

County gets start on budget

Auditor called in to help

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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The Decatur County commissioners started to talk about the budget for next year last Tuesday, but didn't get too far and decided to call the county's auditor for a little help.

Clerk Colleen Geihlsler said accountant John Mapes would be at the meeting this week to work with the commissioners on the budget.

This is the first year for her and the deputy clerk to do the budget, she said. She called Mr. Mapes and got information and did the proposed budget the way he told them and he will be here to explain the reasoning.

Commissioner Gene Gallentine asked if the county receives any money for the recycling program. Ms. Geihlsler said not that she's aware of.

Not a penny, said Commissioner Ralph Unger. It's a deficit to the county. All of the money made off the recycled materials goes to the center in Colby.

The proposed budget has \$25,000 in it for recycling expenses.

Mr. Gallentine asked about an increase in the landfill budget. The county clerk said that the road and bridge department, bought a dozer that's used at the landfill, so the landfill needs to pay to use it.

The proposed landfill budget is \$75,000.

Commissioner Stan McEvoy said he's not sure how the sheriff proposes to cut his budget by \$8,000. There was no comment.

The commissioners flipped through the budget, although they didn't get to the rural fire or ambulance departments.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch, after flipping through the pages, said bottom line is that the county's valuation is up 13 percent and mill levy is up 5 percent. That doesn't include anything the county decides to pay to help with the city's airport expansion project, which could cost another mill or two.

With a proposed eight-tenths-of-a-mill increase for the fire department, the total increase could be four mills for most people in the county, Mrs. Geihlsler said.

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Enrollment at schools up from last year

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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The Oberlin School Board found out last Monday that the district might have only been two or three kids off when it figured the numbers for this year's budget.

Superintendent Duane Dorshorst said the district might end up two or three students less than the predicted number in the budget, depending on how things turn out. He said the district shouldn't have to republish the budget if the number is that close.

At the high school, he said, they have 177 students, up seven from where they ended last year. With the pre-kindergarten students, the grade school is at 201, he said.

That gives the district a total of 378 students. Last year on count day there were 372 students and the year before 388.

The official count day is Monday, Sept. 20.

Board member Doug Brown asked how many children the kindergarten ended up with and whether they would have to hire another teacher.

Mr. Dorshorst said they would up with 25, but one teacher should be able to handle the class. The

kindergarten class is going to do academics in the morning and then have gym, music, library and other activities in the afternoon.

In the morning, he said, they split for reading groups with five adults. The class has an extra aide in the morning, he said.

Actually, he added, the bigger issue is the first grade, where there are 22 students and two sets of twins, with just one teacher.

He said he's not happy with 25 students and just one teacher in the kindergarten, but there was only one parent who wanted half day kindergarten. If the district hires another kindergarten teacher and has two classes, some parents may be unhappy if their child can't have the current teacher, Diana Steinmetz.

Last year, he added, there were 22 students in the class. Other than the two sets of twins, who need to be split for socialization, the class did fine.

It's been proved that she can handle that size of a group, said board member Dan Nedland.

Mr. Dorshorst said he plans to keep a close eye on the two classes.

Club celebrates 30 years of shows

Organizers of the Mini Sappa Antique Thresher and Engine Show will celebrate 30 years with their show this month.

The event, held annually at the Decatur County Fairground, will be on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 18 and 19 this year.

Nikolaus Martin, son of Robert and Liane Martin of Herndon, wrote some memories of the club. He said the main organizers of the first show were Allen "Bus" and Carolyn Wurm. That first event drew around 10 automobiles, 18 tractors and 17 small engines.

A 1987 story from a newspaper reported that the show started because the couple had been attending the one in Bird City for quite some time and they decided to start one here before the 1985 Oberlin Centennial.

"The threshers have so much area history surrounding them, we decided that it would be an appropriate event," Mrs. Wurm said in the article.

The 15-inch-gauge train, donated to the home-owned carnival in 1980, was at the first show, too. That same train will be used this year, offering for free rides for everyone.

Within a few years of the first show, wrote Mr. Martin, the antique (See THRESHER on Page 5A)



JEANANN LEITNER (above) threw several cuts of meat into her cart Saturday during a three-minute shopping spree she won at Raye's Grocery. Owner Kirk Brown (below) counted down the last 10 seconds of the spree.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Woman fills cart with meat

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With a list clipped next to a stop watch on the front of her cart, Jean Ann Leitner was ready to go.

Raye's Grocery owner Kirk Brown called all the rest of the customers to the front of the store and started a countdown from 10. At "go," Mrs. Leitner took off, first grabbing three boxes of salmon from around the corner.

She tossed them in the cart and maneuvered towards the meat section in the back of the store.

Mrs. Leitner won a three-minute shopping spree during the annual Decatur Health Systems golf and dinner benefit.

At the meat department, she started loading her cart with steaks, prime rib and various cuts of red meat. On some, she remarked how heavy it was.

Around the corner, she tossed several large hams into the cart before heading for the crab legs.

The cart was full and there was less than a minute left as Mrs. Leitner headed up to the front of the store, where Mr. Brown, Raye's

employees, hospital Administrator Lynn Doeden, Judy Scott, materials management manager, and



board members Connie Grafel, Pam Wilson and Gary Walter waited.

Mrs. Leitner went back out with a fresh cart, forgetting her list.

She ended up with a few packages of coffee, lunch meat and a few other items before the three

minutes ran out.

While Mrs. Leitner didn't get all of the items on her list, she did end up with \$664.04 in groceries.

"Do I get punch cards for all of these?" she asked with a laugh.

After the groceries were loaded into her vehicle, Mrs. Leitner came

back in to finish her shopping.

She said she bought only six raffle tickets for \$5 at the golf tournament for the shopping spree, but one ended up as the winning ticket.

Annual Fun Day brings families to Jennings

A crowd flocked to Jennings on Saturday for the 19th annual Firemen's Fun Day, keeping volunteers busy from the health fair in the morning, through the midday parade and into the evening.

Seventy people took advantage of the health fair. Results will be sent to participants.

Over 100 dozen kolaches were baked in the

Masonic Hall. With some 70 dozen available for purchase at the fire house at 8 a.m., they were sold out by 11 a.m.

Other activities included a scavenger hunt, dunk tank, pony rides, a giant slide and train rides. This year, the pony rides and the giant slide rides were free.

Trooper Tod Hileman, a highway patrolman

from Colby, gave kids a chance to look inside and under the hood of his patrol car and to wear the "drunk" goggles to simulate the effects of driving under the influence of alcohol. "Brother Yo" of Youthville fascinated everyone with his yo-yo skills and John Whitfield, an illustrator and cartoonist from Oklahoma, kept busy doing (See EVENTS on Page 5A)

