

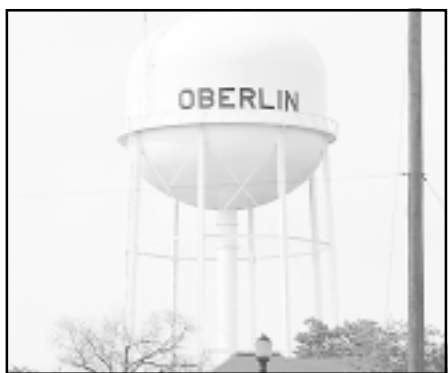
## Pump failure forces city to ban watering

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

A pump shaft on one of the city's three wells broke last Wednesday, forcing Oberlin Mayor Ken Shobe to ban all outdoor water use, but the emergency was lifted Sunday afternoon.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the city isn't in the clear yet, and people still need to watch their water use even though restrictions have been lifted.

With the new triggers for a water emergency set last month, he said, he wouldn't be surprised if a Stage 2 "water warning" was set into motion soon. The trigger for a water warning is 800,000 gallons a day, he said, and before the water emergency last week, the city was pumping 769,000 gal-



lons. Last Wednesday, he said, the pump shaft failed on well No. 11, near the bowling alley south of town. Crews from Layne West-

ern drove in from Hastings, Neb., late Friday night and fixed the pump.

The failure left the city with wells No. 9 and No. 10 east of town, but those two are close together and can't be pumped at the same time.

The Stage 3 water emergency banned all outside water use — no watering of lawns and gardens or washing vehicles.

The water emergency was posted on the time and temperature sign at First National Bank and at the grocery store. When the ban was lifted, it was also announced on the public access cable channel.

Though the pump was fixed by Friday, the city waited to lift the ban because it wanted to make sure the water tower was

caught up first. Mr. Shike said they also were trying to figure out how to get the word out.

The restrictions were lifted completely on Sunday, but if the city does go to Stage 2, users will be able to water only on an even/odd system.

Users with even addresses, said Mr. Shike, can water on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. Users with odd addresses can water on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. That means no one should be watering on Monday.

During Stage 2, he said, people can use outside water from 12:01 a.m. to 10 a.m. and from 9 p.m. to midnight on their designated days.

Private swimming pools can only be filled one day a week after sunset, said Mr. Shike.

He said it is important for people to remember that the city is still in a worse situation with water than it has been the last few summers.

So far, though, the water tower has been filling up every day. That means that in a 24-hour period the city has had enough capacity to keep up with demand. The water tower is where the city's water pressure comes from.

Mr. Shike said during the water emergency, there were some complaints that the Oberlin Speedway was still using outside (See WATER on Page 5A)

## Center to host open house, ribbon cutting

The Decatur County Good Samaritan Center will open its doors at 2:30 p.m. Sunday to show off progress on its new neighborhoods.

Administrator Janice Shobe said the movement in nursing homes is to go to neighborhoods, where residents are grouped in a more home-like setting. Hospital accouterments, like nursing stations, are replaced with lanes and living rooms.

The center now has two neighborhoods known as Angel Lane and Country Reflections.

Recently in Angel Lane, a wall between the bird room and a resident's room was taken out to make a dining room. Work on the room has since been completed and it has been in use for about a month.

Mrs. Shobe said there will be a ribbon cutting there on Sunday. Everyone is welcome to come in and see the new dining room and what is going on in the center.

Around 22 people, half of the residents, eat all three meals in the new dining room. Lunch and dinner are still prepared in the big kitchen and then brought to the smaller dining rooms.

Breakfast, said Mrs. Shobe, is cooked in the new dining room, which has a fully functional kitchen. She said the residents are then able to see their food being cooked and smell it, too. Breakfast is served from 7 to 9 a.m. Nurses and dietary aides step up and handle the meals.

Mrs. Shobe said she is excited about the ribbon cutting because the dining room is a major visible change.

The residents have had a positive reaction to the dining room, she said, and they hope to build one for Country Reflections this year.

JuliAnna Baker, unit supervisor, said the residents like the smaller, (See CENTER on Page 5A)

## Students to parade in pretty dresses, fancy tuxes Saturday

Juniors and seniors will be dressed in their best to parade down Main Street on Saturday for the annual Decatur Community High School promenade.

The promenade has become a tradition over the years. Many park along Penn Avenue to see the kids. Many years ago, students would go in and out of the stores, but today they walk down the middle of the street before heading to The Gateway for dinner and dancing.

The students will meet at Sunflower Cinema at 6:45 p.m. and then start heading south at 7 p.m.

Chase McKittrick has been selected for prom marshal by the se-

nior class to lead the promenade.

The juniors will vote Friday on the prom court, which will be announced at the prom.

This year's prom theme is "Black Tie Affair." The junior class will be decorating The Gateway arena on Friday.

From 6 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, the public is welcome to take a look at the decorations in the arena.

The prom will last until 12:30 a.m. on Sunday, then the Oberlin Rotary Club will be hosting an after-party with games and food.

During the prom and the after-prom, students who leave will not be readmitted.

## Jennings to graduate 12 seniors Sunday

Twelve Coyotes seniors will say good-bye Sunday as they graduate from high school and move on to the next phase of their lives.

Prairie Heights School District will hold graduation at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday in the gym.

Those graduating are Grant Bailey, Nathan Becker, Andrew Coiner, Buddy Graf, Matthew Heinrich, Sara Kier, Brett McKenna, Adam Miller, Katie Randolph, Zane Smith, Adam Wahlmeier and Nicholas Wahlmeier.

Miss Randolph is the valedictorian and Mr. Bailey, the salutatorian.

Both will speak and the students will also have a senior slide show.

The class colors are black and gold, the class flower, black-tipped yellow rose. Class sponsor is Mary Wahlmeier.

The class motto is "To give anything less than the best is to sacrifice the gift," Steve Prefontaine.

Included will be recognition of the eighth graders who will receive certificates of completion.

Grade-school graduates are Ashley Brown, Erika Cano, Joseph Carter, Brittany Ritter and Josh Stone.

## Moran staffer to visit

A member of Congressman Jerry Moran's staff will be in Oberlin at 11 a.m. Tuesday to hold office hours.

Daron Jamison, constituent services representative, will be in the jury room on the third floor of the courthouse for an hour Tues-

day to meet with people and answer any questions. Among subjects which have been discussed in the past have been the federal government, Social Security, Medicare, health care, education, veteran's issues and agriculture. Everyone is welcome.



VOLUNTEER FIREMEN worked on Edna Mott's house (above) for hours early Saturday morning to extinguish flames shooting from the roof. Fireman Derrick

Bolliger took a short break to catch his breath on the back of a fire truck parked in front of the house at 606 N. Rodehaver. — Herald staff photos by Kimberly Brandt

## Firemen work hard to extinguish flames jumping from roof

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

Heavy gray smoke filled the neighborhood near the grade school early Saturday as firemen tried to extinguish the flames shooting from the home of Edna Mott at 606 N. Rodehaver.

The call came in around 3:05 a.m. and by 4 a.m., firemen were still working to extinguish the flames. The hoses kept pouring water onto the roof while flames kept jumping up.

The fire in Mrs. Mott's home started when she was warming broth on the stove and fell asleep. Mrs. Mott said she awoke to the smoke alarms going off and called 911.

Decatur County Fire Chief Bill Cathcart said Officer Scott Zeigler was the first on the scene. When he got there, Mrs. Mott was on the front porch. There was smoke and a glow from inside the house. Chief Cathcart said just as Officer Zeigler got Mrs. Mott off the porch, the glass in the door blew out and flames shot out. There was a back draft.

Chief Cathcart said by the time they arrived, fire had engulfed the house.

In the dark of the morning, firemen worked from the front, side and back of the house. They used long hooks on the side of the house to tear off chunks of siding.

One hose was used from the front of the house. Another team of firemen worked from the back with a hose, while another man held a large flashlight to show the men where they were going.

Chief Cathcart said they got the fire knocked down in the main floor quickly, but the house was actually a double-wide with a house built around it. There were two roofs in most parts and three in others. The fire was burning in between the roofs, he said.

Finally, the firemen ended up peeling the top roof off, shingles and everything, so they could get to the hot spots underneath.

By 9 a.m., the firemen were done working on the house and were able to return to the station.

The damage also included two cars parked in the garage.

Chief Cathcart said the house was a total loss. He said he didn't know the exact value but thought it was a \$45,000 to \$50,000 house and with everything inside would be around \$100,000. He said it looked like there were a lot of antiques.

Several people on the street the night of the fire and later asked how much water had been used and what that would mean for the city water emergency. By the time the fire started, the well south of town had been fixed, said City Ad-



Chief Cathcart said he talked with City Foreman Dan Castle, who was on the scene, about the water supply. He said it was OK. The firemen brought a tanker just in case.

Chief Cathcart said it was a long, hard battle to get the fire out. It was one of the hardest structure

fires he has had to put out, mainly because of the mobile home underneath the built-up house.

He said everything went well. All the neighbors were notified and evacuated and there wasn't any other damage in the area.

Both the city and rural fire departments were at the scene.

## Law officers have free gun locks to hand out

Decatur County law enforcement officials have received hundreds of gun locks from Project ChildSafe for free distribution.

ChildSafe is a national project financed by a \$50 million dollar grant

from the Department of Justice. That money will allow nearly 20 million free gun locks and safety information to be given out.

In Kansas, the National Shooting Sports Foundation, Lt. Gov. John

Moore, the Kansas Highway Patrol and the Kansas Hunter Education Instructor's Association have partnered with law enforcement officials to give out 218,500 locks.

Decatur County Undersheriff

Michael French said their office received 100 of the locks. Police Chief Wade Lockhart said their office received around 600 locks.

Undersheriff French said the rep- (See LOCKS on Page 5A)

# Man writes to refute pro-Bush editorial

## Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:  
Upon reading your opinion in the May 5 paper, I find myself and others very angry — mad about your statement, "You can vote for Bush or vote in effect for bin Laden." I find this very disgusting coming from anyone, let alone from an official newspaper.

I believe you have insulted many good people just because they may not believe the way you do. Calling people terrorists because they don't believe the same as you is about as low as a person can get.

About 30-some years ago the Norton paper came out with headlines such as, "The educated will vote for Nixon."

I don't need to tell you what "the educated" got. I canceled my subscription then and didn't renew until about two years ago, thinking maybe the paper had changed its tone.

The last time I checked, "9-11" happened on President Bush's watch. Now, I don't put all the blame on him. Maybe a little. Maybe a little on Clinton. But nevertheless, it did happen on Bush's watch. That much

we know.  
I feel like you owe a lot of good people an apology for the kind of statement you made.

I am a Democrat. I usually vote Democrat, but not always. I voted three or four times for Sen. Dole. I also voted twice for President Reagan.

I did not vote for Bush, and will not this time. It is not that I am sold on Kerry, it is because I am not sold on Bush.

Now I believe you have the right to your beliefs, just as I do to mine. I don't believe it is right for you to belittle people in your paper for not believing the same as you.

I feel like you should have a retraction and an apology in your paper before the end of this month. If not, you can rest assured I will not renew my subscription and I am sure there will be others that feel the same way.

I know this handwriting is bad,

but I am 68 years old and I have cardiopulmonary disease.

I have enjoyed your paper very much up until now.

Dale Leidig  
Hill City

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** It's not customary to reply to letters, but yours asks for a reply. I respect your right to disagree with my opinion, but I think you overstate your case. The editorial does not say anyone who votes against President Bush is a terrorist.

It says the terrorists want the American president who has hounded them to be ousted. Voting against the president would not make you a terrorist, but it might make Osama bin Laden happy.

I stand by my opinion. You are welcome to disagree. That's the American way. But we would hate to lose you as a reader.

— Steve Haynes

# Democrats meet in Topeka

To the Editor:  
On Saturday, April 24, I drove to Topeka to attend the state Democratic Convention. It was raining when I left Norcat and rained all the way to Topeka, a most welcome rain.

The convention met at the Topeka YMCA from 2 to 6 p.m. Kansas will send 41 delegates to the national convention in Boston. Most delegates were chosen at congressional district caucuses.

Several state party leaders were designated as members of the delegation. We chose seven delegates and several alternates at the state convention.

State delegates were seated by congressional districts and the big 1st District had the largest delegation.

Tim Petersen, district chairman, was very organized and as a result, five of the seven delegates chosen were from the 1st District. Because several slots were reserved for spe-

cial groups such as Hispanics, blacks, disabled, gays, veterans, etc., individuals made a point of identifying with a particular group. I doubt if I've ever met so many openly gay people in my life, but I guess that's part of the "Democratic experience."

This was the second state party convention I've attended. The other was the Republican Party state convention in 1964. I was a college student at the time and attended as an observer as part of assigned class work.

I couldn't help but compare the two conventions. The one in 1964 was held in Topeka Municipal Auditorium and had large numbers of observers and press coverage.

Our 2004 convention had 140 delegates, about 50 observers and very little media.

The 1964 convention was hotly contested between the followers of Barry Goldwater and GOP moderates led by Gov. John Anderson.

Conservatives from the northwest 6th District, organized by Judge Marvin Meyer, one of the sharpest political leaders to come from Decatur County, were able to give the Goldwater conservatives control of the convention.

They secured a majority of the delegates to the national convention and then imposed a unity rule requiring all votes to be cast as a unit. This gave all the Kansas vote to Barry Goldwater.

The 2004 Democratic Convention had no real contests. Candidates for national delegate outdid themselves to prove who had been for Sen. John Kerry the longest or had the best Kerry connections.

I was pleased to be part of the process and hope people don't get too tired of the campaigns by November. We did pick a number of young delegates who I hope will return full of fresh energy.

Bob Streyve  
Norcat

# Reader cites health omission

To the Editor:  
I thoroughly enjoyed the insert on Rural Health Care in the paper.

My compliments for the many well written articles about the challenges rural hospitals face in the current economy and the many services they are providing to stay viable.

I was especially interested because I have or have had clinical privileges at every hospital written about in your insert.

I am a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), one of 30,000 in the United States and one of several who provide anesthesia services in our area.

Nurse anesthetists are advanced-practice nurses who specialize in anesthesia.

We were the first specialists in anesthesia, beginning 120 years ago, but we have been called "the face behind the mask" and "the best kept secret in health care." And even in our rural area where we know our neighbors, I guess we still are! I was dismayed as I read about all the services and professionals listed by the

hospitals that not one mentioned anesthesia!

Several hospitals mentioned obstetrics. Nurse anesthetists in the area provide, pain relief for labor and delivery and are "on call" in case an emergency C-section must be done.

Other hospitals mentioned the specialists who are coming to our rural hospitals and what an advantage that is.

For those who come and do painful procedures or perform surgery, how could that have been arranged if anesthesia was not available?

Emergency services were mentioned by several hospitals and I salute the often unsung heroes who take their time to be trained and provide emergency care.

However, often when the ambulance arrives at the hospital, one of the providers who is waiting there is a nurse anesthetist.

Sixty percent of the 30,000 nurse anesthetists in America work in rural health care. They help our rural hospitals stay viable. Since the insert didn't mention them, I will:

Leon Nielson, Goodland and Colby.

Rick Abbot, WaKeeny, but also Oakley and Norton.

Brad Wertz, of Quinter as well as others, including Citizens Medical Center in Colby.

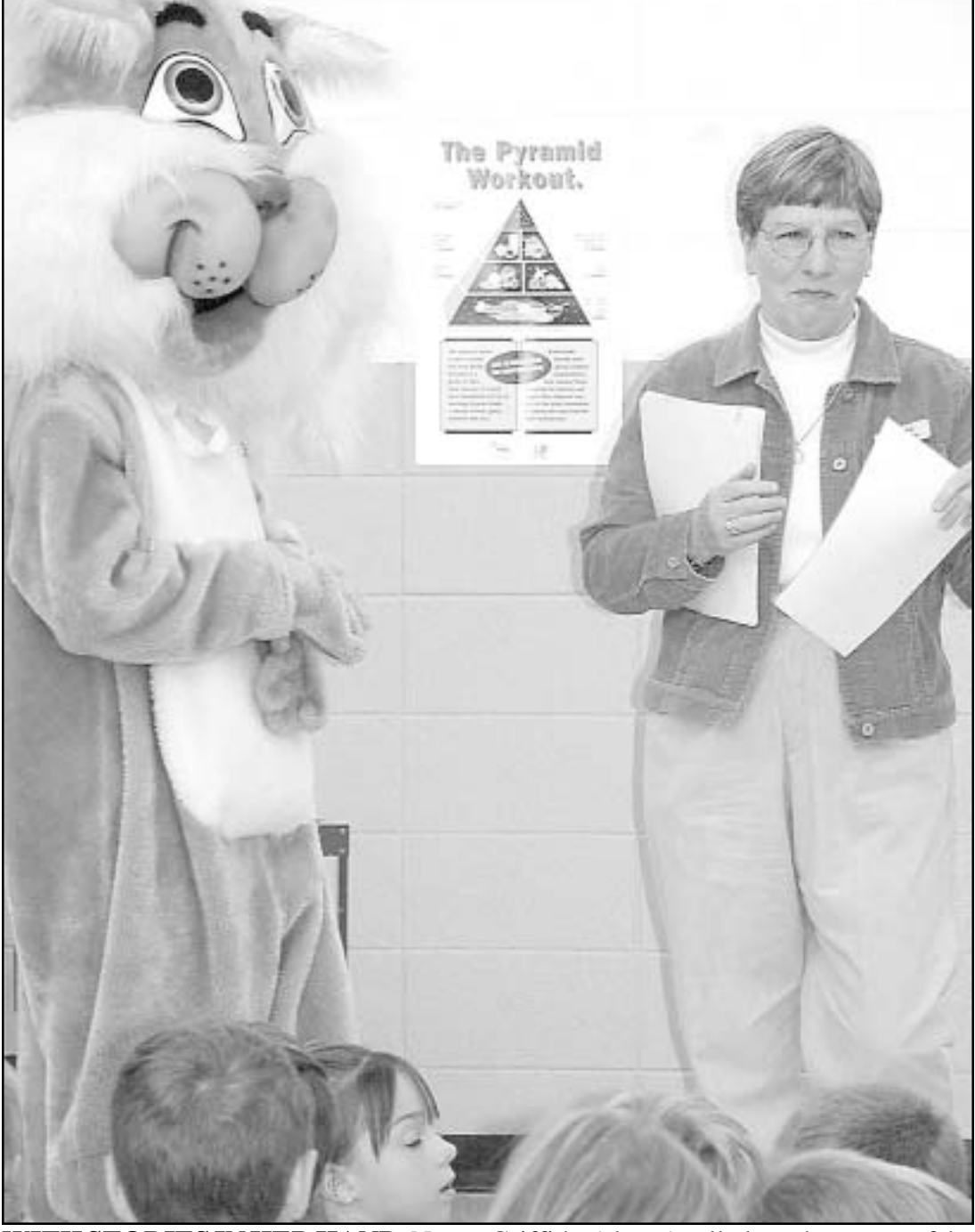
Gary Kliever, Fort Morgan, Colo., who also goes to Burlington and St. Francis.

Gary Bartels, Oberlin, and myself, for Cheyenne County Hospital, Rawlins County Health Center, Dundy County Hospital in Nebraska, and Kit Carson County Hospital with privileges at five others.

Between all of us, patients in our rural area have expert anesthesia care available for obstetrics, surgery, trauma, and pain management.

Maybe now, your readers will recognize "the face behind the mask" and hopefully the "best kept secret in healthcare" isn't so secret anymore!

Kim Zweygardt CRNA  
Moonlight Anesthesia PA  
St. Francis



WITH STORIES IN HER HAND, Nancy Griffiths (above) called out the names of the third graders to return their work while Channel Cat stood next to her. Elizabeth Nedland (below) won first place in the contest in her age group. Before the assembly was over, she read her story out loud.

# Girl wins contest

An Oberlin Elementary School third grader was surprised last Wednesday with the news that she had taken first place in the Smoky Hills Public Television Reading Rainbow contest.

Elizabeth Nedland, who wrote a story called "Poor Dad is Sick," received a gift certificate to McDonald's, a certificate of achievement, a trophy, a video and a book.

The school got a new book for the library, "The Man Who Walked Between Towers," a picture book about a man who tight rope walked between the World Trade Center Towers in New York.

Nancy Griffiths, with the station channel and Channel Cat, station mascot, dressed in a large cat costume, met with students in kindergarten through third grade to announce the winner and hand back stories to the others who entered.

Each third grader wrote a story for the contest. All students received a certificate of achievement.



Ms. Griffiths said there were 204 entries in the Reading Rainbow contest. She thanked the students who entered in the contest and also the teachers and parents for their support and the creativity they passed to their kids. Elizabeth's story will be sent to the national competition to be judged with 148 other stories. Her parents are Daniel Nedland and Rhonda May of Oberlin.

# \* Water ban lifted on Sunday

(Continued from Page 1A)  
water on the track. He said the race track doesn't get water from the city system. The water is hauled from well No. 6 by the old county shop on

the south side of the railroad tracks. The water is high in nitrates, said Mr. Shike, and the well isn't tied into the city system at this time.

Track workers fill trucks with the

water from the well and then spray the track down with it, he said.

Mr. Shike said if the mayor declares a Stage 2 water warning, users will be notified.

# \* Center to have ribbon cutting

(Continued from Page 1A)  
quiet dining room, and they like being able to look out the windows at the courtyard.

The residents think they get served faster and they can get on

with the rest of their day sooner, she said. They also like it that the staff gets to eat with them.

The residents, said Mrs. Baker, seem to have improved appetites and better eating habits. The dining

room is more like the kitchen at their homes, where they get to see what is going on.

Mrs. Shobe said everyone is welcome to the open house, which will last two hours.

# \* Gun locks available from law officers

(Continued from Page 1A)  
representative who dropped the locks off on April 30 said to call if they needed more.

The group contacted the sheriff's office about the locks, which include a plastic-coated cable that won't scratch the gun.

Sheriff Ken Badsy said on a hand gun, the cable can be run through the chamber and magazine to keep it from firing. It can also be used on a rifle.

The office has given out a few of the locks.

The locks are available on the

fourth floor of the courthouse or at the police department.

**Internet tonight!**  
**475-2206**

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Approximately 647.9 acres of farm ground located in Decatur County, Kansas, as listed below:

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Available Immediately

Contact:  
Florence Vavroch 785-475-2469  
June Vavroch 785-678-2496

**N-O-T-I-C-E**

All flowers and decorations at the Oberlin Cemetery must be removed before Monday, May 17th.

After that the city will remove them in preparation for Memorial Weekend.

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