

Museum to celebrate 50 years

After a year of planning, the Decatur County Last Indian Raid Museum board and staff's dreams will come to fruition Saturday during a day-long 50th Anniversary celebration.

The museum will be open all day, with free admission and along list of activities planned.

The day will kick off at 7 a.m. with a pancake feed at the Bohemian Hall, with donations accepted.

The schedule, said Curator Sharleen Wurm, includes a performance by the DCHS Singers, a bake sale in the land office, a parade, open admission to the museum, the Koshare Indian dancers from La Junta, Colo., a concert by the Decatur County Community Band, a presentation by the city, recognition of the past curators of the museum, a vintage hat show and raffle drawings.

A melodrama by local actors includes a cast of Jan Bainter as Bertha Backbite, Melanie Anderson as Belinda Backbite, Arian Arnold as Mary Belle, Leigh Davis as Little Girl, Rob McFee as Les Law and Jim Bucchol as Harry Heartburn.

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. the board and staff will serve buffalo burgers and foot-long hot dogs. Mrs. Wurm said they are serving the foot-long hot dogs because she had someone visit the museum who said the dogs were served at the first Mini Sapa Celebration.

Several exhibits will be set up for the day, including crocheted rag rugs, rug hooking, knitting, Watkins Products, Indian bead work, live

Party all day on Saturday

The 50th Anniversary celebration for the Decatur County Last Indian Raid Museum kicks off bright and early Saturday.

- The schedule includes:
- 7 to 9 a.m. — Pancake feed in the Bohemian Hall.
 - 8 a.m. — DCHS Singers in the Bohemian Hall.
 - 9 a.m. — Museum opens.
 - 10 a.m. — Parade down Main Street.
 - 10:30 a.m. — Koshare Indian Dancers perform in front of the main building.
 - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. — Lunch.
 - 12:40 p.m. — Community band east of Bohemian Hall.
 - 1 to 2 p.m. — Past curator recognition and vintage hat show.
 - 2 p.m. — Koshare Indian Dancers perform in front of Museum.
 - 2:30 p.m. — Melodrama, Bohemian Hall.
 - 3 p.m. — Raffle drawings, Bohemian Hall.
 - 4 p.m. — Museum and Seeds of Creation Gift Shop close.

buffalo, a covered wagon and a tepee.

There will also be a simulated hunting unit at the museum from the Department of Wildlife and Parks for people to try their hand.

Pumpkin patch provided

IN THE OLD lake bed Friday morning, Kelsey May (above front) and Madison Macfee carried out free pumpkins from a patch at Sappa Park. The pumpkins were planted in mid-May by the Sunflower Chapter of Pheasants Forever, which leases and maintains farm ground at the park for outdoor recreation. A trail was mowed to the free patch, revealing more than 500 pumpkins. Evan Shobe (left) carried a large pumpkin on his head.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

There's still time to enter parade on Saturday

Time's just about up to sign up for the parade to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Decatur County Last Indian Raid Museum on Saturday.

As of Monday there were around 30 entries for the parade that will travel south down Main Street toward the museum at 10 a.m.

For months, a volunteer committee including Connie Grafel, Gary Walter, Sid Metcalf, Carrie Morford and Judy Scott have worked on the parade.

The grand marshals of the parade are Dr. Robert and Nadine Simpson of Pleasant Hill, Tenn. Dr. Simpson served as a surgeon in Oberlin for a number of years and his wife worked at *The Oberlin Herald*.

Mrs. Simpson said she served on the museum board for six years. During her tenure she served as president for some time. She said her husband came to the Oberlin Clinic to do general practice to help Ren Whitaker and also do some surgery. Then Dr. Simpson did general

surgery covering both Decatur and Rawlins Counties.

The couple lived in Oberlin for 13 years.

Anyone wanting to enter a float can contact Ms. Grafel at 475-2901 or stop by her office of the Chamber of Commerce in the Business Enhancement Entrepreneurial Center on Main Street. It costs \$10 to enter and the form needs to be filled out.

Entries will start in the parking lot at The Gateway at 8:30 a.m. Saturday and then cross U.S. 83 and wind down Adams to Penn Avenue, then hang a right down Main Street.

The categories are business/commercial, professional/services, band/musical, churches, antique cars/machinery, political, children/youth/student groups, civic organizations, social clubs, motorized vehicles/all-terrain vehicles/golf carts, horses and horse-drawn units, senior citizens, miscellaneous/individuals and the Curator's Cup, including government boards.

Tractor show set for the weekend

Lovers of old tractors, engines and farm equipment will throng to Oberlin this weekend for the 28th Annual Mini Sappa Antique Thresher and Engine Show at the Decatur County Fairground.

Antique vehicles, tractors and engines will be on display Saturday and Sunday during the show. The two-day event is open to everyone, with free admission offered this year, unlike past years.

Maxine Wright, treasurer of the organization, said registration begins at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, with the first events starting at 9 a.m. both days.

The group will serve breakfast at the fairground both days at 7 a.m. Lunch will be served both days on the fairground, including pie, chili, chicken noodle soup, ham salad sandwiches and chili dogs.

Saturday evening, the organization will have a chili cook-off. (See THRESHER on Page 10A)

Activities scheduled

The 28th Annual Mini Sappa Antique Thresher and Engine Show starts Saturday at the Decatur County Fairground.

- Activities include:
- SATURDAY**
- 7 a.m. — Breakfast.
 - 7:30 a.m. — Registration.
 - 9 a.m. — Events start.
 - 1 p.m. — Stock garden tractor pull.
 - 3 p.m. — Card cruise.
 - 4 p.m. — Parade.
 - 5:30 p.m. — Hog roast.
- SUNDAY**
- 7 a.m. — Breakfast.
 - 8 a.m. — Church service.
 - 9 a.m. — Events start.
 - 2 p.m. — Kids' pedal tractor pull.
 - 3 p.m. — Parade.

Council says 'no' to merging position

Members of the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce board asked the Oberlin City Council if it would be possible to merge the jobs of Gateway manager and Chamber manager during a planning session last Thursday.

The consensus of the council was not to do it.

Mayor Joe Stanley said the Chamber board had asked for the two positions to be joined, with the business group hiring an assistant to answer the phone and do some of the other work.

The position the city hopes to fill, the Gateway manager spot, is a 40-hour-a-week job. With this idea, he added, all of the expense would be on the city.

Kem Bryan, Chamber board president, and board members Dave Olson, Tami Shaw and Deanna Castle, who have been filling in at the office since the departure of the last manager, were all at the meeting. The members gave the council a letter saying they would like to combine the jobs.

This person would reside at The Gateway," it said. "With aging and declining population, small Chamber membership and other variables, the Chamber financial responsibilities are a challenge. We need to pay a reasonable salary to entice the quality of director needed."

They said the chamber can only afford to pay about \$9 an hour for a 30-hour week. The job doesn't include benefits. A receptionist or assistant to the director would work at the Chamber office Business Enhancement Entrepreneurial Center downtown.

The letter said the Chamber board may hire an accountant to do its books. The group said it has talked with City Attorney Steve Hirsch, who said he didn't see any legal reasons the jobs couldn't be merged.

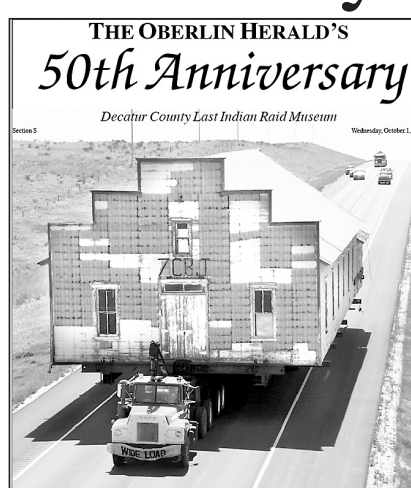
Mayor Stanley said the city is still looking for a manager for The Gateway. Meanwhile, people can still book events by calling the city at 475-2217 and talking with Chris Ward, he said.

History section tells museum story

Inside today's Oberlin Herald is a special History section celebrating 50 years of service by the Decatur County Last Indian Raid Museum.

The section includes stories about each of the 14 buildings at the museum as well as others about the history of the museum.

The majority of the 14 buildings at the museum have been moved onto the grounds by flatbed trucks over the years.



At the pole



AROUND THE FLAG POLE at Decatur Community High last Wednesday, some 20 teenagers met to pray and sing during the annual See You at the Pole event. Jaxen Alstrom acted out one of the Christian "praise" songs. — Photo by Doug Mason, Teens for Christ

Bids wanted for roadside spraying truck

The Decatur County commissioners gave the OK to ask for bids for a new or used truck for the road and weed departments to be used to spray weeds along county roads.

Tim Stallman, road and bridge supervisor, and Gaylen Huntley, noxious weed director, talked with the commissioners about getting a truck and spray equipment. That would cut back on mowing, said Mr. Stallman, which takes a lot of time.

There's some money in the special machine fund, said Mr. Stallman, and then the weed department could get the spray equipment. Mr. Huntley said they would like a one-ton truck, but a three-quarter-ton will work.

If the truck is going to be purchased, said Commissioner Ralph Unger, then get a one-ton truck.

It might be smart to check on both new and used trucks, said Mr. Unger, since there's some good rebates and discounts now on new trucks.

Some of those specials are supposed to end at the end of September, said Commissioner Stan McFee.

County Countdown

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Gave the OK to ask for bids for a new or used truck for the road and weed departments to share for spraying weeds on the county roads. Story at left.
- Received an invitation by two Oberlin City Council members to a meeting about putting a training

facility at the former youth ranch the following Tuesday after the Oberlin Rotary Club meeting. Story on Page 8A.

• Signed an agreement to start a collaborative group among the 18 counties in northwest Kansas on a wind project for the area. Story below.

voy. The commissioners agreed to ask for bids to be in by Monday.

Mr. Stallman said he's still working with R&S Digital on road maps with the new Emergency 911 addresses. He said he's hoping the county can have new aerial maps soon, now that the company has all of the correct information.

Mr. Huntley said he has a palette of chemicals for fall weed spraying.

In the recycling department, he said, they have around 13 bales of cardboard, and five or six "gaylord"

containers full of items. Those will probably have to be picked up before the end of the year. Sarah Fredrickson has been busy spraying and mowing and only able to work the recycling once a week, he said.

Bus 22, said Mr. Huntley, needs some work done to it. It makes a horrible sound, and if enough weight is put on one side of the vehicle, it locks the doors.

The grant program, said Clerk Marilyn Horn, won't replace the van until it has 60,000 miles on it. Mr. Huntley said it's closed to that

now. He added that he's a little leery about using it this winter in the snow and ice.

Mr. Huntley said he put a general notice in the paper to let people know that musk thistle season is starting.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved the 2009 budget after a public hearing which, as usual, drew no comments.
- Talked with Commissioner Stan McEvoy about an Amusement Authority meeting he attended recently. The main item was a discussion of a possible merger with the county fair board.

There was some discussion about, if that happened, increasing the property tax levy to bring in more money for maintenance of the carnival games and rides. Mr. McEvoy said he told the members they need to talk with the Chamber of Commerce board first, since the Chamber created the authority. They also need to talk with County Attorney Steve Hirsch, said Commissioner Ralph Unger.

Water meters might be read without visit

The Oberlin City Council talked about putting in equipment to remotely read electric and water meters during a planning session last Thursday.

If the water distribution system is worked on, said Foreman Dan Castle, the radio metering should be incorporated into that. It could cost \$20,000 to \$30,000 a year, doing a little bit at a time, he said. The radio metering, said Mr. Castle, would make the job quicker and save the staff the deep knee bends required to check water meters now.

Once the meters are in, he said, someone can drive a route and the machine will read all of the meters. The job would then only take about an hour, said Mr. Castle, and they could be read every month. Currently, the water meters aren't read during the winter.

To put in the meters for the water department will cost around \$250,000, he added, suggesting that the council probably needs to talk about the metering during budget time.

The radio readout could also be used for the electric meters, he said.

It would be a good idea, said Councilwoman Marcia Lohoefer, for each department to write up a three-year plan with what they need, what they want to accomplish and some costs. Then every six months, those plans could be looked at, she said.

The actual day-to-day jobs, said Mr. Castle, dictate what the workers do, not a three-year plan.

A plan, said Mrs. Lohoefer, would be a good way to get a handle on things, especially financially.

When new members come on the council, those plans could go out, said Councilman Ray Ward. It could also make a new member's job easier, said Mayor Joe Stanley.

There's also the lack of cooling at the power plant, which keeps the city from running all the generators at once, said Mr. Castle. A new radiator is needed, which will cost about \$50,000 without installation.

There's some very unreliable power wanting to take a foothold here, said Mr. Castle. The city can't maintain that kind of load and generate, too.

Mrs. Lohoefer asked for details, but Mr. Castle said he didn't think he should elaborate. He said he

will discuss it as things transpire.

Nan Stanley, sexton for the city cemetery, has some great plans, said Mr. Castle, and those are taking shape. He said they are looking into cement markers to mark the rows. Each one will cost around \$140. Something also probably needs to be done with the directory.

Councilman Rob McFee asked about poles and wires, including bare wires in town. Those wires are still functional, said Mr. Castle. The city could contract out with a business to come in and replace the poles and wires, but it would cost millions.

What are the infrastructure things the council needs to be aware of? asked Mrs. Lohoefer.

No. 1 is inspecting power poles, said Mr. Castle, because you can't tell if there is a problem just by looking at them.

There's definitely a water problem and a storm drain problem in the lower parts of town, he said.

The drinking water quality problem needs to be tackled at some time, he said, because the city is going to be told that it has to be fixed and will only have six months to do it.

There's a little bit of concern about where the money for all this is coming from, said Mr. McFee. Hopefully, it doesn't mean raising taxes.

The airport is also part of the future, said Mrs. Lohoefer. The general consensus is that the council supports the airport expansion project, said Mr. Ward, but if it happens, how is the city going to pay to maintain it? Fuel sales could be a source revenue, said Mrs. Lohoefer, although no one knows for sure how much.

The council also talked about a new roof for The Gateway, since the old one leaks, landscaping at The Gateway and possibly a circle drive in front of the main entrance.

In other business, the council:

• Heard that the deed for lots where a house owned by grocer Kirk Brown burned down last spring has been delivered to the city. The lot needs to be mowed, said Mr. Castle.

• Held two closed sessions for nonelected personnel for 15 minutes each. There was no action after the first session or after the second.

Commissioners sign wind agreement

The Decatur County commissioners signed an agreement last Tuesday to join a collaborative between the 18 counties of northwest Kansas to move forward on a wind project for the area.

Commissioner Doyle Brown said he went to a meeting recently with representatives for the other counties about the wind collaborative.

At the meeting, said Mr. Brown, the representatives talked about building a transmission line out of

the area to carry the power. Some investors have said they are going to build a transmission line from Texas to Canada no matter what, he said.

There was also a representative of a Kansas Collaborative organization at the meeting, he said, and he told commissioners that group would help however it can.

All 18 counties have been asked to sign the agreement. The idea is if all of the counties join together, they will be able to get a wind

developer here easier.

Is there one lawyer who has implemented all of this? asked Commissioner Stan McEvoy. There is one person coordinating, said Mr. Brown.

Mr. Brown showed a color-coded map of the state showing where the wind blows the most. The map also shows a transmission line going in east of Herndon. The way he understands it, said Mr. Brown, once the counties sign on, then one person from each county will serve

on the collaborative board.

It's a smart idea, said Gaylen Huntley, county noxious weed director. Mr. Brown said he thinks several counties will join the collaborative.

"If Decatur County doesn't join, it will put us out on our own," he said. "I came away with the feeling that we either have the control or the developers control us."

The next meeting for the collaborative will be Wednesday, Oct. 22, in Oakley, Mr. Brown said.

*Thresher show planned

(Continued from Page 1A) zation will serve a hog roast for \$6 per person. That event is free for vendors and exhibitors.

On both days, said Mrs. Wright, there will be a quilt show and vendors showing and selling their wares. Both days, exhibitors will show how antique engines work and a little bit about how things used to be done on the farm. Craft vendors

will have displays set up both days in the commercial building, said Ms. Wright.

The group will sell raffle tickets for a John Deere pedal combine and a queen-sized quilt made by the members and quilted by Kristie Hawkins.

Officers of the club include Elden Huff, president, Reva Marshall, secretary and Ms. Wright.

Please clip out this ad and save for handy reference.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The burning of vegetation, limbs and other organic material will be permitted (no rubber tires):

Saturday, Oct. 4
through
Sunday, Nov. 23

provided adequate safety measures are taken, and being mindful of wind conditions.

By Order of
City Mayor
Joe Stanley

Please Help
Keep Oberlin
LOOKING CLEAN!



NOTICE OF CLOSING OF REGISTRATION BOOKS GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 4, 2008 DECATUR COUNTY

In compliance with the provision of KSA 25-2311(a3), notice is hereby given that the Voter Registration Books will officially close Monday the 20th of October, 2008.

Voter registrations will be taken at the Office of the Decatur County Clerk through that day with late Registration until 9 p.m.

Normal registration hours until that day - are 8 a.m. thru 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

The Books will remain closed until the day after the General Election which will be Wednesday, the 5th of November, 2008.

A citizen of the United States who is eighteen (18) years of age and upwards, or will have attained that age before the next election, must register before he or she can vote.

Anyone may apply in person — or by mail or by phone — to the County Election Office (the Office of the Decatur County Clerk) to register to vote.

However, anyone who will be registering to vote for the first time in Decatur County must show ID before voting. If ID is shown to the County Election Office at the time of registration, it will not be required at the polls.

Any registered voter that changes their name by marriage may sign an affidavit at the polling place on Election Day. Other name changes by legal proceedings must reregister.

Notice of AUTOMark Public Viewing

On that Monday, the AUTOMark Voting Machines will also be on display for the public to view as the Lawful Testing from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. also on 2nd Floor.

Done on this 23rd day of September, 2008.

Marilyn Horn
Decatur County Clerk & Election Officer

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