



# Archery range should expand outdoor classes

There's a black bear living in Sappa Park. Well, at least, a black bear archery target, joined by two deer, a coyote and a turkey. The archery targets were placed near the lower dam trail, in front of a small hill, by members of the Sunflower Chapter of Pheasants Forever.

Rick Pauls, a member of the group, said Pheasants Forever bought the targets and put them in the park to give Oberlin students an opportunity to get outside for physical education class. The targets are open for public use, he added.

The idea, said Mr. Pauls, came from a meeting of Pheasants Forever with Joe Dreher, athletic director at Decatur Community High.

The targets, said Mr. Pauls, are off the walking trail, so it's safe for people to continue walking in the area.

The school gym classes, said Mr. Dreher, will add an archery segment. With the help of Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and Pheasants Forever, the school was able to buy bows, arrows and targets.

This is an activity that virtually every student can participate in, said Mr. Dreher. It helps get kids outside and maybe learn a lifelong physical activity.

Mr. Dreher said no students have been to Sappa Park to use the three-dimensional targets yet.

# Webkinz party set for Saturday

It's time for a party! A Webkinz birthday party, that is. Kids and their parents, are invited to the LandMark Inn from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday for the party. The little stuffed creatures come in every size, shape, color and animal, and they come with a game code allowing kids of all ages to enter the animal's world online, playing games, earning play money and taking care of their "pets."

In last week's *Oberlin Herald*, a double-sided coloring sheet was provided for kids to enter in a coloring contest.

Kids up to 8 will color a "Ms. Birdy" picture, while kids 8 to 14 can color a "Chef Gazpacho" picture on the other side. Prizes will be given, said Gary Anderson, owner of the LandMark, with first prize a \$25 gift certificate for a Webkinz, second a free "retired" animal and third a Li'l Webkinz.

All kids who enter the coloring contest will get a free pack of trading cards, too.

During the party, kids will have a chance to guess how many jelly beans are in a jar and have a chance to spin a wheel to win prizes. Cake will be served.

Anyone who needs extra coloring sheets can pick them up at the sponsors, including *The Herald*, RJ Metcalf Real Estate and the LandMark Inn.

Anyone with questions can call Mr. Anderson at 475-2340.

# Young racer gives top trophy to friend

An Oberlin 12-year-old came home with a first-place trophy dedicated to his dad after sprint car races in Missouri earlier in the month.

Racer Cody Salem, son of Rick Salem, and John Tyrrell, who owns Cody's car, gave the trophy to Jacob Koerperich.

Rick Salem said he grew up with Jacob's dad, Dave Koerperich, and Mr. Tyrrell. Mr. Koerperich served as the crew chief for Cody's race team, the Flying Angels, during the 2007 season.

Dave and Jacob enjoyed going to races together, said Mr. Salem.

This winter, Mr. Koerperich lost his battle with cancer. Racers in the United Rebel Sprint Series, said Rick Salem, has just kind of adopted the 12-year-old. He said he told Jacob he would get him to as many races as possible this year.

That included the first one in Missouri, where Cody Salem came in second. The driver who won chose to not undergo a required tech inspection, moving Cody into first place. That trophy was presented to Jacob and dedicated to his father.

The United Rebel Sprint Series will bring racing to the Decatur County Speedway at 7 p.m. Saturday, Rick Salem said.

# Broken line causes fire

The Decatur County Fire Department fought a fire in an oil heater at a construction site north of town Thursday afternoon.

Chief Bill Cathcart said the call came in around 2:15 p.m. after a fuel line broke on an oil heater at Venture Corp.'s asphalt plant two miles north of town. The crew is putting an overlay on U.S. 83 for the Kansas Department of Transportation.

The fuel line spewed diesel fuel on the engine and started a fire.

Venture Corp. crew members had already started to cover the flames with sand, the chief said, and the firemen used a class B foam to keep the fumes from igniting.

In a fire like this, the chief said, water tends to spread the flames, since oil floats on top of the water.

A Venture Corp. employee was injured when he got hot oil on his arm, the chief said. He was taken to the Decatur County Hospital by ambulance.

There was no explosion, he said, and no other injuries.

# School board rehires entire teaching staff

The Oberlin School Board voted to rehire the entire teaching staff, tenured and nontenured, for both the grade and high schools.

At the meeting Monday, April 13, the board approved contracts for all teachers for the 2008-2009 school year.

Tenured staff at the high school whose contracts were approved include Brenda Breth, English and counselor; Leigh Davis, English; Caleb Howland, science; Matt Micek, industrial arts; Tim Breth, math; Candy Dejmaj, computer science; Marlene Moxter, social science; Jason Ketterl, vocational agriculture; Mark Bricker, science; Pat Dorshorst, math; Susan Nelson, vocal; Carol Brown, Spanish; Joe Dreher, physical education and athletic director; and Wendy Scott, math.

The board also approved part-time positions for Linda Glaze, librarian, and Terry Woolsey, art.

Nontenured staff whose contracts

were renewed were Robyn Wessel, English; Belinda Jones, English; Rachel Johnson, social science; and J.D. Johnson, social science. Part-time nontenured teachers were Sarah Bricker, band, and Jeff Jones, physical education and health.

The board approved contracts for Dick Ahlberg, history, and Randy Olson, social science, tenured teachers who retired and now work

only part-time.

At the grade school, the board approved contracts for tenured staff including Jeri Buchholz, Kimberly Witt, Marty Olson, Diana Steinmetz, Carol Dixon, Sherri Ruf, Cindy Sattler, Kathy Tacha, Carol Wasson and Sheila Jansoni, counselor.

Part-time tenured teachers with approved contracts include Jim

Buchholz, music; Mrs. Woolsey, art; and Mrs. Glaze, librarian.

The board also approved nontenured staff, including Judy Elwood, Sandy Ketterl, Jeni Henningson, and part-time Mrs. Bricker, band, and Mr. Jones, physical education.

# County gets 8 percent reduction on insurance

The Decatur County commissioners talked last Tuesday with a representative from the county's insurance company about the history of the policy and a recent 8 percent reduction in the premium.

The commissioners insure the county's buildings and vehicles with the Kansas Counties Association Multi-Lined Pool. That agency, along with the Kansas Worker Risk Cooperative for Counties, said insurance representative Larry Sharp, is tailor made for counties.

The agency covers liability and property, basically everything but worker's compensation, he said.

All of the people on that board are county officers, said Commissioner Ralph Unger, so they understand what's happening in counties across the state.

Decatur County, said Mr. Sharp, is a charter member of both orga-

nizations. The county received the bill for the year's premium recently, showing about an 8 percent reduction.

In 2008, the county paid \$76,000 while in 2009 it will be \$70,000.

This county, said Mr. Sharp, has been one of the company's best loss ratios. Of the 105 counties in the state, he added, 57 belong to the organization.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Ratified two purchases made by Mr. Unger when he was in Topeka at federal surplus lot. He said he got five pairs of chains for tires on the road graders for \$150 a pair. He also bought four Carrier window air conditioning units for \$250 apiece.
- Approved lifting the burn ban put in place before recent rains.


# Celebrate Cinco de Mayo

The Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce plans to serve dinner in Centennial Park for Cinco de Mayo, a major Mexican celebration, next Tuesday.

The chamber board will serve walking tacos and churros from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. to help raise money for the sound system downtown.

» A caring team of cancer professionals . . .

*within reach.*



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When Mardell Larson of Funk learned she had cancer, she had a lot of decisions to make. "I never thought of going anywhere but Good Samaritan Hospital," she said. Now a six-year cancer survivor, Mardell says she made the right choice. "I trusted Good Samaritan with my life...and they didn't let me down." Good Samaritan Hospital's oncology team uses the most advanced technology and treatments available anywhere including clinical trials. It's good to know one of the most comprehensive cancer centers you can find is...within reach.

CATHOLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES

**Good Samaritan Hospital**  
Kearney, Nebraska [www.gshs.org](http://www.gshs.org)

*The medical center, centered on you.*  
Call 800-277-4306 or 308-865-7985 for more information.

**Free colorectal cancer screening kit:**  
Colorectal cancer is curable with early detection. For your free screening kit, please call 308-865-7884 or 800-658-5169 weekdays March 23-April 3, 8 am - 5 pm.