

Wind might help power high school

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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The Oberlin School Board looked at a proposal for a \$3.46 million "self-funding" energy update which would add a 600-kilowatt wind turbine to the high school and replace the heating system, supposedly producing enough power to pay for the work.

Johnson Controls, Lenexa, was chosen to do an "energy audit" at the May board meeting. Since then, the company has been looking at options to upgrade lights, the heating system and even the cooling system

School Roundup

At a special meeting last Monday, the Oberlin School Board:

- Looked at a "self-funding" energy update which would add a 600-kilowatt wind turbine at the high school and replace the heating and cooling system, with a price tag of \$3.46 million. Story at left.

- Met behind closed doors for two hours and five minutes to evaluate the superintendent. Story to come.
- Approved a \$63,358 renovation project for the high school library using a gift from the Love Family Foundation. Story on Page 3A.

at both schools, with the idea that the savings from using less fuel and producing more electricity, would

pay for the project.

At the meeting last Monday, Casey Lauer, Fred Travis and Matt

Leaper with Johnson told the board about the six options the company worked on for the high school. Costs ranged from \$1.95 to \$4.75 million. The men said they thought Option 6, which includes the wind turbine, is the one that really makes the most sense.

Their report showed option No. 6 includes replacing the steam side of the high-school heating system with new equipment in each classroom, with no demolition work needed; converting boiler rooms to learning space; providing wind-generated power, a renewable resource, mak-

ing the school independent from utility costs; an updated electrical service; and extending the life of window air-conditioning units at the grade school while decreasing maintenance.

The project would put a "packaged terminal" air conditioner in each high-school classroom that would also have a heat pump for winter. The 600 kilowatt wind turbine would be put up on the old practice field south of the football field to provide power for the high school.

What if all the district does is

take the old boiler out and put a new one the district already owns? asked member Monte Moore. A lot of pipes would need to be replaced, said Mr. Travis.

The energy savings wouldn't exist to offset the cost of the project, said Mr. Leaper.

How much pipe would need to be replaced? asked board President Dewayne Jackson. Kenny Black, facilities maintenance supervisor, said he would advise them to replace all of it, because there'd still be leaks. A steam leak in the (See ENERGY on Page 8A)

Money needed to keep rides going this year

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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With only about \$12,000 to spend and rides that need about \$21,000 worth of repairs, the Decatur County Amusement Authority — which operates the carnival at the county fair each August — is asking for a little help.

With the week for the Home-Owned Carnival approaching in little more than a month, the authority's board met Thursday to discuss what to do next with the rides and some other items.

The carnival runs in conjunction with the fair the first full week of August. This year's fair and carnival will open Tuesday, Aug. 5, and run to Saturday, Aug. 9.

Treasurer Candy Ketterl said the group started the meeting with \$32,166, but after paying the bills, including \$1,300 for the sno-cone machine and to Warren Bainter \$161.83, the authority is left with \$30,705 in checking and \$5,216 in savings for emergencies.

Judy Scott said the authority knows that some of the bills coming up include \$8,000 for insurance that's due at the beginning of July, and \$5,000 for electrical work and food for the concession stands. She said last year food cost at least \$5,500, although she isn't sure if that was just one bill or all of it. The group still has to pay for some prizes.

That will leave \$12,205, without the prizes paid. That doesn't include purchasing bearings or chains for the Octopus either.

Stan McEvoy, a county commissioner and authority member, said the floor on the Twist Over is rusted out and the seat belts are shot, so the authority decided to close the ride for this year.

Rides that need repairs this year include:

- The Octopus, which needs a new motor for an estimated \$11,614, plus spare bearings and chains to repair breakdowns, though no one is sure what those will cost.

- A new motor for the swings, for an estimated \$9,800. The estimate to fix both rides, with new motors, from Motion Industries for an estimated \$25,000, said Ms. Scott. The bid included tax, but the authority is tax exempt.

She said the group checked into a new Octopus with two cars on each arm, which would cost \$75,000 to \$80,000, but there's no way to raise that this year.

What about grants? asked member Stephanie Blau. Ms. Scott said she looked at some, but the group is out of time for this year. It takes time, she said, and someone to be able to write grant applications.

The authority did brainstorm some options, including applying for a community grant through (See RIDES on Page 8A)

Leaders prepare for Frogs camp

Get out the lunch pails, because Frogs camp starts Monday.

The Fun, Radical, Outdoor, Get-away Summer camp starts at 9 a.m. Monday in Oberlin's City Park for kids entering second to sixth grade.

Under the guidance of Head Frog Anthony Marshall and Assistant Frog Karli Fredrickson, the kids will play games, sing songs and make crafts.

The camp goes from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday from Monday through to Friday, Aug. 1.

The leader adults, both college students, said they have the summer planned out, with larger crafts than last year, new games, new songs and costume days.

A lot of the crafts, said Miss Fredrickson, will be built each day

until Friday. That doesn't mean kids won't be able to just come one day during the week, though. If a child can only come one day in a week, they can still do the craft, she said.

Basically, said Mr. Marshall, the campers will make bigger, cooler crafts.

Besides, capture the flag and other traditional camp games, he said, they have found two to three new games so there won't be so much repetition.

There are new songs, too, said Miss Fredrickson.

The two said they want to do a pool day with the kids, a pirate day with a treasure hunt and a cowboy and indian day at the museum.

Frogs, sponsored by the Oberlin Covenant Church, is open free to all kids. Campers need to bring a sack (See CAMP on Page 8A)



Theater needs people

AT THE SUNFLOWER Cinema on Saturday, Nathan Simonsson (above) worked in the concession stand before he started the projector. Dayton Kempt (left) ordered a soda to go with his popcorn. With donations, the volunteer-run theater has been able to pay off its back taxes and bills. Bev Reiter, a board member, said in order to keep the theater open, though, the board needs better attendance or more donations. Shows start at 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays over the summer.

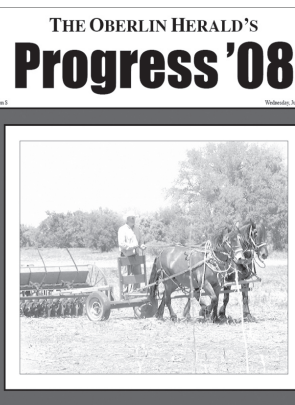
— Herald staff photos by Kim Davis

Progress section inside

It may not seem like a lot's changed in Decatur County in the past 2 1/2 years, but businesses have opened, stores have moved and new people have been hired.

Inside today's *Oberlin Herald* is this year's Progress section, featuring changes in the county in the past couple of years.

Some businesses have expanded while others have new owners or administrators. Check out the Progress section to see what's changed.



County discusses financing for center

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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The Decatur County commissioners talked last Tuesday about borrowing money with a bond issue or guaranteed loan to help build a new recreation center which would house the Golden Age Center, Sunflower Cinema and a new bowling alley.

Greg Lohofener, who has helped with the project as a member of the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp. board and now as a volunteer, talked with the

commissioners about the money options.

Commissioner Ralph Unger asked if Dave Barber with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Administration had gotten back to Mr. Lohofener about the agency's loan program, which the hospital board used to finance its new addition. Mr. Lohofener said he hadn't, adding that he needs to know if the county owns the building, could a nonprofit agency like the theater board run it?

An application for the state tax

credit program has been sent in to buy equipment, said Mr. Lohofener, and they should hear about it around July 1. Tax credits won't be used to build the structure, he said, just buy equipment.

The commissioners and Mr. Lohofener talked with Sarah Steele with Gillmore and Bell, a Wichita bond law firm, on a conference call because they had questions about a mixed-use property.

If a private agency would be hired to operate all or part of the center, said Ms. Steele, there could be some

concern about a bond issue from the county.

The cinema board or the Economic Development Corp. could oversee both sides if there needs to be a nonprofit organization running the center, said Mr. Lohofener.

How much does the county want to get involved in the financing in terms of risk? Ms. Steele asked. Originally, said Mr. Unger, they talked about some kind of revenue bonds, with little risk to the county.

(See CHAMBER on Page 2A)