

Fireworks display cancelled

With a punk in his hand, the boy bent over and carefully touched the red-hot end to the fuse of the fire-cracker. Then he turned and ran.

Just as he turned back around, there was a little boom. This scene was repeated all over town Sunday afternoon as kids young and old were setting off small explosives.

It seemed like a normal Fourth of July. The crackers could be heard everywhere.

As the day progressed and it became darker, brighter and bigger fireworks started to light up the sky.

Families decided to stop long enough with their own shows to head up to the fairgrounds for the annual fireworks show there. Rusty Addleman, who organizes the ordering of the fireworks each year, said the ones who were going to light them were ready when the wind picked up and it started to rain.

The display was canceled until the following night. Just before dusk on Monday, though, another storm came in with wind and rain, and again the show was canceled.

Mr. Addleman said this is the first time the fireworks show has ever been rained out.

He said they will decide on a time to shoot them off later. The fireworks will be used here, he said, although they may need to be sent back to the vendor for safe storage.



Youngsters at the park

IN THE WHEELBARROW race at FROGS Summer Camp (above), Alexis Hissong held Jamie Soderlund's legs. Nolan Henningson (right) shot a nerf gun at some fake cans. Pastor Heidi Wiebe of the Oberlin Covenant Church, which sponsors the summer outreach program, said FROGS camp is held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at City Park for kids going into second grade up to those going into sixth. The kids bring their own sack lunches, but the games, crafts and a snack are provided, and the camp is free. Kids don't have to attend every day to be involved. It will run through Friday, July 30.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Brandt



Candidate coffee Saturday

With the primary election a little less than a month away, the Decatur County Farm Bureau will sponsor a candidate coffee at 2 p.m. Saturday so voters can meet the candidates for the 40th District state Senate seat, 120th District state representative and District 2 commissioner in Decatur County.

The event will be held in the auditorium at the Decatur Community High School.

Candidates who will be present include two Republican candidates for the Senate seat:

- Dan Rasure of Goodland, a recent college graduate who just finished an internship with Congressman Jerry Moran, but began his campaign at the first of the year.
- Ralph Ostmeyer, state representative from Grinnell, who entered the race after the death of Sen. Stan Clark last month.

They will meet Democrat Tim Peterson from Monument. He farms in Logan County and is the vice-chair of the Kansas Agricultural Remediation Board.

Republicans running for the representative seat are:

- John Faber, the incumbent Republican, who lives and farms at Brewster.
- Norton County Attorney Doug Sebelius, who lost to Mr. Faber in the primary two years ago.

Democrat Bob Strevey, who also lost to Mr. Faber in the last election, will face the winner in the November general election.

In the commissioner race are two Republicans:

- Ralph Unger, the incumbent, who has served the county for over 25 years.
- Phillip Lahman, who lives in Oberlin and has filed petitions against an increase in school taxes for the last two years.

The forum is open to the public and everyone is urged to attend.

Teachers may get new laptops

The Oberlin School Board approved a lease option last Wednesday for teachers to receive laptop computers for their classrooms.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt said with the exception of a few teachers, most have never received a new computer. Teachers get old lab computers, he said. With the scheduling and grading programs the district uses, though, teachers have had to use their computers more and more.

The laptops would allow teachers to use their computers everywhere. They could take them home and put grades in instead of working in the evenings at the school.

The old computers then can be

used in the classroom.

The district has computers for teachers anywhere from four to nine years old, he said. Replacement computers don't include computers for administration, ranch staff or the non-certified staff.

The board received three bids. The first was for 17 Apple computers with three years of payments totaling \$28,477; the second for 20 Toshiba laptops with the total being \$30,780, and the third was for 20 from Dell with the total payment at \$30,549.

The estimated annual payments would be just under \$20,000. Mr. Glodt said they would like to put in

a wireless network for both the grade and high school buildings, which would cost \$10,000 for the equipment.

After three years of leasing the laptops, the district would buy them for \$1 per computer.

Although the board approved the idea of leasing the computers, they didn't decide on a bid.

By taking this step, said Mr. Glodt, the district will have a constant flow of new and updated computers for teachers and classrooms. The money will come from the capital outlay account, which has to be spent for equipment needs and building maintenance.

County tells sheriff to wait for all bids before buying truck

Sheriff Ken Badsy asked Decatur County commissioners about buying a new vehicle again last Tuesday, but they told him to wait until this week, when all the bids are supposed to be in.

At the last meeting, the sheriff and Undersheriff Michael French presented information on a Dodge Durango they found in Illinois for \$22,900 and \$350 for shipping.

The commissioners asked that they get local bids. Commissioner Doyle Brown said Tuesday that he wanted to wait until after the bid deadline.

Sheriff Badsy said he had been talking with Ambulance Director Patrick Pomeroy, who is driving a vehicle that the sheriff's department had taken in a drug seizure. The ambulance department didn't pay anything for the vehicle.

The idea was that the ambulance department could give the sheriff's office some money towards the purchase of a new truck.

Mr. Pomeroy suggested around \$6,000. The commissioners said they wanted to talk with County Attorney Steve Hirsch about that before making any decisions.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said they got a letter from the Kansas Motor Vehicle Division saying that Kansas municipalities aren't allowed to buy a vehicle from a dealer who is not licensed in Kansas.

What if the bid from out of state is \$3,000 to \$4,000 cheaper than in state? the sheriff asked. Mr. Hirsch said they can't take it.

What if no one around here has a vehicle like this? asked Sheriff Badsy. Then the dealer with the vehicle needs to become a licensed dealer, Mr. Hirsch said.

Sheriff Badsy said they just found out that they have received a Byrne grant for a little over \$20,000. Sheriff Badsy said the department has to match 25 percent, which will be \$5,000. The actual money they will get will be \$15,000.

The money will be used to purchase laptop computers, stun devices, surveillance equipment and other items. Sheriff Badsy said

County roundup

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Told the sheriff they needed to wait to make a decision about a new vehicle until after all bids are in. Story on left.

- Heard that a breakdown in the road and bridge department could cost anywhere from \$750 to \$5,500 to fix. Story on Page 12.

- Heard that insurance would cover around \$85,000 for roof replacement at the Good Samaritan Center. Story on Page 12.

- Heard budget requests from the Thomas County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council and the Northwest Kansas Family Shelter. Story on Page 12.

- Talked with members of the Oberlin City Council, who were asking the county to help pay for operation of the swimming pool. Story on front.

they had planned to purchase radios with some of the money, but they are getting those through a Highway Patrol grant.

Mr. Unger said maybe they could use that money to purchase a radio repeater.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard the ambulance schedule has been easier to fill since Assistant Director Linda Manning was rehired.

- Agreed that counties where Mr. Pomeroy holds training needs to reimburse Decatur County for the books and supplies.

- Held a closed session to discuss personnel for 10 minutes. There was no action taken.

Officials' contracts cut in half to one year

The Oberlin School Board decided at an early morning meeting last Wednesday to change from two-year contracts for administrators to one-year agreements.

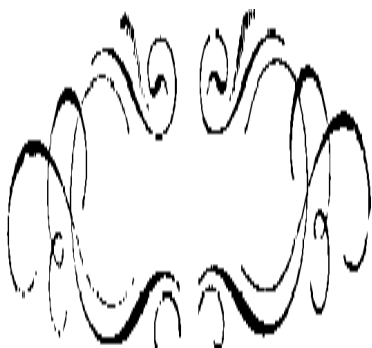
In recent years, at this time of year, the board would decide to extend the contracts for another year which would mean two year contracts.

Instead, members decided to not extend them and change to year-to-year contracts. Superintendent Kelly Glodt and Principals Duane Dorshorst and Charles

Haag all have jobs for next year.

Board President Chris Bailey was called Tuesday, but couldn't be reached.

Mr. Glodt said in December, the board will decide whether they will extend the contracts or if the administrators won't have a job for the coming year. It is stipulated that the administrators will know in December about the contracts, he said. That way, if they need to, they have time to find a new job if they are not renewed.



Creative Movements Gymnastics

Enrollment and Annual Meeting
Tuesday, July 13 at 5:30 p.m.
Sacred Heart Gym - Atwood, Kansas

New students level of ability will be assessed for class placement. Waiting list possible.
New leotards for sale this day.

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Elk Antlers	3 Antelope Shoulder Mount
Wild Pig Shoulder Mount	Antler Collection
Porcupine Floor Mount	2 Skunk Mounts
4 Point Deer Antler Mount	Coyote Head Mount
2 Pheasant Mounts	Mouflan Sheep Shoulder Mount
Wood Duck Mount	Raccoon Mount
Badger Head Mount	2 Squirrel Mounts

Saturday - July 17, 2004 - 9:30 AM Gateway - Oberlin, Kansas

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