

Recreation board gets a new budget

The Decatur County commissioners agreed last Tuesday to expand the budget of the Summer Recreation Board next year so that the board will be able to spend all the money it brings in from donations and fees.

Recreation Board member Gary Juenemann met with the commissioners to follow up on a solution for compensating the recreation board for money it received that was not accounted for in this year's budget.

The board is only allowed \$6,500 for the year, only allowing it to spend just \$500 of donations received. The board has collected over \$10,000 in fees and donations, however.

The commissioners agreed to pay the difference that exceeded the budget limit. The board will receive a voucher from the county's general fund, which is where the remaining money went, commissioners decided.

Mr. Juenemann asked that the commissioners expand the recreation budget to \$10,000 for next year. Commissioners said they will review the numbers from this year's budget before they make a decision, however.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard from County Appraiser Alan Hale about forming a Neighborhood Revitalization Plan. The

plan will encourage new construction and renovations by giving a tax rebate for improvements.

- Heard Natasha Carman, treasurer of the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Commission, request an increase in salary for the director position.

She said Connie Grafel plans to retire, and the new salary would help the board fill the position. Commissioners said any increase in the county tax levy would have to be approved by a vote of the people, if it comes to that.

Chairman Stan McEvoy noted that the majority of the salary is paid by the city, so they could request the money from the city's budget.

- Agreed to send custodian Roger Robinson to the second half of boiler operation and maintenance training.

- Agreed on the purchase of a Bobcat skid loader with four attachments, costing \$57,717 including a 36 percent government discount. Road Supervisor Tim Stallman said the discount saved \$31,260 off the list cost.

The machine comes with a trade-in program that will allow the county to upgrade it for \$3,500. Berry Tractors of Garden City, an affiliate of White Star Machinery, is the dealer the county will purchase the Bobcat from.



RESPONDING TO THE SCENE OF THE CRASH are the Decatur County Emergency Medical Technicians and the Sheriff's Department where Ruby Strong lost control

of her pickup truck and ended up in the north ditch by the Kanona turnoff.

—Herald staff photo by Ramell Taylor

Oberlin woman falls asleep at the wheel

By RAMELL TAYLOR
rtaylor@nwkansas.com
A 78-year-old Oberlin woman was flown to a Kearney, Neb., hospital after she lost control of her pickup on U.S. 36 east of town last Tuesday.

He said Ruby Strong was driving a 2004 GMC Pickup, going west on U.S. 36 by the Kanona turnoff, when she apparently fell asleep at the wheel and lost control. She overcorrected, he said, and the truck ended up in the north ditch, rolling several times before coming to a stop.

Mr. Marcum said no other cars were involved. Mrs. Strong was wearing a seat belt. The front end and windshield of the truck were smashed and the doors were jammed shut. Volunteers from the Oberlin Rural Fire Department had to remove the door to get Mrs. Strong out.

She suffered broken bones, lacerations and multiple cuts, along with other injuries, Mr. Marcum said. He said she was reported to be in stable condition as of Wednesday at Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney.

Plans to revitalize businesses in Oberlin

By RAMELL TAYLOR
rtaylor@nwkansas.com
County Appraiser Alan Hale, who has worked with Norton and other counties on the Neighborhood Revitalization Programs, urged Decatur County commissioners and an audience of 10, including three Oberlin City Council members and one Norcat councilman, to get on with the program.

Mr. Hale said the program would allow owners to receive tax rebates on new construction and improvements, giving them an incentive to invest in Oberlin and the county. Under the plan, property owners would be reimbursed 100 percent of new taxes paid in the first year, with the rebated amount declining 10 percent every year for 10 years. Other counties already are benefit-

ing from the program, he said. "We're behind everyone else," Mr. Hale said. "Right now would be the best time to do it." Economic Development Director Connie Grafel said there has been a decline in Oberlin's population since 2010, which has affected the city's economic growth. She said she believes the rebates would help new business owners. "The first year is crucial to getting your business off the ground," Ms. Grafel said. Mr. Hale said there will be an application fee for the program, which is based off an estimate of the increase in value. He said counties already participating in a revitalization program have committed to a five-year resolution, which is evaluated at

the end of the term in case changes need to be made. Mr. Hale advised the commissioners to take their time forming their guidelines. He said Norton went through a lot of misfires, so the resolution shouldn't be rushed. County Treasurer Jean Hale said she was at treasurers' meeting and spoke with officials from other counties participating in the program. She said they stressed the importance of having a solid resolution. "If you don't have guidelines," Mrs. Hale said, "it will blow up in your face." Commissioner Chairman Stan McEvoy said, "It's helpful that we have other towns that have already started." Mr. Hale warned the commission-

NOTICE

On Monday, July 1, the Mayor of Oberlin declared a Stage 2 Water Warning due to the continuing drought and the lowered water level in our city water wells.

The regulation actions of a Stage 2 Water Warning are as follows:

Regulation Actions

An odd/even lawn watering system is imposed on water consumers. Residents with odd-numbered addresses will water on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday; even addresses will water on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. A rotation system for non-resident water consumers will be developed by the City Administrator.

Outdoor water use, including lawn watering and car washing will be restricted to from 12:01 AM to 9:00 AM, and from 8:00 PM to midnight.

Refilling of private swimming pools will be allowed one day a week after sunset.

Emergency water rates may be imposed.

Waste of water is prohibited.

Business Alliance meets with Chamber

The Oberlin Business Alliance met with the Decatur County Chamber of Commerce board last Wednesday to exchange ideas for the Red Brick Car Show coming up this fall.

Fifteen people came for the groups' first joint meeting, the largest turnout an alliance meeting has had in recent memory. Chamber President David Swank said that was something he's been trying to achieve for a long time. Sheriff Ken Badsky said the car show will run in conjunction with the Up in Smoke Barbecue Cook-off on Friday and Saturday, Sept.

13 and 14. The cars will cruise into Sappa Park at 6 p.m. Friday, he said. There will be a 50s and 60s dress up contest, a 5K run, deejay music and food. Registration for Saturday activities will start at 8 a.m. and end at 10 a.m. Free coffee and rolls will be served. Mr. Badsky said the cars will be parked downtown on Penn Avenue for a "Show and Shine" between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Some of the possible activities he mentioned were "Business Blackout Bingo," where people can

stop into businesses to fill up their bingo cards, a 50/50 raffle and other games throughout downtown. All would serve to get people into the businesses. The day will conclude at Sappa Park with the Up in Smoke Barbecue judging at 3 p.m., Mr. Badsky said. Teams from all over Kansas will compete in a cook-off that includes meats, desserts and specialty dishes. Teresa Diederich gave an update on the Fourth of July Celebration. Mrs. Diederich said so far they had 22 entries for the Fourth of July Parade, with the possibility of 30.

Decatur County 4th of July Festival

Schedule of Events

9 a.m. - Parade
(line up for parade in front of Fire Station at 8:30)


After the parade

- Bike Races
- Sidewalk Chalk Art
- Root Beer Floats and Cherry Limeades sales 9-11:30

****No parking on Main Street** from Commercial to Hall from 8:30 until after the bike races. Harvest Trucks will be able to get to elevator after parade on Hall Street.

Afternoon - Pool Activities

6:00 City Park Meal - Free will Donation
Hamburger, Hot Dogs, baked beans, watermelon, chips.




Dunking Booth

Pie/Ice Cream, sno-cones, cake, cotton candy, popcorn

Kids Games

8:00 p.m. Pie Eating Contest
afterward-winner announced of **Paint Oberlin Patriotic**



7-8 Community Band Performing at Band Shell

8:30 Dancing with the D.J.

9 p.m. Legion Riders Color Guard

9:15 Oberlin American Legion Presentation-Grandstand

9:45 Crowd Mixers (Chicken Dance, Hokey Pokey)

10 p.m. Laser Light Show

In south parking lot of High School by tennis courts.
Keep updated with Facebook - Oberlin's Page or
<http://oberlinks.com/decatur-county-4th-of-july-festival>



RAWLINS COUNTY HEALTH CENTER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

707 Grant Atwood, KS 67730
(785) 626-3211

Bringing Specialized Healthcare To Your Community

July 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Dr. Rubowitz Oncology <small>Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab</small>	2 <small>Mammograms</small>	3 <small>Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic</small>	4	5 <small>Nuclear Medicine Cardiac Rehab MRI's</small>	6
7	8 <small>Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab</small>	9 Dr. Frederick C. Miller Cardiology	10 Dr. Frankum Surgery <small>Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic</small>	11	12 <small>Cardiac Rehab MRI's</small>	13
14	15 <small>Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab</small>	16 Dr. Frederick C. Miller Cardiology	17 High Plains Cardiologist <small>Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic</small>	18 Dr. Reeves Podiatry Kirsten Angel Dietitian	19 Dr. Reeves Podiatry <small>Nuclear Medicine Cardiac Rehab MRI's</small>	20
21	22 <small>Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab</small>	23	24 <small>Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic</small>	25	26 <small>Cardiac Rehab MRI'S</small>	27
28	29 <small>Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab</small>	30 <small>Mammograms</small>	31 <small>Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic</small>			

To schedule an appointment with a visiting physician,
PLEASE CALL (785) 626-3211
Cheryl Banister, RN
Specialty Clinic Director