

## Here they are!



Northern Valley's Prom King and Queen acknowledged the photographer at the high school's recent annual event. The king is Taylor Hammond and the queen is Watsaporn Pinyotankorn.

- Courtesy photo

## Sappa Park restrooms are described as bottomless

By KIMBERLY DAVIS  
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The Oberlin city administrator is looking for options for restrooms at Sappa Park after finding out the old ones seem to have no bottoms. Whether the city rents portable johns or builds new facilities, though, it could get expensive.

With the outhouses at the park, Administrator Austin Gilley told the City Council on Thursday, people essentially are defecating in the drinking water.

He said an inspector from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment had checked the restrooms at Sappa Park and at the golf course, and discovered they were just outhouses.

Mr. Gilley said he's checked into renting portable restrooms, with the cost at \$140 a month or \$25 a day. That's \$1,680 a year.

The administrator said he wasn't sure if he has the authority to make a decision. There are some questions to be answered, he said, including whether the city is obligated to provide restrooms and whether there needs to be some

kind of fee to the users.

Mayor Joe Stanley asked what the city needs to do.

If the restrooms are closed, said Mr. Gilley, the city could build new ones with holding tanks.

Once the state is involved, said Councilwoman Rhonda May, then the restrooms will have to be done the way the state wants them.

Councilwoman Marcia Lohoefer noted that the hospital has a community walk scheduled for Thursday, May 14.

Mayor Stanley said the city needs to find out what's the least they can do.

There may be some clean-up with the olds ones, said Foreman Dan Castle.

The portable unit at the golf course, said Councilman Bill Riedel, is serviced once a week. It's kept clean, he said, adding that he could probably find out how much the golf club pays.

## Kansans celebrating Arbor Day

Residents of Kansas are celebrating Arbor Day 2009 today. While some states chose to celebrate Arbor Day on a different date that coincides better with their growing season, National Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday in April by many states, including Kansas.

The Arbor Day Foundation encourages everyone to plant a tree to celebrate this special holiday. The Foundation's Web site (www.arborday.org) offers many helpful tips from how to plant a tree to selecting the right tree for the right place.

Kansas has 144 Tree City USA communities. Tree City USA is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. The program was established to recognize communities that are committed to its trees.

More than 120 million Americans live in a Tree City USA community. To see a list of Tree City USA communities, go to www.arborday.org/programs/tree-cityusa.cfm.

The first Arbor Day was celebrated in Nebraska on April 10, 1872.

## UPCOMING EVENTS in Kansas

Brought to you in part by Kansas Department of Commerce Travel & Tourism Division

**Th' Gatherin' Festival O' Beltane**  
May 1-3, WaKeeney  
13th Annual Beltane celebration in a gorgeous setting. Celtic musicians & artists, an evening feast, fire festival & competitions.  
www.thgatherin.com

**Historic Loft Tour**  
May 2, Leavenworth  
10:30AM-4PM. Adults \$5  
Children under 12 free. Tickets available at local shops and Main Street Office.  
(913) 682-3924  
www.LeavenworthMainStreet.com

**Kansas Sampler Festival**  
May 2-3, Concordia  
Sample what there is to see and do in Kansas.  
Sat. 10AM-5PM, Sun. 10AM-4PM.  
Adults \$5. Kids (7-14) \$3, kids under 6 free.  
Concordia City Park  
(785) 243-4303, www.kansasamplerfestival.com

**48th Annual Art in the Park**  
May 3, Lawrence  
Artists display and sell their original artwork in a beautiful outdoor setting. Musical entertainment & children's activities.  
(785) 979-7039, www.VisitLawrence.com

**Wichita River Festival**  
May 8-16, Wichita  
Entertainment, food & fun for the entire family. Over 60 events, kid's activities, concerts, sporting events, parade and more!  
(316) 267-2817, www.wichitariverfestival.com

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# Former area man has eye on D.C.

Tracey Mann, a 5th generation Kansan, business leader, and former student body president at Kansas State University is making stops throughout the 69-county First Congressional District as he seeks to replace fellow Republican Congressman Jerry Moran.

He kicked off his campaign earlier at his family's farm just south of Quinter. Rep. Moran is seeking the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Republican Sam Brownback.

"As your congressman, I will bring your values, your priorities and your honesty to Washington. Our nation faces great challenges, but all of them can be overcome with Kansas values and a good

measure of Kansas common sense," Mann said.

"We need a new generation of leaders to carry on the heritage of service and sacrifice that made our state and nation great. My background and experience have prepared me to carry on and protect that heritage.

"The values we need in Washington are the same values I learned on my family farm — hard work, perseverance and ingenuity in the face of great challenges," Mann said.

"Despite the strong leadership of Jerry Moran, others in Washington continue to take America in the wrong direction. I will fight every day against the status quo to create

prosperity and opportunity. As my wife Audrey and I embark on this mission, I ask for your ideas, your support, and most importantly, your prayers," Mann said.

Tom Hemmer, former Chief of Staff to Congressman Jerry Moran and co-owner of the Solomon Corporation said, "I've seen Tracey's work ethic, creativity and leadership skills up close when he served as an intern in Moran's office. I'm confident that as the people of the First District get to know Tracey they'll share my view there is no one better equipped to represent our common values. Tracey's decision to give something back to an area of our state that has given so much to him speaks

volumes about his character and integrity."

Tracey Mann, a 5th generation Kansan, grew up farming and working cattle on the Mann family farm just south of Quinter. During Tracey's tenure as Kansas State University student body president, the KSU Student Government was named the top student government in the country by the National Association for Campus Activities.

As a new commercial real estate agent with Zimmer Real Estate Services, Salina, Mann was voted "Rookie of the Year" by his peers and now serves as Vice President and Director of the Industrial Sales and Leasing Division in Salina.

## Ag secretary rolls out new option for producers

Agriculture Secretary, Tom Vilsack said, "producers can elect and enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election program beginning April 27". The program is a provision of the 2008 Farm Bill.

"The Average Crop Revenue Election program is an innovative alternative to the traditional farm safety," Mr. Vilsack said. "This new option presents an opportunity for producers to review both programs and decide which one will work best for their operation."

Producers have until Aug. 14 to make their decision for the 2009 crop. The United States Department of Agriculture will not ac-

cept any late-filed applications.

Producers who elect the program for a farm agree to: forgo counter-cyclical payments; accept a 20-percent reduction of the direct payments; and accept a 30-percent reduction in loan rates for all commodities produced on the farm.

Commodities eligible for the program payments are wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, peanuts, soybeans, sunflower seed, canola, flaxseed, safflower, mustard seed, rapeseed, sesame seed, crambe, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas and large chickpeas.

The program was created in the 2008 Farm Bill to give producers an option in lieu of traditional counter-cyclical payments. Producers may elect and enroll in the program for the 2009 crop year even if they have already accepted advance direct payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

To elect the program for a farm, producers must complete Form

CCC-509 Average Crop Revenue Election, which irrevocably elects the program for the farm through crop year 2012. Form CCC-509, the contract to participate in the program, must then be completed each year the producer intends to participate and receive benefits.

For more information about the program, visit your local Farm Service Agency county office or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

## Don't forget to include the library on your visit list

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