

Breakfast with mom



AT THE GRADE SCHOOL last week, Jeanne Isbell and her kids, Calista, Christopher and Cori, got their drinks and muffins before they found a place in the gym to sit and eat. Support our Schools held a Muffins for Moms morning last Wednesday. — Photo by Carol Dixon

Airport group talks to county about runway

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
kldavis@nwkansas.com

Members of the city Airport Committee talked with the Decatur County commissioners about money for the runway project during a meeting last Tuesday.

Connie Grafel, city marketing director; Bob Strevey, chairman of the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp.; Jay Anderson, a city councilman; Vickie Bailey, on the corporation; Gaylord Shields, airport committee member; and Councilwoman Rhonda May came for the airport discussion.

Ms. Grafel said they are filling out appropriation requests to the federal government, through the transportation department, that have to be in by the end of the month. Phase I of the airport plan, she said, will cost \$833,000. She said the committee is asking for \$750,000 from the federal government.

She said the group expects the city to come up with \$25,000 for this phase.

In 2010 to 2012, the project will need \$5.7 million, she said. The Kansas Department of Transportation has indicated that it might pay \$1 million in 2009, Ms. Grafel said, though officials said they don't know for sure yet.

In the past, she said, the county said it could come up with \$50,000 in 2009 and \$40,000 in 2008.

Commissioner Doyle Brown confirmed the county budgeted for \$40,000 this year.

Ms. Grafel said she had asked Steve Hirsch, who is both city and county attorney, about issuing revenue bonds in 2012 for the biggest part of the project.

Mr. Brown added that the county did think it could do the \$50,000 in 2009. That was what the county wants to try for, agreed both Commissioners Stan McEvoy and Ralph Unger.

Greg Lohofener, past chairman of the development corporation, has talked to some private sources about money and with Bus and Coach International, Ms. Grafel said.

Mr. Shields said the county has never had the opportunity to have a 7,000-foot runway. It will bring a lot to this area, he said, and it's a fantastic opportunity.

Both the Federal Aviation Administration and National Guard,

County roundup

At their meeting last Tuesday, Decatur County commissioners:

- Talked with the director of the noxious weed department to straighten out the recycling program. Story to come.

- Received a petition signed by 38 people asking the county not to change rural addresses, which the commissioners agreed to ignore. Story to come.

- Heard that the ambulance service has gone to a "one page" system, allowing all of the volunteers to receive the same page for an emergency. Story to come.

- Talked with members of the airport committee about money. Story at left.

Group will buy picnic tables for park

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
kldavis@nwkansas.com

Members of the Oberlin Convention and Visitor's Bureau talked last week about a recent meeting of all groups interested in Sappa Park and agreed to buy some new picnic tables for the park.

Carolyn Burtis, who is the co-convenor of the Sappa Park Committee through the Decatur Tomorrow strategic planning group, said the group met recently with a representative from the trails group, Pheasants Forever, the city, the black powder club, gun club and golf course.

Mrs. Burtis said everyone just touched base at the meeting and reported on what their organizations had been doing. One of the discussions was about improving the banks around the black powder area make walking safer while people are shooting guns. The consensus was that it would be hard to have some kind of a sign or flag system to tell walkers someone is shooting. The

liability, the group agreed agreed, is really with the person with the gun.

Pheasants Forever, said Mrs. Burtis is working on a new trail at the park. City Councilwoman Marcia Lohofener presented a list of what the city will maintain and mow.

The group talked about putting water in at the shelter house and at the restroom at the picnic area, where the swing set is about halfway into the park.

Mrs. Burtis said they are trying to raise money to put up signs at the trailheads, which would include the design of the trail and length. She said they also talked about putting in basketball hoops on a cement slab near the shelterhouse and permanent picnic tables.

The senior class wants to do a class project at the park on April 3, she said, so that was sent to the city.

Pheasants Forever members said they had some ideas, including planting a Christmas tree area, fruit

trees and sweet corn.

Mrs. Burtis said they all agreed that if everyone worked together, the entire community would benefit.

Bureau members agreed that they could buy some picnic tables for the park.

Sunday afternoon, said Gary Anderson, a bureau member, there were people playing disk golf at the park, some snowmobiling, some riding four wheelers and others walking.

The visitors' board asked Mayor Joe Stanley, owner of Stanley Hardware, to check into prices for picnic tables.

In other business, the board:

- Heard plans are moving along for the 50th anniversary celebration at the Last Indian Raid Museum on Saturday, Oct. 4, for Mini Sapa Day. Curator Sharleen Wurm said the Koshare Indian Dancers from Colorado probably will perform twice at the celebration. The museum is talking about a parade for

the anniversary, she said.

- Heard that the group's booth at the Denver Travel Show had gone well. Connie Grafel, marketing director for the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp., said she was busy and answered a lot of questions about the area. Mrs. Burtis suggested the bureau could pay for someone from Pheasants Forever or the Sappa Park Committee to attend the next show.

- Talked about the fact that Bike Across Kansas will be coming through Oberlin the first Sunday of June on U.S. 36, with 900 riders. Mr. Anderson suggested having food stands and possibly sending a flier over to Atwood, since the riders will be staying there the night before.

- Heard that Decatur Tomorrow is talking about holding a Cinco de Mayo fund raiser at Centennial Park on Monday, May 5. Mr. Anderson said the park committee will serve Mexican food and maybe have a dance to raise money for the park.

One person files for register of deeds job

One person has filed for the Decatur County register of deeds job, while three others have picked up petitions from the county clerk's office.

Judy Marietta returned a petition to the courthouse last week, filing as a Republican making her the first name on the ballot for the primary election in August. Mrs. Marietta, a secretary at the Decatur Community High School, said she has been interested in the register of deeds office since she worked at Decatur County Title and Abstract

several years ago.

In order to file, she said, she carried a petition and needed 35 signatures.

Judy Gaumer, a Democrat who has served as the register of deeds for two terms, announced months ago that this would be her last year in office.

Carrie Morford, republican, Melissa Chambers, republican, and Penny Fringer, republican, picked up petitions to file, officials at the clerk's office said, but none have returned one.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn, who serves as the county election officer, said Judge John Bremer had filed with the state for re-election as district magistrate judge. He is a Republican.

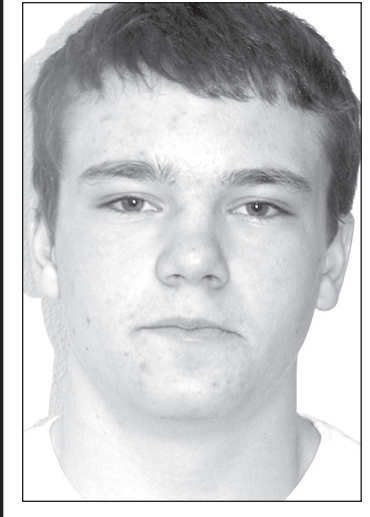
Other positions up for election in the August primary include county attorney, held by Steve Hirsch; county clerk, held by Mrs. Horn; sheriff, held by Ken Badsy; District No. 2 commissioner, held by Ralph Unger; and District No. 3 commissioner, held by Doyle Brown.

Mrs. Horn, Mr. Brown and Mrs. Gaumer have all announced that this is their last year, leaving three jobs up for grabs.

Anyone interested in running for an office can pick up a petition at the clerk's office or choose to pay a 1 percent filing fee to put their name on the ballot. That has to be done by June 10.

The primary will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 5. Winners will go to the general election on Tuesday, Nov. 4.

student of the week



Student Comment:

This is a great award. I am honored to be nominated for Student of the Week. It shows that all my hard work and dedication hasn't gone unnoticed.

Activities involved in at school: Football, Wrestling, Golf, Stuco, TACT, Spanish Club, Scholar Bowl, Science Club and National Honor Society.

My choice of movies, books, and games: Movie: Forest Gump. Books: For Whom the Bell Tolls. Games: Guitar Hero.

After I leave Decatur Community High School I intend to ...: Go to college and get a higher education. Probably K-State.

And 10 years from now, I think I'll be ...: Working as a medical examiner.

Favorite Quote: "Whether you think you can or can't, you're probably right."

Name: Nathan Simons
Parents: Brian and Pam Simonsson
Grade: 11
Age: 16
We've nominated this student because: Nathan is one of our top academic students while being included in three sports. He exemplifies the student athlete. He is the student you would like all your own kids to use as a model for their life.

Dead trees fuel fire along Prairie Dog Creek

Flames fed by dead trees along Prairie Dog Creek burned through the night last Friday, until Saturday afternoon, when Decatur County firefighters finally put them out.

Chief Bill Cathcart said a call came in around 4:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15, when Mark and Leta Meitl's son John came home and noticed the smoke.

The ground where the fire was located,

said Chief Cathcart, is owned by Loyd and Fern Moore, about 13 miles south of Oberlin, one mile east and half a mile south, he said.

The Moores had been burning trees a few weeks ago along the creek, the chief said. The roots must have still been smoldering in the ground, which Chief Cathcart said is fairly unusual, and ignited everything. There isn't any other

way to explain the fire, he said; there were no tracks into the area and it was muddy.

There were lots of big, dead trees along the creek, he said, so after several hours, firemen decided to let the fire burn Friday night.

Weather forecasts showed the wind was supposed to pick up on Saturday and Sunday, the chief said, so the firefighters went out Saturday

to finish the job.

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Ladies wearing a garden hat decorated with live or permanent flowers will get \$2 OFF adult gate and entered into the Garden Hat Contest.

CONTACT US AT: www.wichitagardenshow.com

HATS DINNER THEATER

Angela Bates, from Nicodemus, returns to do her one woman show *"African American Women & their Church Hats"* on Sunday, March 2 at 5:30 p.m.

Angela will share this rich history from head rags worn by African American slave women to their beautiful and outlandish church hats. Enjoy a BBQ Brisket dinner and dessert then sit back and enjoy the wonderful story Angela will weave.

Tickets are \$27 and will be very limited so reserve yours today!

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