

* Pool could save water, city money

(Continued from Page 1) watching them. The new \$2.3 million pool, would use 750,000 to 1 million gallons of water a year, he estimated.

The bathhouse will be gutted, he said, with the outside kept intact, including the outside bathrooms, which also serve the park.

The zero-depth entry is required for those with disabilities, he said, and is good for small children. The inside of the bathhouse will be redone to bring it up to current standards.

Other amenities would be an underwater bench for people wanting to sit in the water and watch their kids and a shade area for watchers. "Parents really like this feature," he added.

Removable children's play items will be available, he said.

While Larkin doesn't build pools, he said, the company does help find general contractors who specialize in this type of work. Contractors must have built a minimum of three municipal pools within the past five years to be considered, he said, but they usually hire a lot of local subcontractors. In past projects, he said, 50 to 60 percent of the cost of the pool is spent on painters, masons and other subcontractors from the town.

He noted that the city would still have to maintain the pool, but its easier to maintain a newer facility than an older one.

John Haas of Ranson Financial Services told the group that his company had looked at the best way to finance a new pool and the cheapest way is with general obligation bonds. If the tax vote passes in November, he said, the city can use a 1.5 percent sales tax to pay off the bonds. The city could discontinue that tax at any time or could keep it to pay for maintenance and other city

needs once the pool is paid off.

"There should be enough money from the sales tax to pay the debt service and at least a part of the operation costs," he said.

Mark Detter of Central State Capital Markets of Wichita said the sales tax is the only reasonable way Oberlin could pay for a pool.

The state estimates a 1 percent sales tax will bring in \$150,000 a year, so 1.5 percent would bring in \$225,000, he said, adding that he thought that the tax would do better than that.

He noted that in towns that have put in a sales tax, shopping habits have not changed. Several towns near Wichita, he said, have actually seen an increase in sales-tax revenue even though their rate is higher than in the city.

When questioned about the possibility of getting a grant to help with the pool, Mrs. Williby, who runs a grant-writing service, said that she has looked but not found anything, from a foundation or state and federal grants.

Mr. McCawley said that if the vote passes and the city decides to build a new pool, work would start right after the pool closes in 2013 and the new pool, which will be built in the same location, should be ready for a Memorial Day opening in 2014.

Mrs. Leitner said that there will be at least two more community meetings on the project. A brochure is being designed and printed, and information will be available in *The Oberlin Herald* and on the committee's web site at www.obelinpool-project.org.

Members of the pool committee are available to talk to clubs, Mrs. Leitner said, will have a booth at the Decatur County Fair and try to talk to people after church.

Volunteers needed to help with carnival

By STEPHANIE DeCAMP sdecamp@nwkansas.com

The Decatur County Homecoming Carnival is gearing up for its August run, with volunteers around town taking donations for this year's new ride: bumper cars.

The carnival also needs volunteers to keep the rides going late Friday evening.

"The donations are going toward the concrete foundation for the bumper cars," said Sherri Kyte, president of the Decatur County Amusement Authority. "We'll be renting the actual cars. Our future plan is to buy our own, but we may have to rent them for a couple of years."

"We had a new ride last year, the turtle ride, and we're going to have that again, too. We're also going to have a mechanical bull, but we're not 100 percent sure on that. All the other usual rides will be there."

Ms. Kyte said the authority hopes to have the carnival open after the demolition derby Friday night, but that depends on how many volunteers are available. Anyone who thinks they might be able to help, she said, should call Cheryl Metcalf at (785) 475-2251 or 475-7056.

Volunteers will get a discount to see the derby, she said.

"It's a community effort to have the fair each year," Ms. Kyte said, "and if we don't have enough volunteers, we have to close something down, whether it be a ride or game."

The fair itself will feature a new contest, for the tallest corn stalk, sponsored by Crop Production Services and Dyna-Gro Seeds. The contest will be the first day of the fair, at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 7, west of the 4-H Building.

From 9 a.m. to noon, people can enter 4-H and Open Class exhibits. By noon, all booths will be in place. That evening at 6:30 p.m. will be the 4-H food auction, followed by the carnival opening to the public from 7 to 11 p.m. Weekends, the carnival will be running until midnight or 12:30 a.m., depending on volunteers, Ms. Kyte said.

Wednesday the fair will feature the Tough Trucks competition, Thursday a Trivia Challenge Game Show and Friday will be the Demolition Derby. Saturday, the fair will close down, but the carnival will be open to the public from 7 p.m. to midnight.



DARBI ROUSE checked some of the Lippelmann wheat at the scalehouse of the Hansen Mueller elevator.

— Herald staff photo by Stephanie DeCamp

* Harvest easier today

(Continued from Page 1) just because they were able to work more fields with greater ease did not make the job any easier on the farmer in the end, he said.

Mr. Lippelmann said his grandparents homesteaded in this area. Back then, he said, most farmers only had two quarters of a square mile to harvest, whereas now, he owns and rents a total of 1,350 acres, or a little more than two square miles, or sections. Just imagining the amount of work it takes is exhausting.

Farmers typically spend a few weeks harvesting, he said, but that

doesn't mean they spend the rest of the year just watching their fields grow. They work the fields and plant the seeds in both spring and fall, all year, every year, in what is called continuous cropping. In winter, the crops are fertilized and after harvest, the stubble is sprayed for weeds in a process called chemical fallow.

Mr. Lippelmann said that almost all the wheat in this part of the country is hard red winter wheat.

This year's crop is early and dry, Mr. Lippelmann said; in fact, everything's dry.

"You can tell what we're working with here," he said, "because

wherever you walk, it leaves a trail. The grass and the wheat just break under your foot.

Normally around this time of year it's still springy and bounces right back, so you can walk through a field and not leave a trail at all."

Mr. Lippelmann, a third-generation farmer, said he started in 1972.

"It's just funny, having someone like you out here, all excited about something I've done every day of my life," he said, humor creeping into his smile, "and I'll keep on doing it, too."

* Heat breaks record

(Continued from Page 1) just fine, so we have some experts looking at our reports to figure out what's happening.

"Since it doesn't happen every time (the power is maxed), it's hard to find out exactly what's wrong. We'll let you know as soon as we figure it out, though."

The weather service issues a heat warning, Mr. Thede said, which advises people to drink plenty of water and to stay indoors as much as possible. He said that absolutely no kids or pets should be left in a car at any time.

"Be cautious of people and how they look," advised Emergency Management Director Jacques Boultinghouse, "and if they look in distress, then get them help immediately. If you don't have to be outside, don't go"

The fire ban issued by the county applies to all purposefully lit fires, said Fire Chief Bill Cathart, including agricultural or trash fires, but allows for small, monitored fires such as barbecues and fireworks.

He added that the situation with fireworks will be monitored.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment said via an e-mail that the top things to look out for during a heat advisory are heat rash, sunburn, heat cramps (when muscles seize due to dehydration and lack of salts in the body), heat exhaustion (a milder form of heat illness, usually affecting those who work long hours outside) and heat stroke.

* City can't promise cash to go to pool

(Continued from Page 1) were a special-purpose tax, he said, then the council would be able to give some kind of guarantee of how the money would be used.

Since it is not a special purpose tax, he said, technically the council could decide later to use the money on something else. While council members gave their word that they would only spend the increase on the pool, three of those members might be replaced come April.

"If it's us, we'll guarantee it," Councilman Rob McFee said, "but three of us are up for re-election, and we can't say what any newcomers might do."

It's an uncertainty that taxpayers will have to accept, and trust that any new council members will agree that the money will be used for a pool and a pool alone.

"A general-purpose tax is one that you just levy, you can use it for whatever reason," County Attorney Steven Hirsch said. "Special-purpose tax is for a particular thing... it is also limited to one percent and only ten years."

Members of the pool committee have been looking for ways to cut down the cost, including maybe eliminating the swim meet capabilities of the pool or taking out other amenities.

Volunteer work could help cut costs, said Shayla Williby, representing the pool committee, but it's hard to ask for more donations when we can't guarantee those who

donate the result they're donating for.

But Mayor Riedel was more concerned about where the money would go, saying he preferred to hire a business "in town" to plan the pool, instead of the one from Kansas City that the committee has been working with.

"I'll be perfectly frank," he said. "These people don't have any skin in the game but their reputations ... Miller and Associates has done a great job for us in the past, and I would like to at least give them the opportunity to come in and see if they can save us some money. "We want to see what Miller gives

us in terms of options."

"The number of pools they've done was the selling point to me," Mrs. Williby responded, referring to Larkin Aquatics, the pool-planning and design company the committee has been working with, "and we've already committed \$5,000 to them."

Rodeo to be held in August

Kansas' biggest rodeo will be held from Thursday to Saturday, Aug. 2 to 4 in Phillipsburg, and tickets will go on sale on Monday at Heritage Insurance Co.

This year's rodeo entertainment includes barrel man and rodeo clown Slim Garner and a specialty act, the Ranch Riata Cowboy Girls, who will do rope and riding tricks. Beutler and Son Rodeo Co. will return with their string of bucking horses and bulls. The herd will also be part of a parade through downtown Phillipsburg on Saturday, Aug. 4.

Prices are \$14 for reserved and \$12 for general admission for adults or \$10 and \$9 for children. Tickets can be ordered at (785) 543-2448. For details, go to www.KansasBiggestRodeo.com

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