

Eating in the park



AT CITY PARK last Wednesday, Rosella and Walt Meitl pondered which of the potluck dishes people brought to the Back-to-School Picnic they should sample. Around 100 people came for the picnic in the park, sponsored by the

Oberlin Business Alliance, the Oberlin School District and the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

*Annual Fun Day planned for Saturday

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Greg Otter of Lenora with his train for the kids.

A children's pedal tractor pull, sanctioned for the Kansas State Fair and sponsored by the Great Northwest Insurance Agency of Oberlin, will highlight the afternoon, along with a drawing for bicycles.

Children 12 and younger can register to win a free girl's or boy's bike and helmet. They must be present to win. The bikes are donated by the volunteer fire fighters and emer-

gency medical technicians.

Other afternoon events include the firemen's team barrel competition, crowning of the queen, an auction of items donated by area people and businesses and a raffle of a television, a surround-sound system and a portable video disk player. Drawings will be held throughout the day for smoke alarms and fire extinguishers.

The lunch stand opens at the fire house at 11:30 a.m. and a hog roast will be available at 6 p.m. Sno

cones and funnel cakes will be sold during the afternoon. A street dance with a deejay from Mobile Music Express will cap the evening.

"The money raised from this event goes to the volunteer fire department and other local civic organizations."

also serves to bring area residents, former residents and friends together for a day of reminiscing.

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*Park receives money and electric outlets

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council, mayor and city crew. The park is cleaning up nicely after the summer windstorms, she said, and everyone pitching in and working together is nice to see.

The Up in Smoke Barbecue Committee donated \$2,000 for electric upgrades at the park, she noted.

Griff and Cindy Lincoln donated labor and worked with the city crew to install six new boxes for electric outlets. Mrs. Lincoln said the city crew also put in a new pole.

The Up in Smoke Committee also donated two high-pressure yard lights that were put in the area south

of the shelter house, one close to the new playground and another near the shelter house.

Mrs. Davis said the park committee needs volunteers to help finish installing the playground equipment, move sand and clean up some limbs. A work day has been set for 8:30 a.m. Saturday. Volunteers should bring work gloves, chain saws and rakes, she said.

The committee plans to start meeting at 5:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at the LandMark Inn. Mrs. Davis said. Everyone is welcome.

Scouting season to start

Girls in kindergarten through 12th grade are invited to sign up for Girl Scouts.

It costs \$12 a child to join, although the group offers financial assistance if needed, said Becky Ayers, recruiting officer.

The Oberlin Girl Scouts will hold a tailgate party during the annual Sports Drink Scrimmages, from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday in the lot at the

high school football stadium.

Girls can sign up for scouts and will get a red-and-white pom poms to cheer on the Red Devils.

An upcoming event, said Mrs. Ayers, is the Girls Night Out at the Hays Mall, which costs \$25 a girl and \$5 for adults. Reservations need to be made by next Wednesday; call (785) 625-5671 for information.

*City continues search for water

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extension on the consent order.

"So what you are saying is the water is there, but the quantity is an issue?" asked Mayor Bill Riedel.

Quantity isn't an issue, said Mr. Miller; it would just take several wells to produce the same amount and pipe them all into town.

He said there was some quantity issues with a well to the south, but it could still be done. It might take 10 wells, but it would mean less pipe.

While the water rights could be transferred from an irrigation well, he said, the well itself can't be used as a municipal well. A new well would need to be drilled.

The council approved starting the needed waiver to pursue finding water. The council also approved looking for more water and having Miller work up some cost estimates. Mr. Miller said he would hold off on

those until additional samples have been taken.

Mr. Miller asked what the council wants to do about the distribution lines which are supposed to be part of the coming project. The lines move the water through the town. He said he thinks it will cost \$600,000 to \$800,000 for that part of the job.

The council decided to wait to get bid packages out on the lines just in case additional money is needed to build a pipeline to move water to town.

In Atwood, said Mr. Miller, they did four wells and a pipeline at 14 miles. It cost around \$4 million, or about the same as a treatment plant. However, the plant could cost the city \$100,000 a year or more to operate, including the cost of getting rid of the uranium taken out of the water.

*Taxes to increase at county level

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Ms. Geihsler said the sheriff's department put in money for new laptop computers. Mr. McEvoy said he didn't know why the laptops needed to be replaced all at once. One could be purchased each year, he said.

"It would be nice to hold the budget to where it was last year," he said.

The budget, which is printed on Page 8A of today's paper, shows increases in expenditures in the election, employee benefits, debt service, senior citizens, wireless E911, 911 phone, noxious weed capital outlay and county health capital outlay funds.

There are decreases in expenditures in county general, special bridge, home for aged, conservation district, mental health, mental retardation, noxious weed, special alcohol/drugs and special parks/recreation funds.

Holding steady are road and bridge, fair premiums, fair maintenance, hospital maintenance, county health nurse, museum/historical and economic development funds.

A budget hearing is set for 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 6, in the commissioners room on the second floor of the courthouse, when commissioners will hear comments and may adopt the budget.

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of Decatur County will meet on Tuesday, September 6, 2011 at 10 am at the Courthouse in the Office of the Decatur County Commissioners for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed Budget Information is available at the Office of the Decatur County Clerk and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2012 Expenditures and Amount of 2011 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2012 Budget. Estimated Tax Rate* is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

FUND	2010		2011		Proposed Budget 2012		
	Prior Year Actual Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate	Current Year Estimate of Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate	Expenditures	Amount of 2011 Ad Valorem Tax	Est. Tax Rate*
General	1,014,317	15.388	1,417,390	29.275	1,359,555	776,631	23.398
Debt Service	122,844	0.341	122,858	0.930	184,156	39,065	1.177
Road & Bridge	1,141,159	14.353	1,050,000	11.745	1,050,000	463,774	13.973
Special Bridge	68,830	2.000	142,300	2.000	138,350	66,374	2.000
Home for Aged	24,578	0.281	45,000	0.490	40,000	19,068	0.574
Fair Premiums	3,212	0.094	4,000	0.107	4,000	3,645	0.110
Fair Maintenance	19,238	0.567	15,000	0.373	15,000	13,721	0.413
Conservation Dist	18,907	0.612	24,300	0.559	19,000	15,347	0.462
Hospital Maintenance	179,821	5.216	200,000	5.203	200,000	181,026	5.454
County Health Nurse	119,304	1.152	117,500	1.060	117,500	37,215	1.121
Extension Council							
Mental Health	23,573	0.689	23,794	0.618	23,500	21,476	0.647
Mental Retardation	25,227	0.738	25,835	0.662	25,500	23,070	0.695
Noxious Weed	143,459	1.987	155,000	2.255	145,000	66,546	2.005
Election	39,807	0.710	40,000	0.273	50,000	37,965	1.144
Employee Benefits	698,698	21.453	725,000	15.156	808,500	657,413	19.807
SR Citizen Levy	26,708	0.648	33,200	0.784	37,000	34,688	1.045
Museum / Historical	17,683	0.521	20,500	0.541	20,500	18,738	0.565
Economic Development	14,903	0.462	17,000	0.444	17,000	15,513	0.467
Spec Alcohol/Drugs	3,858		6,700		3,734		
Spec Park/Recreation	4,562		1,700		1,327		
Wireless E911	36,332		12,000		42,232		
911 Phone	5,801		21,600		41,798		
Nox Weed Cap Outlay			12,959		15,000		
County Health Cap Outlay					29,343		
Non Budgeted Funds A	72,001						
Non Budgeted Funds B	2,137						
Non Budgeted Funds C	1,309						
Non Budgeted Funds D	83,906						
Totals	3,912,174	67.212	4,233,636	72.475	4,387,995	2,491,275	75.057
Less Transfers	346,236		314,000		216,000		
Net Expenditures	3,565,938		3,919,636		4,171,995		
Total Tax Levied	2,076,493		2,465,081		xxxxxxx		
Assessed Valuation	30,894,347		34,033,544		33,191,651		
Outstanding Indebtedness as of January 1st	2009		2010		2011		
G.O. Bonds	435,502		405,359		347,315		
Revenue Bonds	650,000		628,527		606,095		
Other							
Lease Pur Princ.							
Total	1,085,502		1,033,886		953,410		

Other District Funds	2010		2011		Proposed Budget 2012		
	Prior Year Actual Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate	Current Year Estimate of Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate	Expenditures	Amount of 2011 Ad Valorem Tax	Est. Tax Rate*
Ambulance Dist #1	148,454	1.815	178,000	1.673	187,300	54,413	1.639
Total Tax Levied	56,061		56,941		xxxxxxx		
Total Amb Val	30,894,347		34,033,544		33,191,651		
Rural Fire Dist #1	77,000	1.135	71,450	1.988	73,500	66,585	2.413
Total Tax Levied	28,659		56,631		xxxxxxx		
DC Valuation	23,147,445		26,278,349		25,437,135		
NT Valuation	2,099,572		2,210,521		2,157,857		
Total RFD Val	25,247,017		28,488,870		27,594,992		

NOTE: Tax Rates are expressed in mills

Colleen Geihsler
Decatur County Clerk

High Plains Ag Profit Workshop – Goodland, KS
Thurs. Sept. 29 thru Sat. Oct. 1

Explore the possibilities, benefits and profits of grass-fed beef production, the bison advantage, rangeland hair sheep, species co-grazing and more.

Farm ground segment will cover no-till, cover-cropping, poly-culture, natural fertility strategies and the mixing of livestock with farming for greater benefits. See how a modern weed-wiper and crop-roller can help.

Key note educator and internationally renowned Certified Holistic Management Educator Kirk Gadzia will teach basic HM principles and hands-on rangeland monitoring.

\$160/person/day (lunch included) or \$500 for all three days (lunches and dinners included)
Call 855-330-1493 for more info or to sign up! (Book by Sept 21)