

Merger enters Amusement Authority's conversation

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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Members of the Decatur County Amusement Authority looked at figures on money brought in and the expenses from the home-owned carnival last summer, and talked about the idea of merging with the county Fair Board during a meeting last Thursday.

Treasurer Candy Ketterl said she hadn't received a bill from Raye's Grocery yet for food, but did have the other expenses, and handed out a report. The expenses add up to about \$41,093 thus far, she said.

The carnival brought in \$10,392 Tuesday night, \$7,498 Wednesday, \$10,337 Thursday, \$12,436

Friday and \$12,101 on Saturday for a total of \$52,768, she reported. Donations totaled \$1,709.

There was money in the account before the carnival started, said Mrs. Ketterl. The idea is to pay most of the bills out of that money and then use the money raised this year for the carnival next year. Mrs. Ketterl said the authority did have money in the account before the carnival but didn't know the exact figure.

She said she thought it would be a good idea next year to keep track of how much money the concession stands bring in each night.

Member Dana Koerperich said the authority still owes \$400 for the concrete work for the new ticket booth, too.

The members briefly talked about a new state law, passed late in the session this spring with little notice, which requires that all rides have to be inspected 30 days prior to running, workers have to be trained and certified, the operator has to carry \$1 million in liability insurance and the rules for each ride and game have to be posted.

It would be hard to certify volunteers to run the rides, said Mrs. Koerperich. Especially when some people just sign up to work that night, Mrs. Ketterl added.

This bill stinks from the get go, said member Jim Wesch.

It includes fines for every day a carnival were to run in violation of the bill, noted County Commissioner Stan McEvoy.

The group carries \$500,000 in liability insurance now, and that costs \$9,000 a year, said Mrs. Koerperich. They couldn't afford \$1 million.

For next year, said Mrs. Ketterl, she thinks the concession stand

needs a hot dog cooker that rotates. Also, she said, it needs signs to mark which window is for placing orders and which is for picking them up. A small safe is also needed to keep the money.

There needs to be some rules about the concession stand, too, said Vice President Stephanie Blau, because there were several nights there weren't enough workers and authority members ended up in there.

The group gave Mrs. Ketterl the go ahead to look at prices for the hot dog machine and a safe.

There were lots of good comments on the ticket idea for all the games and rides, said Mr. McEvoy. Someone did suggest using tickets for the concession stand, too.

The group agreed that they had all had lots of good comments about the wrist bands for unlimited rides the first night.

Someone, said Mrs. Koerperich, needs to do a toy inventory. Member Vicky Ray said Dana Marintzer knows pretty much what the group has. Most of the little stuff was given out, said Ms. Ray.

The group discussed toy cranes that the authority used in the past and agreed to try to sell them on the Internet. The group will start with trying to sell one and see what happens, and then try to sell the others.

Some work needs to be done on the rides, said Mr. Wesch, including putting a new base under the center of the Octopus. There's still some problems with the Ferris wheel going out of balance. It just doesn't have as much zip as it used to, either, he said. The Twist Over can be fixed, said Mr. Wesch, instead of moved out, and the big

wings need some work.

The group briefly talked about the fact that the top of one of the Tilt-a-Whirl cars came flying off during the carnival and that a rider flipped over in the big swings. Mrs. Blau suggested that riders on the swings not be allowed to touch others during the ride.

There are also lots of minor repairs needed at the fairground, said Mr. Wesch. It's going to cost to keep the rides going. Maybe they need to consider a price increase.

He said he figured if the Octopus runs every night of the carnival at full occupancy, it can make around \$3,000. That's only a third of the insurance cost.

Aqua Shield Roofing volunteered to help fix the Twist Over, said Mrs. Blau. The ride was shut down this year because of problems with the seat belts and flooring.

The group could possibly get harness belts from race car suppliers for the ride, which would be better than just the belts that go across the lap, said Mrs. Blau.

The Lions Club from Jennings has run the ride, said Mrs. Ketterl, and has offered to help fix it. They talked about getting some bids.

"We have to see how much money we have to operate first," said Mr. Wesch. "We don't want to

get the cart before the horse."

Member Tim Thornton asked if the group could maybe get businesses to sponsor each ride. That way it would be easier to gather support for that ride, instead of the board running around trying to put out individual fires.

Someone probably needs to look at the wiring on the carousel, said Mr. McEvoy. Maybe someone could call the Oberlin Lions and see if they want to help get it rewired.

Mrs. Koerperich asked about possibly merging the authority with the fair board.

Do the two groups just need to continue working well together like they did this year? asked Mr. McEvoy.

Some group would still need to worry about the carnival and work on it, said Mr. Wesch. The fair board has enough to deal with.

It could be one group, said Mrs. Koerperich, since the two are pretty much working towards the same thing.

It would probably be a decision for the Chamber of Commerce board, said Mr. McEvoy, on whether the authority should try to merge, since the group falls under the Chamber.

"I'm not even sure of the Chamber's direction," said Dave Olson, who sits on the Chamber board.

How would the money work if the two groups merged? asked Mrs. Koerperich. Does the county say how and when the money can be spent.

Money raised by taxes for maintenance has to be spent on that, said Mr. McEvoy. For next year, the Fair Board is going to have three check books for the different things to make it clear tax money isn't being spent to bring in grandstand events or for other things.

The county commissioners appoint the Fair Board members, and have a representative who goes to the fair board meetings, so information is passed back and forth, said Mr. McEvoy, but they don't try to run the fair.

Just in terms of numbers, said Mrs. Koerperich, with two groups, there aren't enough people. Both groups are working towards having a good fair.

There's just a lot of unanswered questions, said Mr. Olson.

Maybe someone needs to check with the county attorney, said Ms. Ray, because the authority and theater were under the Chamber so donations could be tax exempt.

Mr. McEvoy said he would talk with the other commissioners as well.

The next Amusement Authority meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16

Pick-Em Tiebreaker trips up few

(Continued from Page 1)
Lenora, 31.

Five fans who missed three games did not pick the right winner of the tiebreaker game. They were Kim Feldt, Hill City; Ann Becker, Lenora; Carol Voss, Alma; Jacob Green, Dennis Maybon, both of Norton.

Correct on all but four games were: Alberta Geil, Alma; Lexie McDowell, Hill City; Tim Moore, Evelyn Springer, both of Hoisington; Hank Kaiser, Jim Springer, both of Long Island; Morgan Baumann, Regina Beikman, Kristy Keilig, Craig Foley, Charlotte Stephenson, Sandy Husted, Patty Gall, Lawrence Wiseman, Ryan Blecha, Georgie Rorabaugh, Lynn Nelson, Anastasia Foley, Jeris Norman, Janiece Walter, Rosalie Schulze, Gaylene Cuzick, Rodney Stapp, Gary Matson, all of Norton.

Incorrect on five games were: Dale Shearer, Dorothy Shearer, both of Edmond; Matthew Berneking, Salina; Kenney Leiker, Hays; Andy Moore, Barbara Springer, Nancy Moore, all of Hoisington; Aaron McDowell, Hill City; Julie Hilburn, Alma; Mary Ann Hager, Tom Baumann, Virginia Carlton, Tom Davis; Luke Keilig, Rick Green, Baylee Miller, Kollan McMullen, Nathan Morse, LeRoy Newell, Bob Stephenson, Spencer Shirk, Deanna Gallentine, Eric Farber, all of Norton.

Missing six contests were: Chris Foley, Fairfield, Calif.; Bob Moore, Hoisington; Brodie McDowell, Hill City; Linda Covington, Brenda Husted, both of Alma; Misty Nuzum, Amanda Ray, Jennifer Wahlmeier, Douglas Daniels, Dustan Daniels, Naedean Whitney, Roberta Blecha, Tiffney Yeager, Fig Millan all of Norton.

With seven misses were: Sandi Winchell, Bob Covington, both of Alma; Pauline Kaiser, Long Island; HiPlains Co-op, Lenora; Barbara Brooks, Clayton; Erin Foley, Lawrence; Dalton Miller, Linda Matson, Tina Tanner, all of Norton.

Incorrect on eight games were LeRoy Kaiser, Long Island; Jasmine Covington, Alma; Wilma Wiseman, Megan O'Conner, both of Norton.

This week's entries
The fifth week's entries must be postmarked by 5 p.m. Friday and received in the mail no later than Saturday or you may bring them to *The Telegram* office before 5 p.m. on Friday.

See the Pick-Em page advertisement in today's *Telegram* for this week's high school and college games.

The fan who picks the most winners during the 12-week contest will receive \$50 in scrip money plus and engraved trophy.

Scores of last week's games were:

- Florida State 39, Colorado 21
- Alabama 41, Georgia 30
- Kansas State 45, UL-Lafayette 37
- Virginia Tech 35, Nebraska 30
- Stanford 35, Washington 28
- Norton 40, Osborne 0
- Hill City 64, Logan 40
- Smith Center 36, Phillipsburg 23
- St. Francis 24, Oakley 11
- Goodland 21, Trego Community 6
- Atwood 44, Oberlin 12
- Auburn 14, Tennessee 12
- Penn State 38, Illinois 24

Make plans to attend the high school homecoming parade at 2:45 p.m. Friday

COTTONWOOD RANCH TRAIL RIDE
Cottonwood Ranch State Historic Site, near Studley, will host a trail ride on Sunday afternoon, October 5.

The public is invited to participate. Furnish your own horse. Wagons and hikers are welcome. No motorized vehicles are allowed on the trail. **The ride will begin at Cottonwood Ranch at 1:00 and return to the site about 5:00.** This trail ride is sponsored by Kansas Historical Society and Friends of Cottonwood Ranch and is FREE.

Contact Cottonwood Ranch at 785-627-5866 if you need more information



O'BRIEN'S

PIT STOP

Sat., Oct. 4 Show Starts at 8 p.m.

Comedy Nite

\$7 Cover Charge

MUST BE 18 OR OLDER

COMEDY NITE

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A Wichita Native Crowned Wichita's King of Comedy and Funniest Person In Oklahoma . . .

Come Enjoy His Savagely Self-Depreciating Comedy

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Now, there is hope. Hays Medical Center's Bariatric Surgery Program may help you attain a more healthy body weight and other long-term health benefits.

An August 2007 New England Journal of Medicine report says obesity is associated with increased mortality. The life expectancy of severely overweight persons is reduced by an estimated 5-20 years.

Bariatric surgery can lead to long-term weight loss and decreased mortality due to weight-related complications. The health benefits of bariatric surgery may include:

- Significant weight loss
- Lower cholesterol
- Lower blood pressure
- Improvement of Type II diabetes
- Improvement of cardiovascular health
- Relief of sleep apnea
- Relief of digestive problems
- Decreased joint pain
- Improved mobility
- Improved self image

Reclaim your life and your health.

To find out if bariatric surgery is right for you, talk to your primary care physician or call 785-623-5945 today.

You've struggled with severe weight problems for years.

You've tried all the diets, but nothing seems to work.

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