### THE OBERLIN HERALD -**Opinion Page**

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# **County should return** extra money to taxpayers

to finish their budget, they'll have a potential afford the tab. windfall of nearly \$113,000 from new oil production in the county to deal with.

If they do the right thing, they will reduce the burden of county government on taxpayers, and return most of this money to the people.

It'd be easy to spend this money. County government is expensive, especially when it grows relentlessly in terms of employees and equipment. New programs demand new employees, who require new equipment, who drive around and burn up expensive fuel.

Often the goal with growth is to get a grant or spend some "free" federal money. Other expenses come because someone claims that someday, there'll be a "federal mandate."

It's not that these things aren't good ideas. It's that the people who pay the bill aren't making any more than they did 15 or 20 years ago. Many, in real terms, are making less. Most years, farmers have been making a lot less.

But over that time, taxes on the average house in town have nearly doubled. Not all of that went to the county, to be sure. But the homeowner had to pay all of that.

Because of federal regulations, bills for city services have nearly doubled as well. People But don't take our word for it. Talk to your living on a fixed income face huge increases for basics: housing (via taxes), water, sewer, power and so on.

No one gives the average worker a raise selves. to pay all these increases. But public workers continue to get raises, financed with tax money.

We are not saying that government isn't to seize hold of it. – Steve Haynes

When Decatur County commissioners meet worth paying for. Just that a lot of people can't

This year, the county has a clear choice. There's been a lot of oil drilling the last few years, a lot of new wells brought on line. The value of oil from existing wells has jumped with the international price. And the county taxes oil production based on its value. This combined to make the county's assessed valuation jump \$5 million this year, despite a drop in other valuations of \$1.5 million.

With this windfall, the commissioners can reduce the tax burden on people here, or they can keep taxes the same and increase spending. A spending increase is not a good idea. The oil bubble could burst, leaving the county holding the bag.

Well, you know where the bag would land. At the taxpayers' feet.

Or, the commissioners could pare spending and run the county as tightly as ever, and let the overall tax rate fall. Homeowners and hardpressed businesspeople would get a break. Lower taxes might even make the county more attractive to business and people looking for a good place to retire.

We think we know what the right thing is. commissioners about it. Call them, or stop them on the street. Go to the budget hearing, which should be set soon. Express your-

If you care about your taxes, this is the time to pay attention. Decatur County has a chance to change things. The commissioners ought Now I tay me down to sleep. Kansas schools've started will the teachers they keep? It's tough to learn science and math when teachers leave for lucrative career paths.

### Cake recipe a real winner

The angel food cake took 12 egg whites, which is how the golden angel cake was born.

Rhonda said her mother was a thrifty farm wife with the usual barnyard fowl population. The family ate a lot of eggs, and Mom made a lot of cakes, including a nice angel food which required a dozen whites.

This left a dozen yolks, and it would have been a sin to throw out perfectly good food. So a second cake — the golden angel cake always accompanied the angel food. The golden angel cake took its name from the yellow coloring brought on by the egg yolks and lemon flavoring.

Rhonda admitted she was never a big fan of the golden angel cake, not liking the lemon flavoring very much. But the cake was always a big hit at home, so when it came time for young Rhonda to make a cake for 4-H to take to the county fair, that's the one she chose. To her immense surprise, she got a purple ribbon and a trip to the state fair.

At state, she got another purple. The cake was a hit everywhere it went — except with one aunt, who said that when she tried the recipe, it flopped.

This information was conveyed to me in a whisper as we sat on the front row of the food auction at

## Feed mill was big power user

**By DARRELL LANDAU** dwlandau?3@socal rr.com During summers of 1939 to 1942,

This in

**Open Season** By Cynthia Haynes c.haynes@nwkansas.com

whites.

her mother.

12 egg yolks

2 cups sugar

2 cups cake flour

1 cup boiling water

2 tsp. baking powder

1 tsp. lemon extract

good enough to share the recipe for

this popular dessert, but I haven't

had a chance to find an angel food

cake recipe yet and it'll be a sin to waste those perfectly good egg

Yep, I'm a lot like Rhonda and

**State Fair** 

**Golden Angel Cake** 

Beat egg yolks and sugar until

light lemon color and fluffy. Sift

flour and baking powder together

three times. Add flour mixture, then

add the boiling water a bit at a time

while mixing. Add extract. Mix un-

til the batter appears well combined.

Push gently into an ungreased tube

cake pan. Bake at 350 degrees for

the fair.

The famous golden angel cake had won the grand champion prize and was being sold for more than I could afford to the very woman who invented the recipe.

Note to self: never bid against a grandparent at any 4-H auction.

Rhonda told me that her husband was going through some old recipes and came upon the golden angel cake just about the time their son needed to make something for 4-H to take to the fair.

Father and son put their heads together and decided that if the recipe was good for a visit to the state fair once, it was worth another try by another generation.

So while the family enjoyed an angel food cake - Rhonda's a lot like her mother — the golden angel cake was whipped up by the third generation. And, after winning the top prize, it's heading for the state fair again.

Rhonda and her mother were 50 to 60 minutes.

formulas.

The motor used about 10 V belts to drive the rotating cluster of metal hammers that broke up anything dumped in to a size passed by the screens. You could hear it's highblocks

numbers on them, they were just scratch paper. But the security fellow was serious, saying never mind, they are to be treated as if secret and destroyed or locked up.

Thereafter, when I'd hear the speed "roaring-whir" for several sound of those hammer mills, thoughts might run to Howard At the beginning of the Minute-Banta and Carl Frickey. Howard, man missile program, I heard the Carl and I gathered each Sunday morning, put on our robes and high pitch "whir" of a hammer take our place on the bench behind mill again. I was told it was being used to converted classified secret the minister to sing in the church documents into paper powder. At choir. Before that, I might have the end of each work day, a hammer been running the hammer mill. mill mounted on a truck would go None of us would have dreamed that one day I'd be told to dispose to locations around the plant where packets of classified paper were of "secret" missile sketches in a dumped into it for destruction. hammer mill. At the beginning of Minuteman Later, from my office window on III program, when I was working in a second floor, I could look out on a special classified area, the head of some stored horse-drawn impleplant security paid Don Jones and I ments left over from a vegetable a visit. He had told us how to lock up farm. This reminder of childhood classified material and how to put sights seemed far removed from it in special envelopes for disposal. my then-current problem of how to While visiting with him he noticed best survive a nuclear blast above my concept sketches and said, our launch site. But that's a differ-"those need to be treated as secret, ent story Darrell Landau, a World War II veteran and retired aerospace Don and I chuckled, saying these are just "what-if" ideas on how to engineer who grew up in this area, make a system and interconnect now lives in Oberlin and Garden parts — there were no names of Grove, Calif.

I am probably typical of most Every morning, it's up early to get my husband out the door and off to work. Recently, there's been no decision about what to make Jim

**Coffee, chores keep her busy** 

for breakfast. With tomatoes rapidly ripening on the vine, he is hooked on bacon-tomato sandwiches. It's one for breakfast and another one packed in his lunch box.

stay-at-home wives.

After multiple cups of coffee and chickens to water and feed, but in our little town it makes sense. We get fresh eggs every day, and once a year, homegrown hamburger or a check from the sale barn. Watering the garden and flowers occupies quite a chunk of my mornings, but I always seem to get distracted by pulling weeds. They are the bane of my life. No sooner do I get one bed cleared than another has become overgrown. Again. The only good thing about weeds is that the chickens love 'em. Every day, they look forward to their fresh tossed salad when I pitch the weeds over their fence. I have to force myself to do housework. Sometimes I win the battle and get the bathroom cleaned, beds made and dishes done. Sometimes a good book wins. I have always said I'm a good housecleaner but a lousy housekeeper. Some homemakers seem to effortlessly keep a tidy home. I'm not one of them. But the door is always open and company



#### is welcome.

Don't misunderstand. I am almost always wanted dinner served at for Howard Banta at a wide variety and my morning "fix" of home- always busy. Last week, I baked 6 p.m., but until I quit working of jobs, from grunt work to fixing improvement television shows, I whole-wheat dinner rolls, cinna- outside the home, he never got it. things. have chores to do. Perhaps it's not mon rolls and a bread braid; made I was lucky to get home by 6. Not typical, nowadays, to have calves wild-plum jam and jelly; and tried that Jim couldn't feed himself if he mer mill under the chicken-feed a new recipe for chicken enchilada had to. Like my dad, if he can fry it, casserole. This week looks about the same, with two boxes of peaches waiting to become jam, a big bag of wanted. We wanted a regular meal tame plums will also become jam time and a calm evening. We wanted and/or jelly, plus fresh beets to be pickled.

pare our evening meal. Jim has I worked at the Oberlin Milling Co.

is having the time to plan and pre-

he can cook it.

But, that's not what either of us a home life. Now, we have it. It's not perfect 'cause I'm still working on The best thing about being home my time management skills. But I'm getting the hang of it.

mixer on the main floor. A few times Shorty Hurst, who ran the nearby Oberlin power plant, would run out and yell, "Turn off the hammer mill — till I start up a new engine.'

We worked standard 10-hour days then, and some days I'd start the hammer mill when I got to work at 7 a.m. Most of the town was awakening then, and power demand on the rise. The horsepower rating of that hammer mill electric motor was huge by local standards.

It required all my strength to tilt the inlet head part so I could change screen sizes. These screens were about 2.5-foot-square quarter-inch steel plates, bent as part quarter of a circle, each with various sized holes. Cobs with corn could be converted to bean size chunks or grain could be pulverized to powder for size mix into chicken-feed

#### **From the Bible**

The law of the Lord is perfect, of the Lord are true and righteous converting the soul: the testimony altogether. of the Lord is sure, making wise

the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

enduring forever: the judgments

More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the

honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of The fear of the Lord is clean, them there is great reward.

Psalm 19:7-11

### THE OBERLIN HERALD

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## **Charity poker games planned**

in no way a "money man."

Our books are always open, and

we hide nothing. I ask everyone to

please let my dear friend Bert Cool

rest and be free from rumors. He was

a very generous and caring man, and

a good friend of mine. Anyone with

interest may contact me; anyone

wanting to join our group may also

donated \$750.

you know."

#### To the Editor:

It is time for us to start our charity poker tournaments once again. The Oberlin Mavericks plan fall games for charity at the American Legion Hall on Sept. 20, Oct. 18 and Nov. 22, 2008.

We will break in December and then run the drive through 2009, posting those dates when decided. I plan to run the games through the summer and winter months, most likely on the third Saturday of each month. Please contact me by e-mail or regular mail with any questions you may have or to be placed on our mailing list for upcoming events.

Call 475-2495, e-mail admin@ ljmack.com or write Larry Mack, 212 N York Ave., Oberlin, Kan., 67749.

As before, all prize pools will be at 50 percent of collected donations for that month or game. The other half of collected donations will go directly to our charity drive, and no one in our organization receives any funds for their services.

### Letter to the Editor

As president, I must say that I contact me.

have heard rumors that our organi-While the American Legion Auxzation had a "money man" and this iliary is only interested in serving food for the events if there are 50 or more attending, we are planning to do our own sandwiches and chips for our games until further notice. that helped our organization, he was Our plan is to start at 7:30 p.m. on each night so those who wish to The Oberlin Mavericks was starteat before may do so. I ask that eved by five people. It took a total cost eryone support the Legion with all of \$1,500 to start this operation, and their beverage needs. After all, it is this money came from two donatheir building and its use is donated tions. Mr. Cool gave \$750 and I also

> Larry Mack President of Mavericks Inc. Oberlin



to us. Please support the American Legion bar. So, let's lay the rumors to rest.

#### so-called "money man" was Bert Cool. This could not be further from the truth. While Mr. Cool had a vast amount of friends and knowledge