

Commissioners agree no need for fire ban now

Residents of Decatur County can bring in the Fourth of July with a bang this year after commissioners approved the sale of fireworks at last Tuesday's meeting.

Commissioner Chairman Stan McEvoy said the county was under a burn ban last year, preventing the sale and use of fireworks for Independence Day.

The commissioners confirmed that no burn ban is in effect for this year. Commissioner Sid Metcalf said he spoke with the fire chief and the two decided that the weather conditions weren't as dry as last year, so there was no need for a ban.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Reviewed responses from income surveys sent out the first week of June to determine the percentage of low-income households in town.
- If the county has at least 51 percent low-income households, the hospital could qualify for a Community Development Block Grant.
- Out of 567 surveys sent out the first week of June, however, just 165 responses had come back so far.
- Met with Road Supervisor Tim Stallman to review the progress on one bridge eight miles east of U.S. 83, then 5 1/2 north of U.S 36 and a third of a mile east. Mr. Stallman said the bridge is done and open for public use.
- Told Mr. Stallman they would meet with him and a Bobcat representative at next week's meeting to discuss purchase of a skid loader with four attachments, including an auger, a regular bucket, a rock grapple and pallet forks. With a 36 percent government discount, Mr. Stallman said, the machine should cost about \$60,000.
- Approved resigning County Appraiser Alan Hale to a four-year contract.

Agency needs to fill position

The U.S. Farm Service Agency is looking for nominees for open positions on its county advisory committee.

"I encourage all eligible farmers and ranchers to participate in this year's county committee election by nominating a candidate by the Aug. 1 deadline," said Diane Barrett, Decatur County executive director for the agency.

The county is divided into three Local Administrative Areas, she said, and an election is held each year in one. This year, the area holding the election includes Finley, Beaver, Logan, Liberty, Sappa, Oberlin, Bassetville and Cook townships.

To be eligible, a person must par-

- Heard Diana Solko, manager of Decatur County Conservation District, request \$19,000 from the property tax levy for 2014, the same as this year. The commissioners said they would review the request later.
- Heard Clerk of the District Court Janet Meitl ask to buy a new copier. Mrs. Meitl said she has \$3,936 in her copier fund and asked to use money from the general fund to cover the rest. Commissioners told her to get bids on a new copier and they would meet again to discuss it.
- Named Emergency Manager Jacques Boultinghouse as as regional representative for Homeland Security.
- Met with Summer Recreation Director Dakota Soderlund and Recreation Board Member Gary Juenemann to discuss the board reaching its budget limit.
- Reviewed and signed the annual state noxious weed report with weed-control director Gaylen Huntley.
- Agreed with Mr. Huntley on a rate of \$7 a lot to spray bindweed for residents.
- Approved purchase of four new tires and an alignment for the Chevy Impala used as a county car
- Approved buying shutters for the windows of Register of Deeds Karl Ketterl's office . Mr. McEvoy said the shutters would allow her to avoid moving bookshelves from the windows during storms. The shutters will cost \$2,244 through Selden Lumber.
- Approved paying \$858 for the taxes on the movie theater and bowling alley.
- Went to the Good Samaritan Center and had lunch with Administrator Janice Shobe. The commissioners toured the building and discussed future improvement ideas.



UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS FANS Renee Smith and Hank Juenemann (right, in KU shirt) chatted during a party at the Sunflower Theater for alumni and friends of the university.

— Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

Alumni meet at Sunflower Theater

About 20 University of Kansas alumni and friends got together at the Sunflower Cinema on Thursday for snacks, drinks and to hear the latest information from the Hill.

Alumni Association employees Brad Elund and Kelsey Hill, both Hoxie natives, handed out calendars, stickers and beads and talked about the university.

The School of Businesses is getting a new building across from Allen Field House, Mr. Elund said, and the new Rock Chalk Park in northwest Lawrence will house soccer and softball fields and a track. The university has not been able to hold Big 12 track meets in the past because of its subpar track, he said.

A new building attached to the field house will house an original copy of the rules of basketball given to the university last year, he said. The rules were typewritten by Dr. James Naismith, inventor of the game, in New York. He later became KU's first

basketball coach.

The bad news is state budget cuts, which will especially hurt the medical school, he said. Since more than half the doctors in Kansas have been educated at the medical school and it is working on getting cancer treatments out to the rural areas, the school probably needs more money rather than less, he said.

Several of the alumni and friends asked about the change coming in how basketball games are shown on television, but Mr. Elund said he wasn't sure how everything would shake out. However, he said, if fewer games are available out here, the fans should call the university and complain so that officials know that we care.

Despite budget cuts and possible television cuts, Mr. Elund said the school is doing great and its sports teams, with the possible exception of football, are tops.

"It's a great time to be a Jayhawk," he said.

Surveys could bring money to city

By RAMELL TAYLOR
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Oberlin residents are being asked to participate in a survey that would help the city receive a \$1 million grant to help pay for projects including the new pool and the city well and water system improvements.

Income surveys mailed this week will help determine if the city qualifies for a Community Development Block Grant from the Kansas Department of Commerce.

City administrative assistant Steve Zodrow said for the city to qualify, Oberlin would need 51 percent of the residents to be in low-to-moderate income households.

Mr. Zodrow said this is the second mailing for the surveys. From the

first mailing of 934 sent out, he said, just 212 responses came back.

The 934 surveys account for 1,788 residents, Mr. Zodrow said. Out of the 212 responses, 381 people were accounted for. The county sent a similar survey to rural residents.

"That's only 21 percent of the population of Oberlin," he added.

The good news is 64 percent of the responses so far are low-to-moderate income households, he added.

The deadline to apply for the grant is September. Mr. Zodrow says he needs to have the surveys accounted for by the end of the July to allow enough time to process the data.

He said the data collected from the survey can also be used for any projects the city might have for the next 10 years.

"Every grant dollar we get," Mr. Zodrow said, "that's a dollar less we have to borrow."

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Elvis Presley Memorabilia
Cocoa-Cola Collector Dolls
Salt & Pepper Collection
Chime clock
Assort Crystal
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Porcelain Dog
Pressure Cooker
Pots & Pans
Roasters
Lots of Dishes
Meat Saws
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Xmas Lights
Mini Trampoline
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2- Croquet Sets
Assort of Games
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Many more items too numerous to mention.

Lunch will be served.

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