

Artfest just one example of value of the volunteer

Artfest this weekend serves as a reminder of how important volunteer-run efforts are to this and every community.

Nearly 200 people enjoyed the art show over the weekend, and about 175 attended the opening gala Friday night for patrons.

Organizer Mary Henzel noted that she'd seen several out-of-town art lovers downtown shopping at the antique stores.

The show has become a tremendous resource for the area artists who enter their work, even if they don't sell anything right away. It gives people a glimpse of the kind of work students at area schools are doing in their art classes.

Each year, the diversity and quality of the work amazes us. Who knew there was so much talent out here on the prairies?

The quality, particularly, of the high school show is a reflection of that pool.

And none of that would happen without the efforts of a few dedicated organizers who conceived the idea and brought it to fruition four years ago.

Nor is their effort unusual in a town like Oberlin.

Volunteers keep the Last Indian Raid Museum going. Board members raise money, fix things, help save old buildings and do much of the work for events centered around the museum.

The annual Summerfest and Car Show in the spring and the Mini Sapa Day each fall bring a lot of people to town. While the paid museum staff works on those weekend events, they wouldn't happen without the volunteers.

Merchants organize dozens of events each year, from the annual Christmas celebration and Parade of Lights to holiday feeds and fund raisers that make it fun to come downtown. While the purpose of the Oberlin Business

Alliance is to keep businesses going, the effect also is to build community.

There's the annual Mini-Sappa Antique Engine and Tractor show each fall, which brings in hundreds of people interested in old tractors, trucks and cars. It's another all-volunteer event, run by people who love stuff that chugs, whirls and spins.

The Decatur County Fair pleases thousands each summer with its open and 4-H competition, grandstand events and volunteer-run carnival. Hundreds come home each spring for the annual Alumni Banquet and reunions over Memorial Day.

Then there are church bazaars, school carnivals, bake sales, tailgates, fund raisers of all sorts, dozens of events each year that bring people together for a cause or just for fun.

We can't list them all, and we're not going to try, so if we left your event out, not to worry. They're all important. We love each and every one.

Everyone who's helped put on one of these events — from Artfest to Mini Sapa to the fair and the holiday celebrations — should stop to appreciate that all those people who showed up must have thought enough of their work to take time out of their busy lives. That's probably all the thanks most of us will get for our volunteer effort, but it should be enough.

So, stand up, Artfest organizers, and take a bow.

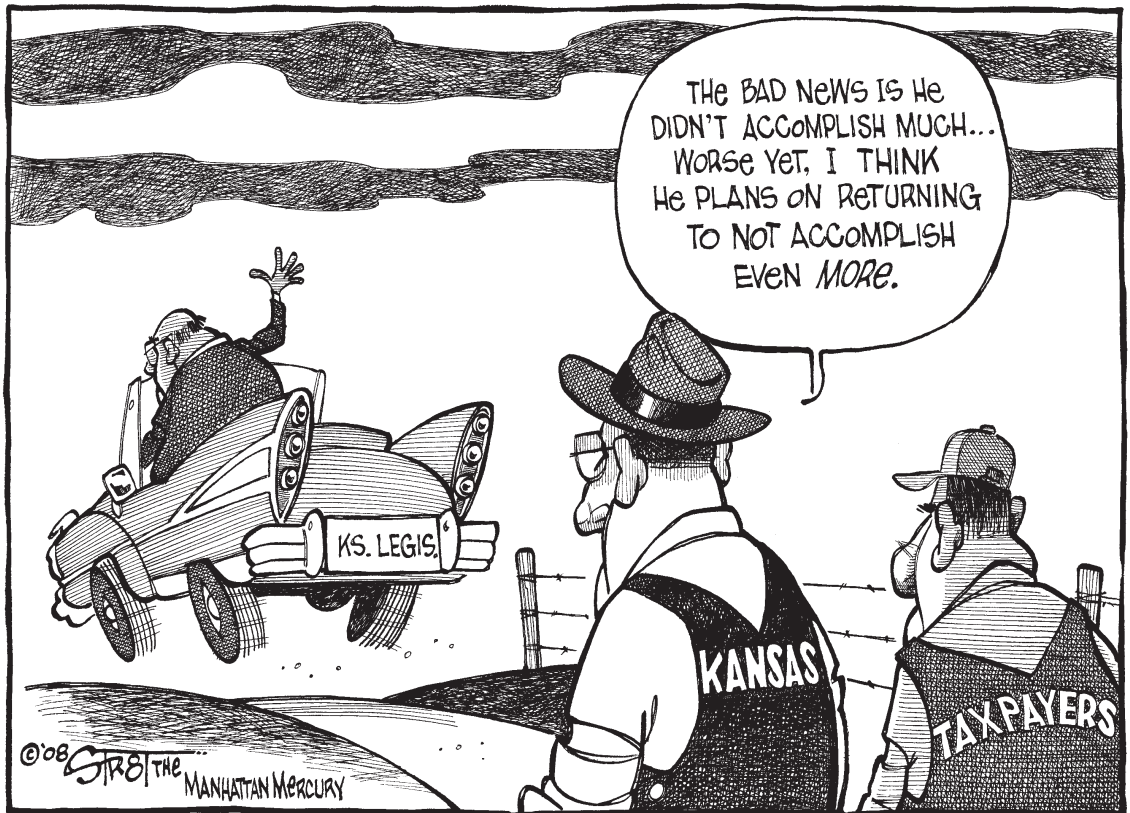
Here's your thanks.

And the rest of you, all of you, who spent time this year organizing, supporting, putting together, running and yes, attending, community events:

Thanks. Thanks for all you do.

It's what makes life in a small town so special.

— Steve Haynes



Tallest capitol heavy on deco

Lincoln Today, the hotel magazine for Nebraska's capital city, cites the state's Capitol building and site as "a tribute to architectural innovation."

The nation's only skyscraper state capitol features a 400-foot tower topped by a golden dome and the required statue, a man sowing seeds.

His basket of seeds looks an awfully lot like a football to me, however, and I'm not the only one. The lady at the information booth says she has to tell school children all the time, "It's not a football."

But then, this is Nebraska.

The capitol doesn't look very governmental to me. In fact, it reminds me more of the fancy hotel in the first "Ghost Busters" movie, very art deco, very uncapitol looking.

It's covered in tiles, murals, bas relief, carvings, you name it and they decorate it.

The tower is kinda cool; you can take the elevator up to the 14th floor and look out over the city. However, it was raining and the doors to the viewing areas were locked the day we were there. We ended up making ourselves dizzy staring up at murals on the ceilings.

Downstairs we examined the Nebraska Senate chamber.



Open Season

By Cynthia Haynes
c.haynes@nwkansas.com

As some of us remember from our high-school government classes, Nebraska has a unicameral system. That means it has only one house (or in this case, Senate). However, across the hall there is a similar room, where the Senate met until the state's House of Representatives was abolished in 1949.

That must have been fun: Think of telling all our representatives that they can just go home, we don't need them anymore.

Lincoln is a busy city. It has the capitol, the state penitentiary and the university.

While it rained Thursday and Friday, Saturday dawned bright and red as 83,000 Huskers fans headed downtown for the annual spring game.

The Nebraska Press Association had offered us and everyone else attending its convention tickets to the game for \$10 each. The press association manager said that he had

only a few takers until the last week, then all the tickets went within a couple of days. The spring game became the thing to do in Nebraska, and fans poured into Lincoln from all over the state.

By Saturday morning, scalpers were asking \$150 a ticket and the town was a sea of red. Steve was sad he hadn't taken the tickets, since he figured he could have made about \$280 on the deal.

The game was billed as the red team against the white, with two assistant coaches choosing players in turn, like we did in junior high.

Personally, I felt sorry for the white team. It looked like everyone there was cheering for the reds. I didn't see anyone wearing white.

We waited until the stadium was full and got out of town while the getting was good. Nebraska had a tough year in football last year, and I didn't want to be around in case they lost this game.

Home welcome after drive

We're home, we're home, we're home!

And after a week on the road, the old homestead looks pretty good.

Last Thursday, we rolled into town with my cousin Barb, her husband Art and their dog Valentino. Friends and one of their new neighbors met us at their house and we had them unloaded in record time. I'm afraid we left them with only a trail through the boxes. They had cleared enough floor space for the dog to lie down (he's big) and they had the kitchen pretty much in order. It was enough so that when we stopped over after church, Barb had just pulled a cake out of the oven. She sent it home with us for an after-supper treat. We were so tired, it ended up *being* supper. Not that Jim minded; it had chocolate frosting and he had a bowl and a pint of table cream.

Before arriving in town, Art had been talking with a potential employer about a part-time job. When they met, it turned into a full-time job involving all the things he likes to do: parts, motors and cars. Barb has an interview this morning (if she can find her clothes) and their new life is off and running.

The weather has been beautiful for them and Barb is soaking up the sun. We'll see how she likes the sun



Out Back

By Carolyn Sue Kelley-Plotts
cplotts@nwkansas.com

in the middle of July, but for now, it is a nice change from the cloudiness and humidity of Illinois.

-ob-

Last night, I watched a Home and Garden television show about the 25 most common real estate mistakes people make. No. 5 on the list was buying a house sight unseen.

I'm glad Barb and Art never saw that show, because that is exactly what they did. They trusted me and the pictures I sent them to buy their new home.

The day before we got them home, I started to have some qualms. On my say-so, they had uprooted themselves and taken a leap of faith to come where life might be more enjoyable.

My fears were relieved when, walking into their home for the first time, they both said, "This is great. The pictures didn't do it justice. It's bigger than we thought."

Whew!

I'll try not to "bug" Barb too much, but it's going to be fun having family right in my back yard.

Maybe I should have warned her that living in my proximity makes her and her life "fair game" for this column.

As Jim would say, "Welcome to the goldfish bowl."

From the Bible

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Colossians 3:16,17



Along the Sappa

By Steve Haynes
s.haynes@nwkansas.com

Service detail, either, but nobody wants to kill us and nobody wants to hack our files. Because we're not *somebody*.

It does show the inherent dangers of government databases, dangers which will only grow as the databases become larger and more closely linked.

The security apparatus always pushes for more data and more linkage, but that's not always to the public's advantage.

Security people say they only want more power and more linkage so they can catch bad guys. And sure, that might happen, but information is information. It can be used against anyone.

Just ask Gov. Elliot Spitzer, whose bank turned him in for having too much cash.

Some might say if you haven't done anything wrong, you have nothing to fear from the databases, from the security people who run it or from abuse. But that's not

entirely true.

Information has a lot of uses, not all of them above board. And if government contractors with idle time on their hands can get into Hillary Clinton's passport file, they surely can get into yours or mine.

So could people with mischief on their minds, political operatives, Lord knows who all else. The average person would never want someone has been snooping in his or her file, let alone who.

Or what use they put that information to.

Maybe none. Maybe it's just harmless fooling around.

Maybe they got your Social Security number or your birth date.

The only way you'll know will be when something happens, and by then, it'll be too late.

The myth that data banks are our friends is just that, a myth. We'd all be better off if the government knew a lot less about us. But in this day and age, that's not likely to happen.

THE OBERLIN HERALD

Serving Oberlin and Decatur County since 1879

USPS 401-600
170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749-2243

Published each Wednesday by Haynes Publishing Co., 170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749. Periodicals postage paid at Oberlin, Kan. 67749.

Steve and Cynthia Haynes, publishers

Official newspaper of Oberlin, Jennings, Norcatur, Dresden and Decatur County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Colorado Press Association, Nebraska Press Association and Inland Press Association.

Subscriptions: One year, \$33 (tax included) in Decatur, Norton, Rawlins, Sheridan, Thomas and Red Willow counties; \$38 (tax included) elsewhere in Kansas; \$42 elsewhere in the U.S. Foreign subscriptions, \$50-\$250 (in US dollars only) extra per year (except APO/FPO). POSTMASTER: Send change of address to 170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749-2243.

Office hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

Phone: (785) 475-2206 Fax (785) 475-2800
E-mail: oberlinherald@nwkansas.com

Nor'West Newspapers

STAFF

Steve Haynes editor
Kimberly Davis managing editor
Mary Lou Olson society editor
Leslie Nolette proofreader/copy editor
Carolyn Kelley-Plotts columnist
Cynthia Haynes business manager
David Bergling advertising manager
Pat Cozad want ads/circulation
Karla Jones advertising production
Joan Betts historian
Jim Merriott sports reporter
Sarah Marcuson production



Welcome and thanks to these recent subscribers to *The Oberlin Herald*:

Mrs. Malcom Henderson, Starkville, Miss.; Donna Minch, Charlevoix, Mich.; Jerry Marietta, Casper, Wyo.; Myra Canfield, Niles, Mich.; W.D. Cody, Tulsa, Okla.; Mrs. Effie Gish, Fort Worth, Texas; Kenneth Foster, Hampton, Tenn.; Dr. and Mrs. A.P. Vohs, Siloam Springs, Ark.; Fern Borsheim, Green Cove, Fla.; Delbert Townsend, Fort Washington, Md.

California: Jon W. Mapes, Santa Cruz; Merlin Schroer, Santa Clara; Maxine Hatch, Riverside.

Colorado: C.E. Runyan, Greeley; Patricia English, Denver; Robert Keefer, Betty Rall, Colorado Springs; Romajeane Hahn, Jerry Fear, Aurora; Duane Berry, Grand Junction; Sam Willcoxon, High-

lands Ranch; Zola Branch, Arvada; Gladys Beeson, Fountain; Rita Ann Carey, Maurice Anderson, Westminster.

Kansas: Frances Mosier, Allen Tacha, Glenn Schulze, Bill Brooks, Don Vollertsen, Norton; J.R. Grafel, John Gutchewsky, Herndon; Victor Ritter, The Bank, Wilfred Wagoner, Jennings; Joe Zodrow, Dan Wasson, Earl Brown, John Sauvage, James Carswell, Matt Finnesy, Selden; Dorothy Rowh, Scott City; Jeanette Bosch, Wichita; Kathryn VanMeter, Glen Strevey, Norcatur; Betty Walker, Hoxie; Maxine Walker, Phillipsburg; Beverly Delano, Wichita; Melissa Wessel, Hoxie; Elsie Lea Bryan, Colby; Jerry Fidele, Dodge City; Dale Brockhausen, Great Bend; Greg Miller, Dresden; Ron Erickson, Rexford; Sherri Ramsey, Arkansas City; Atwood

Public Library, Atwood; Jack Kelley, Clay Center.

Nebraska: Walter Steier, Cloyd Peters, Mildred McMains, McCook; Joyce Reber, Omaha; Bill Lohofener, North Platte; Wava Williams, Hastings; Rhonda Mertz, Blair.

Oberlin: Lonnie McEvoy, Gary Walter, Craig Larson, John Wright, Francis Moore, Dr. Doug Fair, Terry Rush, John Brown, Dr. Gary Fredrickson, Joyce Martin, Edla Olson, Howard Votapka, Mr. and Mrs. Kendal Carman, Dr. Donald Harrier, Bill Flynn, Jim Wasson, Darlene Wray, Cecil Kimball, Donna Fortin, George Brown, Don Fredrickson, Kelsey Gallentine, Rev. and Mrs. Douglas Hasty, Richard Weber, Col. Gary Allen, Darrell Jones, Juanita Eckhart, Wilma LaSalle, Decatur County FSA, Norma Richards.