



AT THE 4-H HORSE SHOW Saturday morning at the arena on the south side of the Decatur County Fairground, Rachel Grafel (above) rode her horse in the pole bending competition while Patience Carman (below) watched her through the panels of the corral, waiting her turn to ride.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Ribbons begin to flow

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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A handful of 4-H kids showed their skills off Saturday morning, earning ribbons in one of the first events of the Decatur County Fair.

Jordan McHugh, Rachel Grafel, Britta and David Noren, Becca Reuther, Emily Larson, Isaac, Patience and Moriah Carman all participated in the 4-H horse show at the corral on the south side of the fairground. The kids showed how they could back their horses, trot them, canter them and weave in and out of poles. The older 4-Her's took part in barrel and flag races.

The horse show ended around 11 a.m.

The show is one of the first events of the fair, with the first being the clothing construction, buymanship and fashion revue last Tuesday. (See pictures of the revue on the OH! page today.)

Today's events include the bucket calf show at 8 a.m., followed by the dairy/beef show in the livestock barn.

Following the beef show, there will be a steak-sandwich fund raiser to help raise money to put the finishing touches on the new livestock barn, which was dedicated at the fair last year. The food, including steak sandwiches, chips, beans, pop or water, will be served at the Jaycee Porkburger Stand for a donation.

At 5 p.m. tonight is the sheep show, followed by the Kids Tractor Pull at 5:30 p.m., sponsored by the Decatur County Farm Bureau.

The fair board will sponsor the Game Show Road Show at 7:30 p.m. tonight in front of the grandstand.



On Thursday, 4-H members will show their swine at 9 a.m. At 11 a.m., kids who have won the grand and reserve champion ribbons for livestock, will have their pictures taken with their animals. The winners need to have their ribbons and trophies for the pictures.

At 6:30 p.m. Thursday, the livestock auction will be held in the

livestock building. At 8 p.m. the fair board has the Tough Truck competition planned at the grandstand.

Scheduled at 1:30 p.m. Friday will be the annual pet parade at the Good Samaritan Center. That night at 8 p.m. will feature the demolition derby in front of the grandstand.

At 2 p.m. Saturday, time trials

for flat track motorcycle racing will begin and at 7 p.m. the races will start in front of the grandstand.

Each night, the Home-Owned Carnival will open at 7 p.m. Volunteers are still needed to help with games. Sign up at the Chamber of Commerce office downtown or call Judy Scott at 475-8983.

Gallentine, Ketterl win local races

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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Decatur County Republicans decided Tuesday to put Kari Ketterl's name on the ballot to run for register of deeds and Gene Gallentine's for county commissioner in District No. 3.

Commissioner Doyle Brown and Register of Deeds Judy Gaumer announced they are retiring this year, prompting several people to file for each office.

On the Republican ballot for register of deeds were Mrs. Ketterl with 205 votes, Tiffanie Farr with 188, Melissa Chambers with 116 and Judy Marietta, who decided a few weeks ago to drop out for family reasons, with 21 votes.

A call to Mrs. Ketterl's home Tuesday night went unanswered.

She will meet Shanna Long, a Democrat, who ran unopposed in her primary, in the fall. Mrs. Long received 118 votes.

On the Republican ticket for commissioner in District 3, which includes Oberlin, Summit, Cook, Prairie Dog, Dresden, Custer, Center, Olive, Sherman, Beaver, Harlan, Grant, Roosevelt, Lincoln, Alton, Garfield, Jennings, Pleasant Valley, Lyon and Allison townships, Mr. Gallentine, Clayton, received 121 votes and Vickie Bailey, Jennings, had 90.

Mr. Gallentine, who had been



G. Gallentine



Lee Franklin



Kari Ketterl



Shanna Long

helping run a ride at the home-owned carnival, came downtown to check the vote at the county clerk's office.

It looks like there was pretty good voter turn-out, he said, especially for a primary.

Mr. Gallentine said he's glad that he gets to move to the next step. The campaign will probably need to be a little different now, he said, more issue specific since he will be looking for votes from all of the constituents in the district, not just his party. For example, he said, it's time to talk

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Dryland corn burns up in heat; crop needs water

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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With blistering heat and no rain since last week, dryland corn fields in Decatur County are starting to burn up.

Brian Olson, area agronomist for Kansas State University Research and Extension, said some of the corn is already burned up. A drive through the country reveals brown patches in the fields, with the moisture profile gone and the crops responding, he said.

The corn, said Mr. Olson, is at a stage where it needs a third of an inch of moisture a day. Even though the area received .85 of an inch last week, he said, that won't last long.

The corn has to keep cool during the hot weather, which broke 100 several days over the weekend. The way to do that is by using the moisture, he said.

The corn, said Mr. Olson, has tasseled, pollinated and the kernels are set. Now the plants are filling out those kernels to make grain, which is where the moisture comes from.

When looking at the fields, he said, the edges may still be green and the inside brown. The plants on the edge of the field are able

to pull water from outside, while inside the field each plant is competing with the others for the same amount of rain. Without more rain, said Mr. Olson, the corn overheats and burns up.

Wheat stubble from the last crop can only hold so much moisture for the plants to use, Mr. Olson said. No-till farming is great, he added, but the crop also has to have supplemental rain, which just isn't happening.

If the plant's growing point has been killed, he said, no amount of rain will help it, but if the growing point is still hanging on, it can snap out of the downward spiral. The National Weather Service was forecasting a chance of rain Monday and every night this week, so there is hope.

Mr. Olson said people can tell the parts of the field where the soil is better at retaining moisture and parts that aren't, because the bad parts burn first. That's one thing that produces a variation in yields from one field.

A nice drink of water would be great for the corn, said Mr. Olson. All of northwest Kansas needs a slow 2 1/2-inch rain.

Woman's estate benefits agencies

An Oberlin woman, originally from Norcat, left \$223,121 in certificates of deposit to six organizations in Decatur County, saved during her years as a teacher, public official and secretary.

Lois Eckhart, 93, died Thursday, July 3, leaving behind almost a quarter of a million dollars to benefit the Decatur County Health Foundation, Decatur County Museum, the Good Samaritan Center, Oberlin United Methodist Church, the Norcat Cemetery and the City of Norcat.

Last Thursday, representatives from each met at Elmo Lund's law office to pick up certificates of deposit for their organizations.

Miss Eckhart left the health foundation \$54,886 to be used for scholarships for hospital employees, \$40,865 to the museum, \$35,072 to the Good Samaritan Center, \$33,389 for the church, \$30,364 for the cemetery and \$28,545 to the City of Norcat for its road fund.

Miss Eckhart was born in 1915 at the farm of her parents, Charles and Elizabeth Eckhart, 3 1/2 (See WOMAN on Page 8A)



Lois Eckhart

Commissioners give OK on \$300,000 bond issue

The Decatur County commissioners decided last Tuesday to do a \$300,000 general obligation bond issue to finance part of a new senior center, bowling alley and movie theater planned for downtown Oberlin.

Work on the bond issue through the Wichita law firm of Gilmore and Bell will cost \$5,200 plus the costs of gathering information, commissioners heard.

The bond will come up with only about a third of the estimated \$900,000 cost of the project. Proponents want to tear down the existing

senior center and theater, which share a roof, and build one building in its place.

The new center would house a senior center, six-lane bowling alley and a movie theater, all of which would be run by separate boards.

The Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp. has been working on the plans for the new building for months. Greg Lohofener, a former member of the corporation's board, who is working on the project, has been meeting with the commissioners about financing ideas over the last

month.

Tuesday, Mr. Lohofener said a local firm is willing to buy the bonds, but he plans to open it up to other banks as well. Commissioners Ralph Unger and Stan McEvoy said that would only be fair.

Mr. Lohofener said he is working on demolition bids.

Marketing Director Connie Grafel said the corporation plans to also apply for a U.S. Department of Agriculture guaranteed loan, which the development group will be responsible for paying back.

After the fair and school start, she

said, they plan to set up a meeting with people who pledged money for the new building through the state tax credit program. All the credits are spoken for, however.

Anyone else who wants to donate to the project can, said Ms. Grafel, by making it through the Decatur Development Fund. That way, it would count it as a tax deduction, she said.

The commissioners asked County Attorney Steve Hirsch to contact Sarah Steele with Gilmore and Bell about getting the bond issue going.

*Republicans determine results in races

(Continued from Page 1A) about things like the new senior center, which he said he favors.

He said he plans to attend some of the commission meetings between now and the election and see what issues are hot now and what's coming up.

He will face Lee "Doc" Franklin, a Democrat who ran unopposed in his party's primary, in the general election. Mr. Franklin received 51 votes.

Besides the two races for the county seats, there were two for township officers.

In Beaver Township, both Ron Diederich and incumbent Brendan Moore ran for treasurer on the Republican ticket. Both men received

10 votes.

Clerk Marilyn Horn, who serves as the county election officer, said the commissioners will canvass the votes on Friday, checking to make sure everything was counted correctly.

If at that time both men still have the same amount of votes, they will be called in and a coin toss will decide the race.

Mrs. Horn said it wouldn't be the first time she has had to flip a coin in her 22 years as clerk.

In Center Township, there was a race for trustee between incumbent Ron McDougal and George Ruzicka, both Democrats. Mr. McDougal received one vote and Mr. Ruzicka, three.

Clerk crows over big voter turnout

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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With only a few contested races, voter turnout was much better than expected in Decatur County on Tuesday for the primary election.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn said that Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh had predicted that just one out of every five registered voters would turn out for the primary, or just 20 percent.

Mrs. Horn was crowing, however, over the 731 voters — 38 percent of the 1,945 people registered — who turned out in Decatur County.

She said 162 people took the opportunity to vote early and another 569 turned up at the polls in Dresden, Jennings, Norcatour and at The Gateway in Oberlin.

Voters had a chance to make a difference in two county races.

Republicans Gene Gallentine and Vickie Bailey were on the ballot, competing to meet democrat Lee "Doc" Franklin in November for the commission seat.

Three Republicans, Kari Ketterl, Tiffanie Farr and Melissa Chambers, were fighting for the right to meet Democrat Shanna Long in the general election for the job of register of deeds. A fourth Republican, Judy Marietta, dropped out, but her name remained on the ballot.

On the state level, Democrats Jim Slattery, Topeka, and Lee Jones, Overland Park, were slugging it out to meet longtime U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, a Republican, in November.

Mr. Roberts drew 518 Decatur County votes while Mr. Slattery, a former congressman, got 81 and Mr. Jones, 49.

Republican incumbent Rep. Jerry Moran of Hays got 525 Decatur County votes and his opponent in

November, Democrat James Boronaro of Emporia, had 99. Mr. Moran represents the "Big First" District, covering 69 of 105 Kansas counties.

In state races, Brewster resident John Faber, the incumbent Republican in the 120th District seat in the Kansas House of Representatives, received 488 votes in Decatur County while Norcatour resident Bob Strevey, the Democratic candidate, got 124. The men will meet in the general election for the fifth time in November.

In uncontested races:

- John Bremer, who has served 24 years as county and district magistrate judge, had 514 votes.
- Steve Hirsch, who has served almost 20 years as county attorney, got 493.
- Ken Badsy, with 24 years as sheriff, got 429.
- Jean Ann Hale, running for her third term as treasurer, got 509.
- Ralph Unger, running for his 10th term as county commissioner from District 2, had 127.
- Colleen Geihlsler, running for county clerk for the first time, got 521.
- William Elliott, Hill City, running for another term as judge of the 17th Judicial District, tallied 455.
- Ralph Ostmeyer, Grinnell, running for re-election to the state Senate from District 40, had 497.

In the 2006 primary election, when Decatur County had only one local race, for commissioner from District 1, 36 percent of the 2,212 register voters turned out. Later that year in the general election, 63 percent of the county's 2,077 voters turned out though it was not a presidential election year.

said, it could take the Kansas Bureau of Investigation lab five to six months to do the tests.

Officers were called to a home at 105 S. Cass Avenue after Mr. Dyer was found unresponsive. The coroner pronounced him dead at the scene.

Chief Lockhart said no alcohol or drugs were present at the scene, and the coroner ordered the autopsy to fix the cause of death.

Autopsy tests not done

It may take five to six months to get final autopsy results in the death of an Oberlin teenager and pinpoint the cause of death, officials say.

Police Chief Wade Lockhart said he talked with the doctor who performed the autopsy on Cory Dyer, 18, who died Sunday, July 27 in Oberlin. He said it could take months for the police department to receive the results of toxicology analysis, the chief said.

Where no crime is involved, he

City plant generates power

Oberlin's city power plant cranked up Monday, generating about a third of the power needed for the city.

City Administrator Gary Shike said Sunflower Electric Power Corp., the city's main supplier, called him that morning and said problems at the generating station in Holcomb only allowed them to generate about 40 percent of system power needs. Under the city's contract, he said, it is obligated to run the plant when Sunflower needs help. Foreman Dan Castle fired up

the diesel engines at the plant. Mr. Shike said the plant can produce about a third of the power the city was using Monday.

Mr. Shike said Sunflower only asked the city to generate on Monday, and there were no plans to operate the plant for the rest of the week.



ON MAPLE STREET Monday morning, an employee of sand during the street sealing process. B&H Paving out of Scott City drove a machine to pack the — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Street sealing starts Monday in Oberlin

Workers with B&H Paving started sealing about two out of three east-west streets in the City of Oberlin on Monday.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the crew should finish within a day or two. The firm will put a sand seal on 50,000 square yards of the streets at a cost of 97 cents per square yard, he said, which will cost the city \$48,500. Workers first spread road oil to seal the pavement, then

cover that with sand and pack the surface.

The city normally has the streets sealed every three years. Last year, the north-south streets were sealed. This year, though, only part of the east-west streets will be done, since the City Council decided to put away \$25,000 for street repairs next year, which is an off year in the sealing rotation.

Mr. Shike said Foreman Dan Castle put to-

gether a list of the streets that most needed sealing, and made a plan to allow for the crew from B&H to get them done with as little travel as possible from one side of town to the other.

The council had budgeted \$75,000 for the sealing, said Mr. Shike, but then decided to only spend around \$50,000 and put the other \$25,000 in the fund to be used to start repaving streets.

*Woman leaves money to organizations

(Continued from Page 1A) miles southwest of Norcatour.

She attended Prairie Hill School, graduated from Norcatour Rural High School in 1933 and earned two years of college credit from Fort Hays Kansas State Teachers College.

Police arrest driver

Oberlin police chased a Texas woman who had been speeding through town to just north of Hoxie Wednesday, July 16, where Sheridan County officers flattened the tires on her minivan with road spikes.

Patrolman Brad Burmaster said he tried to stop a 1999 Mercury minivan that was southbound on U.S. 83 in Oberlin around 9:27 p.m. last Wednesday, but the driver didn't pull over. He said he chased the car at speeds of 100 mph into Sheridan County, where officers put out spike strips on K-23 four miles north of Hoxie and flattened its tires.

The driver, Monica D. Beard, 50, Carrolltown, Texas, was arrested for speeding, reckless driving, and felony attempt to flee and elude an officer.

Before the chase was over, said Mr. Burmaster, Patrolman Troy Haas and officers with the Decatur County Sheriff's Department, Kansas Highway Patrol and Gove and Sheridan counties came to help.

Officer Burmaster said Ms. Beard wasn't wanted in Kansas or any other states. There were no alcohol, drugs or firearms involved, and he wasn't sure why she didn't stop.

The chase ended at 10:04 p.m. Since being arrested, Ms. Beard has agreed to plead guilty to speeding and reckless driving and had a diversion agreement for the charge of fleeing and eluding an officer. She was ordered to pay \$500 restitution for the towing bill, \$2,367 for damage to a Sheridan County police vehicle and \$163 for court costs.

Miss Eckhart taught for 14 terms in rural schools and then moved to Oberlin in 1949, where she became deputy county superintendent of schools.

Over the years, she served as the treasurer of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Norcatour before it closed, then joined the Oberlin United Methodist Church and served as the treasurer of the United Methodist

Women for years.

When school unification closed rural schools, and the county superintendent's office, she served as the secretary for the United, Presbyterian and Methodist churches. In 1976 she became the full-time secretary of the United Methodist Church.

An article about Miss Eckhart in the 2005 Working Women section

of *The Oberlin Herald*, said she had never learned to drive a car. In all her years as a working woman, she walked everywhere.

"I would like to know just how many miles I have walked," she said. "If I'd had a pedometer, I imagine it would show I had walked around the world several times. However, I feel that all of the walking has been a blessing in disguise."

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