

Three weeks left to sign up for Shopping Spree

With three weeks left, it is time to sign up to win the big \$1,000 Shopping Spree from Oberlin merchants and *The Oberlin Herald*. People can sign up at any of the 13 sponsors or the newspaper office. There is no purchase necessary to sign up or to win, but you must be at least 18.

Sponsors this year are Culligan Water Conditioning Co., Addleman Drug Store,

Rocking R, Flowers by Lee, Ward Drug Store, Dale's Fish 'N' Fun, the Dresser, the LandMark Inn, Raye's Grocery, R&M Service Center, Prairie Petals, Stanley Hardware and Countryside Veterinary Clinic.

Everyone 18 and older can register to win by filling out a form and putting it in the box at the sponsoring businesses.

Employees of *The Oberlin Herald* and

their immediate families are not eligible to win. Employees of sponsoring firms are not eligible to register at their place of business.

The last day to register is noon on Wednesday, Aug. 16.

The prize, \$1,000 in scrip money, will be given away during the Chamber of Commerce Back-to-School Picnic in City Park at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 16.

The Herald staff will draw a name from the bucket. The winner has to be present, or another name will be drawn. The staff will draw until someone claims the prize.

The money has to be spent at the participating businesses between Wednesday, Aug. 16, and Wednesday, Aug. 23. The winner has to notify Kimberly Davis, managing editor of the paper, at 475-2206 when

they plan to go shopping and agree to have pictures taken and a story run about how they spend the money.

Anyone who wants to make reservations for the picnic should call 475-3441. Chicken will be provided, but everyone is asked to bring a dish to share and their own tableware.

Billing up and running

Decatur County commissioners talked with the interim ambulance director last Tuesday about the Medicare electronic billing, which is up and running.

Linda Manning said she would like to buy a new computer for the Oberlin ambulance barn since the one there was put together from older machines.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn said the county attorney could help her with that since he knows computers. Ms. Manning and County Attorney Steve Hirsch looked at the Dell computer catalog.

The two chose a computer for about \$800 and Ms. Manning said she would get it ordered.

Ms. Manning said the water rescue training at Shayla Williby's pool had gone well. About 30 people attended. The emergency medical technicians learned how to roll people who are floating on their bellies and how to put someone on a spine board in the water.

Sheriff Ken Badsky gave the commissioners a condensed report for work in the last six months. He said there had been 153 vehicle inspections, 29 accidents, with 10 being deer, 11 incidents, 29 offense reported, 251 papers served and 39 tickets. All training has been completed. Sheriff Badsky said the report is for everything from January to now.

Sheriff Badsky said Deputy Patti Skubal is at the academy for gun training and has already been to the local range with other officers.

The commissioners asked about calling his office about suspicious vehicles. Sheriff Badsky said people do call when there are vehicles with excessive speed or one that is weaving. He said knowing the car tag would be helpful.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Agreed to cancel their meeting on election day.
- Approved the transfer of \$999 to pay Pitney Bowes for postage.
- Approved quarterly transfers of \$35,970 for township road funds to the Road and Bridge Department for the seven townships under their control. Most of it is for machine labor, blading and jobs like that.
- Re-appointed Kay Gaskill to the Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission seat representing the county for three years.



DECATUR COUNTY CHESS FEDERATION members Matt Glading (front left), Sam Smith (front right), Darrin Glading (far left), and Steve Smith concentrate on their moves at a monthly meeting last Wednesday.

— Herald staff photo by Jim Merriott

New Chess Club holds first round-robin tournament

Oberlin has a Chess Club. The Decatur County Chess Federation held an organizational meeting last Wednesday and ended with an adult and youth round-robin tournament.

All players from all age brackets are invited to attend meetings the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

The club is designed to help develop players with hopes of playing other area clubs throughout the year in preparation for the Kansas State Open chess tournament, which for 2006 was held last Saturday and Sunday in Wichita.

The club is in the process of affiliating with the Kansas Chess Association and the U.S. Chess Federation, an official sanctioning body of over 90,000 members.

The U.S. Chess Federation sanctions over 1,000 tournaments a year in America and offered college scholarships to young players, who also can forfeit their eligibility and play as professionals for tournament prize money.

"This is one of the only types of recreation that a player can either be an amateur or a pro at an early age," said founder Jim Merriott.

Players from all over Kansas played at the Wichita Airport Hilton this past weekend. Approximately 100 players participated in two adult divisions for the title of Kansas State Champion. Earlier this year, high school teams competed in the Scholastic State Championship.

"This is an opportunity for Kansas residents to test their skills," said Association tournament director Laurence Coker. "A student doesn't necessarily have to be in the honors program to participate; they just have to show an interest."

"We are excited that Oberlin is starting up a club and we would be interested in possibly having the city host a tournament in the future."

The Decatur County federation is designed so people who enjoy playing the game can find others with the same interest to play, Mr. Merriott said. Older people sometimes do not have a partner to play against.

"It is our goal to be able to reach a membership that would allow our club to host a sanctioned tournament in Oberlin," he said. "We just need to get the word out. We invite all residents to participate. For information, call 475-2835."

Man extradited from Tennessee

A 21-year-old man was returned to Decatur County from Tennessee on a charge of contributing to a child's misconduct or deprivation.

Sean G. Fife signed a waiver of extradition in Blount County, Tenn., and was returned here on Sunday, July 16, by Security Transport Services of Topeka.

He allegedly took off with Chantelle Beneda, 16, on Friday, May 26. He was found in Tennessee on June 30 and later returned here.

Mr. Fife is being held in the Decatur County Jail on a \$500 bond.

The single count against him is a level 8 person felony and if convicted, he could face 23 months in prison or a fine up to \$100,000.

A preliminary hearing is set for 1:30 p.m. on Friday.

This wasn't Mr. Fife's first run-

in with the law. On June 12, 2005, four charges of forgery and one charge of obstruction of official duty were filed against him. His bond was set at \$2,500, with Ruby Poe posting it.

Mr. Fife was placed on a 12-month probation. Part of the rules of probation included not leaving the county without permission, 100 hours of community service and paying restitution.

On Tuesday, Aug. 15, there will be a hearing to hear a motion to revoke probation.

Mr. Fife also has a criminal history in Tennessee, his home state, for theft, possession of drug paraphernalia, criminal impersonation, driving left of center and driving on a suspended driver's license, according to his court record.

Oberlin man pleads no contest in battery

An Oberlin man pleaded no contest at his preliminary hearing Monday to a charge that he hit a worker with a child's baseball bat a couple of weeks ago.

Random D. Hines, 25, was found guilty and fined \$200, court costs, witness fees, mileage, booking and processing fee and sentenced to six months in the county jail by Judge Bill Elliott.

The sentence was reduced to time served in jail — he had been unable to make his \$7,500 bond for three days — and Mr. Hines was told that he could leave the state at any time.

Mr. Hines was arrested for aggravated battery after calling police to report a prowler. Oberlin Police

Chief Wade Lockhart determined that he attacked Dale Brookreson, 30, Mill Springs, Mo., as Mr. Brookreson was working at the Parkview Apartments, where Mr. Hines was living.

Although Mr. Hines pled no contest, County Attorney Steve Hirsch said that there were some problems getting witnesses to the hearing.

Subpoenas went to the sheriff's office here more than a week ago, he said. Three of those subpoenaed to appear were served by the Trego County Sheriff's Department, he said, but two of four civilian witnesses in Decatur County had not been served, including the victim.

Hog roast scheduled to help Murray family

A group of friends have scheduled a benefit hog roast for Sunday, Aug. 13, at the fairground to help raise money for the Murray family hurt in a car accident in South Dakota.

Linda Manning said the roast will start at 4 p.m. and dinner will be served for a donation. She said they already have two hogs donated, lots of hamburger, chips and buns. There will be a race at the Oberlin Speedway after the

roast for those who want to stay.

Ms. Manning said she is setting up a schedule for people who want to take meals to the Murray family, who have returned home, for three to four weeks.

She said Nikki Murray will have to lie flat for that long so she can recover.

Anyone who wants to sign up to provide a meal for the family can call Ms. Manning at 475-8126.

Profits from fair food sales to go for livestock building

There will be plenty to eat at the Decatur County Fair this year, with the profits going to a good cause.

The Oberlin Jaycees will be serving ribeye sandwiches after the beef show on Wednesday, Aug. 9, at the fairgrounds, starting at noon.

Dr. Travis Hissong said the steak sandwiches will be served out of the porkburger booth at the fairground, close to the livestock showing arena, for a donation.

The Decatur County 4-H Clubs will hold a benefit barbecue dinner at 6 p.m. that night in front of the 4-H building.

The food will be served for a donation. The beef was donated by John Brown and Sam Willcox and the processing costs will be paid by the Maverick 4-H Club.

Money from both efforts will go to help build a new livestock building at the fairground.

Elementary, high school have brand new roofs

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
Oberlin Elementary School and parts of Decatur Community High School are sporting new roofs after recent work at both buildings.

For the past month, a crew from Wray Roofing of Newton has been working at the two schools, tearing off the old roof and replacing it with a modified bitumen roof, which is made of multiple layers of insulation, fiberboard and tar.

The roofs are also being given more slope with the use of foam layers.

The new roofs have a 15-year warranty, said Superintendent Kelly Glodt.

The old roofs had hail damage, he said; years of weather caused them to deteriorate. The hail dents, he said, started to crack and cause a spider-web effect which let water in.

The district's insurance, through EMC Insurance, is helping pay for

the repairs to both of the schools and the district office. Mr. Glodt said this is one of the few companies that will insure schools.

This past year, said Mr. Glodt, he and the Oberlin School Board started to talk with roofing companies to replace the roofs.

At that time, the insurance company said they didn't want the district to go with Duralast, like the old roofs were.

No matter what option the board decided on, said Mr. Glodt, it was going to be expensive.

This is a three-year project, he said. This summer is step 1. After gutter work is completed, the project will be 40 to 45 percent complete.

Wray did all of the main building of the elementary school, he said. At the high school, they put a new roof over the shop, the hall between the wood shop and junior high gym and the music wing.

Mr. Glodt said they decided to do the priority areas this year, mainly the ones that were leaking the most.

When the roofers and insurance company looked at the grade school, though, they said the whole building had to be done. The kindergarten and head start building isn't leaking and isn't being replaced this year.

Mr. Glodt said he will be meeting with the roofers to make a plan for next summer.

The roofers replaced 60,000 square feet of roofs in the district on 14 levels this summer.

The three-year project will cost the district \$1 million. Of that, the insurance company is paying \$258,000, said Mr. Glodt.

The district already has half of the insurance money. Just this summer's work cost \$324,744.


Mr. Glodt said he isn't sure when the district will get the other half of the money. Even with the insurance money, the district will pay \$742,000 out of pocket. Most of that money comes out of the capital outlay fund.

"Our district has a long way to go to get the buildings to where we want them to be," said Mr. Glodt. "We have to wait and take care of the roofing, but there are other projects to be done."

He said summer projects included replacing 250 ceiling tiles and new carpet in the high school office.

The goal is to make the schools as nice as possible with the money available, he said.

"This is all part of the plan to make the schools here some of the nicest facilities in northwest Kansas," the superintendent said.



The Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center is advertising for a Para-educator for the Golden Plains School District. **Qualifications:** High School diploma or equivalent. This position requires an individual to provide services to disabled children under the supervision of a certified school staff member. to receive an application, contact Rose Langley at 785-672-3125 extension 200. For position related questions, contact Kurt Brown at extension 120. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. NKESC is an EOE.

Norton Livestock, Inc. — Norton, Kansas
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Fall calving cows and cow/calf pairs

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| 20 Black Cows | 3 and 4 yr. olds | Bred Black | Calve Aug. 10 |
| 27 Black Cows | Young to solid mouth | | Calve Sept. 1 |
| 20 Mixed Colored Cows/pairs and springers | | | |
| 50 Mostly Black Cows | Young for age with summer born calves at side | | |
| 90 Mostly Black Cows | Young for age 2nd and 3rd stage of pregnancy | | |
| 70 Mostly Black Cows | Young to solid mouth for age 2nd and 3rd stage of pregnancy | | |
| 100 Mixed Cows | All ages | 2nd and 3rd stage calving now | |

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Fire burns 500 acres

An afternoon fire burned between 500 and 600 acres of pasture and Conservation Reserve grass Thursday northwest of Oberlin.

The fire, spotted about 3 p.m. by Vernon and Todd Ketterl, was in hilly and rocky terrain in a remote area north of the KSNK television tower.

"It's in the middle of nowhere," said Cindy Sattler, who with her husband Ron rents part of the acreage that was burned from Karl Wendelin.

Herndon and Rawlins County fought the blaze, believed to have started when lightning from a morning thunderstorm hit a cottonwood tree. She said the blaze apparently smoldered for several hours before spreading to the surrounding grass.

Ron Leitner and his son also helped by disking nearby wheat stubble so the blaze could not spread to it, Mrs. Sattler said.

She said that there were still some trees smoldering in the area on Monday and Fire Chief Bill Cathcart had been out working on hot spots.