



AS THE FIRST contestants, Angie Fortin (above left) and Amy Carman, sang a Diamond Rio song and original piece by Mrs. Carman during the Colgate Country Showdown.

Derek Judd (below) won the competition held on Thursday at the Decatur County Fair.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Showdown attracts talent from near and far

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
With the dream of some day having a record deal, nine singers took the stage last Thursday to compete for a chance to move onto the finals of the Colgate Country Showdown.

The concert, sponsored by Coyote Country radio of McCook, is a regular grandstand event at the Decatur County Fair.

Sara Bland of Luray, one of the singers, said this was her third Showdown. She took second place, taking home \$75 and a trophy.

Miss Bland, 19, said she had been singing since she was 3.

Each contest is different, she said. The contestants sing karaoke, with a recorded background, no live band. At some of the contests, she said, you sing two songs and if it makes it in the top three, you sing one more.

In Oberlin, each singer had the chance to sing two songs and then the judges tallied the scores and a

first, second and third-place winner were announced.

Miss Bland said if you get to go on to the state contest, a live band is provided. She said she hasn't gotten to that point yet.

She said she picked "Something More" by Sugarland and "Unchained Melody," the LeAnn Rimes version.

The first song, she said, she picked because she wanted something fast and entertaining. Miss Bland said she picked the second one to show off her voice and for a little variety.

Derek Judd of McCook, who bills himself as Lil Country, took first place, winning \$100 and a trophy.

He said he has been singing in the Colgate Country Showdown since it started four years ago.

This summer, he said, he's already competed in Cambridge, North Platte and McCook, Neb. He took first in Cambridge and second



in McCook. Mr. Judd said he started singing country in 1993. Before that, he

(See SINGERS on Page 5A)

Fair project turns into small herd of cows

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
The Larue kids, Annamarie and Jacob, just keep recycling their entries in the beef show at the Decatur County Fair.

Three years ago, they entered two bucket calves. They still show those calves, which have grown into breeding heifers today.

Annamarie, a freshman in high school, and Jacob, a seventh grader, showed their breeding heifers and the cows' second calves last Wednesday during the beef show at the fair.

This is a family project, said Annamarie, adding that she and Jacob wanted to build up a herd.

The two teenagers had the help of their dad and mom, Bruce and Marianne Larue, in the long-term 4-H project.

Three years ago, Annamarie started showing Lacey as a calf and Jacob started with April.

The next year, the two cows were bred and Lacey had Neddles, named because she was born in a patch of bull neddles.

The second year, the cow was bred by artificial insemination and had Stealth. This year Annamarie brought Lacey and Stealth to the show.

Jacob's cow, April, had Junie the first year. This year, she had May, now three months old.

Annamarie said after they raised Lacey and April, they didn't want to sell them. The teens said the cows are like their pets.

"The Marietta kids had breeding heifers," she said, "and Dad liked that idea, so we kept bringing them back."



AT THE BEEF SHOW, Annamarie Larue led her cow Lacey while her father followed with its calf Stealth.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Over the years, said Jacob, they have learned about breeding both with a bull and artificial insemination. He said they have also learned signs of when the cow is in heat and when the cow is ready to be bred. The two said they didn't know any of that before the project started.

Annamarie said she and her brother have a book of information about the calves and the cows. Next year, she said, their Dad wants them to put it together.

Jacob said they will continue to breed the cows until they are too old. Next year, he said, they will

bring the "teenager" cows, Junie and Neddles.

This is a fun family project, said Jacob.

"When you get too old to have bucket calves," said Annamarie, "this is fun."

(See KIDS on Page 5A)

Some fields not helped by late rain

Fall crops take a beating from the hot summer sun

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
Even with the rain at the beginning of last week, it might be too late to save some of the fall crops around the area.

Last Tuesday, the Oberlin area received from a tenth of an inch to just over an inch, but Brian Olson, area agronomist with Kansas State University Research and Extension, said depending on what stage the crops were in, the moisture might be too late to help.

It is looking the same as it has the past few years in the field, he said. Corn got to the point where it was starting to fill out the ear and then it stopped raining, or the rain was hit and miss. The crop is suffering pretty badly because of the lack of moisture, he said.

A field two miles south of Oberlin is pretty fired up. Mr. Olson said he didn't think the corn even got tasseled out.

There are a few fields here and there that are still doing OK, he

added. Those fields got rain at the right time and might make some grain.

For the most part, though, it looks like it is going to be another year like last year. Mr. Olson said farmers are telling him that they haven't had a good fall crop since 1999.

"It seems Mother Nature has left us at the altar again," said Mr. Olson.

The crops got through June and the beginning of July, he said, and then it got hot in late July and into August.

When corn is tasseling, he said, it can use half an inch of water a day when it is 100 degrees and the wind is blowing.

Mr. Olson said if farmers plan to use the corn for silage or bale it, they need to check for nitrates. Most farmers know the routine by now, he said. Make sure that the samples are taken from across the field and then sent to a lab.

High nitrates, said Mr. Olson, can

(See CROPS on Page 5A)

More surveys needed for grant for ambulance

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
The Decatur County ambulance crew has received 266 income surveys, but needs 23 more to have the 80 percent return it needs to get a state block grant for a new ambulance.

The crew asked people to fill out and return the surveys to see if the department is eligible for a grant through the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission for a new truck.

Ambulance Director Patrick Pomeroy told the Decatur County commissioners last Tuesday that the department sent out 399 surveys and had 266 returned, which is 67 percent. He said if they take into account the people who have moved or died, it would bring that up to 78 percent.

Basically, he said, that means the crew needs to interview 23 more households.

Mr. Pomeroy said Amy Griffey, with the planning agency, will be here this week to finish the application.

The Jennings ambulance department, he said, has been declared as a secondary response service for the grant paperwork, with Oberlin as the primary. Since the last new ambulance is housed in Jennings, it would mean the grant would be for a new ambulance in Oberlin.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said the auditor was in recently and said Mr. Pomeroy wasn't using the Quick Books computer program the county bought for billing. Why? asked Mr. Unger.

County Roundup

At their meeting last Tuesday, Decatur County commissioners:

- Talked with the sheriff about offering a reward to anyone who can provide information on the person who is shooting up buildings in Jennings. Apparently, though, he can't because the crimes didn't happen on public property. Story on Page 3A.

- Heard that the ambulance crew has received 266 income surveys, but is around 23 short of the 80 percent needed to find out if the department qualifies for a grant for a new ambulance. Story at left.

- Agreed to allow the Oberlin School District to lease part of the Norcatcar shop to store a school bus this year. Story on Page 5A.

Mr. Pomeroy said the program is complicated and hard to figure out. He said he does the records in Excel with all the same information.

Is it just a spread sheet, said Mr. Unger, or an accounting program? It is a spread sheet, said Mr. Pomeroy. The accounting information is another program. He asked if the auditor had a problem with that.

Mr. Unger said auditor Steve Zdrov said it would be better if the ambulance department used the program. (See SURVEYS on Page 5A)

Cooler weather lowers water use

With cooler temperatures, Oberlin water use dropped some last week, with 810,000 gallons pumped on the day of highest use.

The previous week the city pumped over 1 million gallons of water on one day, and more than 900,000 gallons another day.

Although water use dropped, the city is still on the even/odd watering system.

If the city pumps more than 1 million gallons of water for several

days, the mayor can ban all outdoor water use.

The city pumped:

- 619,000 gallons on Monday, Aug. 8.
- 810,000 gallons on Tuesday, Aug. 9.
- 681,000 gallons last Wednesday.
- 708,000 gallons on Thursday.
- 612,000 gallons on Friday.
- 678,000 gallons on Saturday.
- 497,000 gallons on Sunday.

School windows are here

The new windows for the grade school are here, but the contractor probably won't start installing them for a while.

At the Oberlin School Board meeting last Monday, Superintendent Kelly Glodt said Norton Glass has to finish some windows in WaKeeney first and then will be here to work on the school.

Mr. Glodt said the windows are being stored in town. The only guarantee the glass company made was that they will have all the windows in before the snow flies.

All of the windows in the old school, which does not include the kindergarten building or the first, second and third grade rooms, will be replaced. Replacing the windows was suggested by the district's facilities improvement committee because the old ones are hard to open and dangerous.

The board also worked on goals for the new year, but didn't make any decisions. The goals for the superintendent include fiscal management, facilities, public relations with neighboring districts and for at-risk programs.

Mr. Glodt said he thinks that the district has a good relationship with neighboring districts. The students are working on a brochure for the district which is almost done.

Board Member Barb Olson said the website has also come a long way.

The last goal, which reads "the superintendent will continue to explore and implement the philosophy of 'Success for All,'" said Mr. Glodt, is one that he would like to revise.

He said he would do that by the end of the week and then e-mail his changes to the board so they can discuss the goals at the September meeting.

In other business, the board:

- Approved the handbooks for Oberlin Elementary School, Decatur Community High School and the school at Sappa Valley Youth Ranch.

- Hired Tina Williams to be the full-time at-risk instructor and Ted Moon to be a part-time custodian at the ranch school.

- Approved the hard surface routes to be used in bad weather.

- Approved the coaching positions and committee spots for staff.

- Agreed to hold a special meeting for the budget hearing at 7:30 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 22.

- Approved a milk bid from Hipp Wholesale Food of Nebraska for 1/2 a pint of 2 percent white .1764 cents a piece and for the same size of chocolate milk at .1658 cents a piece.

- Held a 15-minute and five-minute closed sessions for negotiations. There was no action taken.



NEW OWNER of Flowers by Lee, Kathy Brainard, checked out a new item at the business, which she purchased from Jeanette Krizek. —Herald staff photo by Dave Bergling

Woman buys flower shop

By MARY LOU OLSON

Kathy Brainard has purchased Flowers by Lee at 157 S. Penn in Oberlin from her sister, Jeanette Krizek of Jennings.

Ms. Brainard, who worked for 12 years at R & M Service Center in Oberlin, said she was looking for a creative outlet and Mrs. Krizek was interested in pursuing other interests. The transaction was completed on Aug. 8. Mrs. Krizek had bought the business from Lee and Judy Ploussard on Feb. 1, 2004.

The new owner has remodeled the flower shop with a Tuscan theme. She has added lots of pottery, and has mixed some antiques and collectibles into the shop. She said she plans to increase the antiques and will add interior design and organization services in the future.

"I am toying with the idea of doing redesign for homes," she said. "I have always loved helping friends and family redecorate their homes or give

little suggestions to finish off an area," she said.

She said this will add another dimension to the shop and bring one more service to the people in the community.

The shop will provide fresh flowers for all occasions, including funeral arrangements, plus silk designs, Yankee Candles, gifts and the opportunity to find some unusual antiques and collectibles.

"I have Haresnickles (paper mache) figurines on hand and plan to bring in some other lines of collectibles as I go along," she said.

Ms. Brainard has lived in Oberlin for 15 years and grew up in Dresden. She is the daughter of the late John L. Spresser. She has a daughter, Beth, and son-in-law, Trevor Harmon, who have two children, Chloe and Toby, and also live in Oberlin.

Hours will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday.

* Crops burning up in sun

(Continued from Page 1A) kill cattle or make pregnant cows lose their calves.

Sunflowers, he said, are a little better off. There are some fields that look good, but they aren't immune to dry conditions. Mr. Olson said the lack of rain is producing smaller heads and shorter stalks. For the

most part, he said, sunflowers look pretty decent so far.

There is some red rust showing up in the flowers.

Not all of the crops look bad. Mr. Olson said farmers who planted shorter maturing corn and got rain made it through the growing season.

Those farmers will get some grain out of the crops, he said.

If the area starts getting moisture now, he said, it will depend on how far along a field is as to whether it helps or not.

Fall harvest is normally the end of September or beginning of October.

* Surveys needed to get grant

(Continued from Page 1A) gram.

If they learn to use the program, said Mr. Unger, a lot of the work can be done on the computer instead of manually.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch said the program is an industry standard. The tough part about it is getting the program set up right. Once

it is set up, he said, everything is OK.

The commissioners decided to see what program Mr. Pomeroy is using. They agreed to look at the program in closed session for 10 minutes for attorney/client privilege.

The commissioners began talking about security on one of the ambulances, but at the request of Mr.

Pomeroy continued the discussion in closed session for security purposes.

The session lasted five minutes and there was no action taken.

The commissioners held another 10-minute closed session for attorney/client privilege for 10 minutes with Mr. Pomeroy. There was no action taken after that, either.

County says yes to lease for bus

The Decatur County commissioners approved leasing part of the Norcatour shop to the Oberlin School District to house a school bus this winter.

They discussed the contract earlier, but decided to table it to figure out what the extra cost would be for utilities.

The commissioners agreed to lease the space for \$85 a month, which is \$765 for the school year.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn said she wanted to set up a booth at the fair to sell the Decatur County History books. The county has made around \$1,500 on the books since they were donated by the publisher, she said.

Mrs. Horn said Auditor Steve Zadow said that the county can sell

the books as long as the money is being given back to county organizations. The county will be giving it away to organizations in town. Once the county has sold enough books to raise \$2,000 they will ask for applications from clubs, then the money will be given away, said Mrs. Horn.

In other business, commissioners:

- Talked with Rocky Diederich, a city employee, who asked if they would allow the purchase of chain link fence for the ball fields. The commissioners approved the purchase at \$68 a roll. He said it would take two rolls.

- Canceled the meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 23, since there are five Tuesdays this month.

* Singers compete for spot at contest

(Continued from Page 1A) sang Christian music. He said he made the switch because his name fit country music better and there is more money in country.

For the contest, he said, he picked "Statue of a Fool" by Ricky Van Shelton and "Carried Away" by George Strait. He dedicated the second song to his fiancée, since they plan to marry at the end of the month.

To get ready for a contest, he said, he sings a lot. He said he will sing the two songs he has chosen about 30 times a day for two weeks prior to the contest.

That helps him have confidence, he said, but then it helps to have great family support which he said he has at every show.

Third place went to Sweet Prairie Fire, Amy Carman and Angie Fortin from Oberlin. Mrs. Carman took first place in the Oberlin contest last year. The sisters won \$25 and a trophy. They performed "Beautiful Mess" by Diamond Rio and "Never Finding You," written by Mrs. Carman.

Heather Shelley, who won the national contest at the beginning of the year and has a CD ready to be released, helped host the competition with Derek Beck from the radio station. While the judges were tallying the final score she sang two songs.

Opening the show was Joey, a new country artist. She was accompanied by Bill Welsch on the guitar and sang several songs.

* Kids show cattle during beef show

(Continued from Page 1A) Bucket calf competition, she explained, is showing a young calf at the fair. They call them bucket calves because normally they are orphans and you feed them out of a bucket.

Annamarie and Jacob were the only two in the breeding heifer category at the show last Wednesday. The judge liked Jacob's cow better, said Annamarie. She said hers needed to have more rib to her.

Sometimes, said Jacob, it is the not-so-good-looking cow that has the good-looking calf.

Annamarie and Jacob said this year they didn't work as much with the cows and calves as normal. They said they visited them a lot because they are like their pets. The farm, they said, is about a mile south of Oberlin.

Both are members of Stick-to-It 4-H Club.

Annamarie also had entries in clothes buymanship and construction, food and photography. Jacob had entries in clothing buymanship, photography and food.

Both said they have been active in 4-H since they were 7.

QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF

Jean Ann Hale, County Treasurer of Decatur County, Kansas, Showing Balance on hand for the Quarter ending July 31, 2005

| | | | |
|--------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| County General | 171,140.73 | Summer Recreation | 2,582.27 |
| SW Bell Rural 911 ... | 16,144.07 | Public Trans | 572.39 |
| Wireless E-911 | 3,518.97 | Special Jail Equipment..... | 120.52 |
| E911 Grant | 69,009.00 | PATF | 248.24 |
| Landfill | 7,710.76 | Sp. Fire Equip. | 94,001.77 |
| Road & Bridge | 695,580.52 | Bond & Interest | 45,128.27 |
| Special Bridge | 293,149.18 | RFD Memorial | 1,320.67 |
| Home for Aged | 46,247.01 | Economic Develop. . | 1,568.00 |
| Conservation Dist | 1,347.68 | CORE | 1,408.30 |
| Co. Health Nurse | 31,798.18 | RFD | 143,146.06 |
| JUCO | 62,621.85 | Bad Check Trst Fnd . | 549.83 |
| Ambulance Memorial | 3,512.00 | Election Filing Fees | 35.00 |
| Ambulance | 48,745.01 | History Books | 1,424.00 |
| Noxious Weed | 51,648.66 | Corp. Plan Emp. | 298,478.16 |
| Sp. Road Machinery | 363,826.00 | Current Tax | 48,681.22 |
| Election | 35,627.56 | Motor Vehicle Tax ... | 91,167.11 |
| Special Liab. | 10,942.58 | Delq. Personal Tax | 394.40 |
| Ambulance Sp Eqp . | 47,501.94 | Good Sam Memorial | 517,873.41 |
| Deeds Tech. Fund | 8,852.73 | Treas. Special Auto | 10,214.93 |
| Employee Bene. | 224,611.00 | Motor Vehicle License | 2,124.50 |
| Equip. Reserve | 192,997.33 | Sales Tax | 20,725.33 |
| Juvenile Detention | 525.00 | R.V. Tax | 2,070.30 |
| Summer Rec Memorial .. | 2,864.60 | Park Permits | 107.50 |
| Senior Citizens | 35,187.10 | Alcoholic Liquor Tax | 25.00 |
| Employee WH | 24,603.88 | Partial Pay | 7,484.98 |
| Cafeteria 125 | 20,187.10 | Redemption & Assig. | 12,086.57 |
| Sp Alcohol Program | 1,180.18 | State General Fund | .72 |
| Special Park & Rec | 3,129.86 | Total | 3,777,749.93 |

| TOWNSHIP | Gen'l Revenue | Road | Sp. Road | TOWNSHIP | Gen'l Revenue | Road | Sp. Road |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------|----------|------------------|---------------|------------------|----------|
| Allison | | 247.46 | | Liberty | | 255.06 | |
| Altory | | 214.11 | | Lincoln | | 255.65 | |
| Bassettville | 9,176.00 | | | Logan | | 11,347.19 | |
| Beaver | | 213.53 | | Lyon | | 290.75 | |
| Center | | 226.98 | | Oberlin | | 7,960.69 | |
| Cook | | 236.34 | | Olive | | 9,310.72 | |
| Custer | | 205.92 | | PI Valley | | 291.33 | |
| Dresden SW 784.08 | 238.10 | | | Prairie Dog | | 239.85 | |
| Finley | 16,760.83 | | | Roosevelt | | 210.02 | |
| Garfield | | 259.16 | | Sappa | | 185.45 | |
| Grant | | 231.08 | | Sherman | | 7,609.89 | |
| Harlan | | 272.03 | | Summit | | 19,178.41 | |
| Jennings | | 273.20 | | | | | |
| | | TOTAL | | SW 784.08 | | 85,689.75 | |

| CEMETERY | | SCHOOLS | |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Norcatour | 345.20 | USD #294 | 442.62 |
| Hawkeye | 647.85 | USD #295 | 364.88 |
| Finley | 2,030.51 | | |
| TOTAL | 3,023.56 | TOTAL: | 807.50 |

| FUND | | CASH: | |
|----------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| County Funds | 3,777,749.93 | Investments | 787,891.58 |
| Township Funds | 86,473.83 | The Bank | 313,286.89 |
| Cemetery Funds | 3,023.56 | The Bank Oberlin | 1,611,716.54 |
| School Funds | 807.50 | First Natl E911 | 69,009.00 |
| TOTAL | 3,868,054.82 | Cash | 625.00 |
| | | The Bank MM | 63,618.03 |
| | | The Bank Ob. MM | 75,251.92 |
| | | First National MM | 311,432.74 |
| | | TBO Corp Plan | 298,478.16 |
| | | Farmers Bk & Tr. | 336,744.96 |
| | | TOTAL | 3,868,054.82 |

I, Jean Ann Hale, Treasurer of DECATUR County, Kansas, do solemnly swear that the above statement is complete, true and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief. SO HELP ME GOD.
Jean Ann Hale, County Treasurer
I HEREBY CERTIFY, That the foregoing statement was subscribed and sworn to before me, and in my presence, by the above named, this 31st day of July, 2005.
Marilyn Horn, County Clerk

Holding steady



CHET ELY looked at the judge while he participated in the beef show last Wednesday morning at the Decatur County Fair. —Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Listen to Kimberly Davis of The Oberlin Herald every Wednesday between 9 and 10 a.m. on "Pulse of the Prairie"

