

Goats flee the coop, leaving damages and disorder behind

We're out of the goat business. I can't say as how I'm unhappy about it, either.

Actually, we didn't even know it until the man we bought the goats from called and said, "Your goats are back over here at my place."

Jim's reply was, "Well, they can just stay."

Unknown to us, the roof off one of Jim's storage sheds in the goats' pen was lifted off and dropped into the compound across the alley during that microburst we had a couple of weeks ago. That was the escape route Nanny and Billy had been waiting for. They were up and over and on their way "home" in a flash. Truth of it was, Nanny and Billy just wanted to be with the herd they knew.

We tried goats this summer mainly because we weren't able to get any baby calves to bottle feed. Goats couldn't be much different, we thought. They should be able to keep the weeds down as good as calves.

What we discovered was goats prefer the tasty leaves of cherry trees and even have a liking for the needles on Austrian pines. They about destroyed my dwarf cherry tree and two Austrian pines in their lot.

The little stinkers evidently stood on the lower branches and ate leaves



Out Back By Carolyn Sue Kelley-Plotts quality-pro@webtv.net

and needles as high as they could reach. The trees will recover. As soon as the goats were taken from the pen, all three began to put on new growth.

The man we bought them from was very kind and offered to pay us back what we paid for them. We took part of it, but gave him the sack of goat feed we had left and chalked it all up to good experience.

We learned we're not cut out to be goat herders.

Granddaughter, Taylor, is with us for one more week. We had big plans to do so many things while she's here. So far, we have a good start on a very complicated puzzle, she's read a lot, she painted a screen door and she's working hard on decorating a cake to enter in the county fair.

Nothing too exciting but, I don't necessarily think kids have to be

entertained all the time. A little quiet time is not a bad thing. She does know enough, however, to not say she's bored. Perhaps, her mother warned her. My girls may have tried it once but, soon learned mother had plenty of jobs to keep them busy.

This "cake" Taylor is making will be covered with fondant, candy made of a thick creamy sugar paste, something I have no experience with, so Taylor is on her own. The fair rule book said decorated cakes have to be on a form. Evidently, it's only the decorations that are judged. That's good, because the cake she's making is in the shape of a large "bone" with a little black-and-white puppy on top of it.

Jim made the basic shape out of expanding foam and Taylor has "whittled" it down to the perfect size. She's busy mixing the colors and will begin rolling out the fondant. Sure hope three pounds is

enough, because it's 45 miles to the closest store that carries fondant.

Photography is also one of Taylor's interests. She's been taking lots of pictures, and if we get something worthy, we'll print it off to enter in the fair, too. Otherwise, it will just be a lot of snapshots.

I made arrangements to take Taylor and two of the girls she has known from past visits out for pizza. I picked the girls up and headed to the local pizza parlor. Conversion was at a standstill, as all three girls acted very shy and no one was talking.

I felt like a police investigator grilling a suspect. I kept asking

questions about school and sports, but nothing seemed to spark any interest. After ordering our meal, I realized I was the problem and needed to vacate if they were ever going to talk to each other.

Thank goodness for small towns. You always see someone you know and can butt in for a visit anytime. Sure 'nuff, I spotted two old friends, excused myself from the girls and moved to the friends' table. In no time at all, the girls were talking like magpies. Grandma just needed to get out of the way.

I still have hopes of finishing the home office while Taylor is

here. She even volunteered to help paint, and I would like her to know Grandma really can complete a project.

I have to finish it. Jim brought home the plywood to fix the floor in what will be the library and all the "stuff" that came out of the office ended up in the library, and now it all has to find a new home. I'm thinking of pushing it into the dining room 'til he's done making his mess. In home remodeling, it's always something.

The moral of the story is: don't weaken. Someday it will be done.

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of **The City of Oberlin** will meet on August 11, 2011 at 7 p.m. at Rooms 1 & 2, Gateway Civic Center, 1 Morgan Drive for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax.

Detailed budget information is available at the City Offices, Gateway Civic Center, 1 Morgan Drive and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2012 Expenditures and Amount of 2011 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2012 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

| Fund | Prior Year Actual for 2010 | | Current Year Estimate for 2011 | | Proposed Budget 2012 | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| | Expenditures | Actual Tax Rate* | Expenditures | Actual Tax Rate* | Budget Authority for Expenditures | Amount of 2011 Ad Valorem Tax | Estimate Tax Rate* |
| General | 1,396,099 | 53.006 | 895,585 | 73.842 | 2,474,190 | 498,522 | 74.180 |
| Debt Service | 124,143 | 14.443 | 125,520 | 5.541 | 43,330 | | |
| Library | 35,167 | 3.558 | 54,992 | 7.627 | 57,150 | 25,375 | 3.776 |
| Employee Benefits | 126,510 | 14.490 | 38,313 | | | | |
| Special Highway | 70,865 | | 105,468 | | 298,500 | | |
| Parks and Recreation | 35,872 | | 449 | | 19,080 | | |
| Tourism and Convention | 8,492 | | 10,000 | | 13,500 | | |
| Economic Development | 152,270 | | 4,811 | | 14,951 | | |
| Sappa Valley Youth Ranch | 1,569 | | 200 | | 27,202 | | |
| Gateway | 213,796 | | 149,722 | | 156,500 | | |
| Water | 365,106 | | 352,052 | | 274,714 | | |
| Electric | 2,019,374 | | 1,945,641 | | 2,140,100 | | |
| Sewer | 511,023 | | 295,065 | | 311,158 | | |
| Non-Budgeted Funds-A | 33,834 | | | | | | |
| Non-Budgeted Funds-B | 27,900 | | | | | | |
| Non-Budgeted Funds-C | 128,225 | | | | | | |
| Totals | 5,250,245 | 85.497 | 3,977,818 | 87.010 | 5,830,375 | 523,897 | 77.956 |
| Less: Transfers | 704,844 | | 372,460 | | 318,330 | | |
| Net Expenditure | 4,545,401 | | 3,605,358 | | 5,512,045 | | |
| Total Tax Levied | 573,024 | | 583,681 | | xxxxxxx | | |
| Assessed Valuation | 6,702,213 | | 6,708,204 | | 6,720,392 | | |
| Outstanding Indebtedness, January 1, | | | | | | | |
| G.O. Bonds | 1,045,600 | | 877,133 | | 799,500 | | |
| Revenue Bonds | 0 | | 0 | | 4,473,000 | | |
| Other | 1,259,051 | | 1,167,741 | | 1,230,393 | | |
| Lease Purchase Principal | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | |
| Total | 2,304,651 | | 2,044,874 | | 6,502,893 | | |

*Tax rates are expressed in mills

Karen Larson
City Administrator

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of **TWIN CREEKS EXTENSION DISTRICT #9**

will meet on August 15, 2011, at 10 a.m. at the Decatur County Courthouse, Jury Room, for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to be levied.

Detailed budget information is available at Twin Creeks District Office and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2012 Expenditures and Amount of 2011 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2012 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

| Fund | Prior Year Actual for 2010 | | Current Year Estimate for 2011 | | Proposed Budget 2012 | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| | Expenditures | Actual Tax Rate* | Expenditures | Actual Tax Rate* | Budget Authority for Expenditures | Amount of 2011 Ad Valorem Tax | Estimate Tax Rate* |
| General | | NEW | | NEW | 440,654 | 247,066 | 2.052 |
| Debt Service | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Totals | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | | 440,654 | 247,066 | 2.052 |
| Less: Transfers | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | |
| Net Expenditure | 0 | | 0 | | 440,654 | | |
| Total Tax Levied | | | 110,755,059 | | xxxxxxx | | |
| Assessed Valuation | | | | | 120,403,066 | | |

*Tax rates are expressed in mills
Patsy L. Maddy, Board Chair

Check Out Our FAIR SPECIAL!

Switch August 1 - 5 and receive:

FREE Activation!*

Plus, save money with these great offers:

6 Months FREE
on add-a-lines!*

\$50 INSTANT CREDIT
per line!*

\$200
when you bring
us your number!*



Samsung Showcase
\$99.99*



Ultimate Fertilizer Company
139 W Hall St • Oberlin
785-475-2121

www.nex-techwireless.com

*With qualified rate plan and 2-year service agreement. Certain restrictions apply. While supplies last. New Activations Only. Nex-Tech Wireless is eligible to receive support from the Federal Universal Service Fund in designated areas. As a result, Nex-Tech Wireless must meet reasonable requests for service in these areas. Questions or complaints concerning service issues may be directed to the Kansas Corporation Commission Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection by calling 1-800-662-9027.