

Walkers ready to raise cash

Over 100 walkers will hit the trail Friday, June 13, for the Decatur County Relay for Life at the Oberlin City Park.

Lynn Doeden, co-chairwoman of the committee, said nine teams signed up for the event with 112 walkers, though there's still room for more.

The relay, which raises money for the American Cancer Society, starts at 7 p.m. Friday, June 13, and should end at 7 a.m. Saturday, June 14.

Dave Bergling and Robert Groneweg will cook barbecue beef and baked beans for a survivors' dinner at the City Park at 6 p.m. From 6:30 to 7 p.m., said Mrs. Doeden, everyone is invited to the dinner, which will also include cole slaw and cookies.

At 7 p.m., the cancer survivors take the first lap of the walk, with caregivers and survivors joining for the second.

Nora Urban, said Mrs. Doeden, will sing during the evening and Dorothy Moore will talk about being a cancer survivor.

The committee includes Mrs. Doeden, Chris Dempewolf, Tifanie Farr, Regina Stanley, Linda Hunt, Jean Hale, Leslie Jones, Carla Depperschmidt, LeAnna Bryan, Rhonda May, Melinda Grafel, Abby Hissong, Ralph and Norma Unger, Charlie Haag and Jennifer Van Eaton, a representative from the American Cancer Society.

Mrs. Doeden said they can still accept teams of walkers for the event, but late registrants won't receive T-shirts, because the shirts are already ordered.

Each team is selling luminaries for \$10 apiece commemorating someone who died of cancer or who has survived it. The teams, said Mrs. Doeden, each are doing a separate fund raiser for the event.

For example, the team from Decatur County Hospital is selling bracelets made by the women on the team. The bracelets are for breast cancer or multi-cancer, with different color beads and come in all sizes. She said the bracelets will be on sale at the hospital and also the night of the walk.

The teams include the Herndon Covenant Church, Walk the Line, Decatur County, Decatur Health Systems, Friends for a Cure, Team Ploussard, Black Peppers and the Bruggeman Family.

People can purchase the luminaries by calling Mrs. Hale at 475-8103 at work or at 475-2136 at home. Luminaries can still be purchased, but won't be listed in the relay booklet.

Each team will bring a basket filled with items, she said, to be given away to registered walkers. Other baskets donated by clubs in town, said Mrs. Doeden, will be auctioned off to the highest bidder.

Throughout the evening, Stan McEvoy, Aaron Ploussard and Matt Farr with Mobile Music Express, will play tunes.

If it rains, said Mrs. Doeden, the relay will be moved downtown under the canopies. If that happens, the walk will end at midnight.

City opens swim pool

With the sun out and the temperature warming up, the Oberlin Swimming Pool is open for business.

The pool opened last Tuesday, said Administrator Gary Shike, a day after the usual Memorial Day opening. There haven't been any problems with the pool this year, he said.

Although the pool was supposed to open over Memorial Day weekend all of the lifeguards weren't certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation training.

People can buy a season pass for one person for \$30 and for a family for \$60. Anyone 12 and under can pay \$1 for a day pass and those 12 and over can pay \$2 for the day.

Rusty Grafel is the pool manager again this year, said Mr. Shike.

During the week, the pool is open:

- 11 a.m. to noon for lap swim.
- noon to 1 p.m. for swim team practice.
- 1 to 5 p.m. for open swim.
- 5 to 6 p.m. for swim team practice.
- 6 to 6:30 p.m. for lap swim.
- 6:30 to 8 p.m. for open swim.

During the weekend, the pool is open:

- 1 to 6 p.m. for open swim on Saturday.
- 1 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. for open swim on Sunday.



IN THE BANDSHELL at City Park, Skeeter, the clown advance girl from the Cullpepper and Merriweather Circus, entertained about 20 kids who had been swimming at the pool and playing at the park Monday afternoon. Skeeter will return on Thursday, June 12, with the circus at the Decatur County Fairground. —Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

The circus is coming to town

The Big Top will dominate the Decatur County Fairground next Thursday, June 12, as the Cullpepper and Merriweather Circus hits town to perform for children of all ages.

The Oberlin Rotary Club will sponsor the circus, with shows at 5 and 7:30 p.m. at the fairground, said Marilyn Noone, club president.

The circus, she said, has been to Oberlin before, back in 1996. In the past, the Lions Club sponsored the show, but this year that group decided not to and representatives from the circus contacted Rotary.

Rotary said yes, and now tickets are on sale for the big evening at Addleman Drug Store, Ward Drug Store, First National Bank, the Bank, Farmers Bank and Trust and Stanley Hardware. Advance tickets cost \$6 for kids 2 to 12 and \$8 for adults.

The day of the show, the prices go up, said Mrs.

Noone, with tickets for the kids at \$7 and adults at \$11.

The circus will feature two elephants, three tigers, lions, clowns, jugglers, trapeze artists, an exotic bird show and a 7-year-old performer.

The Cullpepper and Merriweather Circus, said Mrs. Noone, is one of eight that still has a big-top tent.

As a preview to the show, Skeeter, the clown entertained kids at City Park on Monday afternoon. Skeeter did a few tricks in the band shell while kids sat on the concrete steps.

Anyone who wants to see how the big top is raised can go to the fairground at 10 a.m. Thursday, June 12. After the tent is up, people can get a free tour of the area and then watch the animals be fed and exercised.

Disaster declared for storms

The Decatur County commissioners signed a resolution last Tuesday declaring a disaster for the storms on Thursday, May 22, which destroyed sheds and outbuildings all over the county.

The resolution declares the disaster is approved for seven days, according to state guidelines. All of the damage found in the seven days can be turned in, although it doesn't mean it will be paid for.

Patti Skubal, county emergency management director, said storm chasers from news networks were out the night of the storm and all over the county. Videos of the tornadoes are posted online.

She said there were at least 48 tornadoes in northwest Kansas that night, according to storm spotters. The National Weather Service in

Goodland, she said, told her there have already been more tornadoes in the state than in all of last year.

The sheriff's department received one bid for a used pickup truck, from Stellar Sales for a 2004 GMC Sierra crew cab dual-wheel truck with 97,000 miles on it. Bids were requested from both Mike Elwood and Jr's Used Cars, but neither sent in a bid.

The vehicle isn't in Decatur County yet, so the commissioners decided to table the bid so the sheriff could take a look at the truck and drive it.

The commissioners waited to state the bid amount until the sheriff could see the vehicle.

The commissioners talked with Tim Stallman, road and bridge supervisor, who said there is some

debris in the ditches in the county. The road crew is working on wash-outs on the roads from recent rains, he said.

Kone Elevator, the company fixing the courthouse elevator, is waiting on the parts, said custodian Bob Berls. Mr. Berls said he has to write or fax the state fire marshal every other week about the elevator, since the items are in violation of the fire code.

He said the city put a new water meter on the courthouse sprinkler system, but there is still black sand in the toilets. Mr. Berls said Bee Hansen of Hansen's Plumbing said she could get a sand filter for the courthouse. Mr. Berls said he would check into it.

Progress Edition to feature business

Has your business expanded over the last two years? Have you bought or built a building or put on an addition? Maybe someone new is running the operation or maybe you have 10 more employees? A new line of products?

If so, the staff at *The Oberlin Her-*

ald wants to know for the upcoming progress section. The newspaper staff puts this section together every two years, highlighting major changes in the county and minor ones, too.

A list of changes has been started, but if you know of a business that

has had some kind of change in the past couple of years, give us a call at 475-2006 by next Wednesday.

We will be doing a few feature stories on major changes, but hope to have a couple of paragraphs about every business.

These will be edited and boiled down by our staff so we can get in as many as possible.

If you're not included, it won't be because we didn't ask.

Council to meet Thursday

The Oberlin City Council will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday at The Gateway.

The council's last meeting on Thursday, May 22, was cancelled because of tornadoes and weather in the area.

On the agenda for the last meeting in May was a report on Sappa Park, which will be discussed at the meeting on Thursday. City Administrator Gary Shike said the motel developer looking at building a motel here will be at the meeting too.

Like all council meetings, the

one Thursday will be open to the public.

71st Annual Flint Hills Rodeo - June 6, 7 and 8 Strong City, Kansas

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Sponsored By:
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Sunday
"Tough Enough to Wear Pink"
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www.FlintHillsRodeo.com
620-273-6480

Dodge Series Rodeo
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Burmese priest learns family is safe after storm

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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"It's a miracle," Father Henry Saw Lone said, after talking to a cousin in Myanmar, or Burma, last Wednesday.

Father Saw Lone finally knew, after nearly a month of not knowing, that his family in his native land is all safe, despite heavy damage and loss of life from a hurricane.

The Catholic priest serving the Oberlin, Leoville and Selden churches is one of five in the Salina Diocese from that country, which was hit by a cyclone on May 3. Such storms are generally called hurricanes here and typhoons, or cyclones, in the Far East.

At last count there are up to 133,000 dead or missing after the storm slammed into the Myanmar, the former British colony of Burma, last month.

Father Saw Lone said that he has been trying to reach family and friends by telephone every night since the disaster, knowing that when it's night here, it's day there.

However, until last Wednesday, no calls were going through, he said.

Then he talked to a cousin, who told him that his two sisters, brother, 15 nieces and nephews and numerous aunts and uncles are all well. While there was some prop-

erty damage and a lot of damage to trees, he said, his family was a little north of the hardest hit areas. They are mostly rice farmers and small businesspeople.

Father Saw Lone said that he was relieved and grateful that his relatives were well but still worried about friends in capital city of Yangon, whom he has not been able to reach.

After the cyclone, a category 4 hurricane with winds up to 120 mph, struck, countries around the world offered aid to the victims, who had lost their homes and livelihoods and had no food or water.

The military junta which runs the country, however, has been reluctant to allow foreign aid workers in. At first, according to news reports, the government seized all aid, saying that it would distribute the supplies. However, recently it has been allowing some workers to help but no outside military personnel.

The priest has been in Oberlin since July 2006. The three years before that, he served at the cathedral in Salina. He was ordained in Myanmar in 1994.

Other Catholic priests in the diocese from Myanmar are Father Vincent Thu Laing, Norton; Father Benjamin Saw, Phillipsburg; Father Alexander Pyone Cho, Hays; and Father Cornelius Kyaw Khine, Belleville.



Mr. Saw Lone

You could win \$50 in harvest contest

Who knew that guessing could pay off?

But with a big, high-priced wheat crop in the field, a good guess could get you \$50.

With the Oberlin merchants' Harvest Countdown contest, guessing the correct day, hour and minute the first load of this year's wheat crop is brought in to one of the participating elevators could win you \$50 for first place, \$35 for second or \$15 for third.

All prizes are given in scrip money, which can be spent only with sponsoring businesses.

Elevators participating in this year's countdown included the Decatur Cooperative Association in Jennings, Kanona, Herndon, Ludell, Danbury and Edmond; Hansen Mueller Grain in Oberlin and Cedar Bluffs; and Hi-Plains Cooperative, with elevators in Dresden, Edmond, Gem, Hoxie, Lenora

and Selden. Entries may be filled out at sponsoring businesses only.

All those taking a guess have to be 18 or older, and can't have won this contest in the past five years, had the first load of wheat in that time either or be related to someone who has. Relatives of the person delivering this year's first load aren't eligible and neither are employees of *The Oberlin Herald* or their immediate families.

Businesses sponsoring the countdown include Addleman Drug Store, Decatur County Title and Abstract, Decatur Co-op, Farm Credit of Western Kansas, Fredrickson Insurance, Hansen Mueller, Hi-Plains Co-op, Hirsch and Pratt, Golt Home Planning Center, KFN Radio, the LandMark Inn, Raye's Grocery, Southwest Implement, Stanley Hardware, Ward Drug Store and Pizza Hut.

24 varieties of wheat featured on annual tour

Twenty-four varieties of wheat are just about ready to go on display at the annual Kansas State University Research and Extension Wheat Plot Tour on Tuesday at the May Family farm west of Oberlin.

The tour will start at 7 a.m. at the 4-H Building at the county fairground, with breakfast cooked by the Mays. After the meal, everyone will head out to the wheat plot 2 1/2 miles west of town on the south side of U.S. 36.

The varieties this year include Art, Aspen, Bond, Bill, Danby, Fuller, Hatcher, Hawken, Infinity,

Jagaline, Jagger, Keota, Millennium, Overland, Overly, Postrock, Santa Fe, Smokey Hill, Spartan, T136, T81, TAM 111, Thunderbolt and Winterhawk.

Byron Hale, extension agent for Decatur County, said Brian Olson, area agronomist, and James Shroyer, crop production specialist, from the Colby office, and Dan O'Brien, an agriculture economist from Manhattan, will be on hand to give information and answer questions.

Everyone is invited to the tour.

UPCOMING AUCTION

SELLERS: Jimmy J. Bowles & Et al
SATURDAY, JUNE 7TH, 2008, 10 A.M.
LOCATION: 4-H Building, N. Hwy. 25,
Atwood, KS 67730

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