

Tractor show set for Selden

Get out your old tractors, cars and small engines and plan to join in the fun when Selden holds its 20th annual Antique Tractor and Classic Car Show on Sunday, June 2.

The show was started in 1993 by tractor enthusiasts and the Selden American Legion Post. This is the fifth year that it will be sponsored by the Selden Community Foundation.

The event gives enthusiasts an opportunity to display their old tractors, cars and engines while enjoying a day of family activities.

The events start at 9 a.m. with

registration at Steve's Body Shop at the north end of Main Street. Exhibitors will line up their vehicles and engines for people to see while family activities take place in and around the city park.

A horseshoe-pitching contest starts at 10 a.m. on the south side of the tennis courts, and a basketball free-throw contest will begin at 12:30 p.m. for kids in grades 3 to 8. Other activities for the kids include rides in the barrel train, a free raffle and a corn tank seeded with coins for kids 8 and under.

In the afternoon, a Kiddie Tractor

Pull for ages 5 to 10 will begin at 1 p.m., with trophies awarded for first, second and third places.

Adults will be able to watch an antique baler demonstration, a barrel-roll competition and a washer drop in the afternoon.

Tickets will be on sale for prizes including a Case-International Harvester pedal tractor, donated by Hoxie Implement; an all-terrain tricycle, Frank Bouts; a John Deere toy tractor, Taylor Implement; lawn fertilizer, Ultimate Fertilizer; lawn chairs, Plains Implement; among others. The drawing will take place

just prior to the parade at 3 p.m.

A meal of barbecued pork, hamburgers and fixings will be served by the foundation. Refreshments will be available from the Harvester's 4-H Club and other vendors will be on hand. Music will be provided in the park throughout lunch time by Rose Bainter and family.

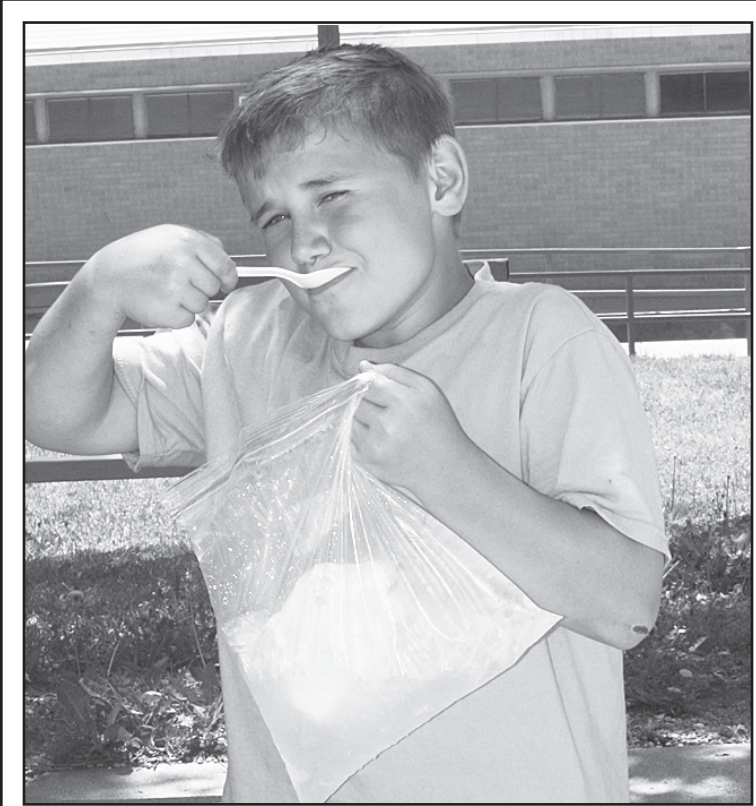
Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy this family fun day in Selden, said Judy Rogers, one of the organizers.

For more information, call Jacque Boultinghouse at (785) 386-4231 or Mrs. Rogers at 386-8033.



IT TOOK A STEADY hand to drop a washer in a bucket as an unidentified driver tried to win the Washer Drop during the Selden Antique Tractor and Classic Car Show.

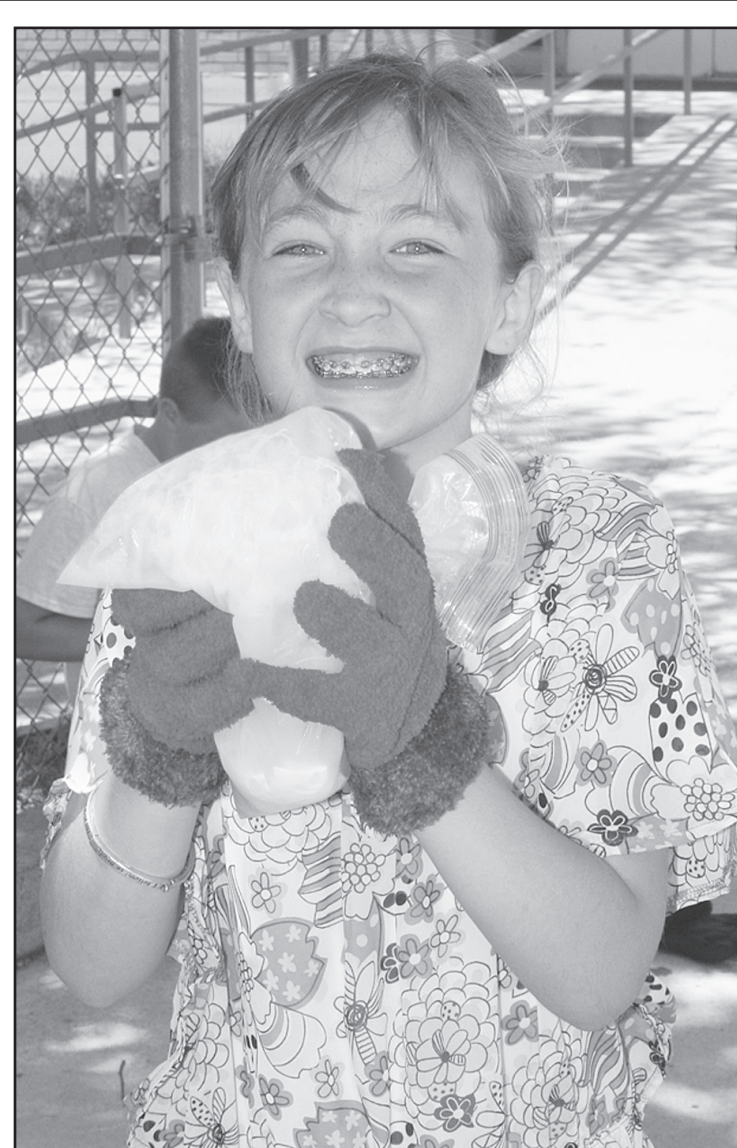
— Photo by Judy Rogers



Kids make ice cream

ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON, April Farr's fifth graders made ice cream in two sealable bags. Courtlyn Waterman (right) wore gloves as she shook a large bag of ice with a smaller bag of ice cream mix inside. Later, Kalen Townsend (above) enjoyed a bite of his treat.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



Work continues towards uniting two local groups

The Oberlin Business Alliance took another step toward uniting with the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce recently when Kurt Vollertsen, owner of Ward Drug, suggested separate meetings were no longer needed.

"This is my goal," he told the group at its monthly meeting at the LandMark Inn, "to have one meeting a month for both the Chamber and the OBA.... We'll just gradually ease into becoming one, because to me, it's kind of ridiculous to have two groups doing the same thing and meeting at separate times."

The other members said that was fine with them, though no vote was taken to set a meeting time for both groups.

The next event for the alliance will be a burger-and-brat lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday at the Last Indian Raid Museum during alumni weekend. The alliance will buy the meat; donations will go to help buy new banners for downtown. If the weather is bad, member Connie Grafel said, then the feed will be moved to the Old Bohemian Hall. Last year, the Chamber made \$300 to \$500 selling floats at the event, Treasurer Ruth Miesner said, so they hope to make a tidy profit this year.

"We don't have a lot of funds now as a group," said Mr. Vollertsen, "and the banners put us back a bit. If anyone wants to donate toward the cause, we suggest they do it through the (Decatur Area Development) account. It's 100 percent tax-deductible."

Speaking of the banners, the alliance decided that they will keep with the patriotic theme used last year from mid-May through July.

One banner, said Laurie Wasson, owner of Prairie Petals, costs about \$35. She said she would like to see the area where the banners are hung extended along Hall and Commercial Streets if they raise enough money.

In other business, the alliance:

- Discussed the group's latest pro-

motion, a monthly tax-free day, in which participating businesses have all or just select products for sale with the sales tax knocked off for the 15th of every month. Member Gary Anderson, owner of the LandMark Inn, said that he had two people come in and ask about the promotion early on, but no one else for the rest of the day. Amanda Grafel, who manages the Dresser, said that they had a good day, but nothing unusual. David Swank, whose wife owns the Penn Ave. Boutique, said that they had a poor response.

A small sign, attached to the front of a business with a suction cup, will identify them as a participant, Mr. Vollertsen said.

• Discussed buying benches from JLB Welding of McCook, which is promoting the benches as a way for businesses and organizations to advertise. The city has agreed to buy some of the benches, which will cost \$800 apiece. Mr. Vollertsen said that if the alliance wants to buy more than one, it can get a 10 percent discount. The ones in Sappa Park will be green, he said, and the ones downtown are going to be beige and blue, but if someone wants one for a different location, they can choose whatever color they like.

• Heard from Mr. Swank, president of the Chamber, who reminded the group that he is holding an Alzheimer's Awareness Garage Sale from May 10 through 12 at his home at 212 E. Hall St. Last year, Mr. Swank said, he made over \$800. The money goes to the National Active and Retired Federal Employees' Alzheimer's research fund, he said.

• Decided that the alliance will have a tailgate meal for donations before the Decatur Community High School homecoming game Friday, Sept. 20.

• Heard from Mr. Vollertsen that a family has booked the Sunflower Cinema for the Friday after Thanksgiving, so this year, the free Christmas movie promotion that week will have to be on Saturday.

County changes districts for size

By STEPHANIE DeCAMP
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Decatur County commissioners have changed the boundaries of the districts they serve to match changing population patterns, Commissioner Sid Metcalf said at last Tuesday's commissioners' meeting. "The redistricting is to keep (the numbers) at a third of the population to each commissioner," said Mr. Metcalf, "and to give equal representation to each district."

was 80 short, so we took 50 from Sid's and gave it to me."

"Which ended up being two townships," Mr. Metcalf added.

"It's a lot harder to change up mine because it's the city (of Oberlin)," said Mr. McEvoy.

Decatur County's population now stands at 2,993 according to the appraiser's office figures, he said, and the county is divided into three districts:

- District 1: Represented by Commissioner Stan McEvoy, this district includes Oberlin City Precinct No. 2 (all of the city east of Penn Ave), with a population 1,027 people.
- District 2: Represented by Com-

missioner Sid Metcalf, it includes Jennings and Norcatur. The total population of this district is 988, 24 people in Allison, 15 in Altory, 22 in Bassettville, 66 in Beaver, 48 in Center, 29 in Cook, 25 in Custer, 69 in Dresden, 45 in Dresden City, 38 in Garfield, 15 in Grant, 24 in Harlan (including Leoville), 30 in Jennings, 105 in Jennings City, 21 in Lincoln, 151 in Norcatur City, 13 in Lyon, 44 in Olive, 76 in Oberlin (not counting the city), 30 in Pleasant Valley, 36 in Prairie Dog, 13 in Roosevelt, 33 in Sappa, 15 in Sherman and 18 in Summit.

- District 3: Represented by Commissioner Brad Marcuson, it includes the rest of the county, Allison, Altory, Bassettville, Beaver, Center, Cook, Custer, Dresden, Garfield, Grant, Harlan, Leoville, Jennings, Lincoln, Lyon, Olive, Oberlin (excluding the city), Pleasant Valley, Prairie Dog, Roosevelt, Sappa, Sherman and Summit townships, plus the cities of Dresden,

whenever there's a drought or any other reason we can't do fireworks, we're always guaranteed a show.

"The nice thing about this project is that so far, people are coming to us to participate. People are really hungry for this to happen here after not having anything last year."

The laser show will include displays of local landmarks, and if a business would like to sponsor it, she said, its logo can be included in the images that will float across the sky for \$100, as well as on a banner in the park and as part of the announcements made by the deejay.

she added.

The only upside, she said, is that it costs \$400 each time the city has to send out a water letter and the company doing the mailing will add it to the city bills for \$37.

Councilman Rusty Addleman asked if it would be possible to take the bills to Norton to get expedited service but Mayor Rob McFee, a retired post office employee, said that wouldn't help. If someone has a better idea, Mrs. Larson said, she would be glad to listen to it.

"When you get an envelope, please open it," she said, adding that customers need not bring the return envelope if they are dropping off a payment, since they can't be reused.

On another matter, the administrator said she hopes that everyone will clean up their yards and lots to get ready for the Memorial Day festivities. She said she understands the rains have made the grass grow and lots of yards need to be tidied up. This would be a good time for the town to get spruced up, she said,

Fireworks and laser lights set for July

Decatur County will be darned if it won't have some kind of Independence Day show for the Fourth of July this year.

After hearing that Jonathan Fick is still planning his annual fireworks show at the baseball field for June 28 or 29 (depending on the weather), the firemen's wives confirmed that they still want to do a laser light show on the Fourth.

Teresa Diederich, a member of the wives' group, came to the county commissioners' meeting May 7 to tell commissioners about the day-long event—which will include a pa-

rade, games, food and music—and ask for the regular \$500 donation that the commissioners make for the holiday events every year.

Mrs. Diederich said that the women plan on doing the laser show every year so that even if the weather stops fireworks, there will always be at least one event for the holiday. So far, the commissioners confirmed, there has been no ban on fireworks.

"We're going to try and encourage families and alumni to come back for it," said Mrs. Diederich of the laser light show. "This way,

with visitors coming for both Memorial Day and Alumni weekend.

Utility bills to come in envelopes

Utility bills have been driving Oberlin's city office staff crazy.

The traditional postcards, which the city has been sending out for years, have been getting lost and torn since the U.S. Post Office moved its mail sorting to North Platte, Neb., City Administrator Karen Larson told the City Council during its meeting Thursday.

Even using a larger-size card didn't help.

This has become a major issue for the city, she said, so the staff is e-mailing the information to a company in Texas. That company will print and mail utility letters along with a return envelope, she said. The cost will be \$280 more a month than it has been costing to send out the post cards, Mrs. Larson added.

"Which really aggravates me," she told the council, adding that the office staff just doesn't have the time to print, fold and mail all those letters every month.

The utility information will have to be ready three days earlier to accommodate the new schedule,

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