

Carnival group questions merger

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 (See CARNIVAL on Page 5A)

Small group talks about wind energy

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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Fifteen people learned a little more about wind energy and what's happened in Colorado over the past years with renewable energy during a public meeting at The Gateway last Tuesday.

Mike Bowman, who lives near Idalia, Colo., spoke to the Decatur County commissioners that morning, at the Oberlin Rotary Club over the noon hour and during the public meeting that night.

Lee "Doc" Franklin, a candidate for county commissioner, said Mr. Bowman is the Colorado governor's expert on wind and has an excellent background in renewable energy.

It seems that suddenly this area is a hot property for wind farms, said Mr. Franklin.

In August, Mr. Franklin said, he attended a meeting in Oakley with commissioners and representatives from the 18 counties in northwest Kansas to discuss joining forces to bring in wind power developers.

Those at the public meeting included county Commissioners Doyle Brown and Ralph Unger, Mayor Joe Stanley and Council-

women Marcia Lohofener and Rhonda May, Connie Grafel, marketing director of the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp. and a handful of others.

Mr. Bowman said he grew up on a ranch near Idalia, just across the state line from St. Francis. In April 2004, he helped start 25/25, an initiative in Colorado that by the year 2025 the state will be getting at least 25 percent of all energy from renewable sources on farms, ranches and forests. Although the initiative started with 12 people, he said, it now has 750 groups backing it.

Energy development is coming, said Mr. Bowman, and it gives people in northwest Kansas and eastern Colorado an opportunity to create some wealth in rural areas again.

The largest outflow of money in rural areas now is for energy, he said. What if counties, cities and regions could keep that money here?

People need to start thinking of energy as a commodity like wheat, milk and other things, said Mr. Bowman.

About a month ago, he said, a (See WIND on Page 5A)

City administrator serves 18 years before resignation

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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Over 18 years as an employee of the City of Oberlin, half of that as city administrator, Gary Shike has seen and helped with a lot of projects.

Probably the biggest, he said, was the new waste water treatment plant south of town, with a price tag of a little less than \$2 million.

As administrator, Mr. Shike said, he played a big role in the city building the waste water plant, a new water well, several street and highway projects, improvements on the water distribution system, and many day-to-day projects. Mr. Shike has worked closely with city department heads and the elected council members to run the city.

Many of the projects Mr. Shike has had a hand in are not yet completed, including the plan to build a longer runway at the city airport. That project, he said, has been an interesting one. It is surprising how slowly aviation bureaucracy moves, he said.

Mr. Shike started working for the city water department in 1991. That August, he moved into the job of city superintendent, now called the city foreman. The name changed when Dan Castle, then the power plant operator, was hired, said Mr. Shike.

For nine years, Mr. Shike served as the superintendent under City (See MAN on Page 5A)

Council starts search

With the resignation of the City of Oberlin administrator, the City Council is preparing to sign a contract with the Kansas League of Municipalities to lead the search for a new person.

Mayor Joe Stanley said the council will look at and sign the contract during a goal-setting meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday at The Gateway.

Administrator Gary Shike will have his last day with the city on Tuesday.

The league, said Mayor Stanley, will actually do the search for the new administrator, putting advertisements in trade magazines. Then the league will narrow those applicants down to three to five of the best candidates and the council will do the interviews.

The process could take a couple of months, said Mayor Stanley. The search for a new administrator should cost a little less than \$4,000, he said.

The council has no plans to name an interim administrator, said Mayor Stanley.



COMMISSIONER DOYLE BROWN (above) spoke to the junior and senior classes last Tuesday during county government day sponsored by Decatur Tomorrow. Nora

Urban (below) talked with Wade Juenemann, Logan Fortin and Ryan McEvoy in the clerk's office.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Students tour county

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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Juniors and seniors from Decatur Community High School learned a little about county government by spending the morning at the courthouse last Tuesday.

Escorted by teachers Dick Ahlberg, Susan Nelson and Carol Dixon; Principal Charles Haag; and Gary Anderson, Abby Hisson and Steve Nelson with Decatur Tomorrow, the students started the day by posing for a group picture on the steps of the first floor of the courthouse before heading up to the third-floor courtroom.

There, state Rep. John Faber and Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer talked. The men encouraged the students to come to Topeka and be pages for them for a day during the legislative session this winter.

"Some of you have already done the job," said Rep. Ostmeyer, "but there's an opportunity for others to be a page in the years to come."

He also encouraged the students to register to vote when



they turn 18 and then exercise their right to vote.

Candidates in the upcoming election, including Gene Gallentine and Lee "Doc" Franklin who are running for county commissioner, and Kari Ketterl, who is running for register of deeds, also were present.

Getting registered to vote, said Mr. Gallentine, is important, but then it's important to vote.

Volunteerism, said Commissioner Doyle Brown, is a big thing in this county. Without volunteers,

there wouldn't be an ambulance service, fire department, carnival, fair or other things. People in big cities pass bills that affect all of us, like the bill requiring carnival inspections. It's important for all of you to vote and talk with those in government about what you want.

When making decisions, he said, the three commissioners have to ask themselves what's best for the entire county.

There's a national election going on now, so those who are 18 should

exercise their right to register and then vote, said Mr. Brown.

"With the national election, believe nothing of what you hear and only half of what you see, and make up your own mind," he said. "Be a concerned citizen and make up your own mind."

Mr. Anderson asked how the county gets money to operate.

Some people may have heard parents' talk about taxes, said Mr. Brown. All real estate is appraised whether it's homes, land or other (See STUDENTS on Page 5A)

Time's running out to enter parade

The 50th Anniversary celebration for the Decatur County Last Indian Raid Museum is less than two weeks away, leaving busi-

nesses, individuals and organizations just a little over a week to sign up for the parade.

For the past few months, a vol-

unteer committee has been organizing the parade to help celebrate the museum's first half century.

(See PARADE on Page 5A)

Homecoming celebration is this week

By **DECATUR DICTATOR STAFF**

Students at Decatur Community High School are getting ready for this year's homecoming celebration this week.

Each day will build up to the homecoming parade at 2:30 p.m. Friday on Main Street, the football game at

7 p.m. that night against the Rawlins County Buffaloes and the dance from 7 to 11 p.m. on Saturday.

Throughout the week, different activities have been planned: Spirit Week is a time for the students to dress up and have fun, with window decorating on Tuesday, (See HOMECOMING on Page 5A)