

## Dealing the hand



AT THE GOLDEN AGE CENTER last week, Dorothy Moore played cards with a group. The men and women get together Monday through Friday to play cards. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

# City gets thanks for work done at Sappa Park

A co-convenor of the Sappa Park committee thanked the Oberlin City Council Thursday night for the city's help at the park recently.

Connie Riedel said the park committee appreciates the posts and braided cable put up around the grassy area in front of the shelter house, which will hopefully help keep vandals from driving on the grass.

The city is also working on putting in electrical boxes for camping and has an engineer working on plans for new bathrooms.

Mrs. Riedel added a thanks to the police department for putting up a surveillance camera by the shelter house, which hopefully will deter people from doing things they shouldn't at the park.

The wetlands area is being dug out and plans are in the works for the camping sites, Mrs. Riedel said.

The Sappa Park committee had

a wonderful meeting a few weeks back which city sexton Nan Stanley attended. She's doing everything she can to help the park committee with what needs to be done, said Mrs. Riedel.

She said the committee just appreciates the help from the city, and added they they continue to be excited about the work being done at the park.

No buts, said Councilwoman Rhonda May. No, said Mrs. Riedel.

The park committee, said Mrs. Riedel, has been talking with Becky Ayers about the Girl Scouts doing some kind of flower planting or putting up trash cans at the park for Earth Day.

At the end of the meeting, City Administrator Austin Gilley talked briefly about work at Sappa Park, including most of what Mrs. Riedel had mentioned was in progress.

# Art show sponsors can still get aboard

There's still time to help sponsor the sixth annual High Plains ArtFest later this month.

Sponsorship gets patrons into the pre-show gala on Friday, April 23, at The Gateway. The "invitation-only" reception that night at The Gateway allows patrons to an early look at the art and talk with the artists. The event includes hors d'oeuvres, wine and nonalcoholic beverages, said Connie Grafel, marketing direc-

tor for the economic development corp.

The gala's sponsors will be listed in the ArtFest program. They can also take the \$100 and use it toward buying a piece of art work, she said. Sponsors should mail their \$100 check to High Plains ArtFest, 104 S. Penn, Oberlin, Kan. 67749.

The ArtFest will be open on Saturday and Sunday for the public to take a look.

# Musicians go to Colby

The Decatur Community High School band and choir plan to perform Thursday morning in Colby.

The choir performs at 9:45 a.m. and the band at 10:30 a.m. at the Colby High School as part of the

Kansas State High School Activities Association state musical festival.

The performance is open to the public, said vocal teacher Susan Nelson, and everyone is encouraged to attend.

# Mental health group requests money

Representatives of High Plains Mental Health asked the Decatur County commissioners last Tuesday to continue giving the organization money each year.

This year, Decatur County gave the agency \$26,988.

Ken Loos, a manager out of Hays, said he would appreciate the money from the county staying the same for the coming year. The commissioners said they would see what they could do come budget time this summer.

The number of clients is up a little from the previous year despite budget cuts the agency has felt, he said.

The agency has cut 25 jobs to help absorb those costs, he noted.

It would be tough to have to absorb anymore cuts, especially for

## County roundup

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Received a request from Pheasants Forever for the money the county pledged to help pay a wildlife biologist for the area, but decided the county will wait to give the money. Story to come.

- Approved publishing a request to have a hearing for a road in Beaver Township changed to minimum maintenance, although there

are questions whether it would be good policy to downgrade the road since there's a bridge on it. Story to come.

- Talked with workers with High Plains Mental Health about the budget for next year. Story at left.

- Decided to double the rent the county pays the City of Norcat for use of the city's fire station. Story to come.

the staff, Mr. Loos said.

Therapist Dan Sturgill said he's switched to coming to Oberlin on Friday instead of on Thursday to

see clients. He said he's working with lots of kids, families, couples and individuals.

High Plains, he said, is going to

be a Healthwave provider, so that will also be a benefit.

The delegation, including Joan Wilhelm from the finance department, handed out packets about use and financing for the agency. She said they tried to come up with a formula or a benchmark to show fair funding from the counties that use the agency.

As a High Plains board member, said sheriff's Deputy Jay Tate, he recommends the county keeping the contribution at the same level.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said he would like to see the county maintain the same contribution, but noted that the county will be in the same budget crunch as last year.

# Council gets project list updated each month

Oberlin's city administrator hands out an update working project list to the City Council each month, showing what the city is working on and how each project is going.

The list shows what Administrator Austin Gilley and his staff are working on, are waiting for information back on or plan to work on.

The city had a project list when he started, said Mr. Gilley. Since then, it's been updated and each of the 71 projects given a priority status of 1 through 3.

A No. 1 means it's something he or someone else is working on right

now, No. 2 means it's an item that someone is waiting to hear back on or is getting information on and No. 3 is an item that hasn't been started, or the staff is waiting on information or direction.

Some of the items in the No. 1 category include assessing the Gateway budget deficit, recruiting a motel, hiring a manager and lifeguards for the swimming pool and assessing the priority order for street resurfacing.

Each item has a priority, then the list shows the department that's working on it, including the ad-

ministrator, airport committee, economic development corporation or the electric, parks, water or other department. The topic is listed and there is a brief description of what's going on, the date the item was added to the list and the status.

On the very bottom of the project list are three items with a C next to them for completed. The three include reconciling June, July, August, September and October books, the museum electric bill, which has been settled, and mowing contracts.

The list, said Mr. Gilley, is a way

of staying organized. It's also important to let the public know what's being worked on, he said.

He added that everywhere he's worked, he's had a similar kind of list; it just hasn't always been handed out.

The working project list, said Mr. Gilley, actually dovetails nicely with the city priority list the council ranked early this year.

Pretty much anything that anyone brings in to him to be worked on goes on the list. However, housing or blighted property complaints have been moved off the working project list and onto a different list.

# Activities mark week of young child

Daycare centers across Oberlin plan to celebrate the Week of the Young Child with activities.

Tiffany Witt, with Small Steps Daycare, said the kids in area cen-

ters have made balloons to decorate the window at Prairie Petals for the week. Throughout the week, they will also do activities.

For instance, she said, at her

center on Tuesday, all the kids will dress in their pajamas.

Each of the centers is doing different activities each day of the week, Mrs. Witt said.

# Jennings council asks people for their ideas

The Jennings City Council plans a meeting for all citizens at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the Jennings City Hall.

Mayor Marj Hartzog said that they want people to share ideas for improving the town. City Attorney Steve Hirsch will be there to answer questions. Anyone can attend, she said, not just city residents.

"The meeting is open to the public," she said. "The council just wants to represent the people by

learning what improvements they would like to see and get input from them."

Other council members are Lou-

ise Cressler, Rick Foster, Pat Hall and Stann Hartzog. Refreshments will be served, the mayor said.

# Luncheon next week

The Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual professional assistants luncheon again this year, with reservations needed by Friday.

The lunch is planned from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. next Wednesday at the Oberlin American Legion.

Cost for the lunch is \$14. Everyone is welcome. Those wanting to attend or send their assistant should call the Chamber at 475-3441.

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# Open House

**Sunday, April 18th**  
**2-3 p.m.**

**304 N. Cass & 712 W. Mill**

**Door prizes will be given, compliments of Diederich's Salon & Frontier Restaurant**



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