



**IN HIS SHOP** on Rodehaver Avenue, Bill Riedel worked on a midget race car that his daughter is going to drive at the Decatur County Speedway this weekend. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

## Car show set to roll into town

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**  
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The Last Indian Raid Museum's annual Summerfest Car and Vintage Sports Show kicks off summer Saturday in downtown Oberlin.

For the eighth year of the show, the museum has added vintage sports equipment, including trailers, motorcycles, boats and other vehicles, to the old cars.

Director Sharleen Wurm said as of Thursday, the show had 25 entries. She added that she's planning on 15 race cars and two campers for the show as well.

Everything starts at 7 p.m. Friday with a "cruise-in" on Main Street. The museum board plans to serve buffalo burgers and hot dogs that night. The Oberlin Business Alliance will be serving root-beer floats.

New to the cruise-in, said Mrs. Wurm, is a trophy to the owner of the best vehicle cruising Main Street that night. She said the show is changing, trying to be progressive and add things.

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

This year, with the help of Bill and Connie Riedel, the museum plans to add vintage trailers and race cars to the displays.

People with the vintage campers and trailers are invited to camp at

Sappa Park and then enter their trailers into the show on Saturday.

Vintage race cars will come from Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas, ranging in age from the 1940s up to the 1980s.

The drivers and cars will participate in the show downtown, then on Saturday will race at the Decatur County Speedway. Before the race Saturday night, Mr. Riedel said, people will have a chance to meet the drivers, get autographs, see the cars and take pictures.

The Decatur Community High cheerleaders 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. If people can't make it on Saturday or want to see the cars again, they can come up on Sunday.

Events downtown on Saturday including the "Show and Shine" all day, giving people a chance to see all of the entries.

From 10 a.m. to noon and 2 to 4 p.m., the Teens for Christ group will be running a dunk tank.

Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of Farmers Bank and Trust. Mrs. Wurm said museum board members will be cooking bratwursts and pork burgers. John Juemann will be playing his guitar and singing during lunch.

(See CARS on Page 5A)

## Old-time racing vehicles to take to track

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**  
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Around 30 to 40 vintage race cars that ran between the 1930s and 1980s will be in Oberlin this weekend for the Summerfest Car and Vintage Sports Show and racing at the Decatur County Speedway.

Among those 30 to 40 cars will be two restored here, belonging to Bill and Connie Riedel. One of those is a 1977 Midget that the Riedels picked up in Arizona in 2007. The car wasn't running, said Mr. Riedel; the engine had blown up and hadn't

seen daylight since 1980.

The other is a sprint car built by LaVern Nance in Wichita in 1985, said Mr. Riedel. The car ran in the World of Outlaws series. The car was wrecked in the Devil's Bowl in Texas in 1986.

It was re-built and Bob and Sharon Ream bought it and the car was raced by Jon Johnson and then Rick Salem. The car campaigned successfully until 1990, when it was replaced with a newer one, said Mr. Riedel.

Mr. Riedel said he retrieved the

car from a farm north of town in 2006. It wasn't running, but with the help of Mr. Ream and Mr. Salem, he got the racer restored.

Mr. Riedel will drive the car on Saturday.

The Midget, said Mr. Riedel, will be driven by their daughter, Carrie Provo. The car, he said, was driven by May Hall, who drove it in Tucson and is now a pilot for American Airlines. She doesn't race anymore, he said.

It means a great deal to have the car, said Mr. Riedel, because Rick

Stewart built the vehicle. Mr. Stewart's dad Paul Stewart started the two men in racing. Mr. Riedel said Mr. Stewart gave him his first job at Paul's Texaco in Phoenix.

The men would clean parts at the station, said Mr. Riedel.

"Paul took Ricky and I to the races," said Mr. Riedel.

He said he thinks he purchased his first drag race car when he was 14. Racing has been in his system ever since then.

Both of the Riedels' kids started (See VINTAGE on Page 5A)

## Selden ready to celebrate with annual antique tractor, car show

It's time to pack up the family and drive down to Selden for the 16th annual Antique Tractor and Classic Car Show on Sunday.

The all-day event is geared for family members of all ages, lots of entries to see, games to play, food to eat and music to dance to.

The event is put on by the Selden Community Foundation each year on Main Street. Registration will start at 9 a.m. on the north end of Kansas Avenue, with no fee for entries.

The vehicles and tractors will be parked along Main Street, near the city park,

throughout the day for people to see, then all the entries will join a parade at the end of the day.

Plaques will be given out to the top five tractors, top five cars and top two small engines.

The day's events include:

- 10 a.m. — games, including a horseshoe-pitching contest on the south side of the tennis courts. The contest will run until all teams have played.

- 11:30 a.m. — basketball free-throw contest on the tennis courts. Medals will be handed out for first, second and third place.

Age ranges include grades third through fifth and sixth through eighth.

- Noon — Rose Bainter and Vic Waggoner Jr. will sing over the noon hour in the park.

- 1 p.m. — Kiddie Tractor Pull with trophies handed out in three age groups, 5 to 6, 7 to 8 and 9 to 10.

- Afternoon — The Old-Time Band will play in the Sacred Heart Catholic Church Parish Hall downtown in the afternoon.

- Throughout the day — tractor drivers will be able to test their ability at barrel rolling and washer dropping during the

competition.

- 3:30 p.m. — parade of entries on Kansas Avenue.

Grilled hamburgers, barbecue pork sandwiches, hot dogs, baked beans and drinks will be served throughout the day near the park. Cool treats will be available in the afternoon.

With limited seating in the park, people may want to bring their own lawn chairs or blankets to sit on, organizers say.

Throughout the day, there will be antique baler demonstrations on the street and booths and exhibits in the parish hall.

The Selden American Legion is raffling off a pedal tractor and an all-terrain tricycle, along with other prizes. Raffle tickets, \$1 each or six for \$5, may be purchased in advance at The Bank in Selden, or at the announcer's stand the day of the show. Children will have a chance to put their names in for a free prize, too.

Winners will be drawn before the parade kicks off.

The parade, the final event of the day, will run past the north end of the park.

## Water program focuses on trees

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**  
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Around 60 people from Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska talked and learned about the importance of cleaning water-sucking invasive trees out of the Republican River Basin at a meeting last Wednesday at The Gateway.

Jennifer Rittenhouse-ten Benschel, executive administrator of Southwest Nebraska Resource Conservation and Development, called the turnout for the meeting good and the agenda great. She said she's attended these meetings for the past two years and found that this one had a lot of new information.

The trees choke out the river and the basin, using up water and block-

ing the channels, she said.

The meeting for the tri-state Republican River Riparian Restoration Partnership was broken into sessions with speakers from different areas along the Republican River and some from the National Drought Mitigation Center in Lincoln.

Tim Smith, with the Southwest Nebraska Weed Management Area, told the group when getting rid of Russian olive trees, which grow wild along many stretches of the river, it's important to spray the stump right after they are cut down in order to kill the roots.

Conditions have been perfect for invaders to get into the channel (See GROUP on Page 5A)

## City boss needs aid to deal with airport

By **CYNTHIA HAYNES**  
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Oberlin received a \$55,000 check from the Kansas Department of Transportation late last month as 90 percent payment for an automated weather observation system at the airport.

City Administrator Austin Gilley told the City Council last week that the airport had been approved for the weather site and the state has already paid its part of the bill.

That's the good news from the airport, he said. The problem side is that Bus and Coach International, which set up its headquarters at the old Jennings school, has been sold to a Canadian company and all the original executives have left the area.

The city has been pursuing money to build a new and longer runway at the request of the bus firm, which had plans to use it to fly executives (See ANSWERS on Page 5A)

### Putting a little light on the subject



**CHANGING A LIGHT BULB** required a bucket truck last week as city employee Dan Dempewolf went up in the air to put some more lights on the Oberlin sign at the top of Penn Avenue last Wednesday. Mr. Dempewolf was hired as pool manager, but he was helping the crew until the pool opened Saturday. — Herald photo by Cynthia Haynes

## Doctor search resumes

The doctor procurement committee, made up of hospital and clinic employees as well as members of the community, met Thursday to discuss its objectives and establish a timeline for recruiting.

Hospital Administrator Lynn Doeden said the committee is looking at ways to distinguish Oberlin from other towns so doctors want to come here to live and work instead of somewhere else.

Although a timeline has been discussed, she said, nothing has been set.

The committee hopes to help recruit a family physician for Oberlin, said Mrs. Doeden. Right now, they don't have any leads or contacts.

If anyone has a lead or contact on a family physician they can call Kurt Vollertsen, committee chairman, at 475-2285, Mrs. Doeden at 475-2208 or Barb Whitney, office manager at the clinic, at 475-2221.

Others on the committee are Carolyn Burtis, owner of Metcalf Real Estate; Gaylord Shields, a retired farmer; Jeannie Gawith, who works in the lab and x-ray at the clinic; Duane Dorshorst, principal at Oberlin Elementary School; Montine Alstrom, an office manager at the Good Samaritan Center; Jim Hollowell, a retired school administrator; Ron Jansonius, hospital board chair; Shelly McKenna, a nurse at (See SEARCH on Page 5A)



**AT HER DESK**, at the Chamber of Commerce office, Carolyn Hackney, the new Chamber manager, worked at her computer. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

## Chamber hires new manager

The Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce has a new face in the office on Penn Avenue downtown.

Carolyn Hackney started as the Chamber manager on Tuesday, jumping in with both feet.

The new manager said she has lived in Oberlin since 2003, but has lived in the area since she was 10.

She said she applied for the job because she thought it would be fun to become more a part of the community, and she's able to use the associate's degree in business technology/administrative assistant that she earned from McCook Community College in May.

She said her office hours from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, with a 30-minute

lunch break from noon to 12:30 p.m. Ms. Hackney said her duties include writing a weekly column for the newspaper, working on events sponsored by the Chamber, answering questions for people who call and finding out the answer and, taking donations for the area development fund.

She said she's been working to get people on the map for the upcoming community-wide garage sales Friday and Saturday, June 12 and 13.

At least those are things that she's helped with so far, she said. Ms. Hackney said she's also working on getting information for the summer "table tents," which list community events.

Besides working in the Chamber office, she also works at the LandMark Inn. Her hobbies include yard work and horses.

## \*Group helps clean up river

(Continued from Page 1A)  
and grow big, said Mr. Smith. Lots of those invaders, like the Russian olive, were seeded in the middle 1980s. Although the original invaders have been cut down, he said, control is an ongoing process.

It's important, said Mr. Smith, to do what's best for the Republican valley. If the river isn't healthy, he said, then the area isn't doing well. The Republican serves as a barometer for the whole area.

When getting rid of the invader trees, said Mr. Smith, he thinks that it's good to clean the entire flood plain.

Some of the other invasive species, besides Russian olive, are native red cedar and salt cedar, or

tamarisk, introduced from Asia. Steve Meyers, with the Soil Conservation Service in Nebraska, said he works on the river from Cambridge to the Kansas line above St. Francis. On that stretch of 82 miles, he said, he has worked with 181 landowners.

That part of the basin, said Mr. Meyers, has already been sprayed for invasive vegetation. Now they are removing log jams and woody debris from the river.

Dr. Cody Knutson, with the drought center, said the center, at the University of Nebraska, works with landowners to put strategies into place to deal with a drought before it happens.

The center is a collaborator on the U.S. Drought Monitor, which comes out weekly, and the monthly North America Drought Monitor, he said.

Brian Fuchs, a climatologist with the center, said the drought map that came out last Thursday looks pretty good.

Spring hadn't been bringing a lot of rain into the area, he said, so it was nice to see the rain last week. Mr. Fuchs said that was the first storm he had seen in a while.

The drought maps are showing improvements in the region, the men said. Only 18 percent of the High Plains region is abnormally dry. Last year at this time, half the region was abnormally dry.

This is good news for the Republican River basin and the region, said Mr. Fuchs. The precipitation timing has been good, and if that continues through the summer, it will be good.

At least through August, he said, he doesn't see any drought starting.

Another side to that is if the area is coming out of a La Niña weather pattern, based on South Pacific currents, and into an El Niño pattern, that normally means more moisture.

Mrs. Rittenhouse-ten Bensel said the group is ending its second year of invasive species removal in Nebraska. Other states are watching closely to find out the results of the tree removal, she said.

The partnership is going to become a formal organization. She said she thinks the next meeting will be in September, probably in Colorado, but nothing has been set.

## \*Vintage racers to visit

(Continued from Page 1A)  
racing when they were young. Mr. Riedel said Carrie was 9 and her brother Cody was 6 when they started with quarter midget racers. Both went on to win trophies which line the top of Mr. Riedel's shop.

The kids raced up until the mid-1980s in the quarter midgets and go-karts, he said.

While the kids were racing, Cody always got the good cars, because their daughter got the other stuff, he said, so they decided to rebuild the midget for her. Mrs. Provo will be in town for the weekend to race the car.

It will be her first time in a race car in 20 years, said Mr. Riedel, and she's really excited.

There will be participants from Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska and Oklahoma for the weekend.

Races start at 6 p.m. on Saturday at the track, said Mr. Riedel, with



**IN 1987**, Carrie (Riedel) Provo, then 10, and her brother Cody, 7, stood with one of their race cars. The Riedel kids raced quarter midgets and go-karts, their dad, Bill Riedel, said.

the cost to watch at \$10. The race is in conjunction with the URSS winged sprint cars with Mr. Salem. That will bring in 30 plus cars, said Mr. Riedel.

There will be a fun day at the track from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday for the vintage racers.

During the car show, people can ask the vintage racers about their cars on Main Street on Saturday. Mr. Riedel said they will take pictures of kids with the cars and have prints at the race that night for free.

## \*Cars to line Penn Avenue

(Continued from Page 1A)  
By 1 p.m., People's Choice ballots need to be returned to Golt's Home Planning Center.

Those entered can leave for the poker run.

The Mini Sappa Antique Engine and Thresher Association group will hand out free ice pops from 2 to 4 p.m. on the corner in front of Farmers Bank and Trust.

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

Vendors during the day, said Mrs. Wurm, will include Kettle Corn, jewelry, purses and quilted items, as well as etched glass. She said there might be others.

Early registration is \$20, while registration the day of the show

will be \$25.

Mrs. Wurm said the board will be selling tickets for a "50/50" raffle of its own at \$1 apiece, with half the money going to the winning ticket holder and the other half to the museum.

Schwan's will be selling ice cream with the proceeds going to the museum.

## \*Answers wanted on airport

(Continued from Page 1A)  
and customers to the Jennings facility.

"BCI doesn't return its phone calls," the administrator told the council.

At this time, Mr. Gilley said, there is no plan for the day-to-day operation of the airport and the whole expansion project has become unwieldy.

"I think the airport (expansion) is a good idea, but it needs a plan for running," he told the council. "I don't have a plan and I can't get it."

Mr. Gilley said that the airport committee working on the expansion project is an unofficial entity and the dynamics between it and

himself and the city are "strange." He asked the council for help dealing with the airport and the committee so that something will get accomplished.

Mr. Gilley said he doesn't feel like he's getting enough information from the committee to explain what's happening to other people. He said that when he talks to state officials about some of Oberlin's plans for the airport, he feels that they're just laughing at him.

Councilwoman Marcia Lohofener suggested that Mr. Gilley have Economic Development Director Connie Grafel talk to people from the state or the Federal Aviation Administration. Since she has been involved in about every

phase of the airport project for the last several years, Mrs. Lohofener said, she might be able to help explain things.

Mrs. Lohofener added that committees, such as the one working on the airport project, have been how Oberlin has achieved most of its successes over the years.

Mr. Gilley agreed that committees are a good thing but said he's just not doing well with the airport group.

Mayor Joe Stanley suggested a special meeting with the council and the airport committee to iron out problems and get things going in the right direction.

## Water again on city agenda

The Oberlin City Council will talk about possible changes in the plans for a proposed water treatment plant when it meets at 7 p.m. Thursday at The Gateway.

Administrator Austin Gilley said he's been talking with the engineers and representatives of the U.S. Department of Agriculture about a possible way to rework a loan the city has applied for. Basically, he said, his idea is to "de-obligate" the city from a loan for a coagulation-type water treatment plant and re-apply for a loan for a reverse osmosis plant.

No one knows if a reverse osmosis system will make the city's water taste better, he said, but the plant would remove the arsenic and uranium.

By redoing the loan, he said, the city might be able to try to get some federal stimulus money for the plant as well. The city was approved for the loan last year, before the stimulus bill came up.

Mr. Gilley said the council also will continue a conversation from the Thursday, May 21, meeting about replacing the transformers at the Sappa Valley Manor, run by the Oberlin Housing Authority.

There's a resolution about an emergency management contingency plan, he said. The county received money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to have a firm write a joint emergency contingency plan. The council will have to decide if they want to join the plan.

Mr. Gilley said there will be administrative ordinances to look at and a revised policy on delinquent utility bills. Both of those items were discussed at previous meetings.

The meeting starts at 7 p.m. upstairs at The Gateway.

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