

Sisters to travel to Australia this summer

Two Oberlin girls plan to travel to Australia with People to People in July.

Nakita, a high school senior, and Darian Bose, a high school junior, applied for the program in October of last year. They found out at the end of November that they were both accepted.

Nakita traveled to Europe last year with the same program and this year her sister decided she wanted to go too.

On the two week trip, said Nakita, they will do service projects, learn about the government and culture in Australia and see the sights.

The program, said the girls' mom Kala, was set up by President Dwight Eisenhower to promote world peace. Using children, added Nakita.

There are lots of groups each year, she said, with their own delegation leaders that travel to different places.

While the group will stay a few nights with host families, most of the trip will be spent in hotels.

Each of the girls needs to raise

\$6,000 to go on the trip. So far, they said, they have held a bake sale, raffle, sold flowers and sent out support letters. By the way, said Mrs. Bose, thanks to everyone who has helped so far.

They still have a little over half the money to raise for the July 10 trip. They are going to try to set up a fundraiser dinner, but that hasn't yet been done.

Anyone wanting to support the trip can send money to 2238 Highway 83 Oberlin, Kan. 67749.

Nakita said the trip is the most amazing thing ever. It's a once in a lifetime, or in her case, twice in a lifetime experience. She added that they will get to do things other tourists don't for instance spend the day backstage of the Sydney Opera House.

It's a good experience, said Mrs. Bose. Nakita has used the knowledge gained from the first trip already for school.

When the sisters return, the family plans to hold an open house or ice cream social so the girls can show pictures and talk about the trip.



Kids go to Bible school

AT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL last Wednesday, Jacie Fortin (above left) and Reece Grafel held their hands up high while they took part in singing in the sanctuary at the Oberlin Covenant Church. Pastor Chris Nelson (left) got ready to read a passage from the Bible to the kids. With the Rain Forest theme, many of the helpers wore safari-type hats and clothes.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



Bad check deters getting races here

The Decatur County commissioners talked about a bad check given to the county Fair Board by a former race promoter.

Commissioner Gene Gallentine said at the meeting Tuesday, May 18, that the board had a bad check from the former race promoter Joe Bellm again. He asked if it needed to be turned over to the county attorney, and County Attorney Steve Hirsch said it did.

Mr. Gallentine said one reason that the Decatur Speedway hasn't been able to get races this year is that the former promoter may not have paid the International Motor Contest Association.

At a recent Fair Board meeting, he said, the group approved a plumbing bid for around \$7,300 to install sewer dumps and electric wiring in the parking lot area where harvest crews camp. He said he thinks the board plans to use an existing sewage tank so the harvest crews that park at the fairground can use the hookups.

Mr. Gallentine said a suggestion had been made to combine the fair board and the amusement authority. Maybe it's something the commu-

nity needs to start thinking about, he said.

There can't just be six or seven people to run the carnival for the fair, said Commissioner Ralph Unger. The authority has pretty much struck out on finding new members.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved increasing the pay of Marilyn Mack as chief dispatcher by 50 cents an hour, to \$13.35.

- Approved buying a new computer for the register of deeds for \$1,258 and one for the appraiser's office for less through Mortensen Computer Services out of Norton.

- Heard that Larry Ganje had completed training to drive the transportation bus.

- Discussed whether the vaccines at the Health Department would be covered under the county's insurance if it went bad because of a loss of power. The department lost power last week, said Mr. Gallentine, and the question was brought up. He said he asked Administrator Marilyn Gamblin how much vaccine the county has at peak times.

Temporary replacement to lead city

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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With the departure of former City Administrator Austin Gilley, the Oberlin City Council, which had been expected to hire a replacement at its meeting on Thursday, moved instead to name a temporary replacement.

After a 30-minute closed-door session, the council passed a motion to appoint City Clerk Karen Larson as acting administrator for three months and pay her "accordingly."

Mrs. Larson accepted the additional job with the remark that she wasn't sure how she would get everything done.

One of the council members had approached Mrs. Larson prior to the meeting about the job, stating that she was already doing it so why not make it official. The city has a lot of projects going on, the water, airport

and others, so they need someone to contact. The city needs the continuity, said Mrs. Larson.

Mrs. Larson said she loves the city and has a lot of pride in her town. She's lived here for the past 15 years and Oberlin is her husband, Craig's hometown.

In other business, the council:

- Discussed the former youth ranch and possible water problems. Mayor Joe Stanley said he thought that the council should have a figure available for anyone interested in leasing the buildings. Mr. Stanley said that he understood that the ranch costs the city \$5,000 to \$6,000 a year in upkeep when it is empty and he thought that the city should charge at least that much.

City Foreman Dan Castle said that he thought water might be a problem since the former well permit was in the name of Kelley Youth

Services. He said the city would probably need to get a permit for the ranch and the shelter house if it would be providing water for more than 10 people.

The water, which also serves the first primitive campground at Sappa Park, is shut off right now, he added.

- Agreed to donate \$500 for fireworks for the Fourth of July. Former Oberlin businessman Rusty Addleman, who has handled fund raising for the fireworks display for many years, made the request.

- Learned that the sidewalk to The Gateway should be removed by Saturday so that a new circle drive could be staked out.

- Was told that the new trees around the civic center were doing well and that the crew is preparing to trim deadwood out of the older ones.

- Heard Mayor Stanley say the office staff had done a great job of getting the May utility bills out. Mr. Stanley said that the goal is to have the new computer billing program working next month.

- Held a 20-minute closed session with the police chief, council, mayor and city attorney for nonelected personnel and another 20-minute closed session with the council, mayor and lawyer for attorney-client privilege. No action was taken after either of these sessions.

- Accepted a request for \$500 or more from Karen Bolt of Atwood for the Northwest Kansas Domestic Violence Services. Ms. Bolt, a volunteer, told the council that the service had helped at least 11 Decatur County residents in 2009.

Two area men file to run for office

Two Decatur County men have filed to run for office in the upcoming election.

Stan McEvoy of Oberlin, a Republican, will seek re-election as a Decatur County commissioner in district No. 1. So far, no one else has filed for the seat.

Democrat Bob Strevey of Northcutt has signed up to run for the 120th District in the House of Representatives for the fifth time. The seat is held by Rep. John Fab-

er of Brewster, who said Monday he has filed for re-election. Ward Cassidy, a St. Francis educator and former principal, also has filed as a Republican.

County Clerk Colleen Geihlsler, who serves as the county election officer, said the last day to file for office is noon on Thursday.

Those are the only filings so far in Decatur County, she said.

The last day to register to vote is Tuesday, July 19.

Commissioners approve purchase of power lift

The Decatur County commissioners approved purchasing a Simon Aerial Lift from federal surplus in Topeka with the county paying half the bill and the Amusement Authority the other half.

Jim Wesch, an authority board member, talked with the commissioners at the meeting last Tuesday about the lift. He said it would work

on the fair grounds to help check the swings, put in light bulbs on the Ferris Wheel, welding and for other tasks.

He said the authority could pay \$3,000 for half of the lift. Mr. Wesch said he thought the piece of equipment was pretty safe, but training would be needed. He added that he thought the

price was good.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman said the lift could be used to help with cutting trees or working on bridges.

The commissioners approved paying for half of the lift. Mr. Stallman said he would check to see who would pick up the lift.

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