





MISSION TEAM MEMBERS (above) worked to level the building site before the concrete foundation could be poured for the house they were building for a Mexican family. Deanna Castle (below) wore the electrician's hat as she drilled holes to wire the house she helped build in October. This was Mrs. Castle's second mission trip to Juarez.

*Team builds house

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spoke pretty good English. We were really able to communicate with them. They were a really neat family.

"Juan Carlos, his sons, Irvin and Diego, and his son-in-law Jesus really pitched in and helped. They wanted to learn all they could about the building process. Juan Carlos' daughter Brenda loved to paint and she helped when she wasn't at work or taking care of baby Andres. It was a great experience and I can't wait to go back."

Cost of materials to build the house was \$4,100.

This money is raised by the team and sent to Casas por Cristo a month before arrival in El Paso. The agency buys all the material and has it waiting at the site when the team arrives.

The agency also provides all the power and hand tools, so team members don't need to bring a thing.

One thing this team did bring, however, was a box of 15 Spanish Bibles and 15 children's evangelism packets. Christians in Oberlin provided money to buy the materials to be distributed to people in the neighborhood.

On completion of the house, a dedication ceremony is held. The keys to the home are presented to the family along with a Spanish Bible.

"This was the second house I've helped build," Mrs. Witt said, "and it's very emotional for me. When Juan Carlos was thanking us for his new home, he started crying, and I did, too."

"Actually, we were all crying. I know he was very appreciative of what we had done. My husband and I are already planning our next trip."

Casas por Cristo builds houses year-around with teams from churches, colleges and clubs from all over the United States, Canada and some places overseas. Besides Juarez, the ministry group operates



in Acuna, a border town across the river from Del Rio, Texas. To learn more about a short mission trip to Mexico, go to the organization's website at www.casasporcristo.org.

County signs application for exemption

The Decatur County commissioners signed a tax exemption application and mailed it to the state for the new Golden Age Center.

While the center is owned by the county, that doesn't make it automatically exempt from taxes.

Appraiser Alan Hale brought in the application for the commissioners to sign. He added that the county needed a \$50 check to go with the application.

Mr. Hale and County Attorney Steve Hirsch talked about the application and the need for a fee structure for when people rent or use the building. Mr. Hirsch said the commissioners didn't have that. The application asks for that fee schedule, Mr. Hale said.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said the county needs to say that there is a fee schedule and that the money helps pay for maintenance and utilities.

The other part of that, said Mr. Hirsch, is that the schedule needs to be attached to the application. Also he asked, does the Area Agency on Aging pay the center anything for using the building for the senior meal site. At this time there isn't a charge to the agency.

Mr. Hale went to talk with the representatives at the Golden Age Center about the fee schedule. Later, the schedule was attached to the application and the commissioners signed it and sent in the application.

City OKs licenses to sell beer in town

The Oberlin City Council held a brief meeting on New Year's Eve to renew beer licenses, approve amendments to the 2009 budget and talk behind closed doors about a possible purchase of real property.

The council held a 15-minute closed session for "preliminary discussion of the acquisition of real estate" with the council, mayor and city attorney. There was no action taken.

The council approved adopting the amendments to the 2009 budget by a unanimous vote afterward.

Budget amendments were needed in the general, library, water, Gate-

way and Community Growth funds because the city had spent more than was budgeted in each, although not more than the city had available.

City Administrator Austin Gilley invited any of the council members into his office to see all of the financial reports the city's new system can produce.

License renewals to sell beer, or cereal malt beverages, were approved for the Re-Load, Crossroads Express, Ampride and Raye's Grocery.

The meeting was over in 25 minutes.

Council to discuss group's priorities

The Oberlin City Council plans to discuss council priorities at a meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday at The Gateway.

City Administrator Austin Gilley said the council also plans to talk about how to divide up pay increases already budgeted for the

year.

Mr. Gilley said a hiring recommendation for the treasurer's job is also on the agenda.

The meeting will be held upstairs in The Gateway and is open to the public.

Tech college students making home efficient

An older white house in Goodland is being transformed into an efficient two-bedroom, two bath home by the carpentry, electrical, and heating, ventilation and air conditioning classes at the Northwest Kansas Technical College.

A crowd of more than 80 people including students and officials from the college, the Goodland Chamber Ambassadors, city and school district officials, high school students, former tech college officials and friends of the college gathered for a special 'green' ground breaking at the end of August.

College President Dr. Ed Mills, said he believes the project to rehabilitate the house will be a great benefit to the area. He said students planned to strip the house and convert it into an energy-efficient dwelling that could be a model for the community and the state.

He said he liked the idea when it was suggested when he came to town in May. He said he liked the idea of making it a green project and the college began looking for a

suitable house.

He said Rose Koggie helped locate the house, which was donated to the college by Dennis and Linda Saint.

Six Goodland High students are helping, planning the interior decoration of the house.

Bryant Nemecheck, carpentry instructor at the college, said the electricians are now wiring the interior and the plumbing, heating and air conditioning students will be the next group to work on the inside before the interior walls can be finished.

The house has been stripped. Students added four feet to the south side plus a new roof and porch.

Sarah Short, high school family and consumer sciences teacher, said the six girls in her Career and Life Planning class have been researching things like 'green' paint and efficient fixtures and lighting to help reduce utility costs for the home.

The college plans to have the place completed in the late spring or early summer.

*Winter crop conference scheduled

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mon production problems, long-term crop rotation results, cover crops of western Kansas, a guide for setting up on-farm research and getting started in agriculture, to name a few.

Early registration closes Tuesday and costs \$18 for each day. It's important to include which day a

person plans to attend and the names of each person being registered, Olson said.

The fee is \$35 for both days for early registration. After the cutoff, it will be \$45.

Registration can be mailed to Northwest Area Extension Office, attention Brian Olson, Box 786, Colby, Kan. 67701.

While a few people have already registered, Mr. Olson said, it seems that 90 percent register in the last two days before the deadline.

The conference will be held at The Gateway, at the intersection of U.S. 36 and U.S. 83. It's the seventh year for the winter conference, Olson added.

This year, "diamond" sponsors

include the Decatur Co-op Association, Pioneer Seed, Hoxie Implement, Lang Diesel, Sims Fertilizer, Crop Production Services, Monsanto, Cargill AgHorizons, the High Plains chapter of the National Sunflower Association and Farm Credit of Western Kansas.

several hours, and it was 1 a.m. by the time Ms. Hanley and Mr. Stiner were booked. None of the three had been released on bond as of Monday morning. He said he thought the three would have a first appearance in District Court on Monday.

Three arrested for marijuana in Thomas County

Late last Tuesday evening, the Thomas County Sheriff's Office and the Colby Police Department arrested three Colby residents for possession of marijuana with intent to sell.

Sheriff Rod Taylor said that a combined investigation by the

departments led them to the house at 690 N. Cleveland. A warrant was issued and three officers started to search the house about 9 p.m.

Sheriff Taylor said they found 212 grams — about half of a pound — of marijuana, along with \$2,649 in cash in a bedroom.

Dustin Lane Stiner, 27, and Amanda Marie Hanley, 20, were arrested at the house for possession of marijuana with intent to sell or distribute. Copelen Kyle Justice, 18, was later arrested at his home at 1155 Summer Sun.

The sheriff said the search took



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