

Decatur County



ENJOYING A RIDE ON THE MERRY-GO-ROUND is all part of the fun at the Decatur County Fair and Home-Owned Carnival.

County has shopping, history, entertainment

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To get to Elephant Rock, go west on U.S. 36 to the Traer Road. Follow signs north and west to Traer. Turn south and drive past the Traer elevator. Cross the creek and the rock is on the right before you get to the curve in the road.

The county is known for its home-owned carnival, which draws thousands each year during the county fair, held the first full week in August at the fairground west of Oberlin, just off of U.S. 36.

During the day, 4-H kids demonstrate their talents, livestock and produce. Each night there are concerts, a tractor pull or other entertainment in front of the grandstand.

The carnival features a fairway with carousel, Tilt-A-Whirl, swings, Octopus, train, games, food stands and more.

At the fairground is the Oberlin Speedway, which reopened in 2004. During the summer, the track comes to life with stock car races.

Over 10 years ago, the town pulled together to build The Gateway civic center, just off the intersection of U.S. 36 and U.S. 83. The city's Arts and Humanities Commission brings in talented singers, instrumentalists, artists and comedians to the Morgan Theater in the building.

In June, the museum holds the annual Museum Summerfest and Car Show downtown. Cars, trucks and motorcycles line Main Street for all to see.

During the second weekend in October the museum offers Mini Sapa Day to commemorate the Indian raid, with a pancake feed, vendors, games and a tour of the museum grounds.

The same weekend, the Mini-Sappa Antique Thresher and Engine groups holds Mini-Sappa Days at the fairground. Members show off antique cars, tractors and engines, demonstrating how things used to be done on the farm.

Norcatar, just north of U.S. 36 on the Norton County line, claims fame as the hometown of Eldon Auker, a former major league pitcher who struck out Babe Ruth during his career. There is a park in town named for him.

Jennings, south of U.S. 36 on K-383, is a Czech immigrant community. Each year, Jennings holds the annual Firemen's Fun Day in August. The event brings games, food and a parade to town to help raise money for the volunteer fire department. It also has the Czech Museum, which with the sale of the Jennings High School became home to the Jennings school memorabilia.

Schedule

With many service organizations, Decatur County has activities to offer tourists and those living nearby.

- April 7 — Easter Egg Hunt, City Park, Oberlin
- April 14-15 — High Plains Artfest Show and Sale, The Gateway, Oberlin
- April 29 — Arts and Humanities Local History Tour of Traer and Herndon
- May 3 — Races at Oberlin Speedway
- May 12 — The Decatur Community High School Promenade on Main Street, Oberlin
- May 13 — Black Powder Shoot, Sappa Park, Oberlin
- May 26 — The Decatur Community Alumni Banquet, The Gateway, Oberlin
- May 28 — Memorial Day activities at the Oberlin Cemetery.
- June 1 — The Last Indian Raid Museum Car Show and Summerfest, Main Street, Oberlin
- June 2 — Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce Remote Control races.
- June 14 — The Decatur County Relay for Life,

Decatur Community High football field, Oberlin.

- June 4 — Fireworks at the fairground after dusk, fairground, Oberlin
- July 20-21 — A community garage sale, Oberlin.
- August 7-11 — The Decatur County Fair and Home-Owned Carnival, fairground, Oberlin.
- August 15 — The annual free Back to School picnic, City Park, Oberlin
- August 25 — Fireman Fun Day, Jennings
- October 6 — Mini Sapa Day, Decatur County Museum, Oberlin
- Oct. 6-7 — Antique Thresher Show, fairground, Oberlin
- Oct. 31 — Trick or Trunk kids costume parade, Main Street, Oberlin.
- Nov. 2 — Pheasants Forever Banquet, The Gateway, Oberlin
- Nov. 23 — Parade of Lights and Christmas opening, featuring Santa, Main Street, Oberlin
- Nov. 24 — Annual Holiday Arts and Craft Show, The Gateway, Oberlin

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- Scenic Sappa Park with walking trails and frisbie golf course
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- Beautiful Golf Course
- Decatur County Fair, World's Greatest Home Owned Carnival

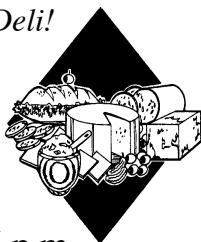
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