

IN DENVER LAST WEEK, Gov. Kathleen Sebelius (below) accepted the nomination to be the presidential (above) took a Jayhawk sticker from a woman during the candidate for the party. Democratic National Convention. Sen. Barack Obama

- Staff photos by Tom Betz, the Goodland Star-News

# Obama speech closes convention

By TOM BETZ

ntbetz@nwkansas.com Thursday was a perfect sunny day with just enough breeze to keep the heat down as more than 80,000 gathered at Invesco Field at Mile High to witness the historic accepted the nomination for president at the Democratic National Convention.

Obama's acceptance speech convention had been pointing to, and he did not disappoint the crowd who cheered, waved flags, stomped their feet and celebrated as he spoke about changing the country.

"With profound gratitude and great humility, I accept your nomiopening his speech.

The gates of Invesco had opened snake its way through the security checkpoints to be in their seats by shorter as the last stragglers rushed to get into their seats.

Speakers in the first hours included Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter, and Colorado Congressional members Ed Perlmutter, John Salazar and Diana DeGette.

The afternoon included a salute to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. moment when Sen. Barack Obama who had made his famous "I have a dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington 45 years ago on Aug. 28. Among those speaking were the Rev. Bernice King, Dr. was a high point the four-day King's daughter, and Martin Luther King, III, his oldest son. Musical entertainment be-

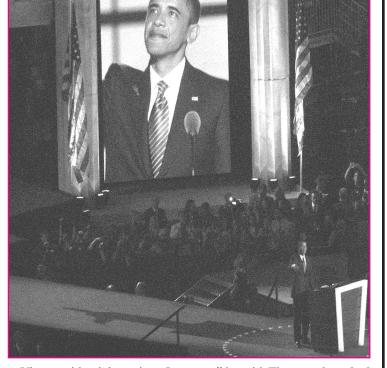
tween speeches was provided by Will.I.Am and John Legend, Sheryl Crow, Stevie Wonder and Michael McDonald. As darkness fell over the sta-

dium, the speakers picked up pace nation for the presidency of the as former vice president Al Gore United States," Obama said in talked about how important close elections could be.

"I know something about that," at 1 p.m., and the crowd had to he said to a wild cheer from the

Susan Eisenhower, granddaugh-7 p.m. when the gates were closed ter of President Dwight D. Eisenspeak. In the setting sun, the lines lines as an American because of and brought me here," she said. of people could be seen getting the moral and financial failings of the current leadership.

"Our nation's discourse has Yonder Mountain String Band turned into a petty squabble," entertained the crowd before she said. "Impulsive action has Speaker Nancy Pelosi gaveled replaced measured response. I beopened the final day of the con- lieve Barack Obama has the temperament to lead the country."



Biden introduced a group of six Americans who each had a story

Monica Early of Detroit said she got an e-mail questioning Obama's faith and patriotism. She investigated and became a strong Obama supporter.

Barney Smith, a Marion, Ind. plant worker said he was a proud Republican, but not anymore. After 31 years, he received 90 days severance pay and a foreign worker is doing his job.

"We need a president who puts Barney Smith before Smith-Bar-

Vice presidential nominee Joe ney," he said. The crowd cracked up as did the press room.

The crowd cheered and waved signs and flags as Obama took the stage, and it took several minutes before he could begin his speech.

The speech lasted about 43 minutes and was marked with many cheers and ovations before "I am grateful for the email he finished. When he finished, he about an hour before Obama was to hower, said she is crossing party which made me investigate Obama was joined on stage by his wife, Michelle and daughters Sasha and Malia and by vice president nominee Joe Biden and his wife Jill to more cheers from the crowd.

With the benediction, Speaker Pelosi brought the gavel down and adjourned the 45th Democratic National Convention.

# **Commissioners** approve raises for all employees

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

k.davis@nwkansas.com

The Decatur County commissioners approved raises of \$50 a month for salaried employees and 30 cent an hour for others at their meeting last Tuesday.

A handful of department heads asked about a cost-of-living raise for the employees. Instead of doing a percent, for instance 3 or 4 percent, though, the commissioners decided to do the 30 cents an hour or \$50 a month for those on salary, including department heads.

The commissioners also talked about the budget for the new year. Although the group has worked on the county budget, nothing has been set yet.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch said he worked on some figures. If the county drops the property tax said he thought it would be good to levy by 5 mills, he said, it would still

bring in \$120,000 more in county tax dollars, because the valuation

went up by \$5 million. Commissioner Stan McEvoy said he knows the Fair Board would like

a bigger operating budget for next

Mr. Hirsch said Clerk Marilyn Horn needs some direction about where to go with the budget.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said he would like to cut the tax levy this year. Last year that levy was set at 66 mills, up .092 from the year

There isn't any reason to have money laying around, said Commissioner Doyle Brown, but the county needs to have money to operate.

Mr. McEvoy suggested staying around 62 mills, while Mr. Unger

# Hospital to hire mammogram tech

The Decatur County Hospital technician out of McCook who will to help get accreditation to run a technician become proficient so she mammogram machine so women can pass the test. The person hired can get the cancer-screening test here in town. Administrator Lynn Doeden said

the machine passed an accreditation test this year, but the technician didn't pass the hands-on test. The test, said Mrs. Doeden, is

demanding. Without a technician able to run the machine and do tests, she said, they had to come up with other ideas.

To be able to continue offering mammograms, said Mrs. Doeden, they are trying to schedule Kansas Imaging out of Great Bend here twice a month.

The idea is to hire an experienced

plans to hire a part-time technician come here and help the hospital's from McCook will stay to help run the program, she said.

Mammograms, breast X-rays used to screen for cancer, are too important to women to not have someone who is an expert doing them, Mrs. Doeden said.

Some people who have gone to Hays or used the Hays mobile unit here have received postcards to remind them it's time to get their mammogram for the year, Mrs. Doeden said. Those patients need to call Hays to schedule an appointment. She said the Hays unit is booked and isn't coming here.

## **Teens for Christ** hold kick off Sunday

Teens for Christ kicks off its year have to show up. Sunday at City Park with water activities and a unique snack.

meets at the Teens for Christ build- call her at 475-2599. ing at 118 S. Rodehaver from 6 to 8 p.m. Sundays. For the first meeting, though, the kids will meet at City Park at 6 p.m.

Pastor Doug Mason, who heads up the group with the help of his wife Johanna, said a snack will be provided. The teens will play games with water, but to find out what, they

Food is provided at each of the meetings, he said. Mrs. Mason is The group, for teens in seventh coordinating the snacks this year, so through 12th grades, normally anyone interested in helping should

Pastor Mason said the group's van broke down at camp this year, so they could use donations to help pay for repairs. Last week, a story about the first

night of Teens for Christ had incorrect information inadvertently given to the paper.

### Gustav shortens convention

**By TOM BETZ** 

ntbetz@nwkansas.com

Hurricane Gustav slammed into the Gulf Coast west of New Orleans Monday morning, and the effects were felt as far north as Minneapolis where the Republican National Convention was set to begin. With eyes on the hurricane, Re-

publican nominee John McCain ordered the first day of the convention to be shortened to handle opening procedural matters. Many speakers expected to be

in Minneapolis on Monday were forced to cancel or to send video messages to the convention del-

President George Bush canceled his appearance to allow him to monitor the emergency response to the hurricane.

McCain spoke to the delegates. Bush said the first concern that day was for the people from Louisiana where the hurricane was causing damage. She urged all the delegates to consider making a donation to help with the aftermath of the hur-

Cindy McCain said her husband John had been saying this was a day to take off Republican hats and put on American hats as they prayed for those who were facing the effects of the hurricane.

The first day of the convention had been scheduled to last about six hours, but was shortened to less than three hours.

man of the Republican National convention.

First Lady Laura Bush and Cindy Committee, gaveled the convention to order and told the delegates it would be a short agenda because of the hurricane.

Tuesday morning the web site

of the convention GOPconvention2008.com indicated the schedule for the day would return to the full six hours beginning at 3 p.m. with the focus of the day on Mc-Cain's life and service in Vietnam.

Wednesday the convention is expected to nominate McCain as the Republican presidential nominee and to nominate and hear from Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, McCain's surprise pick for his vice presidential running mate.

McCain will give his acceptance Monday afternoon about 3 p.m. speech about 8 p.m. (Central Time) Robert M. (Mike) Duncan, chair- on Thursday at the close of the

#### NOTICE OF CEMETERY BUDGET HEARINGS

The governing body of Decatur County Cemetery Boards will meet on the 15 th of September, 2008 at 8 p.m. at the following listed homes for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to be levied. Detailed Budget Information is available at the Office of the Decatur County Clerk and will be available at these hearings.

#### **BUDGET SUMMARY**

Proposed Budget 2009 Expenditures and Amount of 2008 Ad Valorem Tax to establish the maximum limits of the 2009 Budget. Estimated Tax Rate\* is subject to slight change depending on the final assessed valuations.

	Prior Year		Actual			Actual		Поросси	Amount of		Est.
	Actual		Tax	Estimate	of				2008 Ad		Tax
FUND	Expenditures		Rate	Expenditures		Rate Expend		ires	Valorem Tax		
Rate*											
	#1 Norcatur Cemetery			Meeting at the Home of Bee Nelson							
General	8,339		0.862	13,000		0.740			2,716		0.926
Valuation		DC & NT	3,107,646		DC & NT	3,640,009		DC & NT		2,934,351	
	8,339 . 0.862 DC & NT 3,107,646 #3 Big Timber Cemetery			Meeting at the Home of Kenneth Krizek							
General	1,941		2.330	18,000	2.4/4		18,800		4,020		2.533
Valuation			1,686,158			1,601,968				1,587,273	
	#4 Jennings Cemetery			1,601,968 1,587,273 Meeting at the Home of Harold Tacha							
General	3,023		1.879	58,000	1.780		58,000		3,968		1.923
Valuation			2,076,785		2,707,105					2,063,175	
	#5 Dresden Cemetery			Meeting at the Home of Sheila Rhodes							
General	4,143		1.402	7,000	1.524		6,250		3,824		3.421
Valuation		DC & SD	2,292,909		DC & SD	2,158,629	9	DC & SD		1,117,748	
	#6 Hawkeye Cemetery			Meeting at the Home of Dave Juenemann							
General	2,383		2.746	18,000	2.919		19,000		3,587		3.206
Valuation		DC, RA & S	SD 1,301,397	7	2.919 DC, RA & S	SD 1,224,287	7	DC, RA &	SD	1,118,834	
	<b>#7 Traer Cemetery</b> 938 1.413			Meeting at the Home of Donna Hoehner							
General	938	-	1.413	4,500	1.492		6,550		1,516		1.670
Valuation			994,464			958,318				907,520	
	#8 Cedar Bluffs Cemetery			Meeting at the Home of Kathi Moore							
General	-0-		1.934	10,000	2.090		10,500		1,704		2.347
Valuation			796,846			753,758	3			726,043	
	#10 Sherman Cemetery			Meeting at the Home of Sharleen Wurm							
General	1,730		0.991		1.080		4,000		1,330		1.113
Valuation			1,318,048			1,214,475				1,195,320	
	#11 Kanona Cemetery			Meeting at the Home of Gary Orr							
General	1,696	•	1.306	10,000	1.996	-	10,000		1,500		1.995
Valuation			1,173,874			751,859				751,744	
	#12 Lund Cemetery			Meeting at the Home of Brad Marcuson							
General	1,230		1.749		6.542				3,617		6.983
			595,280			543,26				517,972	
	#13 Vallon	ia Cemetery	595,280 <b>y</b>	Meeting	at the Home	of Brian Sim	onsson				
General	1,415		0.631	4.500					524		0.702
			822,871	,		762,620	,			746,149	

### Bus fleet aging but in good shape

By CYNTHIA HAYNES c.haynes@nwkansas.com

The Oberlin School District has 15 buses in its fleet, and Transportation Director Brian Simonsson told the school board that the average age the fleet is 13 years.

However, he said at a board meeting Aug. 11, the vehicles are regularly serviced and well maintained. Thee district will need to get a new handicapped-accessible bus after this year, he said, because the one it has is going to have to be retired.

To protect the vehicles, he said, they have all be equipped with lock-

In other business, the board:

ing gas caps.

tion to decide when only hard-surface routes will be used by buses.

• Approved requests to allow two students to be transported out of the district to school — Melissa Hadley to Norton and Sheri Jacobs to Golden Plains.

• Held a 10-minute closed session with high school Activities Director Joe Drehr to discuss personnel.

 Accepted a bid of .2212 cents for 2 percent white, .2098 cents for 1 percent white and .2142 cents for skim chocolate half-pint cartons of milk with twice-a-week delivery from Cash-Wa Distributing of Kearney, Neb. Other bidders were F&A Food Sales, Concordia, and Thomp-• Agreed to allow the administra- son Co., Grand Island, Neb.

• Set the next meeting for 4 p.m. Monday, Sept. 8, so that the members could tour the district's buildings and view the work that has been accomplished over the summer. The meeting will reconvene in the district office after a short dinner

negotiations.

• Decided to hold a special meeting the next Monday to approved the budget and attend an Internet "webinar" presentation by the Kansas Association of School Boards on the Kansas Open Meetings Act.

• Held three short closed session equaling 20 minutes to discuss

