

Relay set for Friday at Gateway

Tie up those walking shoes. It's time to pound the ground for the 10th annual Decatur County Relay for Life.

The annual event raises money for the American Cancer Society to help with cancer research and development.

Diane Barrett, a member of the organizing committee, said the relay helps everyone. If a cure for cancer could be found, she added, it would be wonderful.

The evening starts at 5:30 p.m. Friday with a survivors dinner at The Gateway. Starting at 6 p.m., the meal will be open to the public with Robert Groneweg cooking barbecue beef. That meat will be made into sandwiches and chips will be served with them for a donation.

At 7 p.m., survivors will be asked to walk the first lap around the arena, followed by one for the survivors and their caregivers and then one with everyone else. The Community Band will play background music while they walk.

Each of the seven teams has been asked to decorate a table inside The Gateway. Those will be voted on around 8 p.m. Team relay races will also start around 8 p.m., said Mrs. Barrett.

There will be a few kid-carnival games from 8 to 9 p.m. also.

At 9 p.m., she said, will be a survivor talk, followed by the lighting of and reading of the names on the luminaries.

Team members will walk on a track outlined with luminaries until 1 a.m.

The seven teams are from the Decatur Professional Women, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency and Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Oberlin Clinic, the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center, Decatur County employees and two teams from the Decatur County Hospital.

This year's theme, said Mrs. Barrett, is "A world with less cancer is a world with more birthdays."

Tornado sirens send residents to their basements

Tornado sirens blew Friday night in Oberlin, Dresden and Jennings as several tornadoes were spotted near the Allison and Clayton areas in the far southeast part of the county.

The siren in Oberlin just blew one time at 7:52 p.m. As it sounded, the rain started, a couple of hailstones fell, and then the storm turned into a lightning show before it blew over.

In Jennings and Dresden, the sirens went off at 7:44 p.m., 8:17 p.m. and 8:23 p.m.

Jacque Boultinghouse, emergency management director for Decatur and Sheridan counties, said there was some flooding in creek bottoms and over low lying roads in the south part of the county. The National Weather Service reported the Prairie Dog Creek at two feet over flood stage at the west end of Sebelius Reservoir, near Oronoque.

The storms also caused damage in several places over by Jennings, including some downed power poles, destroyed oil pump sheds and

damage to farms.

In Sheridan County, several trees were uprooted and laid over, said Ms. Boultinghouse, but she thought that was more from high winds than from tornadoes.

There were a minimum of four tornadoes seen by spotters, she added, with anywhere from 3 to 7 inches of rainfall.

Ms. Boultinghouse said she was on the side of the storm, but heard two officers on the east side of K-23 who saw two tornadoes from their location. Others were seen near Allison and on the ground in the Clayton area.

On Friday night, she said, the National Weather Service out of Goodland, asked her and Fire Chief Bill Cathcart to blow the sirens here "as soon as possible."

The tornadoes were pretty close to Dresden and Jennings, said Chief Cathcart. The storm, seemed to sit right on the county line south of Jennings and then fell apart.

Board members needed for carnival

With the Home-Owned Carnival quickly approaching, volunteers are needed for work nights, for carnival nights and to take over for board members whose terms are up after the fair.

Judy Scott, president of the Decatur County Amusement Authority, said the board plans to set work nights at its meeting this week.

The Octopus needs work, the

ferris wheel needs to be painted and all the games and rides need general maintenance. She said the board members have an idea on how to paint the ferris wheel, but need manpower to get the job done.

She said she's had some people call already to sign up to volunteer to work a game or a ride but everything isn't yet covered.

(See CARNIVAL on Page 10A)

Sunflower rec center open during the week

The Sunflower Recreation Center is open in the front part of the Sunflower Cinema and future bowling alley for kids to hang out during the week.

Greg Lohofener, with the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp, said the recreation area is open from 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday for the summer. The time is supervised by either an

adult or an older teenager.

The concession stand is open for people to buy candy, popcorn or something to drink, he said, and they are adding nachos, pretzels and a few other food items.

It doesn't cost anything to hang out at the center, he said, but there is a fee for some of the activities. The pool table and arcade games are 50 cents each. The Wii games and air-hockey tables are free, and they are working on getting a foosball table.

(See CENTER on Page 10A)



ON SATURDAY, Ron Solko (above) helped shred meat (bottom) carried a garden hoe to help make the gravy. He which fed 2,800 to 3,000 people at the Herndon Ox Roast. is the grandson of Don Solko, the head chef. Morgan and Rielly Ketterl (below) rode in the D&S Grain and Cattle Co. float in the parade. Garrett Schroeder, 4,

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Roast draws crowd

Thousands eat at Herndon feed

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
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Volunteers served lunch for over two hours Saturday during the Herndon Ox Roast, doling out three cows' worth of meat.

Green cattle panels were set up in the park, allowing three lines of people through for a sandwich with beef cooked for 24 hours in a pit, chips and a cookie.

The big iron pan filled with beef, gravy, vegetables and carrots was dug out of the ground by a front-end loader shortly after the parade on Main Street.

Men used pitch forks to move the meat after a layer of foil was removed from the top. Then they shredded it using two-pronged meat forks while the steam and aroma filled the air.

Lines of people waited patiently in the park, listening to background music and talking with friends.

Peach Beims, president of the Herndon Chamber of Commerce, said they served 2,800 to 3,000 for lunch.

Even with the weather being cool and drizzly, she said, there was a really good turnout for the event.

The cafe on Main Street was busy all day, with senior citizens chatting and watching the happenings. Food was delivered to them.

The event, Mrs. Beims said, takes place every five years and has since 1914. She said it takes around 100 volunteers. Around 130 people live in Herndon, so pretty much the whole town is involved; not everyone, but just about everyone.

People pitch in and do their part, from sprucing up the town beforehand to helping with the meal.

The Herndon Chamber heads up the event, although there is a committee of more than 20 people as well as the three Chamber officers including Mrs. Beims, Secretary Nadine Green and Jayne Niermeier, vice president/treasurer.

The committee members, said Mrs. Beims, did a wonderful job, as did the committee chairs. Just a wonderful job!

Each Ox Roast takes 17 to 18 months to plan, which is part of



the reason it only happens every five years. Another, she said, is because people decided it was better for it to happen once in a while, instead of all the time. In four years, she said, the Ox Roast will celebrate its centennial.

There's some discussion about holding the next one in four years, instead of five, but no decision has been made.

The morning started with a parade, which drew 88 registered entries. A few others joined in at the end, said Mrs. Beims, so she thought there were around 90 in all.

Winners included:

- First place to Jim Tongish for a 1956 Belair, second to Jeff Samson for a 1929 Model A Ford and third to Bill and Shirley Jones for a 1923 Model T Ford for the antique auto division.

- First to Williams Brothers Supermarket, second to Rawlins County Sanitation and third to Herndon Pool Hall for the business division.

- First to the Herndon Pride Committee, second to St. Mary's Assumption Catholic Church and third to the Herndon Chamber of Commerce for civic/church.

- First to Leon Portschy, second to Gary Kastens and third to Brenda "Harris" Guess for the "just for fun" category.

- First to Lawrence Wendelin, second to Kyle Grafel and third to Ernest and Betty Wicke for the horse division.

- First to Joe and Nadine Green for a 1968 30 tractor, second to Delmar Solko for a tractor train



and third to Nolan Draper for a 1956 Model 70 with spreader for the tractor division.

The parade, said Mrs. Beims, went very well. (See ROAST on Page 10A)



*Carnival needs help

(Continued from Page 1A)
 Authority members will have a volunteer sign-up sheet in the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce starting next week, said Ms. Scott.
 She said they plan to have all of the rides inspected before the carnival the first full week in August. The toys to be given away at the games have been ordered and delivered.
 So far, all the shifts for the concession stand are covered, said Ms. Scott. Amusement Authority members Melinda Grafel and Candi Ketterl have worked on the concession stand and found volunteers for it.
 Member Dana Koerperich works on getting the volunteers for the two ticket booths. Anyone wanting to sell tickets should call her.
 On Tuesday, Aug. 3, the board will have a "wristband night" again. Ms. Scott said the price hasn't been set. The board will also discuss whether prices for the rides will go up this year.
 Really, the biggest thing right now is that the authority needs volunteers to serve on the board, said Ms. Scott.

Current members' terms are up at the end of the carnival. They need some new board members to keep the carnival going.
 Ms. Scott said that she thought some of the members might stay on as advisors if other people volunteer. If no one comes on board, she added, she's not sure any of the board members will stay.
 There are a few people who might be on the verge of saying yes to serve on the board, she added, but they haven't made a decision.

Participants, said Mrs. Bryan would need to bring their own bar rows.
 • Kids' sidewalk chalk drawing, sponsored by The Oberlin Herald.
 • Patriotic music at the Centennial Park gazebo for an hour.
 • Coffee and cookies in the Golden Age Center.
 • Silent movies at Sunflower Cinema at 1, 3 and 6 p.m.
 • A hot-dog and watermelon feed from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Golden Age Center.
 • A parade and ice cream at 6:30 p.m. at the Good Samaritan Center.
 • A "intergenerational historical treasure hunt" at 7:30 p.m.
 • A texting competition with cell phones at 8:30 p.m.
 • A kids' building contest with construction sets at 8:30 p.m.
 Mrs. Bryan said she's talked with the Oberlin City Council about closing Main Street from the highway to Hall Street from 2 to 7 p.m.
 Fireworks are planned at dusk at the fairgrounds.
 Mrs. Bryan said she's been impressed with the unity and cooperation of the churches and thinks all are now involved. Everyone is really pulling together, she said, and it's amazing what a small town can create when everyone pulls together.

Family activities planned

Oberlin's 125th Anniversary celebration for the Fourth of July will be packed with fun activities for the entire family.
 Each week ideas brainstormed by the 125th planning committee are becoming more and more solid. With a little over three weeks left, volunteers say, a few things have changed and some activities have been added as the schedule for the Sunday continues to form.
 Kem Bryan, who is helping coordinate the events with Faith Lutheran Church and the Decatur County Ministerial Association, said one of the new ideas is to ask people to take pictures during the day and then enter them in the Decatur County Fair on Tuesday, Aug. 3. There will be a category at the fair for these pictures. Entries can be brought to the 4-H Building from 9 a.m. to noon that day.
 Anyone with questions should call the Twin Creeks Extension District at 475-8121.
 There will be a first place prize. Restrooms will be open at the city pool starting at 1 p.m. and also at the Golden Age Center from 1 to 7 p.m. on the Fourth.
 Mrs. Bryan said the committee has received donations from The Bank, the City of Oberlin, Decatur County and the Decatur Co-op Association. Table service for a com-

munity potluck has been given by Farmers Bank and Trust.
 Some of the events are still tentative as they are looking for people to help run them, Mrs. Bryan said. Ideas for events so far include:
 • Reading of the Declaration of Independence or part of it.
 • A community church service, which Pastor Chris Nelson is organizing. John Paulson will speak.
 • A community potluck lunch at City Park with the Community-wide Band playing.
 • Activities at the pool in the afternoon.
 • Volleyball at the park for adults and kids.
 • A corn tank, with coins for kids to dig for.
 Around 3 to 4 p.m., she said, the celebration would move downtown.
 Ideas for events there include:
 • Lawn mower races with two classifications, one for zero radius and riding mowers. Contestants need to bring their own mower; a cash prize will be given.
 The second will be for a one-handed push mower, with a trophy given. The push mower will be provided.
 • Best-decorated bicycles, which the Oberlin Police Department will help with.
 • A kid-adult team wheel barrow

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KYLE GRAFEL took second place in the horse division during the Herndon Ox Roast parade on Saturday. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

*Roast draws large crowd

(Continued from Page 1A)
 The last entrant was Ron Leitner, who then used a skid loader to unload large round hay bales to block off Main Street so vehicles couldn't enter.
 In the afternoon, there was cow patty bingo, she said, which didn't go exactly as was planned as the cow didn't due her part. Killian O'Brien ended up throwing his hat in place of the patty and it landed on E6. The number was called and Greg Unger, of Goodland, won \$1,500.

In the early evening, the outhouse races were held. Only two teams built outhouses on wheels, although 10 teams entered.
 First place, she said, went to Team Destruction with Jim Riener, Daniel Riener, John Riener, Jeff Riener and Ricky Lane. Second place went to the Class of 1980 with Kyle Grafel, Beverly Unger Zipfel, Mary Carlson, Brenna Crandall and Robert Cole. Third place went to the Class of 1980 girls and teammates including Patty Park, Brenna Cran-

dall, Carolyn Grafel Martin, Sarah Grafel and another team member.
 Raffle tickets were sold with Lexi Basgall winning a Wii console and controllers. A \$200 savings bond went to Norma Miller for second. Two \$50 gift certificates from Williams Brothers went to Sandy Rush and Myrna Mohr and 25 pound packages of ground beef went to Carla Marintzer and Jerry Niemeth for third.

*Center open in afternoons

(Continued from Page 1A)
 So far, not a lot of people are using the center, but the kids are welcome. The center, said Mr. Lohofener, might also be open for some special occasions like the Fourth of July celebration.

As far as the bowling alley goes, he said the corporation is about \$142,000 short of the money needed to complete everything. That includes electronic scoring.
 He is still looking for grant possibilities and so are a few other

people.
 There isn't really anything that can be cut out of the price, he said. They could put in temporary scoring, but that costs \$10,000 to \$15,000 and the electronic one costs \$45,000, so it's not really worth it.

Cemetery clean up needed

It's time to pick up flowers and decorations left near the headstones at the Oberlin Cemetery.
 The items need to be cleaned up before Sunday, said Sexton Nan Stanley, so that maintenance work can be done over the summer. Items not picked up before then will be cleaned up by the city.

Market set to start

The summer farmers market in downtown Oberlin will start at the end of the month.
 Carolyn Hackney, Chamber of Commerce manager, said the first market is scheduled for 8 a.m. next Wednesday.
 In the past, people have sold their vegetables, fresh-baked breads and rolls, jams, jellies and other relishes and a few homemade crafts.
 Ms. Hackney said the market will be held either in front of the chamber office or in Centennial Park.
 People can stay as late as they want selling their items, she said.

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