

Recreation board wants city support

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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The Decatur Recreation Board asked the Oberlin City Council Thursday if the city would pay for a new year-around program the group hopes to launch.

Deanna Castle, a member of the board, said the group would like to start with a part-time recreation director, possibly as soon as Aug. 1. They are asking for \$15,000 from the city and \$15,000 from the county, she said.

With Mrs. Castle were board members Terry Ream, Jeni Henningson, Stephanie Blau and Deb Klima.

The recreation needs of young people are being addressed, said Mrs. Klima. Oberlin has programs for youths, although they could be expanded. It would be nice, she said, to offer some programs to those over 50. There aren't a lot of recreational activities offered to that age group, she said. It would be good to be able to offer something else for people interested in moving here.

Exercise is not just about the physical well-being, said Mrs. Klima, but also about agility and mental health.

Mrs. Blau, who has coached the summer swim team for years, said she is getting burned out by all the paperwork and fund raising. She said she just wants to be able to be a coach. Coaches are losing interest because they have to deal with all the paperwork and other items, she said.

A recreation director, said Mrs. Blau, could handle the paperwork and money and work with the parents so coaches could just coach the kids. This is a chance for the town to move forward, she said, instead of just staying in one era.

It would be great to have one central location where parents can find out everything, Mrs. Blau added.

Most of the recreation through the years has been based on the summer ball program, said Mr. Ream. With the decline in population and fewer kids, that program is changing. He said he's concerned about providing activities for youths and senior citizens.

It will take everyone joining together with a common goal to get a recreation program going, said Mr. Ream. He noted that the school district opened up its weight room to the public.

Mrs. Castle asked if Councilman Rusty Addleman could join the recreation board as the city representative. The council agreed.

Mr. Addleman said he didn't think the council could approve anything with the money because the city budget for next year won't be started until next month. He said he thought maybe the council could approve the concept.

After looking through a proposed budget for the recreation board, City Attorney Steve Hirsch said the total expenses add up to more than the proposed \$41,000. It's actually closer to \$55,000, he said.



AT THE DECATUR COUNTY FAIRGROUND on Monday, Seth Lohofener used a rake to spread dirt evenly over a hole while operator Justin Scott sat in the front-end

loader. Members of the county road and bridge crew were moving dirt in to fill in the holes, getting the area ready for the fair in August. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Schedule set for summer fair, carnival

The Decatur County Fair and Home-Owned Carnival are just around the corner.

With less than two months until the opening activities, 4-H kids are getting their projects ready to enter and the schedule has been printed and distributed.

The first two activities prior to fair week are clothing construction and buymanship competition and the fashion revue on Tuesday, July 16, and the 4-H and Open Class Horse Show on Saturday, July 30.

Throughout fair week, activities abound for the young and old at the

Decatur County Fairground. Here is the schedule:

Tuesday, Aug. 2

• 9 a.m., to noon, enter all 4-H and Open Class exhibits (except floriculture).

• noon, all booths need to be in place.

• 6 to 10 p.m., all exhibits open.

• 6:30 p.m., 4-H food auction.

• 7 p.m., carnival opens.

Wednesday, Aug. 3

• 8 a.m., bucket calf show.

• 8 to 10 a.m., open class and 4-H floriculture entered; judging to follow.

• 9 a.m., dairy/beef show.

• 5 p.m., sheep show.

• 5:30 p.m., kids' pedal pull sponsored by Farm Bureau.

• 6 to 10 p.m., exhibits open.

• 7 p.m., carnival opens.

• 8 p.m., Mario Manzini, world champion escapologist.

Thursday, Aug. 4

• 9 a.m., swine show.

• 11 a.m., media photos with owners of grand and reserve champion livestock.

• 3:30 p.m., senior and intermediate round-robin showmanship contest.

• 6 to 10 p.m., exhibits open.

• 6:30 p.m., livestock auction.

• 7 p.m., carnival opens.

• 8 p.m., Tough Truck competition, grandstand.

Friday, Aug. 5

• 8 a.m., clean up livestock exhibits.

• 1:30 p.m., pet parade at Good Samaritan Center downtown.

• 5:30 p.m., public fashion revue.

• 6 to 10 p.m., exhibits open.

• 7 p.m., carnival opens.

• 8 p.m., demolition derby.

Saturday, Aug. 6

• 7 p.m., carnival opens.

Young man loses fingers in gun accident

A Decatur County man lost several fingers Saturday when he was trap shooting on private land west and south of Oberlin.

Undersheriff Allen Marcum said sometime between 5 and 6 p.m. Saturday, Colt Diederich, 21, was hanging out with some friends, shooting skeet on private land, when his shotgun accidentally went off and he was hit in his left hand.

Mr. Marcum said while Mr. Diederich and his friends had been drinking, they were all of age and had permission to be shooting on the private land. It was just a bad accident, he said.

Mr. Diederich was already at the Decatur County Hospital when the sheriff's office was called. Mr.

Marcum said Mr. Diederich shot off his pinkie, ring finger and middle finger. He did some damage to his index finger as well.

In all, it was pretty severe damage to the hand, said the undersheriff.

The hospital contacts law enforcement anytime there is a gunshot wound, Mr. Marcum said. Officers then check it out to make sure it's not a crime of any kind.

He said Mr. Diederich was taken to Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney, Neb., by ambulance.

His sister, Brandi, said Monday that he lost the three fingers and had wounds to the palm of his hand. She said the shotgun, which had been leaning against the tailgate of his pickup, apparently fell to the ground

and fired.

After friends took him to Decatur County Hospital, she said, he was taken to Kearney. She said he still has his index finger and his thumb and a skin graft was done to cover the palm, where the shot struck the artery.

His parents, Steve and Marilyn Diederich; his girlfriend, Kim Williams; and his sister went to Kearney to be with him that night. Brandi returned home Sunday, but the others are still with him. Relatives said Mr. Diederich, a 2008 graduate of Decatur Community High School, has been working with his father as a carpet installer.

Mail will reach him at Good

Samaritan Hospital, room 3316, 10 East 31st Street, Kearney, Neb., 68848.

New judge to take office next week

The public is invited to see an Oberlin lawyer sworn in as the judge of the 17th Judicial District on Friday, July 1.

Preston Pratt was selected for the job earlier this month by Gov. Sam

Brownback. The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. in the courtroom on the third floor of the Decatur County courthouse.

Supreme Court Justice Nancy Moritz is expected to be here to

conduct the ceremony. The district includes Decatur, Graham, Norton, Osborne, Phillips and Smith counties.



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