

Sweeping up a storm



DOWNTOWN LAST WEEK, the city's street sweeper kicked up a bunch of dirt as it cleaned Hall Street south of the LandMark Inn. Sand used for traction after winter storms added to the load. — Herald staff photo by Jim Merriott

County asked to support effort to hire a doctor

The Decatur County Hospital administrator asked the county commissioners for money to help the doctor procurement committee hire a new physician last Tuesday, but left without a commitment.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said the commissioners needed to look at the budget and see how much money is available, which Administrator Lynn Doeden said was fine.

Mrs. Doeden said the committee is going to have to hire a recruiting firm. Last week, she said, she spent 28 hours trying to hire a doctor and still hasn't found one.

The recruiting firm, she said, will cost about \$28,000. There is about \$15,000 left in the account from the last time the procurement committee hired a doctor. The Oberlin-Decatur County Area Economic Development Corp. gave \$5,000, said Mrs. Doeden.

She said she would be asking other governments and agencies for money as well.

The committee has hired a firm called Kansas Recruiters, said Mrs. Doeden, to look for graduates in the state. She said the members also have gone to some job fairs.

Mrs. Doeden asked the commissioners to consider a donation, adding that the committee probably won't need the money for about a month, because the recruiting company only needs the first half

up front. The rest then needs to be in the bank so the committee can pay the second half, she said.

Mrs. Doeden said she's also been working on U.S. Department of Agriculture paperwork for a \$650,000 loan to finance the new speciality clinic addition at the hospital. She said she has had Rhoads Construction and the architect sign the papers, but some need to be signed by the county attorney.

The administrator said she also needs an amendment to the management lease for the hospital, because it needs to be at least as long as the length of the loan, which is 20 years.

The county owns the hospital building, said Mrs. Doeden, and leases it to Decatur Health Systems, a nonprofit firm formed by the county hospital board. She said the lease probably needs to include the Cedar Living Center nursing home.

She said the pre-closing for the bonds will be on Tuesday, Feb. 19, and the closing on Friday, Feb. 22.

Commissioner Stan McEvoy asked if the hospital has the Wheat Ridge Terrace building on its insurance. The county can't insure it, said Mr. Unger, because the county doesn't own it.

The hospital doesn't either, said Mrs. Doeden, it just manages Wheat Ridge Terrace. She said she will check into the insurance.

Commissioners pay bill for microfilm

The Decatur County commissioners approved a request last Tuesday from the register of deeds to pay \$6,971 to Mid-Continent Micrographics for putting county records on microfilm.

Judy Gaumer, register of deeds, said the company had two men working in the office for 2 1/2 days, filming around 20,000 pages of documents. The microfilm will be put in the salt mines in Hutchinson, she said. The office will receive two disks. One will be for the public to use to find records and the other for the office.

Mrs. Gaumer said the office has over \$20,000 in the tech fund, so that can be used to pay the bill.

Some of these documents, she said, are over 100 years old. This way, those books won't have to be opened.

Gaylen Huntley, noxious weed director, asked for approval on his 2007 report for weed eradication, which the commissioners gave.

The commissioners also gave Mr.

County roundup

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Received a request from the Decatur County Hospital administrator for money for the doctor procurement committee to help find and hire a new physician. Story above right.
- Approved the register of deeds paying \$6,971 to Mid-Continent

Micrographics for putting county records on microfilm. Story at left.

- Decided to deny a request from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parts to put deer remains in the county landfill after it does a special hunt to test deer for chronic wasting disease. Story on Page 1A.

pervisor, thought would cost around \$850 to \$900. He said he keeps the older ones for parts.

Huntley permission to attend the annual weed conference in Hutchinson on Wednesday and Thursday, March 5 and 6.

Mr. Huntley told the commissioners that they should drop by the recycling building to watch the county's new baler in action. Commissioner Stan McEvoy said Sarah Fredrickson, with the weed department, sent him pictures of the baler and bales she made. The pictures show eight days of cardboard that was picked up, said Mr. Huntley, and it took her

an hour to make the bale.

He said they need a pallet jack for the recycling program. Commissioner Ralph Unger said he saw one advertised somewhere for around \$300. For that price, said Mr. McEvoy, they should just buy one instead of borrowing one. Mr. Unger agreed.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved the purchase of two diesel fuel pumps and meters which Tim Stallman, road and bridge su-

New manager takes over at Co-op

The Decatur Co-op is under new leadership, with Kurt Anderson taking the helm of the business last week as general manager.

Mr. Anderson said he grew up in Drumright, Okla., and has spent the last 11 years in the co-op business, although he has a degree from Oklahoma State University in teaching.

He said he started his co-op experience in Larned, Kan., and then spent the last four years as the manager at the

Garber Co-op in Oklahoma.



Mr. Anderson

The new manager said he and his family fell in love with the town on their first visit to Oberlin at the beginning of December. This is a great opportunity, he said, since Decatur Co-op is such a strong operation.

Although he was in the office all of last week, his first day as manager was Friday. John Juenemann, a former manager, has been in charge since Doug Claussen resigned in July.

He said he plans to visit the other branches this week and is slowly getting to know everyone. Mr. Anderson said he wants to focus first on customer service, which has always worked for him in the past.

Mr. Anderson and his wife Amanda have three children, Erin Jones, 16; Emma, 5; and Ellison, 3. He said his wife plans to stay at home until the youngest is a little older. The family, he said, has decided to rent an apartment for now.

They are attending the Oberlin United Methodist Church. In his spare time, Mr. Anderson said, he likes to hunt birds and fish.

Chamber to honor farmers

It's time again for the annual Farmers and Ranchers Banquet at The Gateway, sponsored by the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce.

The dinner will start at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 16. Anyone who wants to attend needs to call the chamber office at (785) 475-3441

by Thursday, Feb. 14.

The evening will feature music, food and door prizes.

The first Farmers and Ranchers Banquet was held three years ago.

The idea of the banquet is to thank and honor farmers and ranchers in the area, although everyone is welcome to attend.

Come, eat

The Decatur County Museum plans a pancake feed from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday at the Bohemian Hall, the second of three planned to raise money for maintenance and operating expenses. A porkburger feed will be Saturday, March 8.

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AUCTION

For Mrs. Evelyn Shimek Trust & Others

10:00 a.m., CT on Saturday, Feb. 9

Doors open at 8 a.m. day of sale

Auction Location: TNT & Jones Auction Facility, 200 N. Franklin, Colby

Preview sale items from 5 to 7 p.m. CT on Friday, Feb. 8

MUSICAL ITEMS: Gibson 4 string Banjo in case, 1900's Violin w/2 bows "G&B," 1910's Frontalini Accordion, 1950's Hit Parade Magazine, Lowrey Electric Organ, Spinnet Piano.

CLOTHES / OTHER: Ladies Fur Coat, Black Leather Jacket, Antique baby clothes, Quilt, Singer Sewing Machine and Cabinet, Sewing basket.

TOYS: Weeden Engine #815 "Steam Engine" complete, Train set with track, Lionel engine #681, Lionel transformer, Rock Island engine plus car, 8 other cars plus transformer, Jetson's Fun Pad Game, Lockheed L-1049 Super Constellation (model plane kit), Tub of Matchbox cars, Child's rocking chair, Child's rocking chair with cradle, Player Piano.

DISHES/GLASSWARE/KITCHEN EQUIPMENT: Old bottle openers; Pink Depression Glass; Homer Laughlin plates, sauces & cups; Silverware set; Assorted Lead Crystal baskets; Etched Stem wear; 12 piece place setting Oneida Silver & case with extra pictures; 10 piece place setting—Camelot China; Meat Slicer; Assorted pots & pans; Goldie Locks #405 Cookie Jar; Old lace table cloth; Old tins; 6 gal brown and white Horseshoe crock.

FURNITURE: White sofa & love seat; 2 couches; Hide-a-bed couch; Futon couch; 2 Futon chairs; 5 Recliners; Glide Rocker and Footstool; 4 bar stools; Oak entertainment center with doors and 2 sets matching shelves; Oak shelving; Oak curio cabinet; Oak coffee table and 2 end tables; Oak freestanding mirror; Oak kitchen table with 1 leaf and 4 chairs; Cherry Coffee table; Assorted End tables; 3 piece End table set; 1930s sofa table; 1900 Walnut Parlor table; Cezt Banquet Parlor Lamp with 5 globes; Table lamps; Creo cabinet 3 shelves; Pine Dining Room Drop-leaf table & 4 table chairs & Hutch; Desk; Computer table; Drop leaf 3-drawer desk; Office chair; 4 piece Oak bedroom set (Chest of Drawer, Bookcase, Full size bed, End Table); Twin bed; Small Kids Trunk; 2-door Cedar Wardrobe; 2-Cedar chests.

HOUSEHOLD: Records/8-Track Tapes/78 Records, Record Cabinet, 8 track's with player, RCA Color TV, Sanyo TV, 1930s Fern Stand; Holmes Humidifier, Bathroom Cabinet—over toilet—New, Panasonic Vacuum, Sears Vacuum, Wind Tunnel Vacuum, Kenmore Washer and Dryer set, Washer, Electric dryer, Christmas decoration - miscellaneous, Gas dryer, Kenmore Deep Freezer, Maytag electric stove 30", Smoking table, Metal & wooden shelving, Assorted bedding /towels, 2 picnic baskets, Ice chests, Boxes of miscellaneous household items, 20+ boxes of collectors tins, Large Ladies Pot Head, Little Wizard, New Wheel Chair, Assorted Jewelry Boxes, 2 Century Safes

VEHICLES AND JEWELRY WILL SELL at 1:30

Lunch to be served

Terms of Sale: Drivers License required. Complete payment is due the day of the auction by cash or certified check. Personal or company checks are accepted if accompanied by bank letter guaranteeing the funds. Nothing removed until settled for. Not responsible for injury, accident or theft. All items sell to the highest bidder "as is, where is." Information and descriptions are believed to be accurate but not guaranteed. Announcements sale day take precedence over printed material. TNT Auction, LLC are agents only.

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Bob Jones, Auctioneer - (785) 443-0138, Cell

Tom Simpson, Auctioneer - (785) 443-1153, Cell

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