

FunDay planned in Jennings

Jennings will be bursting at the seams Saturday for the annual Firemen's Fun Day on Main Street, complete with a parade, games, meals and entertainment.

The event, which starts at 8 a.m., raises money for the volunteer fire department. Whatever is raised this year is going towards the purchase of a 4,000-gallon tanker truck, said Fire Chief Kerry Green.

The day will kick off with a health fair at the senior center at 8 a.m. Anyone who wants to take part in blood testing must have been fasting, with nothing to eat after midnight.

After the health fair, a kolache coffee, a garage sale and a food sale will start.

Kolaches, a Czech pastry filled with fruit or cheese, are made by the local women. The treats, approximately 100 dozen, will be baked in the former school kitchen at Bus and Coach International. The kolaches will be on sale in the fire station starting at 9 a.m. for 75 cents each or \$9 a dozen.

At 10 a.m., a cake walk will start in City Hall, followed by bingo at 11 a.m. in the Senior Center.

Events throughout the day for kids include mini-train rides, a dunk tank, coin search, pony rides, a giant slide and a tractor pull.

Food will be served out of the

fire station.

Following the noon meal, the parade will start at 1:30 p.m. Anyone who wants to enter a float is welcome to gather at the south end of Pennsylvania Avenue at noon. The theme this year is "Then and Now." There is no registration fee for the parade.

The parade marshals are Bob and Neoma Tacha, longtime residents of Jennings. The couple serves on the Czech Museum board and have worked many hours at the museum, pushing expansion and growth. The couple is working on renovating the wooden windmill at the ambulance barn which was built for the U.S. bicentennial in 1976.

The museum will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for visitors, although it will be closed during the parade. Exhibits will include Indian artifacts collected by Galen Carper, Larry Mizer and Tim Adrian.

New this year is the selection of a Fun Day queen, with the winner presiding over next year's event. Contestants can sign up at the parade site at 12:30 p.m. Voting will last until 4:30 p.m. and the winner will be crowned at 7 p.m.

At 7 p.m., an auction will start for items donated by area businesses.

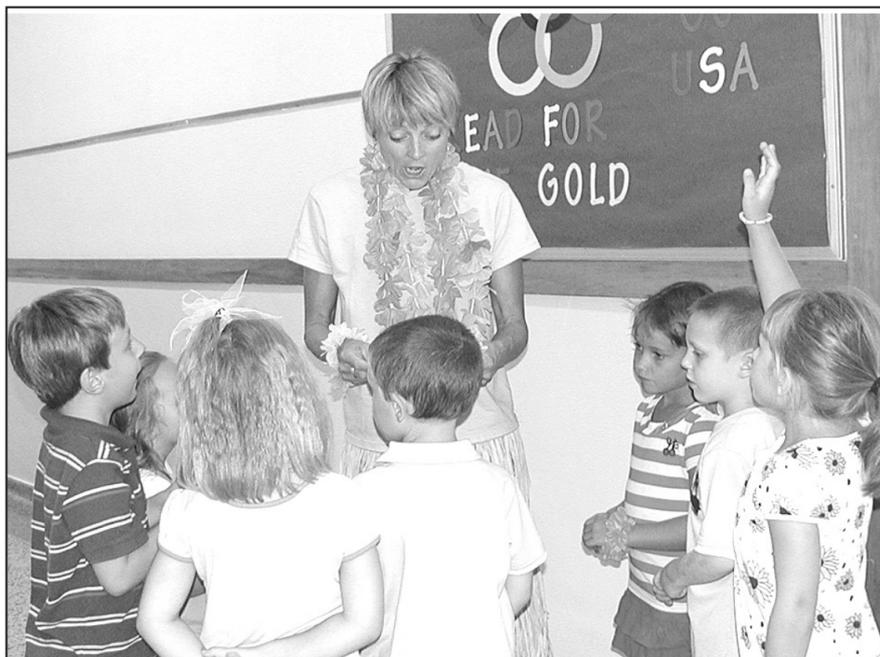
The day will conclude with a street dance with music by Mobile Music Express.



School starts with fun

ON HER MAT, Melody Koerperich (above) laid down during rest time on her first day of kindergarten at Oberlin Elementary School Friday. Cindy Sattler (right) first grade teacher, worked through the building with her class doing a scavenger hunt to show the kids where things are located.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



Board tables million dollar heat decision

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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No matter how he added the figures up, Matt Leaper couldn't make them work.

There was just no way, the consultant told the Oberlin School Board last Monday, that the school district could pay for a new heating system for the high school out of energy savings within a reasonable time.

Mr. Leaper, who works for Johnson Controls of Lenexa, was giving a report on an "energy audit" the company had done on district buildings and grounds. He said the firm had hoped the amount saved by new heating, cooling and lighting systems would save the district enough money over 10 years to pay for the \$1.5 million project.

He said the company had looked

at both heat pumps and traditional rooftop units, as well as changing out the lighting in the grade and high schools and on the athletic field.

While the lighting change alone could save the district enough to pay for itself, he said, the more extensive, expensive heating and cooling system just won't.

"I tried everything we could," he told the board. "I can't make it make sense."

The only way it might make sense to change out the heating and cooling system, he said, is to reduce the square footage of the buildings, maybe by closing the grade school and moving all students into the high-school building.

Ryan Freed and Stuart Yoho, with the Kansas Energy Commission Of-

(See BOARD on Page 8A)

Budget approved, with little discussion

The Oberlin City Council approved the \$4,246,289 budget for 2009 — including a 9.5 percent increase in the property tax — at a meeting Thursday after minimal discussion about money for the wetlands at Sappa Park.

Carolyn Burtis from the Decatur Tomorrow Sappa Park Committee said she was filling in for Rick Pauls, with Pheasants Forever, at the meeting. Mrs. Burtis handed out estimates for building a wetlands, which came to about \$80,000.

These are just rough numbers, she added, because the report isn't back from the engineer. She said the plan calls for a 15-acre-foot wetlands in

front of the shelter house in the old lake bed bottom.

Mrs. Burtis said supporters know the council has gone through the budget process, and they want to make sure there is money to build the wetlands. She said she money is tight, but the groups involved in Sappa Park want to know if the money is planned for the wetlands.

The council somewhat verbally committed to do this, said Mayor Joe Stanley. There is money in the Community Development Fund, he said.

There was \$50,000 in that fund, said Mrs. Burtis, and \$12,000 came out of it for the engineer. The city

puts \$50,000 in that fund each year, said Mayor Stanley.

Currently the plan would put the wetlands into the lake bed in front of the shelter house, said Mrs. Burtis.

If the plan to have a 15-acre-foot wetlands in front of the shelter house does not fly, she said, then they can do both a 7 1/2-acre-foot one in front of the spillway and in the creek channel.

Mayor Stanley said he thinks the city is verbally committed to the wetlands. Until there is a decision on the plan and the price, though, he said, the council really can't vote.

Mrs. Burtis said she thought Mr. Pauls would have the engineer's

report for the council next week.

City Administrator Gary Shike said he and Mr. Pauls have been working on a grant. The maximum allowed is \$5,500, he said.

The council also voted unanimously to pass an ordinance to allow the city to levy approximately \$50,000 more in property taxes than what they were allowed to under the formula the city has to use every year, said City Attorney Steve Hirsch.

No one appeared to protest or comment on the tax increase and the budget was approved.

Woman wins spree

There was no waiting around to draw a winning name last Wednesday during *The Oberlin Herald's* Big \$1,000 Shopping Spree drawing.

The first ticket drawn by Calista Isbel produced a winner, Carol Brown, who teaches Spanish at the high school.

Mrs. Brown said she signed up at several of the sponsors for the Shopping Spree over the past month and a half.

Although she won the scrip money last Wednesday, on Monday Mrs. Brown had yet to spend any of it. She said she wanted to buy a stove top to fit into her countertop to replace one the family has. Robert Groneweg, owner of R&M Service Center, measured the spot over the weekend. She (See WINNER on Page 8A)



MONDAY AFTERNOON, Carol Brown, winner of the Shopping Spree, looked at the measurements for her counter stove top with Robert Groneweg, owner of R&M Service Center.
— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Restoration needed for oldest building

By MARY LOU OLSON
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Restoration of one of the oldest buildings in Jennings is being promoted by the Jennings Historic Preservation Committee, which is heading up a campaign to raise money for the project.

The group is selling tickets for a drawing for a digital camera to help

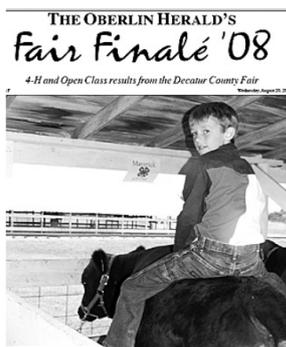
restore the building. The winning entry will be drawn at the Jennings Firemen's Fun Day on Saturday.

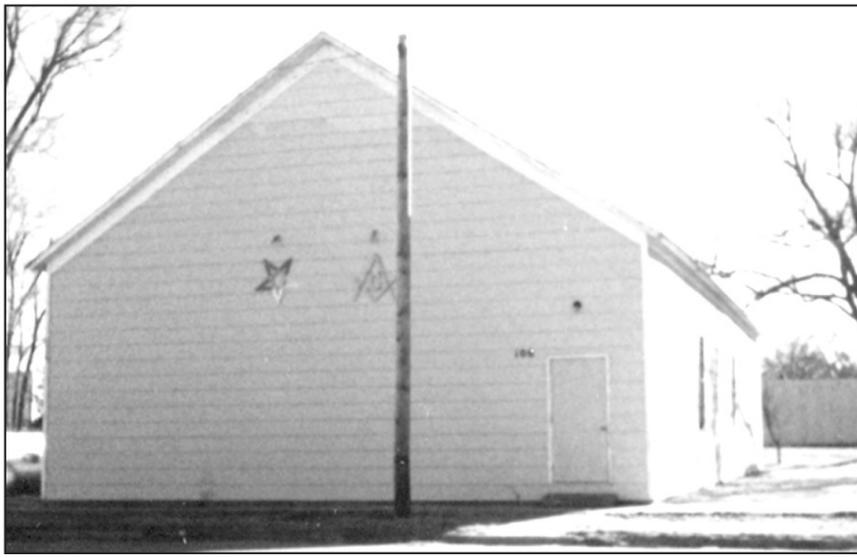
The building, originally built in 1900 as an opera house, has served as a silent-movie theater, a live-show venue, a dance hall and as a gymnasium for high school sports in the late teens and early 1920s, said (See PROJECT on Page 8A)

Section inside

Inside today's edition of *The Oberlin Herald* is the Fair Finalé section, with complete results from the 2008 Decatur County Fair.

The edition includes pictures of grand and reserve grand champions in the livestock categories and all of the results for 4-H and open-class competition.





THE JENNINGS MASONIC LODGE building (above) is in the process of being restored by the Jennings Historic Preservation Committee. It is one of the oldest buildings in Jennings and is used for community events. A kitchen (below) was added to the back of the building several years ago. Now money is needed to restore both the interior and exterior of the building.

*Project needs money

Marge Hartzog, a member of the committee.

Allyn "Bo" Beers, a longtime Jennings resident, wrote in the Decatur County History book, "Businessmen went together to build the Masonic Building. I remember a blind negro musician named Blind Boone who played there. After he played, he asked for someone to play (a song). Mae (Wilson) Sears played a song and Blind Boone played it right after her exactly as she had played it."

Later, movies with sound were shown in the building, but most recently it served as the meeting hall for the Jennings Chapter of the Royal Arch Masons. The Jennings Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star also held events in the building, but both have since merged with Oberlin lodges, Mrs. Hartzog said.

She said that the preservation committee acquired the hall in 1995. An attempt to have it added to the register of historical buildings kept by the Kansas Historical Society was unsuccessful, due to changes and remodeling over the years to accommodate its many uses.

She said the committee is interested in preserving this building because of its history and the way it touched so many lives through its many uses.

"This small community has few remaining historic buildings," she said, "and following



the loss of the school house (now headquarters for a bus firm), this building is one of very few in Jennings that can accommodate a large crowd.

"In recent years, the building has been used to hold Agri-Safe classes, family reunions, sales meetings, wedding receptions, New Year's Eve parties, and birthday parties, in addition to the many gatherings to raise funds for the building itself."

Mrs. Hartzog said that much effort has already been made to restore the building, mostly through donations of labor and materials.

"We have replaced the hail-damaged roof (partially paid by insurance)," she said, "replaced the bathroom toilet, replaced unsafe furnace pipes, had electrical wiring inspected and replaced some, cleaned out the sewer, and replaced the kitchen stove. Volunteer labor by committee members keeps the outside area mowed and the interior of the building cleaned and maintained."

Much work still is needed to keep the building usable, Mrs.

Hartzog said. The front door and six large windows need to be replaced at a cost of about \$500 each plus labor. The foundation on the east side of the building needs repaired and runoff water diverted to prevent further undermining, she said.

"We have made arrangements with John Nelson of Oberlin, who will do the needed repair work for \$1,500," she said. "Other immediate needs include replacement of the rear entry stairs to make them safe and heating and air conditioning upgrades to make the building usable year around. Less immediate needs include exterior painting or siding, new carpeting or linoleum, and other improvements to the interior."

She said the committee operates under Heritage Associates of Jennings, which is an IRS-approved nonprofit organization, so donations should be tax deductible.

"Any assistance that anyone may provide will be greatly appreciated," she said.

Donations may be sent to Mrs. Hartzog at P.O. Box 98, Jennings, Kan., 67643.

County buys emergency vehicle

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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A truck in hand is worth two that aren't on the lot, Decatur County commissioners decided last Monday as they agreed to buy a Dodge Durango that the dealer delivered to the courthouse for inspection.

Emergency Management Director Patti Skubal has been trying to get bids on a truck or van for her department but has had trouble because the dealers she'd contacted didn't have the vehicles she wanted on hand.

Mrs. Skubal has been using a sport-utility vehicle seized in a drug arrest several years ago and used by the ambulance director until this year, when she got a newer vehicle.

Lately, however, Mrs. Skubal said, the vehicle has refused to start sometimes.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said that he suspected the damp weather this summer might be the trouble. Mrs. Skubal said that she hated to put more money into an old vehicle which has started to have some major problems.

However, she said, she has had trouble finding a good used truck at the dealers here because they were getting sold before she could act or are just not available for viewing.

"They don't want them on the lot," said Commissioner Doyle Brown.

"Because they're SUVs," Mrs. Skubal said.

However, Monday owner Barry Richards of Stellar Sales in Oberlin brought a 2005 Dodge Durango XST with a towing package to the courthouse for Mrs. Skubal and the commissioners to check out.

The vehicle, Mr. Richards said, has 51 months or 37,400 miles of factory warranty left on the power-train.

Commissioner Stan McEvoy said that the truck looked to be in good shape and was actually cheaper at \$12,900, than most of the others trucks Mrs. Skubal has looked into.

The commissioners agreed to the purchase and Mrs. Skubal said she would get to work on getting a radio installed in it.

*Board tables decision

(Continued from Page 1A)
fice, who were also at the meeting, nodded their heads.

"I reviewed the investment audit and I agree (with it)," Mr. Stewart said, adding that because of the magnitude of the work involved, the project was just not feasible.

"I think we already came to the same conclusion," board member Dan Grafel said.

Superintendent Pat Cullen told Mr. Leaper that the district is not interested in closing a building.

The lighting option could be installed within a month, Mr. Leaper said, and would cost the district \$246,390 if the athletic field was left out of the project.

The board asked what other options they have for heating, since the present system is unlikely to hold up.

Mr. Leaper said that space heat-

ers could be used or a heating truck with duct work and blowers could be parked in the lot if the system fails. The first would be expensive to run and the second expensive to get, he said.

President Dewayne Jackson asked if the music wing and auditorium could be cut out of the heating system and the rest of the school could be retrofitted using a new boiler the board purchased last year.

Mr. Leaper said that his company could do the work but, of course, it would cost the district and there would be no performance guarantee. He said if the board decides what it wants, his company can give it a price.

"We need to clean up the system we have," Mr. Jackson said, adding that the board is hoping to replace the system except for the part in the music wing, which because of its

construction will be difficult.

Mr. Yoho suggested that Mr. Leaper go back to his company and find out what it could do for the district for the least amount of money.

Board member Monte Moore said that he thought they were forgetting other people, like American Boiler and a local contractor, and thought they should see what these firms could do for the district.

The members agreed they need more information before the board could make a decision on the heating or lighting changes.

Mr. Freed told the board that it had 30 days to accept or reject the Johnson proposal. However, he added, if they plan to accept the lighting project, the company might extend that time.

The board decided to table the issue for more study.

Goals discussed for school year

The Oberlin School Board came up with four goals for the new school year, but didn't vote on them, at a special meeting last month.

Board President Dewayne Jackson said at the meeting Monday, July 29, he thought it would be good for the board to have a few goals. He suggested reviewing the policy book and fixing the heating system at the high school. That way, he said, when the board accomplishes these items, they can cross the two off the list.

He suggested picking a few items from the superintendent evaluation form and then writing indicators for those.

Member Chris Bailey suggested a job description list. Member Barb Olson said she would like to have a

capital outlay project list again. It worked well before, she said, and probably wouldn't be hard to do. She said Superintendent Pat Cullen could use the one that the former superintendent had, take off what's already been done and add to it.

In the past, student achievement has been a goal, but the members agreed that's what the whole district is about. It's more like a charge, said member Dan Nedland.

That's not just a board goal, said Mrs. Olson, but a goal for everyone involved in the district.

It might be important to have a plan together for consolidation into one building, said Dr. Cullen, a plan that's as informative as possible. That might be seven, eight or more years down the road, he said, but it

would be good to have a plan for future boards.

The goals the board members came up with included:

- Developing a job description list for everyone who works for the district, including classified staff, by the end of September.

- Making a list of future capital outlay projects, possibly by the September board meeting.

- Improving public relations and communication.

- Maintaining core values, including honesty, fairness, what's best for the district and being positive.

The board didn't vote on the goals, but will look at them again during the meeting on Monday, Aug. 11.

Pledge collections planned for center

Members of the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp. board have set two days next week to collect pledges for the new senior center for the tax credit program.

Greg Lohofener, a former board member who is working on the project, said representatives with the corporation will be at the Business Enhancement Entrepreneurial Center from 1 to 4 p.m. next Wednesday and Thursday, Aug. 28, to collect the pledges and answer questions.

The group plans to have all of the pledges collected by Friday, Sept. 12. If someone can't be there either of those days, he said, they can call him at 485-3459 or Connie Grafel,

marketing director, at 475-2901.

Mr. Lohofener said by his calculations, they still are about \$100,000 short of the amount needed for the new senior center, bowling alley and cinema — if all the other money

sources come through.

People can still make a donation or pledge for the new center, and have it qualify as an income-tax deduction, although it won't be a part of the tax-credit program.

JENNINGS 17TH ANNUAL FIREMEN'S FUNDAY

Saturday, August 23rd, 2008
Always the 4th Saturday of August

PARADE THEME - "THEN AND NOW"

8:00-10:00 HEALTH FAIR Sr. Center (sponsored by Decatur Health Systems, Decatur Co. EMS)
HEMAGRAM \$25 (must be fasting) (includes thyroid tests, cholesterol breakdown, 27 screening tests)
PROSTATE CANCER SCREENING \$20
FREE BLOOD PRESSURE/BLOOD SUGAR CHECKS/ DIABETIC EDUCATION

8:00-10:00 KOLACHE COFFEE (Sr. Center) Sponsored by the United Methodist Church

KOLACHES sold all day - \$.75 each OR \$9.00/doz
~ Prune, cherry, apple, poppy seed, apricot, peach, cottage cheese ~

8:00 COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE & FOOD SALE - American Legion Hall (1/2 block East of City Hall)

10:00 - PONY RIDES - Main St. — Peggy Westmoreland, Oakley
10:00-5:00 - WOBBLE - TRAP SHOOT - (Heilman's - 5 1/2 mi. North of Jennings on county road) Follow signs. Bring your own shotgun and plenty of shells!!
10:00-TRAIN RIDES FOR KIDS - Main Street. (Courtesy of Greg Otter, Lenora)
10:00-CAKE WALK - City Hall (sponsored by Mary Wahlmeier)
11:00-12:00 - DUNK TANK (City Hall yard)
GIANT SLIDE (sponsored by the Jennings Lion Club)
11:00-4:00 - CZECH MUSEUM OPEN - Free Admission (Donations appreciated)
11:00-5:00 - BINGO - Sr. Center (closed at Noon - until after the parade)
Tickets 3/51 or \$.50 each

FIREMEN'S RAFFLE - TV; Surround Sound System; Portable DVD Player
(Winners announced at auction - need not be present to win)
JENNINGS MUSEUM - Kenmore Gas Grill Raffle
(Need not be present to win)
HBPC -Kodak Easy Shot Digital Camera Raffle - Need not be present to win
(Proceeds will help preserve the old Masonic Hall)

11:30 - LUNCH COUNTER OPENS (Fire Station)
12:00-12:30 - LINE-UP FOR PARADE - South end of Pennsylvania Ave. (aka School St.)
Please be prompt! **ALL ENTRIES APPRECIATED (NO PRE-REGISTRATION) (NO ENTRY FEE)**

12:30 - All females competing for the title of Jennings Firemen's FunDay Queen need to register at parade site. No age limit.

1:30 - PARADE - Main Street Parade will conclude with float carrying all queen candidates

2:30 - CHILDRENS GAMES RESUME -Dunk Tank; Coin Search (Sponsored by The Bank), Giant Slide, Pony Rides, FUNNEL CAKES, SNO-CONES

3:00 - CHILDREN'S TRACTOR PULL (City Hall yard) Ages 4-12
Registration @ 2:30; Sponsored by Decatur Co. Farm Bureau; State Fair sanctioned

2:30 - 4:30 - VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE QUEEN CANDIDATE
4:00 - FREE BIKE GIVE AWAY (with Helmet)
1 BOY'S, 1 GIRL'S - Courtesy Jennings Fire Dept. / EMS
MUST BE 12 YEARS OLD OR UNDER -MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

4:00 - FIREMEN'S TEAM BARREL COMPETITION
6:00 - HOG ROAST - Fire station (Barbecued pulled pork, beans, chips)
7:00 CORONATION OF THE QUEEN
7:00 -AUCTION - (Donated Items from area businesses)
Raffle winners announced.

STREET DANCE
with
MOBILE MUSIC EXPRESS DJ's, Oberlin,
to follow the auction

For information please contact
Kerry Green 678-2647,
Stann Hartzog 678-3020 or Marge Hartzog 678-3010,
Dave New 678-3052 or any member of the Jennings Fire Department

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A Matching Grant Program

The Kansas Investments Developing Scholars (KIDS) Matching Grant program will match the first \$600 that participants contribute to a Learning Quest 529 Education Savings Plan account. KIDS was developed for Kansas residents with incomes less than 200% of the federal poverty level.

2008 is the last year of this three-year pilot project, and enrollment is limited to the first 1,200 applicants. Contributions must be received by Dec. 31, 2008 to be eligible for matching grant funds.

Household of:

1 = \$20,800
2 = \$28,000
3 = \$35,200
4 = \$42,400
5 = \$49,600
6 = \$56,800

For each additional person in the family, add \$7,200

Call 1-866-504-5898 or visit www.KansasStateTreasurer.com/KIDS to apply.

KIDS is administered by Kansas State Treasurer Lynn Jenkins, CPA.
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