

# Summerfest Car Show begins Friday, June 5

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**  
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 Owners of antique vehicles, sports vehicles and vintage trailers are invited to enter them in the annual Summerfest Car and Vintage Sports Show the first weekend of June.

will be handing out T-shirts at the race.  
 From noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, there will be a fun day at the track for the vintage cars sponsored by NAPA Auto Parts, said Mr. Riedel.

This is the eighth year for the show, and the first that the Last Indian Raid Museum has added the vintage sports equipment.

Early registration costs \$20, while registration the day of the show is \$25. Anyone who wants to register for the show can send a check to the Decatur County Museum, mailing it to Dana Marintzer 402 N. Sunrise Oberlin, Kan. 67749. The registration needs to include the year, make and model and what kind of vehicle it is.

Director Sharleen Wurm said the show is changing, trying to be progressive and add things.

During the day on Saturday, registrants will have a "Show and Shine" all day, giving people a chance to get a look at the entries.

The show starts at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 5, with the annual cruise-in in front of the museum. The museum board plans to serve buffalo burgers and hot dogs during the cruise-in.

Mrs. Wurm said they will also have vendors selling handicrafts, funnel cakes, carmel corn and more. She said they are still looking for new vendors. The board will be selling tickets for a "50/50" raffle of it's own at \$1 a piece, with half the money going to the winning ticket holder and the other half to the museum.

The next morning, the show starts at 7 a.m. with a pancake feed at the Bohemian Hall and an hour later, registration will open on Main Street.

From 10 a.m. to noon and 2 to 4 p.m., the Teens for Christ group plans to operate a dunk tank as a fund raiser.

There were some teardrop trailers at the show last year, said Dana Marintzer, a board member who is helping head up the show with member Byron Hale. This year, with the help of Bill and Connie Riedel, the museum plans to add vintage trailers and race cars.

Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of Farmer's Bank and Trust. John Juenemann will be playing his guitar and singing during lunch.

People with the vintage campers and trailers are invited to camp at Sappa Park and then enter the trailers into the car show. On Sunday morning, said Mrs. Riedel, there will be a free pancake feed at the park for those who camped.

By 1 p.m., People's Choice ballots need to be returned to Gold Home Planning Center. Those entered can leave for the poker run.

The vintage race cars will come from Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas, said Mr. Riedel. Those he's heard about range from the 1940s up to the 1980s.

At 4 p.m., trophies will be awarded. That will be followed by a barbecue beef supper in the Bohemian Hall.

The drivers and cars will participate in the show downtown, said Mr. Riedel, then on Saturday will race at the Decatur County Speedway. The Decatur Community cheerleaders

Mrs. Marintzer said they hope to have a good day and a good show. Mrs. Wurm said the museum will be open all day for people to visit.

## Party draws a crowd

Cake, balloons and Webkinz stuffed animals decorated the front of the LandMark Inn on Saturday during a birthday party for the little animals and their owners.

Chef Gazpacho picture were Miranda Long, first; Rebekah Castle, second; and TyLynn Peterson, third. Winners for those coloring Ms. Birdy were Dane Castle, first; Melody Koerperich, second; and Reid Steinbeck, third.

The LandMark, *The Oberlin Herald* and Carolyn Burtis with RJ Metcalf Real Estate sponsored the party and a coloring contest that ran at the same time.

First-place winners received a \$25 gift certificate to the LandMark for Webkinz items, second a Webkinz and third a Lil' Kinz.

Thirty-three kids attended the party, with most turning in a coloring sheet of either Ms. Birdy or Chef Gazpacho, which had been put inside an April edition of *The Oberlin Herald*.

The Webkinz animals have gained popularity in recent years. The stuffed animals come with a code allowing only the owner into an online world in which the animals live and play.

Winners of the contest for the

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**SHOWING A TOP HEREFORD** at the Decatur County Island Rockets 4-H Club at Jennings. He said he met his Fair was Frank Bennett (above), a member of the Rock wife at a 4-H event.

## Driving equalled 45 times around globe

By **MARY LOU OLSON**  
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After being on the road for more than 12 years, Frank Bennett of Oberlin stepped down from his semitrailer rig for the last time on April 1 to begin a slower-paced life of retirement.

"I figure I have driven enough miles to have gone around the globe 45 times," said Mr. Bennett, who drove for Werner Enterprises of Omaha, a large national truckload carrier.

He said he started with the company Dec. 15, 1996, and since then, he's hauled anything that would go into a "dry van" trailer. That includes everything from paper items to alligator feed, which he delivered to a Florida farm that had over 10,000 "gators."

One of his highlights as a driver, he said, was sending post cards to second graders at the Golden Plains Grade School in Selden. When Roxie Erickson was teaching at Selden, she asked him if he would write to her students from wherever he stopped, and he has sent the class around 60 post cards a year.

"I have bought a stuffed animal to carry in my truck every year since then," he said. "and at the end of the school term, we have a drawing at the school and the winner gets the stuffed animal."

He met with the second graders last Tuesday and presented his last stuffed animal to this year's winner, Noel Ritter, daughter of Robert and Laura Ritter.

Doing something for or with kids has been a way of life for Mr. Bennett, who said he remembers his days as a member of the Rock Island Rockets 4-H Club at Jennings.

He said he was born in Denver on Oct. 10, 1942. His father, Ray, was from Paonia, Colo., on the Western Slope of the Rockies, and his mother, the former Claudine Wright, was reared in the tiny town of Atlanta, in southcentral

Kansas. His parents met while attending Fort Hays State University.

His father was a test pilot for Lockheed Aircraft in New York, before taking a job with Texaco as an oil-field pumper in southcentral Kansas. The family also lived in Russell before moving to Jennings when Frank was a fifth grader.



Mr. Bennett

"At that time, Jennings held a 'Little Fair' of its own before the county fair, and several area cattlemen would donate a calf for a Calf Scramble for the kids. I was lucky enough to catch a Hereford calf donated by John and Emil Petracek, and that began my interest in showing animals at the fair.

"I trained my calves over the years in a small acreage behind our house amid the blare of band music and the hustle and noise of the Jennings school activities, since we lived south of the school.

"Winning that first calf was the beginning of many years of top ribbons, including grand and reserve champion ribbons for me and my younger brothers, Bill and Benny. We took several to the Kansas State Fair and the Kansas Junior Livestock Show.

"One of the highlights during my years in 4-H was meeting Karen Bennett, daughter of Don and Elma Ashley of Selden, who was an active member of the Wide-A-Wake 4-H Club. I asked her for our first date at the fair, saying simply, 'I'll see you around.'"

He graduated from Jennings High School in 1960, then attended Southwestern University in Winfield and Fort Hays State. His first job was working for the state highway department in Oberlin and Jennings, then later he started working with his dad pumping oil wells in Decatur County and continued with that job until it was shut down in 1994.

He and his wife, a graduate of Selden High School, were married on June 14, 1965, at the Selden United Methodist Church and have

since lived in Oberlin, where they reared their two sons, Kevin and Kurt.

"Kids have been our lives," Mr. Bennett said.

He drove a school bus and also the activity bus for 18 years for the Oberlin School District before going on the road, ran the scoreboard at football and basketball games, and coached many summer baseball teams.

During his years as a truck driver, he said, he was only home about once a month, so he and his wife communicated mainly by e-mail or cell phone. In good weather, he drove 10 hours a day, starting at 4 a.m., then slept in the sleeper of the cab. If the weather turned bad, he said, the company let him pull off and wait for the roads to clear.

"My most memorable experience over the years as a driver in was when I received the 'Million Mile Plaque for Safe Driving' in Omaha in September 2006," he said.

And when he retired, he added, he still held an accident-free record with a total of 1,750,000 miles logged.

When Mr. Bennett retired, he had been hauling for about a year out of Abilene for the Alco Stores, with trips to Nebraska, Iowa, Indiana, Ohio, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Georgia and Florida.

"My retirement will be a big change for both of us," he said. "My wife still works as a bookkeeper at Crossroads Express, and also helps at the Oberlin Livestock Auction office on Mondays, and I have already joined the guys for coffee."

"I'll still enjoy attending sporting events and am also an active member of the Masonic Lodge, the Decatur County Shrine Club and the Order of Eastern Star."

The couple's son Kevin and his wife, Allison, and son Gage, live in Mulville, Iowa, where he works for Tyson Foods. Kurt and his wife, Michelle, and twins Ty and Ashley and Skyler, live in Indianola, Neb. He works for Norman Timmerman Feeds east of McCook.

## School year ends with flurry of activities

As the school year winds to an end, it seems like you could attend a school function just about every day.

There are sporting events, award assemblies, concerts and more on the calendar.

One of those events is the junior high/high school open house at Decatur Community High, which was originally scheduled for Monday, May 11, but had to be postponed because there is both golf and track the same day.

Principal Charlie Haag said the high school open house will be from 6 to 7 p.m. on Friday, which is the same night as the physics department magic show. The magic show starts at 7 p.m. and will be followed by a Student Council talent show. Open house projects will be closed once the show begins.

The junior high open house will follow the junior high awards night,

which starts at 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 18.

Other events at the school to keep in mind include:

- The music awards and vocal concert at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in the auditorium.
- The annual awards assembly at 2 p.m. next Wednesday in the auditorium.
- Baccalaureate at 7:30 p.m. next Wednesday in the auditorium.
- The last day of school for the seniors on Friday, May 14.
- Graduation at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 17, in the high school gym.
- Junior high awards and band and vocal concert at 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 18.
- Student Council members will have the high school open from 9 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 23, for alumni to visit.

Events at the grade school include:

- Fun Day at the high school track on Friday, with kindergarten through third grade in the morning and fourth through sixth grades in the afternoon.
- Awards assembly at 8:30 a.m.

Friday, May 22, in the gym. The last day of school is Friday, May 22. Students will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m.

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