

## Five start corporation to raise cash

Five Oberlin residents formed a corporation so their nonprofit group could raise money legally and give it out to other agencies in town or people who need a little extra help.

Larry Mack, president of the Oberlin Mavericks Corp., said the group had been formed by him; Bert Cool, vice president; Jeanne Pachner, secretary; Marilyn Mack, treasurer; and Barbara Beisner, assistant secretary, in October. Their idea was to help organizations and people who may need a little help by holding poker tournaments to raise money.

Mr. Mack said the first tournament is set for 7 p.m. Saturday at the Oberlin American Legion.

In the future, he said, he would like to see a group of regulars who enjoy playing poker, and who don't mind their contributions going to the community.

The money raised at the first tournament, said Mr. Mack, will go to the Oberlin Country Club to help keep up the golf course. The group has also heard that Sunflower Cinema needs some help, he said, so they might hold a tournament for it.

Basically, said Mr. Mack, any organization that needs some help should call the Mavericks and they can set up an event to help raise money.

The organization, he said, plans to operate openly and keep everything above board. The books are always open, he said, as are the bank records. Anything, anyone wants to know about the corporation, he said, they can just call him at 475-2495.

The corporation, he said, is something he has wanted to do for the last few years. Mr. Mack said he saw an opportunity and the group decided to take it.

Each of them enjoys playing poker and they sometimes travel to tournaments in the area.

With these tournaments, said Mr. Mack, the group could raise money

## Poker tourney planned

There's still time to throw your name into the hat for the Texas Hold'em poker tournament at the Oberlin American Legion on Saturday.

Larry Mack, president of the Oberlin Mavericks Corp., said they would like to have all of the players' names by today. People can sign up by calling him at 475-2495 or by calling the Legion at 475-3207.

The group has the chips for 200 people, he said, adding that they are looking for people from all over the area.

The group suggests a \$30 donation to enter the competition, he said, adding that none of that money is going to the American Legion or to the Mavericks.

The Legion has donated the space and will be selling food and beverages, he said.

Of the suggested \$30 donation, Mr. Mack said, half of it will go to the prize pool and half to the Oberlin Country Club.

The Mavericks, said Mr. Mack, won't keep any of that money.

He said each person's name will be thrown into a hat to start the event. Names will be drawn (See POKER on Page 10A)

and it provides a chance for people to get out and have a night of fun.

The group, he said, will help any charitable organization, even a

## Sunflower Cinema needs donations and moviegoers

Despite good crowds last week, the Sunflower Cinema, the volunteer run movie theater, still needs financial help to keep its doors open.

A flier circulated last week shows the cinema's goal is to raise \$4,000. Of that, immediate needs are \$956 for the sound system, \$1,300 for back taxes and \$1,200 for supplies and movie bills.

The theater board, Duane Dorshorst, Bev Reiter, Kala Bose, Butch Rittmann, Jan Badsky and Susan May, are all volunteers.

The theater not only needs more attendance at the movies, shown at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday evenings, but cash donations, board members say.

Colleen Rittmann, the wife of a board member who volunteers frequently at the theater, said people can mail donations to the theater at P.O. Box 212, Oberlin, Kan. 67749 or through the Decatur County

Chamber of Commerce. Donations made through the Chamber should be tax deductible, said Mrs. Rittmann.

Last weekend, Mrs. Rittmann said, the theater had a lot of support, with 150 paying to see "The Bucket List." This weekend the theater had 28 people in attendance.

Next week's movie is "Fool's Gold" with Kate Hudson and Matthew McConaughey then the Dr. Seuss cartoon feature, "Horton Hears a Who."

The board is kicking around the idea of offering dinner and a movie the night of the high school promenade on Saturday, May 10, as a fund raiser. That way, Mrs. Rittmann said, people who are downtown could get a bite to eat, watch the promenade and then go to the theater.

Tickets for the movies are \$3 a showing. The board also sells gift certificates and old movie posters.

## Oberlin receives Tree City recognition

The City of Oberlin has once again been named a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation, honoring its commitment to preserving a shady, green environment.

This is the 22nd year for the city to receive the national recognition, according to the press release from the Arbor Day Foundation. To become a Tree City, the

release stated, the city has to meet four standards, including having a tree board or department, a tree-care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program and an Arbor Day observance.

The Arbor Day Foundation, along with the National Association of State Foresters and the U.S. Forest Service, all help (See CITY on Page 10A)



**WITH HELP FROM GRANDPA** John Juenemann, Troy Juenemann (right) and his partner Kaine Fredrickson picked out apples for the wheels of their Lunch Box Derby car last Wednesday. Mory Zodrow (below) with Raye's Grocery helped put wooden axles in a carrot. Konnor Witt (left in bottom photo) and Jacob Koerperich worked on their vehicle in the grade school cafeteria.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

## Veggies made into cars

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**  
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Carrots, cucumbers, bananas, pineapples, cantaloupe and even a head of cabbage turned into the chassis of vehicles last Wednesday in the cafeteria at Oberlin Elementary School.

This was the 15th year for the Lunch Box Derby at the school, sponsored by Raye's Grocery. The kids have a great time with this project, said Steve Cullen, a fourth grader teacher.

In the past, said Mr. Cullen, none of the students had ever used a cantaloupe or cabbage for a body, but they did this year. Some of the most unusual cars in the past, he said, used pineapples and eggplants for the main body.

Both the fourth and fifth graders get to build the cars with either one or two partners they choose, he said.

This year, said Mr. Cullen, the fifth graders made an itemized list of things they wanted from the grocery as "auto parts." After taking part in the Lunch Box Derby last year, he said, the fifth graders knew what they wanted and what would work.

"A big thanks to (Raye's owner Kirk) Brown for sponsoring the program," said Mr. Cullen.

The derby gives the kids a chance to be creative, said Principal Duane Dorshorst, using things they might not be able to work with at home.

The students get a couple weeks to think about the design, he said. The first year of the derby for the fourth graders is fun, said Mr. Dorshorst, because they throw a design together. The fifth graders put a little more time into it and create more sophisticated designs.



Two fourth graders, BreeAnna Chambers and Sabryn O'Gara, made the "Sassy Sunset" with a cucumber body. The girls said they decided to use a cucumber, instead of a carrot, because it's heavier. They said they didn't get any tips from any of the older kids.

They said they decided to use oranges for wheels instead of apples because the oranges were smoother. The two did get a little help from Vince Carswell, Sabryn's grandfather.

Regent Erickson and Ganon Henningson built the "Rumblin' Yummy Tumbler" with a carrot for the main body. The boys, both fifth graders, said they had other partners last year.

Ganon said their first idea was to (See DERBY on Page 10A)



## Practice emergency call goes to McCook

A call placed to Decatur County dispatch last week to test the new E911 equipment from a cell phone actually hit a tower in Nebraska and went to dispatch in McCook.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said he called 911 when he was 8 1/2 miles north of town to see what would happen, and the call went to McCook.

Patti Skubal, county emergency management director, said she had a volunteer in Norcaturn make a test call, and that one went to Norton. She said he had called from a land line. That doesn't make any sense, said Mrs. Skubal.

She said Chief Dispatcher Jeanne Pachner told her she called AT&T and they said the service

that receives the call from a cell phone depends on which tower it hits.

Mr. Unger said he should have asked the person in McCook if they could locate where he was.

"Should I do more testing like this?" he asked.

Mrs. Skubal said it would be a good idea. She said her question is, if someone calls because they are having a heart attack and all they can do is dial the number, but not talk, will that dispatcher be able to locate the person.

No one knew the answer. Mrs. Skubal said she had finished the after-

action report for the Clayton range fire. She said she talked with Fire Chief Bill Cathcart about communication and equipment during the event.

She said the National Guard called after she posted a report online that day and asked if they needed to send someone to help. It was too windy for any kind of aerial spraying that day, she added.

There were lots of phone calls to dispatch during the fire, she said, from people asking if they needed to evacuate Clayton.

In other business, the commissioners: (See CALL on Page 10A)



**AT THE LANDMARK INN** Saturday morning, Dana Marintzer looked at stuffed animals which will be given as prizes at the home-owned carnival during the Decatur County Fair in August. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

## Prizes ordered for carnival

Early Saturday morning, members of the Decatur County Amusement Authority and volunteers who work in the toy van during the home-owned carnival met at the LandMark Inn to choose stuffed animals and prizes for this year's event.

Dana Marintzer and Vicky Ray, both members of the authority board; volunteers Kim Solko and Phyllis Godwin; and Alexis Hissong, a grade school student, met with a salesman from BJ Toy Co. out of Pennsylvania. Mrs.

Marintzer said Larry Grunspan is actually from Kansas City, although the company is based in Pennsylvania.

Each year, she said, a few of the members and volunteers meet with Mr. Grunspan to pick out prizes for the next carnival.

Mrs. Marintzer said they do that in March or April to make sure the prizes will arrive in time for the August event.

Normally, she said, Mr. Grunspan will send a catalog before he arrives and then brings

some of the new items for them to look at.

They order around 10,000 to 11,000 toys, which are delivered in May by truck. Normally, she said, the authority's order takes up a third to half of the truck.

This year was the first time they asked a student to help pick out the prizes, she said, adding that they hope that will give them a young person's perspective.

The carnival is scheduled to run Tuesday, Aug. 5, through Saturday, Aug. 9.

# \*Call on cell phone sent to dispatch in McCook

(Continued from Page 1A)

• Heard the weekly Monday siren tests had gone well. They did find out that the television cable warning system, which is supposed to be activated by a phone call, wasn't working. They are checking into it, she said.

The south speaker of the siren at the ball park isn't working, she said, although the rest of it works. Mrs. Skubal said she needs to find out what kind of siren it is and go from there. All of the others in the county work.

• Approved Mrs. Skubal attending an emergency management meeting in Russell on Thursday and Friday, April 10 and 11.

• Approved the director attending three days of training in Topeka

## County Roundup

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Received a request from two county representatives on the High Plains Mental Health board to ask national and state officials to continue paying for mental health care. Story to come.
- Told the ambulance director the

volunteers had done a good job at a fatal wreck on Saturday, March 15. Story to come.

• Heard that a call placed to dispatch to test the new E911 system from a cell phone actually caught a tower in Nebraska and had been sent to dispatch in McCook. Story on Front Page.

starting Tuesday, April 22, about computers and putting information for the county emergency plan online.

• Heard that the dispatch department wants to take part in a survey of people with special needs along

with the emergency management and health departments. The cost can then be paid from the three departments, so it will be around \$100 a piece. She said they want to get these surveys out as soon as possible.

# \*Derby boasts kids' vehicles

(Continued from Page 1A)

use apples on both ends of the carrot, only using two of them. The rules are that each car has to have two axles and four wheels, said Ganon, so the original idea wouldn't work. He said they didn't really talk about the plan much.

After building the vehicles in the morning, the students raced them in the afternoon in the grade school gym.

Fourth-grade winners:

- Kelly Brown and Andrew Wade

with the "Bubba Gump Mobile," 32 feet, 6 inches for first place.

• Kade Grafel and Noah Nelson with the "Earnhart Avenger," 29 feet, 4 inches for second.

• Chambers and O'Gara with the "Sassy Sunset," 26 feet, three inches for third.

• Kassidie Jensen and Kaitlyn Fisher with the "Rolling Veggie Monster," most creative.

Fifth grade winners:

- Erickson and Henningson with the "Rumblin Yummy Tumbler," 47

feet, 8 inches for first.

• Kaine Fredrickson and Troy Juenemann with "The Green, Tan, Orange, Red, Purple, Tumblin Rumblin Stumblin Fruit and Vegetable Speedy Lunchbox Car," 42 feet, 2 inches for second.

• Grace Randell and Rebecca Wentz with "The Great Racer," 33 feet, 7 inches for third.

• Andrew Heller and Aaron Cressler with the "Killing V8 Machine," most creative.

Deveny Motors

3x14

oh/adv

Ad is in back in Goodland

Full color

# \*Poker planned for Saturday

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starting around 6 p.m. Saturday to determine what table each person will start. Actual play will start at 7 p.m., but players need to be there at 6 p.m. for the table drawing.

Each person will start with a bag of 60 chips, he said. During the first hour, people can purchase bags of 30 more chips for \$15 each.

Once a person runs out of chips, he said, they are out. The top player, or the last person standing at each table, will move onto the final table.

At the final table, he said, each person will start with a bag of 60 chips again. The last person standing, said Mr. Mack, wins. Anyone with questions on the rules can call

## \*Group forms to help others

(Continued from Page 1A)

and he would like to start a league in Oberlin. People could get together and play once a week or once a month. If anyone is interested in league play, said Mr. Mack, they should call him. People would have to understand that the money raised would all go to charitable events.

None of the money raised will go to the corporation, he said. It will either go the charitable organization or for prize money.

Mr. Mack said he just learned that Selden has a poker league,

him.

The group will give cash prizes for first through third at the final table. They also have gift certificates from businesses that will be given

out at the final table, including \$50 from Addleman Drug Store, Ward Drug Store, Raye's Grocery, Dale's Fish 'N' Fun and Ron's Tire Service, and \$25 from Wal-Mart.

# \*City recognized for 22 years

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sponsor the program.

Gary Walter, who sits on the tree board, said this award is something the city can be proud of. Oberlin is one of the longest-running, continuing recipients of the Tree City award, he said.

"Twenty-two years is quite an accomplishment," he said.

People don't realize how important trees are to the city, he said, not until you get a situation like one in McCook, where they are having to "clear cut" a park,

or you go somewhere where the trees aren't protecting you from the wind.

It is important that as trees are taken out, new ones are put in, Mr. Walter said. The tree panel has asked the Oberlin City Council to put it in the city's budget next year. That way, he said, the board can offer trees to people who will take care of them.

Anyone interested in getting a tree to plant, to replace one that had to be taken out or just to add to the city's trees, should contact Mr. Walter at 475-3495 or Larry Van Otterloo at 475-1100, he said.

# County might be ahead of requirements

Commissioners heard that the county might be ahead of a new Department of Homeland Security requirement a special-needs survey aimed at finding out what people might need in case of an emergency.

Patti Skubal, emergency management director, said at a recent Homeland Security meeting, she heard the special needs project is something that could be required soon.

Homeland Security might give \$12,000 to \$15,000 to each county to get the project done, said Mrs. Skubal. She said she was shocked by that amount.

Mrs. Skubal and Marilyn Gambelin, health administrator, plan to send out surveys to find out about health needs in case of an emer-

gency. For example, if someone is on oxygen, they may need help if the power goes out. Mrs. Skubal said the surveys will be mailed out and people can return them.

All of the information, she said, will be voluntary and confidential.

Mrs. Skubal said she asked about money from Homeland Security to fix the radio system on the fourth floor. Since it is the primary system for the county, she said, she found out the county needs to pay to replace it because it is so old that parts are no longer available for it.

There might be some grants available to replace the radio system, she added.

In other business, the commissioners:

• Heard that the Kansas High-

way Patrol asked the county for an audit to make sure money from the agency was spent correctly for 2004 and 2005.

• Heard that from 1950 to 2007, Decatur County has one of the highest rates in the state for damaging tornadoes.

• Heard that Mrs. Skubal passed the test and received an amateur radio license.

• Heard that the Local Emergency Planning Committee will meet at noon next Wednesday. This is a public meeting, she said. Someone with the state Department of Health and Environment will be there to talk about the agency's role in the Greensburg tornado response.