



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)

