to hear them.

Mr. Doeden said they would probably be back again in September.

## Rolling along



AT THE HIGH SCHOOL field Friday, Ashley Edgerton rolled a large ball as Sarah Russ walked alongside as part of the Oberlin Elementary School track-and-field fun day on Friday.  
— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

# Voting machines available for county

The Decatur County commissioners and clerk discussed getting more voting machines so the county could have more than one polling place when they met last Tuesday but no decisions were made.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn said the county can have more machines. Actually, she said, the state allocated \$35,000 for this county for machines. Each machine, which is set up to help disabled people vote, costs \$5,000, so that would be enough for six or seven machines.

Now, the county is set up to get two, she said, one for the courthouse for advance voting and one for The Gateway, which will be the single polling place.

Maintenance for each machine, said Mrs. Horn, could run \$3,500 a year per machine. The county will have to pay for maintenance on each one it gets, every year, whether the machine is used or not.

The extra machines would mean there could be one polling place in each city, including Oberlin,

Dresden, Jennings and Norcatu, she said.

Mrs. Horn said she still hasn't heard about the possibility of satellite voting, where she would take the machine to each city on a designated day before the election and allow people to vote. She said she can take paper ballots to the cities and have advance voting, but they need a change in state law to take the machines.

The county, said Commissioner Doyle Brown, would have to get the word out before the day Mrs. Horn would be in a city so people can come and vote.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said he can't see the county purchasing a bunch of machines and then paying for maintenance and upgrades every year. The state doesn't pay for that part, he noted.

The commissioners didn't make a decision about the machines. So far, they said, they have heard little public comment about the machines or the plan for a single polling place.

# Road work will delay drivers

Work on the highway through Jennings was started last Monday with traffic being rerouted around work crews.

The Kansas Department of Transportation scheduled the work on K-383 to rebuild and widen the road from Jennings to the Decatur/Norton County line.

Venture Corporation out of Great Bend will start the rebuilding process in the city limits and move towards the county line.

"Beginning Monday, contractors

will close off the eastbound lanes from Topeka Street to the east part of town," said Eric Oelschlager, engineer. "During the first two phases of this construction project, Kansas and Washington Avenues as well as County Road 509 will be closed. Topeka Street will be closed throughout all four phases of work in town. It is a tight, 65-day schedule to complete the in town work."

Traffic lights will be set up at the east part of Jennings, west of Topeka Street. With the one lane shut down,

only the westbound lanes will be open, so drivers can expect a few minute's wait.

The contractor will mill off three inches of old pavements and apply a seven-inch asphalt overlay. Paved shoulders will be widened to five feet and the slope of the dirt shoulders will be flattened.

# City to discuss cable

The Oberlin City Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday to discuss transfer of the cable franchise agreement and a plan for the cemetery.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the council will have the transfer of a franchise agreement from Cebridge Communications to Eagle Communications.

Councilman Jay Anderson plans

to talk about his cemetery plan, which he distributed at the May 4 meeting, but wanted to wait to discuss.

The plan calls for more trees and other improvements at the Oberlin Cemetery.

The meeting is open to the public but will not be aired on local access cable channel 7 since it is the second meeting of the month.

# Cable company changes

Eagle Communications of Hays has purchased several area cable systems from Cebridge Communications, which provides cable and Internet services in Oberlin.

Eagle Communications is expanding to include 16 towns in Kansas and Colorado.

The Hays firm negotiated a purchase agreement with Cebridge for the cable systems in the Kansas communities of Abilene, Lincoln, Luray, Natoma, Kanopolis, Sylvan Grove, Sterling, Geneseo, St. Francis, Clay Center, Oberlin, Bird City, Ellsworth, McDonald and Tipton, and in Wray, Colo.

"Eagle is considered a leader among small cable companies across the U.S.," said Gary Shorman, president and chief executive officer of the firm. "The communities we have acquired are similar in size to the communities we already serve, making it a great acquisition for us."

Eagle Communications is already a familiar name in St. Francis, as the company purchased the city-owned Internet service there in April 2005.

Currently, the firm says, Eagle offers local network channels in high definition, digital video recorders, Internet with download speeds up to 6 Mb and a digital phone service in many of its systems.

The business owns and operates 23 radio stations in Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri, and 22 cable systems in Kansas and Colorado. The company also provides Internet and voice-over-Internet telephone services.

# Classes offered

Colby Community College will offer certified medication aide update classes today and Wednesday, May 31, at the Andbe Home in Norton.

The course, worth 10 contact hours and one college credit, will be from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. today and from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on May 31. Instructor will be Joyce Rima, a registered nurse.

To request a registration form, call Mary Herbel at (785) 462-3984, ext. 286.

*The Oberlin Rotary Club and the DCHS Juniors and Seniors would like to thank the following for supporting the 2006 Post-Prom Party*

- |   |                             |
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| Lee Martin                              | Lincoln Repair              |
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| Wilma May                               | Lund Law Firm               |
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| Jean Martin                             | Metcalf Real Estate         |
| Addleman Drug Store                     | Nanny's Attic               |
| Bargain Box                             | Nor'west Newspapers         |
| The Carpet Center                       | Oberlin Automotive - NAPA   |
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| Cabinet Land                            | Oberlin Medical Arts        |
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| Decatur County Alcohol and Drug Council | R&M Service Center          |
| Decatur County Feed Yard                | Raye's Grocery              |
| Decatur County Title and Abstract       | Reeves Seed House           |
| Decatur Co-op                           | Reliance Body Shop          |
| Decatur County Implement                | Rocking R                   |
| Decatur Health Systems                  | Shaw Aerial Spraying        |
| Diederich's Salon of Design             | Shear Creations             |
| Dr. Gary Fredrickson                    | Shelli's Hair Design        |
| Fair Chiropractic                       | Split End                   |
| Farm Bureau                             | Dale Soderlund Auction      |
| Farmers Bank & Trust                    | Stanley Hardware            |
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| Fine Spirits Video                      | The Dresser                 |
| First National Bank                     | The Reload                  |
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**Big Timber Memorial Services**  
**Sunday, May 28**

10 a.m. followed by  
Potluck Dinner at 12:30 p.m.  
at the City Hall in Jennings.  
Drinks will be furnished.  
Please bring your own table service.

**WAR DEAD**  
**Foreign Service**

Joseph Cilek	Fred Wentz	Frank Pachner
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Albert Janousek	Joseph Urban	Joseph Tucek
Matt Kaspar, Sr.		Joseph Vacura

**Civil War**  
Bartholomew Henry

**Spanish American War**  
Anthony Kolsky

**World War I**

Henry W. Heilman	Anthony Kaspar
William Krizek	Joseph Petracek

**World War II**

Edward Cilek	Anton Vacura	Raymond Pavlicek
Vollie Kathka	Carl Kasper	Myron Skubal
Raymond Matousek	Bernard Ehrlich	John Petracek
Alfred W. Heilman	Frederick A. Flaska	Stanley Mazanek

**Vietnam**  
Wayne Buchanan

**Peacetime**  
Elmer Petracek

**Korea**  
Raymond Kaspar Norman Petracek  
Harwood Chandler  
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Charles Votapka