

County passes budget

The Decatur County commissioners passed a \$1,660,720 budget for 2005 last Tuesday with no objections or questions, giving taxpayers a little break in the process.

The total county budget of nearly \$1.7 million has increased a little from last year, when it was \$1.653 million. County Clerk Marilyn Horn said the increase was \$7,328, about four-tenths of 1 percent.

The assessed valuation for the county went up, she said, from \$30 million to \$31 million, while the county property tax levy went down. The levy was 54.737 mills for the 2004 budget and next year it will be 52.990, down about 3 percent.

Mrs. Horn said some taxpayers may be paying a little bit more depending on the valuation on their tax statements. Anyone whose assessment went up, or had new construction, will be paying more in taxes.

If a taxpayer's assessment stayed the same, or went down, though, their tax bill for the county should go down also. She said that isn't the sale value of a person's house, but the valuation on the tax statement, that is used to figure the tax.

The county budget, said Mrs. Horn, includes money for the county general fund, which includes everything in the courthouse, plus separate funds for road and bridge, home for the aged, fair maintenance and premiums, soil conservation, hospital maintenance, county health nurse, extension council, mental health and retardation, out of district community college tuition, noxious weed control, elections, insurance, employee benefits, senior citizens, museum and economic development.

She said the county doesn't have any bonds or other debts it is paying on. The hospital has some loans but the hospital pays for them.

Section to honor veterans

The Oberlin Herald is looking for men and women from Decatur County who served during World War II for a special section for Veteran's Day.

The section is scheduled to run Wednesday, Nov. 10, in the newspaper. This is the first time The Oberlin Herald will run a section honoring World War II veterans.

The veteran can be living or dead. The veteran can submit the information, or anyone can nominate someone they know. We want to get as many veterans as we can, so don't delay.

The idea is to run a profile of six to eight paragraphs on each veteran from that era, along with a picture, in the section. Contact Kimberly Davis at the paper by calling 475-2206 or mail in information about what your veteran did during war, what branch he or she served in, where he or she lives now (or when the veteran died), when he or she retired and a picture.

Photos should be in a uniform of the era, but if one is not available, a later photo will do.

Please also include a phone number and contact person. Mail information to 170 S. Penn Ave Oberlin, KS. 67749, or by e-mail at kldavis@nwkansas.com.

The deadline is Friday, Oct. 22.



MUSEUM DIRECTOR Sharleen Wurm (above) helped serve bratwurst and pork burgers at Mini Sapa Day at the Last Indian Raid Museum on Saturday. Johanthon Howland (below) took his turn with three bean bags, trying to knock over the pop cans and win a prize.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Young and old gather at museum for Mini Sapa Day

Young and old joined together Saturday at the Last Indian Raid Museum to play games and eat pancakes and barbecue for the 46th annual Mini Sapa Day.

The celebration kicked off with a pancake feed in the Bohemian Hall. Greg Fidele, a member of the museum board, said they had a really good run during the feed. After the breakfast was over, the grill was fired up for lunch. On the menu were bratwursts, pork burgers, beans, chips, pop and cake for the 125th anniversary of Decatur County.

Mr. Fidele said the crowd was good again for lunch. Outside the Old Bohemian Hall, kids were able to try their hand at games including a bean bag toss, plinko, corn tank and fishing.

They won prizes ranging from plastic parachute men to little stuffed animals to slimy stuff in

a plastic toilet. Inside the land office was a bake sale, which Mr. Fidele said was a hit. He said there weren't any goodies left.

Next door in the doctor's office included blood pressure checks, set up by Decatur Health Systems.

Mr. Fidele said that went over well.

In the past, he said, they had entertainment in the hall, but this year with everything going on at the museum, that didn't get set up.

Next year, said Mr. Fidele, he would like to get the entertainment back.

He said it helps bring people in, but they would also like to get more vendors.

The numbers were down from last year, said Mr. Fidele, but they were still able to raise around \$1,000 to \$1,200 which will go to help operate the museum.



Commissioners OK purchase

The Decatur County commissioners agreed to ratify the purchase of a 1990 Dodge Ram truck for \$2,000 from state surplus property in Topeka.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said

at the meeting Sept. 21 that he went to Topeka and looked at surplus property and found the truck. After calling Commissioner Patricia Glenn and Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman, he bought the

truck for the road crew. It has 15,850 miles on it.

Mr. Stallman requested a closed session for attorney-client privilege for 10 minutes. No decisions were made.

Scholarships available for seniors

Each week until the end of the school year, a senior from a Decatur County high school will be profiled in The Oberlin Herald.

Seniors at Decatur Community High and Jennings High School were invited to fill out a profile sheet. The answers will be printed each week in a senior profile box along with a picture of the student.

The Oberlin Herald will ask businesses to sponsor the profiles for \$75 each, and \$25 of that will go into a scholarship fund. At the end of the school year, the money will be used to give two scholarships to seniors.

The profiles the students filled out will serve as the application for the scholarships. A newspaper selection committee will pick the winners. Preference will be shown to students planning to return to this

area after college. The first senior profile is in today's paper. There will be one every week until school is out. The profiles usually will appear on Page 6A or 7A.



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Roof needs repairs

The roof on the Golden Age Center is leaking again because of the recent rains, county commissioners heard at their meeting last Tuesday. The problem, which isn't new, normally happens when it snows and the ice on the roof melts.

Custodian Bob Berls and Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman told the commissioners

County Roundup

At their meeting last Tuesday, Decatur County commissioners:

- Talked about the leaky roof at the Golden Age Center. Story above.

- Discussed whether the county needs to get flood insurance for several buildings in the flood plain to be eligible for state Community Development Block Grants. Story on Page 5A.

- Heard that the ambulance service should bring in \$50,000 in income this year. Story to come.

they went up to inspect the roof. The roof has hail damage and part of it has been patched with duct tape and caulk, they reported.

Mr. Berls said he would like to get the air conditioning unit off the roof because the shade allows the ice and snow to build up. Commissioners Ralph Unger and Doyle Brown agreed.

They asked Mr. Berls to get prices to move the unit. They said to give the vendors three days, and to make sure all the wiring and a pad are in the price. They said they want the unit moved before the snow flies.

Mr. Unger asked about the courthouse roof. Mr. Berls said he is keeping a watch on the DuroLast roof for any hail damage.

Mr. Stallman said there is a tree branch rubbing on the Sunflower Cinema roof that needs to be taken down. He said he contacted manager Jennifer Auxier and she will talk with the city about removing it.

The commissioners asked County Clerk Marilyn Horn to contact the county's insurance carrier, the Kansas Counties Association Multi-line Pool, about the Golden Age roof.

NOTICE OF CLOSING OF REGISTRATION BOOKS GENERAL ELECTION, NOVEMBER 2, 2004 DECATUR COUNTY

In compliance with the provisions of KSA 25-2310, 25-2311 and KAR 7-23-4, notice is hereby given that the Voter Registration Books will officially close on Monday the 18th of October, 2004.

Voter Registrations will be taken at the Office of the Decatur County Clerk through that day with Late Registration until 9 p.m.

Normal registration hours until that day - are 8 a.m. thru 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

The Books will remain closed until the day after the General Election which will be Wednesday, the 3rd of November, 2004.

A citizen of the United States who is eighteen (18) years of age and upwards, or will have attained that age before the next election, must register before he or she can vote.

Anyone may apply in person - or by mail or by phone - to the County Election Office (the Office of the Decatur County Clerk) to register to vote.

However, anyone who will be registering to vote for the first time in Decatur County must show ID before voting. If ID is shown to the County Election Office at the time of registration, it will not be required at the polls.

Any registered voter that changes their name by marriage may sign an affidavit at the polling place on election day. Other name changes by legal proceedings must register.

Done on this 29th day of September, 2004.

Marilyn Horn
Decatur County Clerk & Election Officer

Lunch will be served by Maverick 4-H Club

SELLERS: OBERLIN STORAGE UNITS

AUCTION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2004 • 10:00 A.M.
LOCATION: SOUTH HIGHWAY 83 AT OBERLIN STORAGE UNITS, OBERLIN, KANSAS

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: There are a lot of nice tools and antiques, so you won't want to miss this auction.

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