

Carnival group needs people

To the Editor:

And then there were three.... This is probably my last letter to the editor as a member of the Decatur County Amusement Authority board. My term, as well as the terms of most of the members, expires this month.

The remaining members are Robert Rouse, Brad Larson and Charissa Huff.

We need nine more, because three people cannot put on a carnival at the county fair.

Some of us will, of course, be available to help with the transition (in an advisory capacity), but we will not be considered board members. We aren't going to leave anybody "high and dry," however.

Since the Chamber of Commerce severed ties with our board, we have asked, begged and pleaded for people to join this organization. I don't know what else we can do. I don't understand why people aren't coming forward.

Everyone enjoys the fair every year, and this year we had the best turnout of volunteers since we started.

I would like someone to explain this response to me, because it's the one we get the most: "Oh, I'll help out, but I don't want to be on

Letters to the Editor

the board." Being on the board involves going to a few meetings, setting a schedule for projects, and forming a time line for work nights. We've done most of that already. Oh, and working fair week, of course.

On a brighter note, we want to thank each and every person who helped in any way, shape or form with the fair the last three years. When I say we could not have done it without you, that is just such an understatement.

I would love to list names, groups and organizations, but it would take the entire paper, and I know I would leave too many people out by mistake. I'll just say "God bless you all."

People keep telling me not to worry, someone will keep it going. I so want to believe that, but being a skeptic by nature, this response doesn't give me a warm, fuzzy feeling. I would much prefer names.

So for those nine people out there just waiting to pick up that phone and say yes, you can contact any of the three members mentioned earlier, or call me at (785) 470-7269. We're waiting for your call....

Judy G. Scott, Oberlin president, Amusement Authority board

Writer not sympathetic

To the Editor:

Talk about opening up a can of worms! Actually, the article I am referring to doesn't really deserve a response, but for the woman who was bothered by the ambulance sirens and lights, I am going to tell you ways of resolving your problem:

• Move if it is too noisy by the ambulance barn. You knew it was there when you moved in. It is really nice out in the country if you want "peace and quiet."

You probably don't realize this,

but living by a hospital is probably the noisest place in town. Common sense, people; you're going to have ambulances coming and going with lights and sirens at all times of the day and night. You're going to have trucks bringing in supplies and cars driven by workers and visitors.

It's a good thing you don't live on the north side of the hospital with the helicopter pad, although I know it sometimes goes over your house. I can't speak for the residents at Cedar Living Center, but I have not heard

of anyone moving out because it's not a place of "peace and quiet."

• It is a state law that when an ambulance leaves to go on an emergency run they have to run the sirens that can be heard at least 500 feet.

Bottom line is, we have an ambulance service that is very much appreciated, and it is a known fact that sometimes this ambulance is going to go by your house at some point with their lights and sirens blazing. Why? Because they are trying to save a life.

Rose Riffle, Oberlin
PS: Maybe instead of complaining about the lights and sirens, you need to take a minute and say a prayer because someone needs help!

Write

The Oberlin Herald encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

Mail letters to 170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan., 67749, or by e-mail to oberlinherald@nwkansan.com.

We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise.

We do not publish form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area. Thank-yous from this area should be submitted to the Want Ad desk.

Letters will not be censored, but will be read and edited for form and style, clarity, length and legality.

Woman clarifies her siren problem

To the Editor:

I realize after receiving "hate mail" that I should have been more specific regarding my last letter to the editor.

I was upset about a particular occurrence, and while it doesn't happen all the time, it was happening more frequently.

The sirens were blaring that night while the ambulance was sitting still, waiting for the crew to get into the van.

During the daytime, this is necessary, because it has to be one of the busiest corners in town.

I just didn't see the need at 1:30 a.m. to run it excessively. Can't it wait 'til it's actually moving? When it happened again, well it just hit me wrong.

I know there are more important things in the world to worry about, but let's chalk it up to me having a bad day, OK?

I was hoping for some discretion regarding use of the siren, not implying it shouldn't be used at all. I know they have to run, and that's why I've never complained until now. The mention of the disco lights was my poor attempt at humor; my apologies.

I really have an utmost respect for all emergency personnel. All those who devote their time to serving others are my heroes.

They were wonderful to my mother when she had her wreck, and I don't know what this world would

be without them.

I cannot do what they do because I am disabled. And to respond to another letter, I receive Social Security.

The tax has been taken out of every check since I started working at 16. I pay my own bills and do not receive any assistance. I donate to my church and the food bank.

Another letter above mine in the paper asked for suggestions to help the community. I have one: If a person has an opinion and writes a letter to the editor, I don't think it promotes a sense of belonging to send unsigned letters calling them names, degrading their character and telling them to get over it or move.

My family moved into this house when I was 5. I grew up here, went to school here.

I learned we live in a democracy where we have freedom of speech, freedom of religion and freedom of the press. My husband fought in a war to help maintain these freedoms. This is still America ... isn't it?

Pamela Scribner, Oberlin
PS: "Neighbor," you did not sign your letter because "you made your living in this town and wanted to continue to do so".

I wrote my letter with faith in this community that we are adult enough to understand that it's only an opinion. I suppose it's easier to stay hidden if you're throwing rocks.

Photo Policy

The Oberlin Herald wants to emphasize photos of people doing things in the community. If you know of an event or news happening that we should attend, please call 475-2206.

Please be sure to allow a couple of days' notice so we can arrange to be there.

Space in the paper is limited and so is the time of our staff, so we may not be able to get to every event, but we will try.

Because space is so limited, we cannot run team or group photos, any pictures of people lined up or of people passing checks, certificates and the like. (We will always try to make room for a story about any of these events, however.)

We do run wedding and engagement pictures and "mug" shots with stories and obituaries, when they are provided to us. Please remember that we need a clear, sharp picture. Dark or fuzzy prints will not work.

We cannot return photos unless you submit a self-addressed,

stamped envelope with clear instructions for return. Other photos submitted may be picked up at our office within two weeks. After that, they will be disposed of.

Laser proofs of photos which have run in *The Herald* are available, first come, first served.

NOTICE

The Decatur County Treasurer's Office will be closed Tuesday, Sept. 21, for training.

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7:30 p.m. Saturday, September 18, 2010
at **The Gateway Civic Center**

This is a season ticket event or \$10 per adults, \$5 per students grades 1-12 at the door
For information call **Ella Betts, 785-475-3557, or Mary Henzel, 785-470-0218**

KANSAS Humanities Council
This program is supported in part by the Kansas Arts Commission, a state agency, and by the National Endowment for the Arts.

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