



AT THE FAIRGROUND Monday afternoon, Bernice Ende hung out with her horses, Honor and Essie Pearl and dog Claire. Ms. Ende is on her way back home to Montana and camped at the fairground Sunday and Monday nights. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

‘Long rider’ impressed by downtown

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
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A “long rider” from Montana drifted into Oberlin on Sunday to find a community of welcoming people and a “wonderful” downtown. Bernice Ende of Trego, Mont., said she’d been on the road for three days with her two horses and a dog, surviving some 104-degree weather when she rode into Oberlin on U.S. 83 Sunday. “I rode into Oberlin,” she said, “and it’s like an oasis. You have preserved some quality in this town; it’s like stepping back into the 1920s.”

Ms. Ende said she met Monte Moore along U.S. 83 south of town when he stopped to offer her and the animals water. He called ahead to town, she said, to make arrangements for her and the animals to stay at the fairground. On her way through Jennings, said Ms. Ende said, she met Undersheriff Randy McHugh, who gave her a map and arranged for her to meet his family at the Frontier Restaurant. She said he bought her breakfast. It’s obvious, said Ms. Ende, that Oberlin is a caring community. The Montanan said she’s on her way home after starting in California and riding through Kansas.

With her, she said, she has the two horses, Honor and Essie Pearl, and her dog Claire, who rides one of the horses when she needs a break. She said she’s a long rider, out to just remind people about small-town America. She camps with her animals along the way and appreciates the generosity of people in small towns and other places. Ms. Ende said she had been in Nicodemus, learning about the emancipated slaves who settled that dusty patch of prairie, and what freedom had meant to them. Being a long rider represents freedom, she said, and just being able to go. She said she’s been riding for four years, and will have 10,000 miles under her belt by the time she gets home. “I know that I ride these rides with hundreds and hundreds of other kindred spirits who would have or have always wished for, or would love to, but were never able to,” said Ms. Ende. “They share their joy and generous support that encourages me to share back with them remarkable journeys as a woman with horse and dog.” Ms. Ende spent Sunday and Monday night at the fairground and planned to pull out on Tuesday.

School board asks contractors to look at heating

By KIMBELRY DAVIS
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The Oberlin School Board asked the superintendent last week to have contractors look at steam heating system at the high school, to see what it would cost to put in a boiler the district already bought instead of jumping into a \$1.5 million energy plan. Superintendent Pat Cullen told the board at a special meeting Monday, July 28, that he had talked with a representative from Johnson Controls, who said they thought they would bring back a “much more energy-efficient” project at the next meeting.

At a meeting on Monday, July 14, Johnson representatives suggested a \$1.5 million energy plan which included heat pumps for the high school and a wind turbine to produce electricity. The board decided to hold off on a turbine or a wind study. Just to put in the heat pumps would cost the district an extra \$91,000 a year in energy costs, the firm said, with \$13,000 more in energy costs and financing at about \$77,479 a year.

What about putting that money into the current steam heating system, asked board President Dewayne Jackson, noting that plan includes \$50,000 a year in increased energy costs with the heat pumps, which would amount to \$1 million over 20 years.

“Does it behoove us to look at something else?” he asked.

Dr. Cullen said he talked with Ryan Freed with the state energy office, who had attended the board meeting. He said Mr. Freed told him he thought Johnson could bring in a better plan.

Wasn’t there a bid at one time for \$60,000 to replace some of the steam lines? asked member Dan Nedland. That was for the condensation line, the return line which takes water back to the boiler, said Dr. Cullen.

The district has already spent around \$26,000 to buy a boiler from American Boiler out of Salina, said Mr. Nedland. Did that include installation?

No, said member Monte Moore, installation would be around \$20,000 on top of that.

Dr. Cullen said Johnson had said they would absorb the cost of the boiler into the project.

Does it seem unreasonable to check into what it would cost to put in the new boiler and replace that line? asked Mr. Jackson.

It is a proven system, said Mr. Nedland, that has worked here for 60 years. This is a small town and it seems like there should be people here able to fix the heating system. He said he was having a real problem with spending \$1.5 million.

Where does the district go from here? asked member Barb Olson.

Possibly, said Mr. Moore, the big areas where the condensation line leaked, like the auditorium and the music hallway, could be heated with another source. The board could get someone in here to look at the project, he said.

Dr. Cullen said he knows a steam man in North Platte who could come look at the system.

Surely between the August and November meetings, said Mr. Moore, some kind of heat could be put in the junior high gym and the music wing.

The board still needs to listen to what Johnson has to say at the August meeting, said Mrs. Olson, but that doesn’t mean they have to accept the plan.

The firm said that new lights would pay for themselves in three years, noted Mr. Nedland.

“But we have said from the beginning that we don’t have a lighting problem,” said Dr. Cullen. “We have a heating problem.”

Member Jerry Chambers suggested the board needs to talk with Kenny Black, indoor facilities supervisor, about this. Mr. Moore said the idea of shutting off the problem areas came from Mr. Black.

The board asked Dr. Cullen to call American Boiler, Trenton Electric and the steam man he knows in North Platte to come look at the system. The district needs to get someone in here to say what needs to be done, said Dr. Cullen.

Mr. Jackson said that’s what he thought the district was getting from Johnson, but instead got a proposal for a \$1.5 million project. It’s not that the company has bad ideas, he said, they’re just expensive.

A few days left to vote for ‘8 Wonders’

Voters only have a few days left to choose the top “8 Wonders of Decatur County” by casting a ballot online or cutting one out of *The Oberlin Herald* and returning it to the office.

At the beginning of the month, voters picked the top 16 wonders, and those will now be narrowed to the top eight. The nominees include the Home-Owned Carnival, Decatur County Fairground, the

Re-Load, the brick streets in Oberlin, Sappa Park, the antique stores in Oberlin, the canopies in Oberlin, Elephant Rock, the Dresser clothing store, The Gateway civic center, the LandMark Inn, the Last Indian Rain Museum, the Pioneer Family statue, the Czech Memorial Museum in Jennings, Elden Auker Park in Norcatar and the Last Indian Raid monument at Oberlin.

Voters can either cut out the ballot

on Page 5A of today’s newspaper and bring it into *The Herald* or mailing it to the newspaper at 170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749. Voters can also go online and vote at 8wonders.hdnews.net/decatur/.

The winners will be announced in the Wednesday, Sept. 3, edition of *The Herald*.

The “8 Wonders of Decatur County” is being sponsored by the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic

Development Corp., the Oberlin Convention and Visitors Bureau, the LandMark Inn, the Last Indian Raid Museum, the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce and *The Herald*, in conjunction with the *Hays Daily News*, which is sponsoring an area-wide compilation of county-by-county wonders.

Water use drops as city gets a little rain

The City of Oberlin received almost an inch of rain early Wednesday, helping keep water use below the 750,000-gallon trigger mark every day last week.

Since the middle of July, people who use city water have been on restrictions, able to use outdoor water about every other day at specified times.

It was the first time since the mayor declared a Stage 2 water emergency July 16 that users have kept that use below the trigger

amount every day.

The city pumped:

- 682,000 gallons on Sunday, July 27, with the high temperature at 89.
- 573,000 gallons on Monday, July 28, high 99.
- 527,000 gallons on Tuesday, July 29, high 98.
- 453,000 gallons last Wednesday, high 82.
- 665,000 gallons on Thursday, high 93.
- 665,400 gallons on Friday,

high 97.

- 650,000 gallons on Saturday, high 94.
- 672,000 gallons on Sunday, high 105.

The city received .85 inches of rain for the week.

As long as the city is on water restrictions people with odd-numbered addresses can water on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, and those with even addresses on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. No outdoor use is allowed on Mon-

days.

Outdoor water can be used only from midnight to 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. to midnight on the specified days. That includes watering lawns and gardens, washing cars, filling swimming pools and any other kind of outdoor use.

Spree deadline coming Tuesday

Time is almost up to sign up for a chance at \$1,000 in scrip money for the annual Shopping Spree sponsored by Oberlin businesses and *The Oberlin Herald*.

The last day to enter in the Spree is 4 p.m. Tuesday. The winning name will be drawn at the Back to School Picnic in City Park at 6:30 p.m. next Wednesday. The winner must be present, and names will be drawn until there is a winner.

The winner will have from Thursday, Aug. 14, to Friday, Aug. 22, to spend the prize money at participating businesses only. The shopper promises to notify *The Herald* so a photographer can go shopping with them.

Employees of the newspaper and their immediate family aren’t eligible to win.

In case of bad weather, the picnic and drawing will be moved inside to

the high school cafeteria.

This year’s sponsors include Dale’s Fish ‘N’ Fun, Stellar Sales, Culligan Water Conditioning, R&M Service Center, Ward Drug Store, Countryside Veterinary Clinic, Aqua Shield Roofing and Construction, the LandMark Inn, Stanley Hardware, Raye’s Grocery, Addleman Drug Store, Prairie Petals and *The Herald*.

Wind meeting planned in Oakley

The Logan County economic development director invited Decatur County commissioners to a meeting on wind energy in Oakley next Wednesday.

Director Dan Hardman told commissioners last Tuesday that it’s in the best interest of all of the counties in western Kansas to be in the forefront on wind energy.

Both Midwest Energy and Sunflower Electric Power Corp. are working on their lines to move power east, he said.

Mr. Hardman said he is inviting commissioners from counties in western Kansas to the meeting at the Colonial Steakhouse in Oakley at 10 a.m. next Wednesday.

Does Logan County have zoning in the county? asked Commissioner Stan McEvoy. No, said Mr. Hard-

man, most counties don’t. Decatur County doesn’t, said Commissioner Ralph Unger.

Every developer he’s talked to, said Mr. Hardman, has said it’s best to have a collaborative effort on the project.

Mr. Hardman said he will send the

proposed agenda to Clerk Marilyn Horn. Mr. Unger said the commissioners would see what they can do to get to the meeting.

Connie Grafel, marketing director of the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp., was also at the meeting.

Rawlins County Health Center

RAWLINS COUNTY HEALTH CENTER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

707 Grant Atwood, KS 67730
(785) 626-3211

Bringing Specialized Healthcare To Your Community

August 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			July 30 Dr. Curtis Cardiology		1 Cardiac Rehab Echocardiograms Ultrasounds	2
3	4 Cardiac Rehab	5 McDonald Clinic - p.m.	6 Diabetic Clinic Echocardiograms Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	7 MRI Mobile Unit Vasc Ultrasounds	8 Echocardiograms Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	9
10	11 Cardiac Rehab	12 McDonald Clinic - p.m.	13 Diabetic Clinic Echocardiograms Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Dr. Frankum Surgery	14 Dr. Reeves Podiatry MRI Mobile Unit Vasc Ultrasounds	15 Cardiac Rehab Echocardiograms Ultrasounds	16
17	18 Cardiac Rehab	19 McDonald Clinic - p.m.	20 Mammograms Diabetic Clinic Ultrasounds Nuclear Stress Cardiac Rehab Dr. Curtis Cardiology	21 Dr. Saba Orthopedics Dr. Reeves Podiatry MRI Mobile Unit Vasc Ultrasounds	22 Cardiac Rehab Echocardiograms Ultrasounds Dr. Reeves Podiatry	23
24	25 Cardiac Rehab Dr. Rubowitz Oncology	26 McDonald Clinic - p.m. Dr. Miller Cardiology	27 Diabetic Clinic Echocardiograms Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	28 MRI Mobile Unit Vasc Ultrasounds	29 Cardiac Rehab Echocardiograms Ultrasounds	30

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