

City tables decision on airport

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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The Oberlin City Council agreed Thursday to put off a decision about a petition to bar spending on a new runway at the city airport until the first meeting in October, allowing time for another informational meeting on the project.

At the council's meeting last Thursday, Sid Metcalf, a member of the Oberlin-Decatur Area Economic Development Corp. board, asked the council to table the decision so people can get straight information on the proposed runway project for a "town hall" meeting.

Many years ago, he said, Oberlin turned down a rail line, then other things that should have been here. Let's not rush into anything here, said Mr. Metcalf, and stub our toe like the city's forefathers have done.

Decatur Tomorrow has offered to bring someone in to mediate the meeting, he added.

Councilwoman Rhonda May said she would like to plead for everyone to be civil in their disagreements.

"We can disagree without being disagreeable," she said. "If we are lucky, all of us in the room will still be neighbors 20 years from now. I plan on being friendly neighbors with everyone in this room, even if we disagree on this issue."

"We need to stumble forward as amicably as possible."

Although there were more than 40 people at the meeting, only a handful got up to talk about the airport project and the petition opponents filed with the council.

Meeting next week

Decatur Tomorrow will host an airport informational conversation at 7 p.m. next Wednesday in the high school cafeteria.

Gary Anderson, with the steering committee, said the group will ask for a short point of view presentation from the petitioners and the airport committee before opening up the floor for questions.

Terry Woodbury, with Public Square Communities, will moderate the questions and get them to the right people to be answered.

This is not a debate, said Mr. Anderson, but a positive conversation on the airport, regardless of a person's point of view. He added that the steering committee wants people to feel welcome to come express their opinions.

The group hosted a similar style conversation about Sappa Park in 2008, bringing all interested parties to the table.

Mr. Anderson said the conversation is scheduled to be done at 8:30 p.m.

The airport petition, said City Administrator Austin Gilley, was (See AIRPORT on Page 8A)

Few citizens speak on airport issue

With a packed house at the Oberlin City Council meeting last Thursday, only a few signed their name on a sheet at the entrance so that they could speak.

Those in the audience were asked to sign at the door if they wanted to speak during the public comment period, so that they would have the names for the minutes.

Mayor Joe Stanley said he would like to keep each person's comments to three to five minutes.

Former Mayor Chuck Frickey, who commented that he used to sit

on the other side of the table, asked to talk about a petition to bar spending on a new runway at the airport. As a citizen, said Mr. Frickey, he, like many others, has unresolved questions in his mind. He added that he didn't think the council meeting was the proper time to get those answers. The information needs to be presented to everyone, with time for a conversation back and forth.

If the ordinance is adopted, he said, it means for 10 years the city is prohibited from spending money, (See PEOPLE on Page 8A)



AT THE FAIRGROUND on Sunday morning, Gary Orr used a tractor to pull an old baler during the 29th Annual

Mini Sappa Antique Engine and Thresher Show.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Spectators learn about antique machinery

Spectators milled around the Decatur County Fairground, looking at antique working engines, quilts, items to buy, cars, machinery and other displays all weekend as the annual Mini Sappa Antique Engine and Thresher Show brought out people of all ages.

The show Saturday and Sunday brought in people from two states and 18 towns, said Liane Martin, secretary of the group. Entries included 36 tractors, six engine exhibitors with several engines, 10 mowers, 19 vehicles and others.

For each day, the top five tractors and cars are chosen.

On Saturday, the top five tractors were:

- a 1950 Lanz Bulldog owned by Bill Anderson of Superior, Neb.
- a 1947 John Deere D owned by George and LaDonna Brown of Jetmore.
- a 1953 IH Super M owned by

Eugene Anderson of McCook.

- a 1951 IHC H owned by Tom Solko of Herndon.

- a 1937 Farmall F20 owned by Bernard Hinrichs of Bruning, Neb.

On Sunday, the top five tractors were:

- a 1938 John Deere B owned by Ray and Ruth Griffith of Phillipsburg.

- a 1942 Farmall H owned by Toby Griffith of Glade.

- a 1951 Minneapolis Moline BF owned by Vickie Lippelmann of Oberlin.

- a 1950 Allis Chalmers owned by Norman Wendel of Almena.

On Saturday, the top five vehicles were:

- a 1949 Chevy two-door Fleetline owned by Alvin Koenig of Colby.
- a 1928 Whippet 95 Coach owned by Jim Marshall of Ober-

lin.

- a 1954 GMC pickup owned by Gus Wolters of Oberlin.

- a 1965 Chevy Corvette owned by Gary Orr of Oberlin.

- a Willys M-38 Army Jeep owned by Gary Allen of Oberlin.

On Sunday, the top five vehicles were:

- a 1927 Chevy Landau Coupe AA owned by Jim Marshall of Oberlin.

- a 1973 Chevy C10 pickup owned by Everett Shuler of Oberlin.

- a 1950 Ford F5 truck owned by Tom Solko of Herndon.

- a 1955 Willys U.S. Marine Corp Jeep M38A1 owned by Col. Allen of Oberlin.

- a 1991 Cushman Truckster Police Car owned by Tom Solko of Herndon.

On Saturday afternoon, James West, Bob Steele, Buche Martin,

Al Berndt, Lis Boucher, Gary Sanger and Gary Hammersmith tried their hand at the stock garden tractor pull.

Winners of the kids' pedal tractor pull that day:

- Brynna Addleman, first, and Tara Larson, second in the 3-6 year-olds.

- Blake Cole, first in the 7-10 year-olds.

- Nick Cole, first, and Lane Cole, second in the 10-13 year-olds.

Both days, the group had a concession stand with breakfast and lunch. The Decatur Community High School Kayettes did a great job working in the concession stand, said Mrs. Martin.

Saturday evening the group held a dinner and Sunday morning a nondenominational church service, which was well attended.

Sappa Park to get working bathrooms

The Oberlin City Council agreed Thursday to spend just under \$17,000 to help put bathrooms inside the existing shelter house at Sappa Park.

Kimberly Davis, co-convenor of the Sappa Park Committee, said the committee's been working on a grant from the Kansas Department of Commerce's Tourism and Attraction program.

She said the committee wants to put in an "eloo" outhouse at the

first campground, two handicap restrooms and showers in the shelter house, a bulk underground storage tank, four picnic tables and four benches, paint the shelter house, erect an entry sign to the park, place four heavy-duty trash cans and playground equipment.

On his arrival, Gary Anderson, another committee member, took over the presentation.

The grant is a 60/40 match, he said, with the state paying 40 per-

cent. He said the cost is estimated at \$54,791 for everything, 60 percent of that is \$32,874 with \$3,000 from the Oberlin Convention and Visitors Bureau, \$3,000 in in-kind work, \$10,000 from the Sappa Park Fund and \$16,874 from the city.

The idea is to use the existing spaces in the shelter house, said Mr. Anderson, where the rest rooms originally were on the north side of the breezeway. The park committee, he said, decided to keep the

project with as low maintenance as possible with stainless steel fixtures and walls and floors that can just be sprayed down.

The idea is that whoever is maintaining it can take a hose in and just wash it down.

The underground holding tank, said Mr. Anderson, would have to be pumped out when it's full. Councilman Bill Riedel had suggested hooking a dump station for motor

(See COUNCIL on Page 8A)

Woman to compete in Europe

By **STEVE HAYNES**

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Oberlin's Jo Ann Lerew leaves Friday for the Czech Republic. It's her first trip to Europe, and she admits she's pretty excited, but this is not exactly a vacation.

After landing in Prague, she and her handler will take a train across the eastern European nation to Ostrava for the 18th Women's and 27th Men's World Masters Powerlifting Championship competitions.

Her red, white and blue uniform is packed, her ticket is ready and, though it's all a little unreal, she's primed to compete in the women's 40-to-50 category.

So how does a girl from Kansas wind up at an international weight-lifting competition?

"I started when I was 40," she said. "I signed up with a personal trainer to get into shape and lose some weight."

He said I was very strong for a girl."

At the time, she said, she was living in Spearfish, S.D., where she lived for 15 years. The gym



AT HER DESK, JoAnn Lerew worked on a project in *The Oberlin Herald*. Ms. Lerew leaves this week for Europe, where she will compete in an international weight-lifting championship.

— Herald staff photo by Steve Haynes

formed a powerlifting team, and they started going to meets.

"We had a lot of fun," Ms. Lerew said. "There was a lot of camaraderie."

We took our medals back and (See WOMAN on Page 8A)

Scores low in reading

The Oberlin School District didn't make the "adequate yearly progress" in reading at the high school last year, as required by the No Child Left Behind Act, a problem which eventually could threaten the district's federal money.

Superintendent Duane Dorshorst and Principal Charlie Haag gave the board members the numbers during their meeting last Monday.

At the high school, they said, 57 percent of the 31 students in the free and reduced lunch program made the number. The standard required is 76.7 percent.

Mr. Dorshorst said they've put a challenge out to the teachers to find ways to help these kids score higher on these tests, including different ways to teach reading.

He said the district would have to fail to meet those standards for two years before it would put on "school improvement" status.

This is the first time in a long time, said Mr. Dorshorst, that the district hasn't met all of the required numbers during state assessment tests.

The adequate yearly progress provision requires schools to make improvements in their scores. Besides math and reading, he said, the government looks at attendance and graduation rate.

Statewide, said Mr. Dorshorst, 172 schools didn't meet adequate yearly progress goals. Of those,

School Roundup

At the monthly meeting last Monday, the Oberlin School Board:

- Talked about the upcoming swine flu vaccine sessions and sending information home to parents so the shots can be given at school. Story to come.

- Accepted the resignation of an assistant coach. Story to come.

- Heard the district didn't meet the adequate yearly progress standards in reading at the high school last year. Story at left.

- Approved goals for the district for the new year and members to sit on committees to work toward those goals. Story to come.

110 missed the mark in reading and 122 in math. Last year, he added, 138 schools missed the goals in 34 districts. Every year, he said, that number will go up. That's because the standards keep going up, said Member Dan Nedland.

Statewide, the lowest scores are in the text-type questions on the reading portion of the test, said Mr. Dorshorst. Some of those are going to be taken out, but they will be replaced with other questions.

