

Sports

Red, white, blue 5K run planned to help pool project

A 5K run from the Oberlin City Park through town and back to the park is planned for Saturday, Sept. 1, as part of the Painting Oberlin Patriotic campaign in town, and everyone is encouraged to show their patriotic colors.

There is no time limit for completing the run, said organizer Kerrie Wahlmeier. All money raised will go to the Oberlin Pool Project or to benefit the city's parks.

The cost is \$15 per person before Friday, Aug. 24, and \$20 after that. Checks can be made payable to the Decatur Area Development Fund Inc., and sent along with completed registration forms to Mrs. Wahlmeier, 205 N. Beaver, Oberlin, Kan., 67749.

T-shirts will be given to everyone who registers early, she said, but walk-ins are welcome. Organizers ask that registration forms be returned by Monday, Aug. 20, if at all possible so that the shirts can be ordered.

A map of the course will be avail-

able the day of the race. Age divisions for the run will be 10 and under, 11-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59 and 60 and over.

Children 3 to 10 can dress up in their best red, white and blue and participate in a one-half mile fun run. Cost for kids will be \$10 before Friday, Aug. 24, and \$15 afterwards.

Race packets will be available at the park from 7:15 to 7:45 a.m. Check in for the children's race will be at 7:35 a.m. and their race will start at 7:45 a.m. The adults start at 8 a.m.

Medals will be given to the overall first-place man and woman finishers and for the first-place finishers in each age group. Presentations will take place at the park about 5 to 10 minutes after the race.

For information, pick up an application form, available from most downtown businesses or at the Business Entrepreneurial Enhancement Center.

Ready to ride



HORSE FUNNIGHT, sponsored by the Tripple Creek Riders, is for beginners and old hands alike. Daniel Lerew (above) took a break with his family horse, Bart, between practice runs. — Herald staff photo by Stephanie DeCamp

Two days of races planned in Oberlin

A two-day Rebel Sprint Series race in memory of Bob Salem, who died Aug. 1, 2011, is planned for Friday and Saturday, Aug. 24 and 25, at the Decatur County Speedway by his son, race promoter Rick Salem of Oberlin.

Mr. Salem said that he hopes the Bob Salem Memorial Race will be the biggest in the track's history, with the largest payout and most cars ever to compete on the 3/8-mile oval track at the Decatur County Fairground.

"It's tough for me to even talk about," Mr. Salem said. "It gets me choked up. Racing has been in our whole family, and all our family and many of Dad's friends are coming back for it and are really looking forward to it."

He said his father, a long-time advertising salesman and businessman, raced for several decades in the state and also had a long history of working with anything with a motor.

He worked for B&B Automotive, drove for Isaac Truck Line, owned an automotive business in Dodge City and eventually operated Salem Mowers in Oberlin.

The father-son combination helped bring the Sprint cars to Oberlin when the track was first built.

"Dad supported this whole deal," Mr. Salem said about the Rebel Series. "He supported the whole thing when we started it up. He was in favor of keeping the cost of cars down and not starting the fast cars up front. He liked what we were doing with the series."

"He raced for probably 30 years. Everyone always called him the 'Little Stinker' because he always had a skunk painted on his car. I don't know where that came from. He started racing before I was born, and he always had it on the car."

Mr. Salem said he hopes to bring about 40 Sprint cars and 20 to 30 sport modifieds to town, along with some vintage race cars.

The Friday show will begin at 7:30 p.m. with a regular payout. On Saturday, racing will start at 7 p.m. with the feature a payout of at least \$1,000, Mr. Salem said.

Following Friday's action, there will be a dance with a live band behind the grandstands, beside a beer garden, which the county commissioners approved for the event. That required changes in city ordinances and county regulations which got full support from the Oberlin City Council and the county commissioners.

There will be several racers from this area, including Bob's grandson, Cody Salem. He will be driving a Sprint car owned by Jon Johnson. Also competing will be C.J. Johnson in a car owned by Lee Martin, and Mark Walinder, who grew up in Oberlin and now lives in Arvada, Colo. Drivers from Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska and Oklahoma are expected as well.

Ron Fowler, perhaps Bob's best

friend and a primary sponsor of the races, has been crucial in the development of the event, Mr. Salem said, as have the Decatur County Fair Board and the commissioners.

"Everyone in this community has stepped up to help" he added.

Sponsors for the event so far include Ron's Tire and Crossroads Express, Fredrickson Insurance, Steve Hilker Trucking, Myers Engine, Martin Farms, the county Fair Board, Frontier Restaurant, Oberlin Concrete, Oberlin Automotive, Ward Drug, Home Range Real Estate, Stellar Sales, First National Bank, the Oberlin American Legion Post, Johnson Real Estate, Sappa Valley Construction, Lincoln Repair, Circuitech, Dust Cloud Construction, Ron's Applying Service, Dollar General, Metcalf Real Estate, Custom Trophy, *The Oberlin Herald* and Fine Spirits.

For information or to become a sponsor, call Mr. Salem at (785) 475-7010.

New, old faces will be on team for cross country

The Decatur Community High cross country team will start out the year with a new coach and a lot of new runners.

With the retirement of Dick Ahlberg, who coached the runners for 33 years, the Red Devils team is under the leadership of long-time coach and math teacher Pat Dorshorst.

Mrs. Dorshorst said she has coached track, including the distance runners, but that was a long time ago. However, she said, her distance runners were pretty successful.

More recently she has coached volleyball and basketball.

The coach said that she is expecting about 16 runners this year after a preseason meeting to find out who is interested.

The team should have four seniors, including returning letterman Matthew Helm. Other seniors will be Kaylee May, who ran as a freshman and sophomore but not last year; Darbi Rouse, who has played volleyball; and Jerod Smith, a new student.

Juniors include returning runners Caleb Koerperich, Jude Walinder

and Brittany Urban; Lara Zodrow, who ran as a freshman; and Sara Macki, a new student.

The sophomores, Timothy Helm, Gannon Henningson, Winter Polivka and Caitlin Shields, are all returning runners.

Freshmen who expressed interest in the team include Justice Harris, Emily Larson and Daniel Lerew.

The runners will take part in the annual Sports Drink Scrimmage on Thursday, Aug. 23. The games will start at 4:10 p.m. with junior high volleyball in the junior high gym, then junior high football at 4:30 p.m. at Smick Field.

The Lady Red Devils volleyball team will be up next at 5:15 p.m. at the high school gym. The high school football and cross country teams will show off their stuff at 7 p.m. at the football field.

Then on Thursday, Aug. 30, the runners will travel east for the Norton Invitational, starting at 4:30 p.m. at the Prairie Dog Golf Club.

The annual Oberlin Invitational, the team's only home event, will start at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 25, at the Oberlin Country Club.

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(316) 425-6767, blacktopnationals.com

Orpheum Theatre 90th Anniversary
August 25, Wichita
Celebrate the 90th anniversary of downtown Wichita's historic jewel - the Orpheum! On the National Register of Historic Places.
(316) 263-0884, wichitaorpheum.com

Hoisington's 116th Annual Labor Day Celebration
August 30 - September 3, Hoisington
Weekend of activities for the entire family. Kid events, sidewalk sale, demo derby, outdoor dance, carnival, car show and more.
(620) 653-4311, hoisingtonkansas.com

Roundup Ranch Experience
August 31, September 1-2 & 15
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(620) 225-2244, dodgecityroundup.org

Walnut Valley Festival and National Flatpicking Championships
September 12-16, Winfield
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(620) 221-3250, wvfest.com

Autumn & Art at Bradley Fair
September 14-16, Wichita
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(877) 934-3378, autumnandart.com



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