

Cemetery to get wall, council says

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
c.haynes@nwkans.com

The new section of the cemetery won't be complete without a wall, the Oberlin City Council decided at its meeting Thursday, so if there is money, the wall should be done.

It will cost \$111,000 to build the north-south portion of the wall, which will look similar to the one on the older section of the cemetery across the street, the council was told. This will include an entryway. It will cost \$146,000 to build the entire wall.

The money for the wall will come from the Community Development Fund and cemetery memorial money, said Councilwoman Rhonda May.

Some of the Community Development money has been promised to

build restrooms at Sappa Park, said Acting City Administrator Karen Larson, but it doesn't look like those will get built this year because of engineering problems.

"That would mean that there wouldn't be money for anything else," she said.

Ms. May said that she thought the council should build the wall.

"I don't like taking all the money," she said, "but if I had a family member being buried out there, I would want it to look like a cemetery — like the other part."

Councilman Rob McFee agreed.

"We've been kicking this horse for five years at least," he said.

The council decided to use \$20,000 in memorial money, leaving \$100,000 in other funds. (See WALL on Page 5A)

Wife improves; lost dog found

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
c.haynes@nwkans.com

Things are looking up for the Brad Marcuson family after a serious accident sent wife Elaine to a hospital in Nebraska and the family dog disappeared.

Mrs. Marcuson had Kip, the family dog, in an old pickup a little over a week ago and was following daughter Sarah, who was driving a tractor pulling a grain cart up an embankment to reach the wheat field that Mr. Marcuson was combining.

Sarah, unused to pulling a grain cart, stalled the tractor and Mrs.

Marcuson had to stop on U.S. 83, waiting to make a left turn.

Although the day was clear and the road open, her truck was struck in the rear by a pickup driven by a Phillipsburg man.

Mrs. Marcuson, who was not wearing a seat belt, was trapped in the truck with injuries including broken vertebrae and ribs. The dog, frightened by the crash, ran off and was lost in an area he wasn't familiar with although it was only about five miles from home.

Mrs. Marcuson was freed by firemen and taken by ambulance to a hospital. (See FAMILY on Page 5A)

Enrollment dates different this year

With the new school year fast approaching, the Oberlin School District is publishing its annual information page on page 5B of today's *Oberlin Herald*.

The page contains much of the information needed to get students enrolled, plus other information helpful to parents, teachers, students and anyone interested in school activities.

This year there are some important changes, said school board secretary Pam Simonsson, and parents need to be aware of them in order to make sure enrollment and school go well.

For the first time in a long time, the Decatur Community Junior

and Senior High School will enroll students on a different day than the Oberlin Elementary School.

Junior high and high school students will enroll from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 4.

Students at Oberlin Elementary will enroll from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 3 p.m. next Wednesday and Thursday, July 28 and 29.

Also, high school and junior high students will notice that their school day will be 20 minutes longer this year in order to add an eighth period. The day will start at 8:10 a.m. and be over at 3:40 p.m. In the past, the day has gone from 8:20 a.m. to 3:40 p.m. (See SCHOOL on Page 5A)



SURVEYING THE OCTOPUS from the inside, Authority work day Thursday. Meanwhile, Board President electrician Brad Larson was trying to figure out how to get the ride back in working order during an Amusement Authority work day Thursday. Meanwhile, Board President Judy Scott checked out a circuit box to the ride.

— Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes

Workers needed for midway

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
c.haynes@nwkans.com

With the start of the Decatur County Fair only a few weeks away, members of the Amusement Authority board are working furiously to get everything ready for the carnival, which is one of the big draws at the annual event.

Thursday, four women and three men struggled to get buildings cleaned and ready to serve food and rides ready for fairgoers.

Over at the Octopus, which died on Saturday night of last year's fair, the seats and backs appeared to need lots of work.

In the past, said Amusement Authority President Judy Scott, the seats were removed from the ride at the end of the fair. Because it died last year and many of the seats couldn't be reached, though, it was left up all year.

The weather and wind over the 11 months since the last fair have been tough on the seats, she said, and several need to be replaced.

While she assessed the seats, electrician Brad Larson, also a member of the Amusement Authority board, checked out the wiring problems with a shake of his head.

The carousel also needed some rewiring, Ms. Scott said. That has been mostly fixed, but the rides are all old and need constant maintenance.

There's more problems than so-

lutions with the rides, she noted. "Every time we come up here, there's another one," she said. "We fix one thing and we notice two more."

What the volunteer board members really need is manpower, she said. There are lots of tables, games and machine parts that need to be moved out of storage. Some of these things will need to be repaired, repainted or refurbished. Some just need to be moved to whether they will be during the fair.

To get everything done, she said, they need more people to serve on the authority's board. Of the seven volunteer members, she added, five will be going off the group this year and two people cannot carry the load.

"If we all quit, that leaves two of them," she said, "and that won't work. The more that join, the easier it is to do the job."

Right now, however, volunteers are needed to work at the fair and put on the 2010 edition of the Home Owned Carnival. There will be work days on Thursday and next Thursday starting at 6 p.m. at the fairground. On Saturday, Ms. Scott said, volunteers are needed starting at 8 a.m. to make sure everything is set up and ready to go.

That's a week before the fair, Ms. Scott noted, but the time will be needed to test the rides and fix any last-minute problems.



State representative

Challenger seeks stronger voice in Topeka

By KAREN KRIEN
karen.k@nwkans.com

Ward Cassidy of St. Francis is running as a Republican for state representative of the 120th District, which includes Cheyenne, Rawlins, Decatur, Norton and Phillips counties.

We need to have a strong voice in Topeka, he says, stronger than in the past.

"If we don't all stand up to protect our northwest Kansas way of life," Mr. Cassidy said, "we will have to take what is dished out."

"Everyone needs to work together to solve problems. We need to preserve our lifestyle." He uses the acronym "CAVE,"



W. Cassidy

which he said stands for communication, availability, visibility and energy, to describe his approach to the job.

He said he wants to communicate with all groups in the district and he is asking people for ideas on how issues and proposed bills would affect them.

"I have many farmer, business and medical friends that have great knowledge and are all ways willing to help," he said. "The key is input from northwest Kansas people — not lobbyists and special interest groups."

He plans to be available anywhere he goes, whether it is at school activities or just out and about. (See NEWCOMER on Page 5A)

Incumbent feels years give him edge in House

By STEVE HAYNES
s.haynes@nwkans.com

After seven terms in the Kansas House, Rep. John Faber says he's moved into a key position as chair of the Agriculture Budget subcommittee in the House Appropriations Committee, drawing up the budget for agriculture programs vital to his district.

It hasn't been all that much fun the last couple of years, however, having to cut programs across the board as the state's revenues sank lower and still lower during the deepest recession in more than half a century.

"I thought long and hard about



John Faber

whether I wanted to run again," said Mr. Faber, who farms north of Brewster, on a farm southern Rawlins County. "We've been through a few years that were horrendous. I guess we'll see what (state) revenue does at the end of the month."

"I don't think this new sales tax will do the job. I fear people who shop across the state line, are taking their tax dollars with them."

He said one area grocery told him a sales-tax increase was the worst thing the state could do to raise money.

"He said he's always supported education, but if we raise that sales tax, it's a disaster." (See SENIORITY on Page 5A)

Man wants to offer voters choice on ballot

Bob Strevey, a wheat and milo farmer and stockman from the Norcatour area, wants to give people a choice, so he is running once again as a Democrat for the 120th District seat in the state House of Representatives.

This will be Mr. Strevey's sixth try at the seat, held by John Faber of Brewster.

Mr. Strevey, 67, a retired teacher, lives on the family farm south of Norcatour, and except for a short stint in the Army during the Vietnam War, has always lived in Decatur County. He and Kay, his wife of 39 years, have three grown daughters, Trudi McCollum of Liberty, Mo., and Wendy Tien and Hollie

Richie of Andover, and seven grandchildren.

After being drafted in 1966, he served a tour of duty in Vietnam, Mr. Strevey said, then served in the Army Reserve for 20 years until finally retiring as a lieutenant colonel.

Mr. Strevey said that he feels that people need a choice and, while there are two Republicans running in the primary, there also needs to be at least two names on the ballot in the general election in November. (See CANDIDATE on Page 5A)



Bob Strevey

