

Carnivals still on slate

There has been much discussion about SB 356 – on carnival rides – from my district.

It looks like the definition “home-owned amusement ride” will remain in the law. This would mean that home-owned amusement rides would not be subject to all of the inspection and training regulations.

A new section might be added that would require home-owned amusement rides to file proof of insurance with the Kansas Department of Labor. It could include posting of the insurance certificate, too. Technical amendment changes would help with conformity to other sections.

I joined Gov. Sam Brownback last Monday in Garden City when he signed into law bills that provide regulatory relief to irrigators and ensure that western Kansas towns can continue to thrive.

I have often said, “Irrigation is crucial to the health of western Kansas. Without changes that allow farmers to adapt to the recent drought, our communities will be facing a serious economic situation.”

The first bill, SB 272, amends water law to provide Kansas farmers and ranchers with the flexibility they need to carefully manage their water resources and balance use in years where a lack of rainfall may require additional water.

Known as multi-year flex accounts, this legislation gives Kansas farmers the option to spread the amount of groundwater they pump over a five-year period, allowing them to fully protect their crops in dry conditions while holding the line on overall water use.



Letter from Topeka By Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer ralph.ostmeyer@senate.ks.gov

The second bill, HB 2451, would amend “use it or lose it” practices in Kansas.

Current law encourages the over-use of water, particularly of the Ogallala Aquifer. This amendment to state water law would instead encourage conservation in normal and wet years and protect our state’s water supply for future generations.

I am chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee. We are reviewing another plan in committee. Senate Bill 310 would amend

water law regarding water-use control in Groundwater Management Districts and ensure that the chief engineer of the Division of Water Resources in the Department of Agriculture would approve all recommendations related to water quality or water supply made by such a district.

I hope to return to western Kansas and witness the signing of this bill in Colby. I am pleased to join with the governor in emphasizing the importance of water in our state.

Honor Roll

Welcome and thanks to these recent subscribers to *The Oberlin Herald*:

Jennings: Carl Wahlmeier, Galen Tacha.

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THE OBERLIN HERALD —

Sports

Kids place at meet

Of 11 Oberlin kid wrestlers eligible to attend the subdistrict tournament in Goodland last weekend, all 11 made it into the finals and became eligible to attend the district meet Saturday in WaKeeney.

The team has four weigh-age class champions, four seconds, two thirds and a fourth.

- Wrestling were:
- Age 8 and under**
 - 61 pounds, Reece Grafel, first, and Alex Eskew, third.
 - 67, Corbin Wessel, fourth.
 - 88, Gavon Uehlin, first.
 - Age 10 and under**
 - 70, Dawson Kempt, first, and Colton Ketterl, second.
 - 130, Reegon Witt, third.



READY TO WRESTLE, Dawson Kempt was one of 11 Oberlin Kid Wrestlers at the subdistrict meet in Goodland on Saturday to win a trip to the district meet in WaKeeney this weekend

— Herald photo by Fawn Eskew

- Age 12 and under**
- 80, Kel Grafel, second.
- 120, Jeff Juenemann, first.
- Age 14 and under**
- 145, Brycen Welsey, third.
- 160, Dayton Kempt, second.



Kathy and her daughter, Christal

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