

Sheriff agrees to change policy

A Decatur County family talked with county commissioners, the sheriff and the undersheriff about a recent incident where a hitchhiker stayed in front of their farm house on U.S. 36.

They said they called the sheriff, but no one responded. Next time, officials agreed, someone will come out.

Sheriff Ken Badsky had talked about the incident with the commissioners during the Tuesday, June 28, meeting. The residents had called and asked the sheriff's office to give the man a ride out of the area. They were unhappy that no one had responded.

Patrick and Cindy Shirley and their daughter were at the meeting last Tuesday to discuss the incident and a story in *The Oberlin Herald*. Mrs. Shirley said what was printed in the paper wasn't what happened.

The family's name was not mentioned at the first meeting and did not appear in the story. The article said the hitchhiker had been let into the house for a drink and that when the wife found out, she was unhappy.

Commissioner Gene Gallentine said he got a call from the Shirleys complaining about the story. He said the family told him they are concerned about the sheriff's policy on hitchhikers.

Mrs. Shirley said the newspaper made it sound like the hitchhiker had been in the house. She said he never was.

Undersheriff Allen Marcum said the hitchhiker told him that he had been let into the house for a glass of water. Mr. Shirley said the man came into the yard.

"If he was in our house," he added, "you probably should have got your butt out there."

There's a water hydrant outside the shop, said Mrs. Shirley. That's where he got water. That's where the man tried to contact her, she said, while she was watering plants.

That is not the information he was given, said Sheriff Badsky, adding that the department's policy is not to be a taxi service for people, and

not to haul them around unless they are doing something wrong.

"We'll leave the hitchhiker at your house," said Mrs. Shirley, "and see how comfortable you feel."

The mission of the sheriff's office is to serve and protect, she added, and that's what needs to be done.

Mr. Shirley asked what should they do if another hitchhiker camps in front of their place. Sheriff Badsky said he probably wouldn't leave them there.

Undersheriff Marcum said he was on duty that weekend, not the sheriff. The hitchhiker wasn't committing a crime.

He said the Shirleys could have given him a ride, but the sheriff's office is not a taxi service. The undersheriff said he contacted the sheriff's offices in Rawlins and Sheridan counties, and no one was available to give the man a ride if he took him to the county line.

"How do we know there isn't going to be a problem?" asked Mrs. Shirley. "We aren't trained."

"From now on what do you want?" asked Sheriff Badsky.

Mr. Shirley said he doesn't call very often, but if he does, he thinks the officers should respond.

"Amistake was made," said Sheriff Badsky. "It won't happen again. We will pick up every hitchhiker, no matter the cost."

Mrs. Shirley said she thought \$5 to \$10 in gas is a lot better than the paperwork on a body.

She added that it's not just their family living along the highway. A lot of people live out there, and it's the sheriff's job to protect and serve the people.

While there was some discussion that a county ordinance says county vehicles can't be used by people who are not employees, County Attorney Steve Hirsch said that only pertains to family members. It doesn't include hitchhikers and others the sheriff has business with.

Sheriff Badsky said the office could change its policy about hitchhikers. He said this is the way policies sometimes get changed, when people voice their concerns.



COACHES Sarah Howland (left) and Robyn Rouse helped a young gymnast do a hand stand and then roll out on the borrowed Air Track device. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Gymnasts want to purchase air device

Girls bounced up and down, did cartwheels and round-offs and worked on back flips Friday on a borrowed piece of equipment they are trying to raise money to purchase.

Members of the Oberlin Creative Movements Gymnastics group borrowed the Air Track — which allows gymnasts to practice advanced skills in a safe environ-

ment — from the Atwood group, said Sarah Howland.

The device is portable and can be used during practice or public performances.

The gymnasts plan to demonstrate the air track at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 3 behind the fairgrounds. During the demonstration, members will be selling raffle tickets to help pay for an air track

for the Oberlin group for \$1 each or six for \$5. There will be two prizes given, for \$100 and \$50.

Raffle tickets also will be on sale at the Creative Movements booth at the county fair or from any gymnasts.

Anyone who wants tickets should call Mrs. Howland at 475-2187. To make a donation, send a check made out to CMG, 705 W.

Hall St., Oberlin, Kan. 67749.

The Air Track, she said, will cost a little over \$3,000. About 30 kids are involved in the gymnastic program, which meets on Monday evenings at the Golden Age Center. The sessions run from September to April.

It costs \$20 a month for preschool children and \$30 a month for those of school age.

Fire burns around 100 acres near Lyle

Fire departments from all over the county and a neighboring town responded to a blaze burning up farm property south and east of Lyle on Monday afternoon.

Volunteer crews were called out around 3 p.m. and still were out at 7:30 p.m. Monday evening.

Decatur County Fire Chief Bill Cathcart said the fire started in a wheat stubble field belonging to Harold Mizell.

Chief Cathcart said they don't know what started the blaze. No one was working the field, no combines were around and they just aren't sure

how it started.

The Norcat Fire Department, he said, was the first on the scene. They were followed by the crews from Jennings, the Oberlin Rural Department and the Danbury-Lebanon Fire Department from Nebraska. At least two tankers came from the Oberlin station. Chief Cathcart said a county road grader came to help, too.

The fire burned around 100 acres of wheat stubble and some pasture also, the chief said. It was a challenge to get out to the fire and get around, he said, as it was so hot the

trucks were over heating.

At one point, one of the tankers was back at the station, then a flare-up caused it to return to the field. Around 6:40 p.m., fire fighters said they didn't see any more hot spots

Food stand needs workers

Volunteers are needed to work the concession stand in the middle of the carnival midway the last night of the Decatur County Fair.

Candi Ketterl, a member of the Amusement Authority board, said she has no one signed up to work

to put out.

About 10:40 p.m., fire crews were called back out when someone reported flames flaring up again in the field.

the concession stand where the funnel cakes are made on Saturday, Aug. 6.

The group that works gets paid \$4 a person, she said. The money goes to the group, not the individual.

Any group that wants to work from 6:30 p.m. to close should call Mrs. Ketterl at 475-4092.

Council might vote on property resolutions

At its regular meeting Thursday, the Oberlin City Council will look at and possibly vote on resolutions to take care of property that needs to be cleaned up.

Code Enforcement Officer Jan Ackerman won't be at the meeting, said City Administrator Karen Larson, but the council can still decide on the resolutions.

Representatives of Rural Telephone and Nex-Tech will be at the meeting. Mrs. Larson said there have been some complaints about them tearing up yards and

leaving them with piles of dirt as conduit is laid for fiber-optic telecommunication lines. The crew putting in the conduit also hit a water main at The Gateway.

Other items on the agenda include the search for water outside the city, a contract with Baker Hughes, which leases some land at the airport, and the city's budget.

The meeting starts at 7 p.m. and is open to the public. It will be held upstairs at The Gateway.

PUBLIC AUCTION

FURNITURE / ANTIQUES / COLLECTABLE / MISC.

SATURDAY, JULY 30, 2011 @ 10:00 AM CST

AUCTION LOCATION: 4-H BUILDING, N. HWY 25, ATWOOD, KS

Sellers: Martha (Marty) McCain & Et al

<p>Couch w/Recliners and Matching Love Seat Recliners 3-Couches Kg. Size Bed w/Oak Headboard Kg. Size Waterbed w/Headboard Walnut Chest of Drawers, Night Stand, Dresser, Mirror Solid Pine Chest of Drawers w/ Mirror Solid Oak Chest Chest of Drawers Rocking Chair End Tables Coffee Table China Hutch w/Base Cabinet China Cabinet Curio Cabinet w/Light Solid Oak Display Case Solid Oak Piano w/Bench (Ellington Cincinnati) Kitchen Table w/4 Chairs Kitchen Table 8-Oak Chairs 3-Book Cases Amana Refrigerator Coldspot Chest Deep Freeze Entertainment Center Magnavox Color TV 19" TV Microwave Rd. Metal Table w/Glass Top Singer Sewing Machine VCR Player</p>	<p>Lamps Quilt Rack Assort. of Crystal Bell Collection Angel Collection Lots of Books Pictures Quilting Material Fabric Sewing Supplies Christmas Dec. Flowers Wicker Baskets Blankets, Sheets, Pillows Bedding Table Cloths Pampered Chef Utensils Pampered Chef Stoneware Pampered Chef Bowls & Misc. Pots & Pans Silverware & Kitchen Utensils Roasters Tupperware Juicer Pressure Cooker Cookbooks Toaster Corning Ware Plates & Dishes Pyrex Pans Kitchen Aide Mixer Lots of Glassware Picnic Table</p>	<p>Patio Swing Elect. BBQ Grill Ryobi 9" Tiller Neuton Elect. Mower Wheel Barrow Toro Push Mower Weed Burner Wooden Wagon Wheel Lawn & Garden Tools 8' Fence Posts Aluminum Ladders 7' Windmill Craftsman 10" Table Saw 14" Cut-Off Saw 5'x 9' Shop Table Metal Shop Cabinets Shop Tools Water Skis Bird Feeders Garden Hose Golf Clubs Croquet Set Rubbermaid Tubs Toy Box Assort. of Toys Wheel Chair Wooden Closet Wooden Stools Computer Desk 2-Computers Office Desk Movie Projector TV Stand</p>
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Rawlins County Health Center

RAWLINS COUNTY HEALTH CENTER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

707 Grant
Atwood, KS 67730
(785) 626-3211

Bringing Specialized Healthcare To Your Community

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
🎆					1 Dr. Rubowitz Oncology	2
3	4 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	5	6 Mammograms Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	7 MRI's	8 Nuclear Medicine Cardiac Rehab	9
10 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	11	12	13 Dr. Frankum Surgery	14 MRI's	15 Cardiac Rehab	16
17 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	18 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	19 Dr. Frederick C. Miller Cardiology	20 Dr. Curtis Cardiology	21 MRI'S	22 Dr. Saba Orthopedics Dr. Reeves Podiatry	23 Nuclear Medicine Cardiac Rehab
24 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	25	26 DEXA Bone Density	27 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	28 MRI's	29 Cardiac Rehab	30
31	<p>TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH A VISITING PHYSICIAN, PLEASE CALL (785) 626-3211 Cheryl Banister, RN Specialty Clinic Director</p>					