

# Food, exercise to be top acts at annual walk

By KIMBERLY DAVIS  
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Everyone is invited to the Oberlin City Park on Friday for the annual Decatur County Relay for Life, a major fund raiser for the American Cancer Society.

Things get under at 6 p.m. for cancer survivors with a dinner of barbecued beef and baked beans cooked by Dave Bergling and Robert Groneweg. From 6:30 to 7 p.m., everyone is invited to dinner, which will also include cole slaw and cookies.

At 7 p.m., survivors will walk the first lap of the relay on the school track with their caregivers and families joining them for the second.

Nora Urban will sing during the evening and Dorothy Moore of Oberlin will talk about her experience as a survivor.

After the opening ceremonies, members of the nine teams will start walking. Someone from each team will walk until 7 a.m. Saturday.

Teams are Herndon Covenant Church, Walk the Line, Decatur County, two from Decatur Health Systems and the Decatur County Hospital, Friends for a Cure, Team Ploussard, the Black Peppers and the Bruggeman Family.

Each will bring a basket filled with items, said co-chair Lynn Doeden, 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.

Chris Dempewolf, a committee member, said anyone who still wants to donate a hand-made item or something from their business for the auction can bring it to the relay or call her at (785) 693-4315.

Some of the items up for auction are on display in the window of Stanley Hardware, she said.

Over the past months, the teams have sold luminaries for \$10 apiece commemorating someone who died of cancer or who has survived it. Each team also is doing a separate fund raiser for the event.

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

The committee includes Mrs. Doeden, Mrs. Dempewolf, Tiffanie Farr, Regina Stanley, Linda Hunt, Mrs. 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

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 to downtown under the canopies. If that happens, the walk will end at midnight.



# Circus is coming to town

Ever wondered what it's like to put up a Big Top?

If you have, head to the Decatur County Fairground at 10 a.m. Thursday, when crews from the Cullpepper and Merriweather Circus start putting up the big tent for the evening's performances.

Marilyn Noone, president of the Oberlin Rotary Club, said anyone who wants to watch is invited to the raising of the Big Top and welcome to stay around to get a tour and see the animals fed and exercised.

The club is sponsoring the circus, with shows at 5 and 7:30 p.m. at the fairground Thursday.

The Cullpepper and Merriweather Circus, said Mrs. Noone, is one of eight that still performs under the Big Top.

Tickets are on sale for the two shows 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 \$11.

The circus will feature two elephants, the same ones that escaped during a tornado in WaKeeney last week, three tigers, lions, clowns, jugglers, trapeze artists, an exotic bird show and a 7-year-old performer.

# Time to guess hour of first wheat load

When will the first load of wheat in Decatur County be harvested and taken to the elevator?

Will it be at the end of June, maybe the middle of the month, or will Mother Nature keep things wet, putting off the harvest until the middle of July?

No one really knows, but anyone who is 18 or older can take a guess during the Oberlin merchants' annual Harvest Countdown contest.

Whoever guesses the correct day, hour and minute the first load of this year's wheat crop is brought in to one of the participating elevators wins. Elevators in this year's Countdown include the Decatur Cooperative Association in Oberlin, 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.

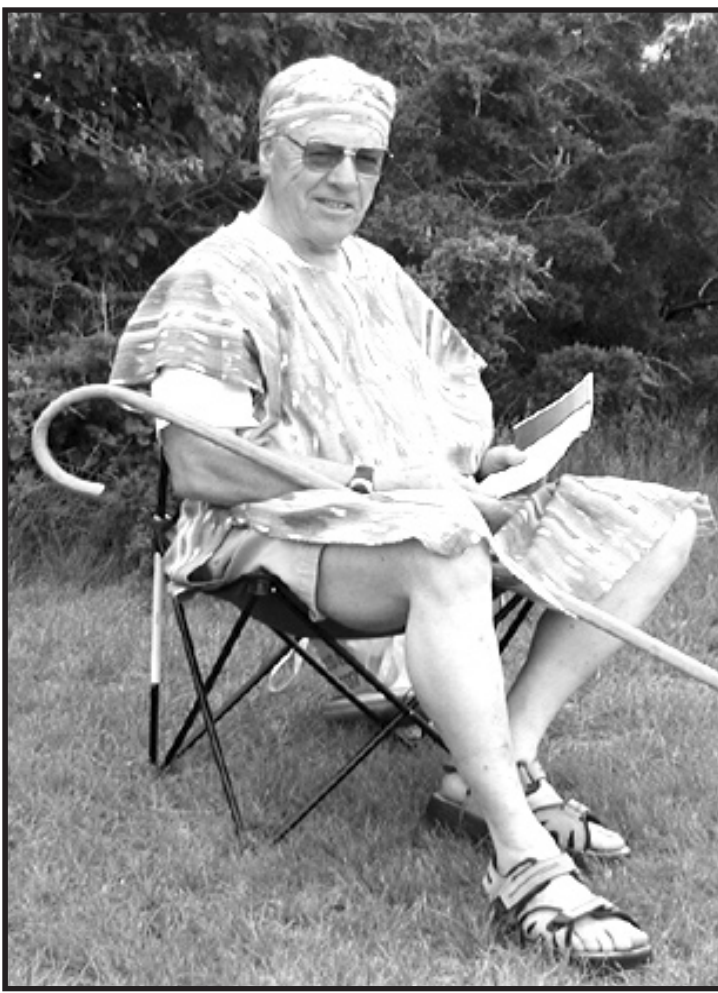
Winners will receive \$50 for first place, \$35 for second or \$15 for third, all in scrip money, which can be spent only with sponsoring businesses.

Entries may be filled out at sponsoring businesses only. Check out the ads on Pages 4B and 5B in today's paper.

Winners can't have won this contest in the past five years, had the first load of wheat in that time 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, Gold Home Planning Center, KFNF Radio, the LandMark Inn, Raye's Grocery, Southwest Implement, Stanley Hardware, Ward Drug Store, Pizza Hut and *The Herald*. Entry forms and boxes are displayed at each location.

Contest ends Friday, June 20, or whenever the first load comes in.



# Kids learn about God at the park

AT SAPPA PARK last Wednesday, Patience Carman (above) snacked on a piece of flat bread and honey at the Oberlin churches' annual Vacation Bible School. Bill Duncan of the Church of Christ (left) sat in a chair under a tree while he went over the story he was going to tell that night at the Gospel-era themed school, called Marketplace 29 A.D.

# Man gives donation of land

People attending ball games this summer will have a new place to park after Raye's Grocery owner Kirk Brown donated land to the city south of the fields.

Mayor Joe Stanley said Mr. Brown owned land and a burned-out house Al Robey used to live in at 107 N. Garfield, on the corner across from the smaller ball fields. Mr. Brown approached him about donating it for a parking lot for the ball fields, the mayor said.

Councilwoman Rhonda May asked if the city has to tear down the house? The answer was yes. City Administrator Gary Shike said he didn't know how much it would cost. The Wahrman house on East Avenue the city tore down cost \$1,060.

There's probably no question, said Councilwoman Marcia Lohoefer, that a parking lot would be nice.

Mr. Brown, said Ms. May, does a lot of good for the community.

The council approved the donation of the land.

# County looks at buying empty lots in Norcatour

The Decatur County commissioners discussed the idea of purchasing a few lots south of the county shop in Norcatour during a tax sale scheduled for Tuesday without making a decision.

It might be worth buying the lots, said Commissioner Doyle Brown. The commissioners, minus Mr. Brown, who won't be available, plan to attend the tax sale.

Mr. Brown and Commissioner Stan McEvoy talked with Tim Stallman, road and bridge supervisor, about the land. The road boss said he doesn't necessarily need the lots, but the county could keep the land cleaned off.

It would mean a little added maintenance expense, he said, but wouldn't really be a hassle.

Linda Manning, county ambulance director, talked with the commissioners about buying an auto pulse machine, which is strapped around the patient and constantly takes the person's vitals. This way, she said, the patients don't have to be taken off the monitor when the volunteers move them onto a cot.

The commissioners agreed that if the ambulance department has the money, Ms. Manning should make the purchase because the equipment could save lives.

She said an auto pulse costs about \$15,000, but there's money in the special equipment account.

The commissioners talked briefly about converting the former county shop south of town to a recycling building, meaning all of the vehicles stored there would need to be moved. Mr. McEvoy said he thinks the county needs to look for another building for the impounded vehicles and others not used all the time.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Set up a hearing for 9 a.m. Tuesday, June 24, on a request to vacate the west half mile of a road between sections 22 and 27 in Dresden Township. The road is 2 1/2 miles southwest of Dresden off of K-383. Virgil Jensen requested the abandonment order. Letters and maps have been sent out to neighbors, said County Clerk Marilyn Horn.

- Appointed Neoma Tacha and Leslie Jones to the Health Advisory Board, with terms that end April 2011.

- Heard that Bob Strevey, a Democrat, had filed for the 120th District in the state House of Representatives. This would be his third race against incumbent John Faber of Brewster.

- Heard that Jerold DeBoer with Penco Engineering is working on updating the county's bridge plan, possibly working in three bridges for next year, although Mr. Stallman didn't say which three.

- Heard the road and bridge crew is fixing washouts.

# City power plant makes electricity

Oberlin had lights after storms last month, thanks to the city crew.

After a tornado took out an H-frame structure on the Sunflower Electric Power feeder line between Norcatour and Oberlin, the crew fired up the power plant to serve the town and a few rural electric customers for 27 hours.

During the tornadoes, said City Administrator Gary Shike, winds knocked down Sunflower's 115 kilovolt line north and east of town.

That line, he said, feeds Oberlin with power from Sunflower's Holcomb generating station. An "H" structure east of town carrying the line went down around 8 p.m. on Thursday, May 22, said Mr. Shike. City Foreman Dan Castle and crew member Ron Solko, a power plant operator, started the engines at the city's power plant. The men ran the plant for 27 hours until Sunflower crews got to the site and fixed the line.

Representatives from Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, said Mr. Shike, asked if the city could pick up

a few customers west of town.

The plant, said Mr. Shike, didn't have a problem carrying the load. During the summer, in air conditioning season, there could be a problem carrying a full load because, although the plant has the capacity, it doesn't have the cooling needed for the engines. City Council members sold one of the radiators needed for full operation years ago.

Two years ago during the ice storm, said Mr. Shike, the city provided electricity for the same customers west of town.

There were a few problems with the power plant, he said, which is normal when the generators aren't operated all the time.

The crew had an opportunity to discover some things which changed after the modifications recently were made to the plant last year, he said.

"In a situation like that," said Mr. Shike, "we are lucky to have a power plant that is functional. Otherwise the city would have been without power."

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