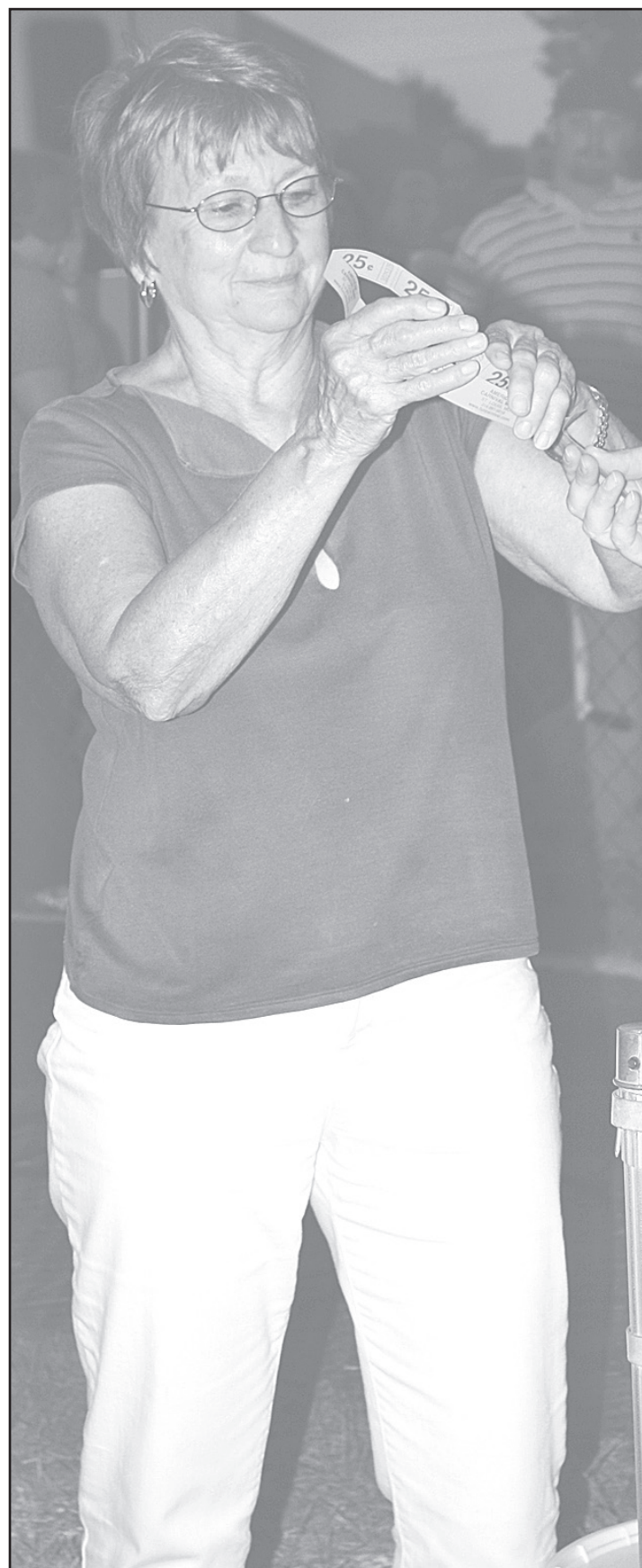




A YOUNG GIRL rode round and round on the merry-go-round (above) on the first night of the home-owned carnival. Nanette Zander (left below) took tickets on Friday

night at the Ferris Wheel. Darrell and Kay Jones (right below) ate a funnel cake.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis and Cynthia Haynes



Carnival brings out county families

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
k.davis@nwkansas.com
Kids' laughter, parents' talk and music filled the air last week at the Decatur County Fairground.

The Home-Owned Carnival kicked off last Tuesday with wrist-band night. Kids young and old and adults bought them for \$15 and rode an unlimited number of rides.

The lines moved quickly, leaving riders with little wait time and the opportunity to ride whatever they wanted several times in the evening.

Judy Scott, president of the county Amusement Authority, said they ended up closing the carnival a little bit early that night because lightning got too close.

Ms. Scott said she thought the carnival did well every night of the week, although the group doesn't have any final numbers yet. It normally takes a few weeks to get all the bills in, she said.

Each night the carnival was open, she added, the crowd seemed to grow. By Saturday

night there were lines at all the rides, although none of the waits was too long.

On Saturday, Ms. Scott announced a few openings for volunteers to run games for the late shift. She said this was probably the best year recently for volunteers; the authority managed to get every shift covered.

Members of the authority board include Dana Koerperich, Jennifer Schiessler, Jim Wesch, Robert Rouse, Brad Larson, Charissa Huff, Melinda Grafel, Candy Ketterl and Ms. Scott.

Most of those members were appointed three years ago come January, Mrs. Scott said. Those members will then be stepping down.

Ms. Scott said three who recently came on board and will stay are Mr. Rouse, Mr. Larson and Mrs. Huff, so the authority needs nine more members to fill out the board. Each term runs for three years, said Ms. Scott.

While the carnival went well (See BOARD on Page 12)

Students go back to school

Classes start Tuesday in the Oberlin district

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
k.davis@nwkansas.com

Summer will come to an end for kids bright and early Tuesday morning, when students in the Oberlin School District head back to school.

School starts at 8:10 a.m. at the junior/senior high school and 8:20 a.m. at the grade school.

Superintendent Duane Dorshorst said he thinks the district will have around 365 students, although not everyone has enrolled yet. On Monday morning, he said, the staff at both schools started to call parents of children who attended school here last year and aren't yet enrolled for this year.

Mr. Dorshorst said 20 or more students at the junior/senior high school aren't yet enrolled and about 30 at the grade school. Of those, there are only two or three kids whose families the secretaries haven't been able to reach.

Parents have to enroll their children every year, even if they attended the school last year. Mr. Dorshorst said any parents who haven't yet enrolled their children need to do so.

Although the students start classes Tuesday morning, teachers return today for two days of training and two work days.

Over the summer, while students have been swimming, going on

vacations and attending the county fair, school staff members have been working on getting the buildings ready for the new year.

At the grade school, said Mr. Dorshorst, they didn't change much, although it's been cleaned and some painting has been done. Technology has been upgraded and two trees in front of the building were removed after blowing over during a storm.

The high school has new ceiling tile and lights in some of the halls and the cafeteria, the floors were redone and the blue paint on the trim on the City Park side has been painted red. He added that although the new doors aren't in, the trim around them has also been painted red.

Some work in the cafeteria and auditorium won't be done before school starts, he said.

Two new teachers coming on board this year are Kerrie Wahlmeier in third grade and Deedre Frasier who will be teaching seventh-, eighth- and 10th-grade English.

"We are excited about the new school year," said Mr. Dorshorst. "Excited about the changes in the schedule at the junior/senior high and think the students and community will like the upgrades we are doing with the facility and those we plan to continue to do."

Spree winner to be chosen at picnic tonight

Time's up to enter in the Oberlin Merchants' Big \$1,000 Shopping Spree, but if you have your name in the box, better show up for the drawing tonight at City Park.

All the entries were picked up from participating businesses on Tuesday. The drawing will be during the Back to School Picnic at 6:30 p.m. tonight in City Park. The event is sponsored by the Oberlin Business Alliance, the Oberlin School District and the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce.

The sponsors will provide barbecued beef for the meal, but everyone attending is asked to bring a side dish or something sweet to share. Picnic goers are also asked to bring their own table service and lawn chairs. Water will also be provided.

During the picnic, the staff at *The Oberlin Herald* will draw for the winner of the shopping spree.

You must be present during the drawing to go home with the money.

Names will be drawn until someone speaks up.

That person then has until Tuesday, Aug. 31, to spend the money at participating stores only. The scrip is good for merchandise only, and only at sponsoring businesses. No change will be given.

The winner has to notify *The Herald* so a photographer can go with them to shop.

Anyone 18 or older has been able to enter the contest without making a purchase. People have had the chance to sign up as many times as they have wanted over the past six weeks.

Sponsors for this year's Spree include Dale's Fish 'N' Fun, Culligan Water, Ward Drug Store, Stanley Hardware, R&M Service Center and *The Herald*.

If the weather is bad, the picnic and the drawing will be moved inside to the high school cafeteria.

Hospital tourney set for Saturday

It's time for the 10th Annual Decatur Health Systems Golf Benefit.

Golfing starts first thing Saturday morning, with 29 teams taking to the greens. That evening, a prime rib dinner will be served for \$30 at the American Legion Hall. The dinner starts at 7 p.m.

Dinner tickets are on sale until today. The golf tournament is full.

The hospital will hold a raffle during the dinner, with tickets at \$1 each or six for \$5. Tickets can be purchased that night or at the front office at the hospital. Prizes include a three-minute shopping

spree at Raye's Grocery, a Dell 10-inch laptop computer, a Ping putter and a men's professional Tommy Armour 855 putter.

During the dinner, a live and silent auction will sell items donated by businesses.

Administrator Lynn Doeden said the money raised this year will go to improving patient comfort at the hospital, including buying new linens.

Lawsuit filed by couple against city is settled

A lawsuit between the city and a local woman has come to an end with a land transfer filed last week.

Julie and Gary Cunningham filed the suit against the city, claiming that the city's new wastewater lagoon system south of town was too close to their land.

Allen Glendenning, a Great Bend lawyer hired by the city's insurance company, said he filed an answer in November 2008, but he wasn't sure how far back the case went.

Mr. Glendenning said he wasn't sure when the grumbling turned to a lawsuit.

Last week, *The Oberlin Herald* published a deed showing that the Cunninghams had sold part of their land to the city. Mr. Glendenning said a 50-foot strip of land was part of the settlement.

That transfer, he said, will resolve the claim that the sewer lagoons were too close to the couple's property line under state regulations. That was resolved, said Mr. Glendenning, by es-

entially moving the property line back 50 feet.

While the suit was settled in May, he said, there were delays processing some of the paperwork.

Mr. Glendenning said he didn't have a copy of the final signed settlement agreement available.

Ninety percent of his practice, he said, is to represent cities and counties around the state. Litigating on behalf of municipalities, said Mr. Glendenning, is kind of his specialty.



*Board needs people

(Continued from Page 1A) for the week, she said, there were a few glitches. On the first night, there was a problem with a chain on the big swings. That was fixed. A few little things on the Tilt-a-Whirl were fixed right away.

On Saturday night, about midway through the evening, the train broke down. It lost a bolt, said Ms. Scott, and although volunteers tried to repair it, it didn't happen that evening.

While the group asked for volunteers to help them take down the rides, games and other items Sunday morning, only one person showed up to help, said Ms. Scott.

The board set a work day for Saturday, Aug. 21, to take down the rest of the rides and some lighting.

Once everything is put away, she said, the authority will have a post-fair meeting. That hasn't yet been scheduled, but anyone who might be willing to serve on the board is welcome to come.

Council to discuss budget

The Oberlin City Council has a full agenda for Thursday night, with hearings set on three structures in town that the code enforcement officer says are unsafe, a hearing on the 2010 budget and more.

The meeting, which starts at 7 p.m. Thursday at The Gateway, will be open to the public.

The agenda includes:
 •Hearing for the houses at 113 W. Hall owned by Kenneth Morgan; 608 N. Neill, owned by Evan and Judy Goltl; and 203 E. Hall, owned by Ed and Vivian Russ.

• The budget hearing. The city's proposed budget has a 1.9 mill property tax increase. On a \$50,000 house, that would be an increase of \$11 a year.

• Someone from NexTech and Rural Telephone plan to tell what the business is planning to do with the building it bought on Main Street.

• A representative from Miller and Associates will discuss the engineering firm's evaluation of repairs needed on city streets.

Election counts are good

The Decatur County commissioners counted the tally marks, double checking the results for the primary election, on Friday morning.

County Clerk Colleen Geihlsler, who serves as the county election officer, said Commissioners Stan McEvoy, Gene Gallentine and Ralph Unger checked the election books during a special meeting.

They didn't find anything miss added, she said.

When the commissioners canvass the vote, said Ms. Geihlsler, they take the tally books from each precinct which are filled out on election night and count all the tally marks for each candidate.

The chairman, Mr. Unger, has the sheet and the other commissioners count the tally marks and then tell him how many there are.

By the end, the votes have been counted election night, then by the clerk's office and again by the commissioners, said Ms. Geishler.

She said the county had one provisional ballot that the commissioners decided not to count. The voter did the ballot for one party, she said, but was registered for another party.

At the swine show



AT THE 4-H SWINE SHOW last Wednesday, Keann Jacobs showed her hog as one of her projects.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Warning alert for cable system isn't working

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
 k.davis@nwkansas.com

The system used to warn Oberlin residents about storms and other dangers over the cable system isn't working, Decatur County commissioners heard Tuesday.

Chief Dispatcher Marilyn Mack said that the system hasn't worked for several months.

Mrs. Mack said she had previously called Eagle Communications about the alert system a few months ago. Since then the representative has been looking for a new alert system. Although it was tested again last week, she said, it still isn't working.

She said she talked with Eagle Communications, which owns the cable system, and a new system would cost around \$3,000.

Mrs. Mack said the alert system is activated by calling a 475 telephone number, then the dispatch person says what the broadcast needs to say.

The system seizes the television, gives the alert sound and then the announcement scrolls along the bottom of the set.

Mrs. Mack said they can still call the number and the system still seizes the televisions, but there isn't an alert sound or the broadcast.

She said she wasn't sure if it's a computer system or how it operates, but knows that a representative from Eagle Communications is working on the problem. Jacque Boultinghouse, county emergency management director, is also working on the problem.

There was some discussion on how many people have cable and whose responsibility it is to keep the system working. County Attorney

Steve Hirsch, who is also the city attorney, said the system should be covered by the city's franchise agreement with the company. He said he would check.

The commissioners approved a letter for support for a 911 grant for dispatch.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman said the county transportation bus broke down. The air conditioner compressor froze up, causing the idler pulley to slip, burning the main drive belt. For new parts, it would cost \$772, he said, and for used it would cost \$512.

The commissioners said to park the minivan and start using the yellow bus. The commissioners aren't going to pay to fix it.

Ms. Boultinghouse said she talked to Gary Flannigan about a quote for a transportable, weatherproof radio case and cable for the new 800 mega hertz radio she has. The commissioners approved the \$430 purchase.

She said she also had a \$525 bill for an external antenna to be installed on the Jennings tornado siren. The clear/fire function didn't always work, she said, but the antenna should fix the problem.

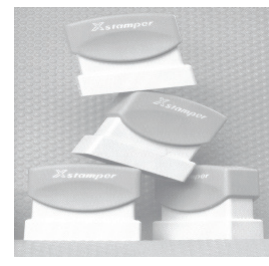
The commissioners approved that purchase also.

Ms. Boultinghouse said they won't find out about the grant for a new siren in Jennings until after the first of October.

In other business, the commissioners:

• Heard that the weed control department is starting to spray township roads.

• Appointed Jay Ketterl as Beaver Township trustee to replace Colt Diederich, who moved.



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