

Walkers getting ready

The third annual Decatur County Relay for Life is only a week and a half away.

The event will start at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 18, at the Decatur Community High School track. The first lap will be for all cancer survivors in the county. The second will be for survivors, their families and their caregivers.

"We feel that this fund-raising event for the American Cancer Society is unique in the fact that all monies raised will go directly to research to find cures for the many types of cancer," said Dr. Gary Fredrickson, chairman for the event.

So far there are 14 teams set up for the relay. Each team member has been asked to sell 10 luminaries at \$10 a piece.

Those teams are the Bruggeman Family, high school teachers, Depperschmidts, Diederichs, high school girls, The Dresser, Decatur County employees has three teams, Ploussards, Decatur Professional Women, Decatur Health Systems, Fortins and Mays.

The first year there were seven teams and the second year there were eight teams.

The luminaries are sacks that have a candle inside that will be lighted after dark. The luminaries are being sold in memory of or in honor of someone who had cancer or died from cancer.

Luminaries will be sold up to the day of the event.

The walk will go throughout the night, with a person from each team on the track at all times. It will end at 7 a.m. Saturday, June 19.

The deadline to have names on the luminaries printed in the program is Monday. Contact Peg Smith at 475-2296 to purchase a luminary. So far there are 400 luminaries sold. One person sold 97.

Sarah Fredrickson, committee member, said they are looking for anyone willing to donate a big canopy tent.

If interested, contact her at 475-3135.



AT THEIR HOME in Oberlin, Rod and Marcella Mathill sat with two of the air machines which they sell out of their basement.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Brandt

Couple sells clean-air machines

A year and a half ago, an Oberlin couple got a letter in the mail telling them about a business opportunity.

Today, Rod and Marcella Mathill operate that business out of their home at 101 S. East Ave.

Mathill International Independent Distributors of Ecoquest started when the couple lived in Norcat in January of 2003. In September, the couple moved to Oberlin, where they operate the business out of their basement.

Mrs. Mathill said the business is focused around healthy living technology, with 90 percent of the sales based on helping people breathe better by getting rid of or reducing dust, animal dander, smoke, fertilizer and other things from the air in their homes, cars, businesses and even refrigerators.

The air purification systems they sell help eliminate bad odors, she said, whether a home is down wind from a hog farm or a feed lot.

Mr. Mathill describes the air purifiers like a "thunderstorm in a box." A thunderstorm, he said, cleans the outside air naturally. Basically, the air system cleans the air in a person's home, minus the water.

The machines are scientifically proven, he claimed, to kill salmonella, staph, e-coli and candida bacteria.

Mathill International offers models ranging in price from \$80 to \$700 and in size from a model to go inside a refrigerator to agriculture units that are made for farms.

"We can handle any air purification issue," said Mr. Mathill.

Each model comes with a payment plan. If the cost is too much up front, the business will take four monthly payments.

Mrs. Mathill said they offer a free trial for four days. She said they will come into the home, set up the machine and then work with the customer each day throughout the process.

She said they worked with a mother in Brooklyn who lived two blocks from the World Trade Center when it fell. The woman had an infant and the pollution caused by the destruction was making the baby sick.

Last March, said Mrs. Mathill, she tested an air machine. The baby hasn't had to go to the hospital for breathing problems since. Mr. Mathill said the mother liked the

machine so much that she didn't want to send it back after the free trial and bought it.

Mathill International has shared the technology with people from New York to California and into Canada. Mr. Mathill said they have even done business with the San Jose Sharks hockey team.

The couple said it is a network marketing business and they have a team of over 80 partners.

Mr. Mathill said this is a Christian-based company that has been blessed with financial stability, friendships and more.

This is a business, he said, they will pass down to their grandchildren.

The air systems aren't all they offer. They also do "invisible gloves," weight loss products, herbal vitamins and more.

The couple says that they love Oberlin and aren't going anywhere. They love the school system and are very much part of the community.

"We believe in family and are very grounded in Oberlin," said Mr. Mathill.

They have two children, Jessica, 13, and Nickalas, 10. Both also work at Sappa Valley Youth Ranch.

Mrs. Mathill said people are welcome to stop by their house to smell their air. She asked that they call first at 785-475-8939.

"We would like to see more local people benefit from this product," said Mr. Mathill.

Vandals shoot out glass

Someone used a BB gun to shoot out the glass in the door of the Oberlin Police Department sometime Friday or Saturday.

Police Chief Wade Lockhart said the door started to fall apart Saturday afternoon and it had been OK

Friday.

Someone also shot a window at the Carpet Center next door and the door at the Masonic Temple, he said.

The door at the police department was replaced temporarily on Monday.

Goodland man seeks Senate seat for 40th District

By KIMBERLY BRANDT
A young man from Goodland found himself as the only candidate seeking the 40th District state Senate seat last week, at least for the time.

Dan Rasure, 22, said he has always been interested in politics and the political process. Last year, he said, he graduated from McPherson College with a business management degree.

He went to Washington and worked as an intern in Congressman Jerry Moran's office for a year, then decided to come back home to Goodland, where he was raised.

Washington was great, said Mr. Rasure, but he said he loves western Kansas. It's a great place to live.

Mr. Rasure said he always knew he would run for political office, but thought it would be later in life. It came up casually that he should run this year on the Republican ticket. He said he started to think about it and he decided to make the race.

Mr. Rasure had planned to run against Sen. Stan Clark, a conservative Republican who had held the seat for 10 years. Mr. Clark was killed in a traffic accident during a dust storm in late May. Other candidates have until noon Thursday to file for the seat, and a party vacancy committee will fill the unexpired term next week.

People's reaction to a new graduate running for office has been better than he thought it would be, Mr. Rasure said. Everyone knows the area needs more young people to come back after college.

More kids would come back if they felt there were jobs, he said. Those who go off to college get an expensive education and they need skilled jobs to draw them back.

Western Kansas has good schools, he added, but those won't last without kids in them.

Mr. Rasure said he supports education and money for it. He noted that Oberlin schools had cutbacks

this year, and said some of that probably had to take place. The population has dropped and the cuts were made, but the decrease in state money hasn't helped the situation.

He said he knows in Hoxie, they bus all the kids to one school to eat at one cafeteria. It seems that Golden Plains is the only area school district that is doing OK. The new dairy there, he said, has helped out quite a bit.

The cost of education and the business side of running a school district are continually going up. Mr. Rasure said there are some issues that need to be addressed, including liability insurance and other insurance needs in schools.

He said he is interested in infrastructure, including telecommunications, utilities and roads. There are many narrow bridges in this area, he said, and since this is an agricultural area, that won't do.

Since he decided he was going to run for office, Mr. Rasure said, he has been to every county in the vast 40th District — expanded to cover 18 counties this year — at least three times and he is on his fourth visit for some.

He said he has been in Oberlin more than that to attend events and besides, his grandparents, Don and Gerry Neff, live here. His mother Christie is a Decatur Community High School graduate and his father Kevin is a Sherman County commissioner.

Mr. Rasure said he grew up in Goodland in the family lumber yard business. He learned both business and about agriculture from his family.

If elected, he said, he would like to keep his home in northwest Kansas. He said he feels if he moves to Topeka, he will lose touch with the people.

The system doesn't work unless people have a chance to have a say in it, he said, and he wants to give voters that say.

City says 'yes' to mayor

The Oberlin City Council ratified the mayor's declaration of a Stage 2 water emergency at a meeting Thursday at The Gateway.

Last Monday, May 31, Mayor Ken Shobe declared a Stage 2 water emergency after the city pumped 800,000 gallons in a day more than once.

Stage 2 means that those on city water can only use water outside on an even/odd basis. Those with odd addresses can water on Tuesdays,

Thursdays and Saturdays. Those with even addresses can water on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. There is no watering allowed on Mondays.

Watering hours are 12:01 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 9 p.m. to midnight, with no watering allowed at midday.

Fines for watering when someone isn't supposed to are \$100 for the first time and \$200 the second time. Repeat violators can be sentenced to jail.

Former mayor dies at hospital

Idella Frickey, 64, mayor of Oberlin from 1987 to 1995, died Thursday at the Decatur County Hospital in Oberlin.

The Gateway civic center was built during her term as mayor.

"Idella was really a remarkable person in terms of getting along with people she didn't like," said Jerry Fear, former city administrator, who came for the services on Monday. "She got people to work

together and eventually agree to come to a common conclusion.

"I worked with her for 18 months before there was a dissenting vote cast by the council, which speaks well of her."

Mrs. Frickey was an insurance and real estate agent, abstractor and income tax consultant in Oberlin and also had taught outreach courses for Colby Community College. She also taught piano lessons.

She was born May 22, 1940, at Worthington, Minn., the daughter of Arthur and Loretta (Foster) Nelson. She attended Oberlin Elementary School and graduated from Decatur Community High School in 1958. She attended

Friends University, where she earned a degree in human resource management. She held a master's degree in organizational management at the University of Phoenix.

She was a member of the United Church of Oberlin, where she served as organist for many years.

She married Lemoine Rush in 1958 and they divorced. She married Charles Frickey in 1979 and they divorced.

Survivors include two sons, Terry and Sandy Rush, Oberlin, and Kevin and Michelle Rush, Olathe; a daughter, Cinda and Vernon Flax, Arnold; two sisters, Janette and Howard Votapka, and Patricia Whetzel, Oberlin; and eight grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother-in-law, Robert Whetzel.

Services were Monday morning at the church. The Rev. Grant Davis officiated and burial was in the Oberlin Cemetery. A memorial was established to the Decatur County Hospital. Contributions may be sent to Pauls Funeral Home, 121 N. Penn, Oberlin, Kan., 67749.



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