

District raises taxes for schools

County valuation drops, forcing taxes to go up

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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The proposed budget for the Oberlin School District shows a 3.637-mill increase in the property-tax levy over last year, but district officials point out that the tax rate is still under where it was two years ago.

The proposed levy for next year is 50.817 mills. The levy was 47.180 last year but 52.239 for the 2009-2010 school year.

The district budget was printed in the newspaper last week. A budget hearing has been scheduled for the first part of the regular board meeting on Monday at the district office, said Superintendent Duane Dorshorst.

Mr. Dorshorst said the district needs to increase the property tax rate because of a decline in land valuations across the county.

The district asks for a certain amount of money from people paying the property tax, he said. Each mill raises so much money, based on how the county's assessed valuation, and the levy is figured based on the valuation and the amount needed.

Decatur County lost over \$1.5 million in land valuation this year, said Mr. Dorshorst, so it will take a higher levy to raise the same amount of money.

The district, said Mr. Dorshorst, was able to drop the property levy last year, but it received more state

aid last year. The state aid and valuations run in cycles, the superintendent said. When one is down, the other usually is up. Since the valuation is lower this year, Mr. Dorshorst added, the district should get more in state aid next year.

The school budget projects a general-fund of \$2,770,362 and a supplemental budget of \$936,117. Of that, Mr. Dorshorst said, about \$1.4 million is raised in local property taxes. The rest of the money, said Mr. Dorshorst, comes through state aid based on the base amount per pupil.

Each year, the district has to estimate the number of students who'll be enrolled in the district come count day on Sept. 20. This year, said Mr. Dorshorst, they estimated 363.

He said they try to estimate a little high, because if they estimate too far under, the district might have to republish the budget. If the estimate is over the actual count, said Mr. Dorshorst, the district loses spending authority, the amount of money it can spend.

Mr. Dorshorst said the board didn't want to see a property tax increase, but with less county valuation, it was hard to hold the rate down. Taxpayers are still paying less than they were two years ago, he said, adding that the district is doing its best to keep the budget as tight as possible.

Entry forms out for Shopping Spree

Entry blanks and boxes are out at Oberlin businesses, and it's anyone's chance to win \$1,000 in scrip money to spend in a week-long shopping spree.

The Oberlin Merchants' Annual \$1,000 Shopping Spree ends in a little less than two weeks.

Anyone 18 or older can enter without making a purchase. Just fill out the entry form at participating businesses and drop it in the box.

You can sign up as many times as you want at any or all of the sponsors. The deadline is 4 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 16.

The drawing will be at the Decatur County Area Chamber of Com-

merce's Back-to-School Picnic in City Park at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 17.

The lucky shopper must be present to win. Names will be drawn until a winner is found.

One person will win \$1,000 in scrip money and have until Wednesday, Aug. 31, to spend it at participating stores only. The shopper agrees to notify *The Herald* so a photographer can go with them.

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

Owner gets time to clean up house

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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The City Council gave an Oberlin man two months more to get a house he is tearing down cleaned up and the debris hauled off.

At a meeting Thursday, July 21, Jeff Sprenkle, who has been tearing down the old, blue house at 302 W. Hall, said he bought the property knowing that it had to be cleaned up, but didn't know that it had to be either torn down or fixed.

"There was no way to fix the blue house," he added.

Mr. Sprenkle said he's taken four loads to the dump, but they are loading the debris by hand and he has a full time job, so can only spend so much time on the house. He said it would be easier if anyone knew where he could rent equipment.

He added that the city code enforcement officer hasn't been very helpful. He claimed she yells at his wife when she calls, swears and isn't very professional.

Mayor Bill Riedel asked how much more time he needs to get the

property cleaned up.

Mr. Sprenkle said if he could get some equipment, he could probably have it done in less than a month.

City Attorney Steve Hirsch said the city ordinance says a time needs to be set. Mayor Riedel said he didn't know of anyplace to rent equipment. He said Mr. Sprenkle could hire someone to finish the job if he could afford it. The owner said he couldn't.

Mayor Riedel asked if there was any way he could get the back hoe that was used to tear the house down. Mr. Sprenkle said he tore the house down with a sledge hammer, a chain and his bare hands.

The council agreed to give him 60 days, until Wednesday, Sept. 21, to get the job done.

The council passed two resolutions allowing city or a contractor to mow the weeds at 201 N. East and 409 N. Marks, owned by Marina Fisher and Donna Florence.

The owners will have 10 days from publication to get the weeds cleaned up. If they don't, said Mayor Riedel, the city will hire someone to do it and send them a bill. If the (See CITY on Page 8A)



JACQUELYN MARSHALL (above) talked with a judge Smith Center (below) looked at the work KeAnn Jacobs put into her hand-made raincoat.
— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Fair events start

The Decatur County Fair was to start Tuesday with exhibit check-in, the 4-H food auction and the first night of the carnival.

Throughout the week, the fair will feature activities for all ages, livestock shows, a pedal tractor pull, carnival rides and games.

Activities for the week include:

Today

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 at the livestock barn.

5 p.m. Sheep Show at the livestock barn.

5 p.m. Register for Kids Tractor Pull, sponsored by Farm Bureau, south of the livestock barn.

5:30 p.m. Kids Tractor Pull starts.

6 to 10 p.m. Exhibits open.

7 p.m. Carnival open.

8 p.m. Mario Manzini, "World Champion Escapologist."

Thursday

9 a.m. Swine Show.

11 a.m. Media photos with owners of Grand and Reserve Champion Livestock, livestock barn.

3:30 p.m. Senior and Intermediate Round-Robin Showmanship contest at the livestock barn.

6 to 10 p.m. Exhibits open.

6:30 p.m. Livestock Auction (loca-



tion to be announced).
7 p.m. Carnival open.
8 p.m. Tough Truck competition.

Friday

8 a.m. Clean up livestock exhibits.

1:30 p.m. Pet Parade at Good Samaritan Center.

5:30 p.m. Public Fashion Revue at The Gateway.

6 to 10 p.m. Exhibits open.

7 p.m. Carnival open.

8 p.m. Demo Derby, grandstand.

9:30 to 10 p.m. Release of all exhibits.

Saturday

7 p.m. Carnival open.

Amusement board rents ride for carnival

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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The Decatur County Home-Owned Carnival has a new ride this year for kids from toddlers to teenagers, thanks to a recent donation by an Oberlin woman.

Judy Scott, president of the Amusement Authority board, which runs the carnival, said the donation was for rides or games and the group decided to rent a kiddie turtle ride, which will cost three tickets a trip.

The ride has individual cars which go in a circle and up and down several "hills," she said. It's been set up between the north ticket booth and the trailer with the birthday wheel and dart board game in the midway.

The new ride was delivered Sunday along with the large slide at the northwest corner of the (See WORKERS on Page 8A)



THE AMUSEMENT AUTHORITY rented a new kiddie ride for this week's carnival. On Monday, board President Judy Scott hung colored flags around the ride.

Music events scheduled for this week

There's lots to do this week, besides attend the Decatur County Fair and carnival, including the Music Circus Day at the Good Samaritan Center, a country-music concert at The Gateway and enrolling students for school.

Enrollment at Oberlin Elementary School was set for 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday.

At the junior/senior high school, enrollment was to be from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesday and today.

From 1 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, grade-school students are invited to the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center to learn about music with

Jennifer Tally, new music teacher at the grade school. The event will feature several musical "stations" with activities.

Parents can register their kids by e-mail to Mrs. Tally at paintlvr@gmail.com or find her link on Facebook.

At 7 p.m. Saturday, Dustin Evans and Good Times will perform in the arena at The Gateway.

Lucas Matherly, Peoples Choice Idol winner, will open the concert, which is being arranged by Stan McEvoy.

Tickets are on sale now for \$10 at the United Northwest Federal Credit Union and Crossroads Express, or \$15 at the door.

*Workers needed for the carnival

(Continued from Page 1A) midway, which is rented from the same company.

Ms. Scott said the board members thought the kiddie turtle ride will cost around \$750 to \$1,000 to rent for the week and the slide, \$1,500. The slide has paid for itself every year that the authority has rented it, she said.

The authority, said Ms. Scott, wasn't planning on any new rides until next year, but with the donation, they were able to add one.

Next year, she said, the authority wants to rent bumper cars. They will have to put in a concrete pad and put up rails for power to do that. Donation jars will be out at the carnival for those who want to give for the bumper cars for next year.

She said the authority continues

to try to make improvements to the carnival, including re-wiring the merry-go-round. In September, they will have new storage units coming in to replace the old trailers.

They still need volunteers to run not only the new ride, but the existing rides and games. The sheet isn't even full for the first night of the carnival.

She suggested people not wait for her to call, but to sign up at the Business Entrepreneurial Enhancement Center, at the carnival or to call her at 470-7269.

"The community needs you to carry on a great-and-getting-better Home-Owned Carnival," she said.

The moon walk, kiddie cars and kiddie swings really need some volunteers to work, she added.

*City might mow two yards in town

(Continued from Page 1A) bills are not paid, he said, they can be put on the tax bill of the property owner.

A fourth resolution, to order clean up of the old appliances, debris, metal and other items in a yard at 711 W. Cedar, passed with a 4-1 vote. The house is owned by Dery Bishop.

Councilman Rob McFee voted against the resolution because

the items are something that can be hauled off and sold to make money.

The same ordinance also says that a homeowner can't have wood stacked for a wood stove or fireplace, or lumber or bricks for a project, he said.

"I don't understand why we won't let someone try to make a living," he added.



Kids ride horses in show

DURING THE HORSE SHOW for 4-H and open class Saturday morning, Skylar Brown (above) waited with her dad, Doug, for her turn to ride. Isaac Carman (left) picked up his ribbon on the way out of the arena from Kerrie Bryan.

— Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes



Ex-students return to teach at college

Five Northwest Kansas Technical College graduates, including this year's Student of the Year, have accepted positions on the college faculty and staff.

Troy Johnson, a heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration student, and Northwest Tech Student of the Year, has accepted a job as an admissions representative.

Johnson comes from Stratton, Neb.. He said he has fallen in love with Northwest Tech and the community and looks forward to bringing his wife and son to Goodland.

"The reason I am so happy to

accept the admissions rep position is because I appreciate the commitment Northwest Tech faculty and staff show for the students and for each other," Johnson said, "in addition to the support and acceptance of the Goodland community."

Returning Northwest Tech alumni faculty or staff members include Logan Dobbs, electrical technology instructor; Wade Taylor, carpentry instructor; Amber Peterson, medical assistant instructor at the Goodland campus; Kayla Anderson, housing manager (Business Technology graduate).

"We are extremely excited about

our new faculty members and dynamic staff," said Dr. Ed Mills, college president. "We have some of the most talented and energetic staff around and continue to build a strong team."

Others joining the Northwest Tech family include Sharon Leuenberger, medical assistant instructor, Hays campus; Michael Zimmerman, engineering instructor; Thomas Clark, business technology instructor; Ammie Jones, general education instructor; Ian Tompkins, media specialist; Regina Branum, assistant vice president for student affairs; Luis Figueroa, admissions

representative; Christine Smith, assistant director of development and career services coordinator; Adam Elliott, computer graphics instructor; and John Coumerilh, information technology assistant.

For more information on Northwest Tech, go to www.nwktc.edu or call (800) 316-4127.

Technical college receives grant

The Northwest Kansas Technical College has won a \$25,000 grant for equipment as part of the new Mobile Application and Entertainment Development program starting in August.

Northwest Tech partnered with First National Bank for a Joint Opportunities for Building Success grant awarded from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka. The purpose of the fund is to spur economic growth and job creation in bank member communities.

The Northwest Tech program will spur job creation through remote employment, entrepreneurship and expansion of local businesses.

"Training people for this high-wage, high-demand industry will create jobs, increase household income and build our local economy," said Ben Coumerilh, college director of technology. "App development is one of the fastest growing careers... and the average wage for graduates is estimated in the range of \$60,000 to 100,000."

"The high-tech app development industry has the potential to transform the rural regional economy in western Kansas," said Michael Solomon, Goodland/Sherman County economic development director. "We look forward to partnering with the college to maximize the

job creation and economic benefit of this new program."

Northwest Tech has submitted another grant application to the U.S. Department of Labor to expand the reach of the Mobile App and Entertainment Development program and mobilize higher education. A decision is expected by Sept. 30.

The Mobile App and Entertainment Development program is offered both on campus and online. Information is available on www.nwktc.edu/maed. Students may apply online at www.nwktc.edu/ apply.

County OK's air unit for center

The Decatur County Commissioners approved a new air conditioning unit for the Good Samaritan Center.

At the meeting on Tuesday, July 19, Chris May from the center talked with the commissioners about the unit.

The air conditioner that cools the basement offices has been out for a couple of weeks, he said. Robert Groneweg of R&M Service Center has charged it, but the unit keeps

icing up and quits. Mr. May said he thinks it was bought in the mid-1970s.

He had a bid for \$6,195 from R&M which he said includes installation and a five-year warranty.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Adopted a resolution County Attorney Steve Hirsch worked up for the county to join the Rural Opportunity Zone, capping county spending at \$26,000 a year.

- Talked about the fiber optic cable from Nex-Tech Communications, which is at the courthouse, but isn't set up yet.

- Held closed sessions for 20 and then 15 minutes for attorney-client privilege with Mr. Hirsch, the commissioners, the county clerk and Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman. There was no action taken afterward.

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7	8	9 Dr. Frederick C. Miller Cardiology	10 Dr. Frankum Surgery	11 Dr. Reeves Podiatry	12 Dr. Reeves Podiatry	13
	Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab		Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	MRI's	Cardiac Rehab	
14	15	16	17 Dr. Curtis Cardiology	18 Dr. Saba Orthopedics	19	20
	Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	DEXA Bone Density	Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	MRI's	Nuclear Medicine Cardiac Rehab	
21	22	23 Dr. Frederick C. Miller Cardiology	24	25	26	27
	Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab		Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	MRI'S	Cardiac Rehab	
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	Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	Mammograms	Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic			

TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH A VISITING PHYSICIAN, PLEASE CALL (785) 626-3211 Cheryl Banister, RN Specialty Clinic Director