



Way to go at state track!

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Pool leak keeps kids dry for weekend

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

City workers filled the Oberlin pool last week, getting ready for the scheduled opening over the holiday weekend, then watched as most of the water leaked out.

The pool was filled last week and everything was ready for opening at noon on Saturday. By Friday, though, there wasn't any water left in the pool and there was a big hole on the edge of the pool, at the east side by

the diving boards.

City Administrator Gary Shike said Willard Perrin, with the water department, was at the pool around the end of the day last week and then went back that evening and saw the water had dropped a foot and a half in that time.

The pool wasn't losing water when it was being filled, said Mr. Shike. It was only after the pool was filled and it sat that it started

to leak, and quickly.

On Friday, the crew started to dig out the east end of the side of the pool to see what the problem was.

Mr. Shike said they found some broken pipes which need to be fixed. There is also a blister on the wall on the east side, under the diving boards.

Mr. Shike said it isn't a real visible bulge, but that is where the water is seeping out.

He said since the pool has been empty, water has been leaking from the outside into the pool. When the pool is full, he said, probably the water is leaking from the inside out. He said the crew was digging up mud.

Over the weekend, Mr. Perrin, city Foreman Dan Castle and Bob Shuler worked on the project. The crew was still digging Tuesday. Mr. Shike said they will then start repairing pipes and work their way out of the

hole.

The pipes, said Mr. Shike, the crew can fix. He said he isn't sure about the problem with the wall. It may end up being a bigger deal. Mr. Shike said they just don't know yet.

Mr. Shike said he isn't sure when the pool will be fixed or when it will be opened. He said this problem is bigger and more serious than any in the past.

Senator killed in car accident during dust storm

State Sen. Stan W. Clark, 49, Oakley, was killed Saturday when his car was rear ended by a tractor-trailer truck on I-70 in a dust storm that reduced visibility to near zero.

Sen. Clark, an Oakley Republican, was driving west on I-70 about nine miles east of Oakley when his 1994 Chrysler was crushed between two tractor-trailer rigs.

Mr. Clark, who served a decade in the Senate, was considered a leader of conservative Republicans and a potential candidate for Senate president later this year.

He was known for his quiet, modest demeanor and for his simple dress — a collarless white shirt and dark coat — in keeping with the beliefs of the Dunkard Brethren Church.

Sen. Janis Lee, D-Kensington, called Mr. Clark, "just a very good man."

"He was a very good person, very dedicated, and he took his job as a senator very seriously," she said.

House Speaker Doug Mays, R-Topeka, said Mr. Clark was quiet and bright and "obviously loved his family."

"I would say he was one of the kindest members of the Legislature," Mays said. "He was a very

spiritual man."

Mr. Clark was appointed to represent the northwest corner of the state in 1994 after Sheila Frahm was elected lieutenant governor. He won a full four-year term in 1996, then re-election in 2000.

The Dunkard Brethren embrace a life of simplicity, avoiding television and modern conveniences. During a 1995 interview, Mr. Clark said he became

acquainted with the church while taking wedding pictures. He operated a commercial photography studio in Oakley.

"I got the opportunity of attending a number of churches, and I really enjoyed the people," said Mr. Clark, who converted in 1989. "There's a closeness of family. There are all kinds of family get-togethers all the time."

Mr. Clark was born Dec. 9, 1954, in Oakley, the son of Bob J. and Edith L. (Suter) Clark. On Feb. 11, 1990, he married Ruth Flory of Sturgis, Mich., at Defiance, Ohio.

He operated Pyramid Studio in Oakley. He was chairman of the Senate Utilities Committee and the joint Information Technology Committee; a member of the Agriculture, Financial Institutions and Insurance (See SENATOR on Page 10A)



Sen. Clark



Men dig hole to find capsule

ATSAPPA PARK shelter-house on Saturday, Brad Larson (above) rolled up a sign the class of 1979 held in their picture. Members of the same class (left) dug a hole in the courthouse lawn that afternoon to look for a time capsule. The class didn't find the capsule, however. They were among dozens of former Red Devils who had the chance to catch up with classes holding reunions.

— Herald staff photos
by Kimberly Brandt

Show to bring out cars

Antiques, bikes to fill the streets

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

Get the wax out and start polishing.

It's time to put your antique car, motorcycle or truck on display for the Decatur County Museum's third annual Summerfest car show and swap meet.

The action starts at 7 p.m. Friday with a "cruise-in" at A&W on U.S. 36, which gives spectators their first glance at the vehicles and owners a chance to get their cars out for a spin while getting something to eat.

Co-Curator Sharleen Wurm said the cruise-in also provides a time for those who haven't already taken advantage of the early registration fee to do so. Pre-registration is \$20, she said, a \$5 discount.

From 7 to 9 a.m. Saturday, the museum will host a pancake feed at the Old Bohemian Hall. Mrs. Wurm said they will be taking a donation.

Registration will be from 8 to 11 a.m. at The Bank drive thru at the south end of Main Street. It will cost \$25 for each vehicle.

Mrs. Wurm said even if you are still restoring a vehicle, antique, classic or a motorcycle, they are still welcome at the show.

A "Show and Shine" will be held on Main Street from the museum north to Commercial Street all day giving owners time to spruce up their vehicles and talk with spectators.

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., there will be brats and pork burgers on the lawn north of Farmers Bank and Trust. Mrs. Wurm said they will also be serving pie and ice cream. The booth will be open for beverages all day, and there will be stands serving slush punch, popcorn and coffee.

Kids games will be held south of the museum, including a bean bag throw, tattooing, plinko, fishing pond and a corn-money tank. From 1 to 3 p.m. there will be a poker run.

(See CARS on Page 10A)

Even/odd watering ordered

Mayor Ken Shobe declared a Stage 2 water warning on Monday, putting Oberlin residents on an even/odd system for outdoor water use.

City Administrator Gary Shike said Stage 2 was activated because the city has pumped over 800,000 gallons of water in a day several times last week and twice over the weekend. If there was rain in the forecast, he said, the city might be able to hold off, but there isn't.

In Stage 2 of the city's water emergency plan, people are only allowed to water from 9 p.m. to midnight and midnight to 10 a.m. on their scheduled day.

People with odd addresses can water on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. People with even addresses can water on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. No watering is allowed on Mondays.

Tree limbs litter streets of Oberlin

Thunderstorms in eastern Colorado spilled out a downburst of cold air that swept dust and debris across northwest Kansas on Saturday, darkening the sky for at least 90 to 100 miles east and causing two fatal accidents.

Jerry Killingsworth, a meteorologist with the Goodland office of the National Weather Service, said a system of severe thunderstorms which formed in northeast

Colorado created an "outflow boundary" of cold air. That sent high winds as far east as Norton.

After the dinner hour, the sky in Oberlin started to turn a brownish gray. The radio said the area was under a storm watch.

As the cloud descended, the wind started howling through town, and the sky continued to turn a darker brown.

(See STORM on Page 10A)

County gets history books

Twenty-four years ago, a committee joined forces to gather information about the county for a history of Decatur County.

That information was sent to Craftsman Printers in Lubbock, Texas. In 1983 the book was printed, all 511 pages.

The book with a brown cover includes information on the general history of the area, schools, churches, family stories, memorials and tributes, community agencies, and organizations and businesses.

Recently County Clerk Marilyn Horn received a call that the company was cleaning out a warehouse and found some Decatur County

books. He said they wanted to send the books to the county, suggesting that selling them would be a good fund raiser for civic organizations.

At the end of April, the books arrived at the courthouse. Last week, commissioners discussed what to do with the books and how much to sell them for. The county didn't have to pay for the history books, the company sent them.

The commissioners received a palate of books.

Tim Stallman, road and bridge supervisor, said he can remember the books first selling for around \$55 and then later for \$75.

The commissioners discussed

having an auction or just selling them for \$100. Mrs. Horn will contact the surviving members of the original committee so they can be involved.

The group included Dotty Lotker, Neoma Tacha, Wilma May, Fern Wenger, John Berley, Betty Reeves, Dorothy Kelly and Dale Fisher.

There are several other names listed in the book of people who represented areas in the county, those on the art committee, file compilers, photography and business special pages.

The books are available at the Last Indian Raid Museum, the clerk's office and the chamber for \$100.

Crew works on pool

The city crew worked on several areas at the pool to try to save on water waste and simple maintenance items before the scheduled opening.

At the last Oberlin City Council meeting in May, Councilman Joe Stanley read a letter he had received about the temperature of the pool and other items. With the increase in gas prices, City Administrator Gary Shike noted, the temperature had been decreased a little last year.

City Foreman Dan Castle said they can't keep everyone happy about the temperature all the time. He said they just pick an average and make it work. The lower temperature uses less natural gas, he said.

Someone suggested getting a tarp to cover the pool to hold heat in. Mr. Shike said he would be interested in finding out how much a tarp and equipment would cost.

This year, the crew changed the sand in the back flush, said Mr. Castle. He said water supervisor Willard Perrin was hoping for a drastic reduction in back flushing loss of water this year with the new sand.

With the water situation, said Mayor Ken Shobe, water at the pool has been a topic of conversation. Hopefully the work on the back wash will help keep the city from using so much water. He asked whether the city could close the middle pool. Who uses it? he asked. Little kids, replied City Clerk Deanna Castle.

Water that flows into the scum gutters, said Mr. Castle, goes directly to the sewer. The pipes which would run that water through the filters are capped.

Councilman Patrick Pomeroy said it would be nice for that water to go to a pond somewhere or be used for something. Councilman Ray Ward asked if they could use that water on the football field.

Councilman Joe Stanley said it might be worth the trouble to see if the city could save some of the water. They could put it in a tank and use it to water the city park.

It would also be good to re-circulate it back into the pool if the pipes could be fixed for the water to go through the filter, he said.

That would save some money on the heating, said Councilman Ray Ward, because the water would already be warm.

Mr. Stanley asked why the re-circulation pipes had been capped. Mr. Castle said they probably rotted.

Mayor Shobe said he received some complaints about maintenance at the pool and doors for the women's dressing room.

Mr. Shike said the crew put indoor/outdoor carpet in last year on the women's side. He said there are curtains covering the doors of the stalls.

* Storm starts fires

Power lines knocked down

(Continued from Page 1A)

The wind knocked down a tree on Bill Matchett's home in Oberlin, blew a roof off a shed at Brendan Moore's farm in Cedar Bluffs, knocked out the power in Oberlin and took down too many branches to count.

Two fires started because of downed power lines, one in Cedar Bluffs which set a hay bale on fire and a grass fire three miles south of the Lyle Church, north of Norcat. Mr. Killingsworth said the thunderstorms themselves only made it into the far corner of northwest Kansas.

On Sunday and Monday, people could be seen all over Oberlin cleaning up limbs. Some were cut up for firewood while others were left on the curb for the trash truck or for the homeowner to haul off.

Mr. Killingsworth said the wind in Goodland had been between 10 and 15 miles per hour from the south. About 4:30 p.m., winds around 40 miles per hour, gusting to 50, started coming from the northwest. He said at that time, visibility was about 10 miles, but eight minutes later it was down to three miles.

About 15 minutes later, the wind increased to 50 miles per hour, gusting to 62, and the official visibility was down to three quarters of a mile at the Goodland airport. Conditions were worse on I-70, where people could not see beyond their car's hood. One law enforcement officer reported, "We cannot see our hands in front of our faces."

Killingsworth, who was off duty during the storm, said visibility outside his home in Goodland was "no more than a block."

He said for the most part, the dust had blown through Goodland by 5:05 and visibility was back to 10 miles, although the winds were still around 50 miles per hour. The peak wind recorded at the weather station was 67, but a storm spotter eight miles northeast of Goodland reported a gust of 85. A report from south of St. Francis pegged the top gust at 90 miles per hour.

A Norcat couple, Jim and Carolyn Plotts, said they raced ahead of the front from Oberlin to their home 18 miles to the east. The dust cloud kept pace and overtook them just after they got home.

Killingsworth said the storms left three-quarter-inch hail in western Kit Carson County in Colorado and one-inch hail about five miles north of Burlington. The closest tornadoes were five in eastern Lincoln County, Neb., about 100 miles north of Sherman County. As the storms moved east, they spawned tornadoes and damaging winds in central Kansas as well.

* Cars to be at show

(Continued from Page 1A)

At 3 p.m., a "burn out" contest will be held in front of the museum. Mrs. Wurm said a driver doesn't have to be registered for the car show to take part in the burn out, when the owners spins their back tires to see how much smoke they can make.

The event will be sponsored by Fidele Electric and Woodcrafting. Prizes are \$50 for first place and \$25 for second.

Around 4 p.m., show trophies will be given.

Mrs. Wurm said the ZCJB Lodge will be giving away a kids' bike. Registration will be held in front of the old Czech Store from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Modern Woodmen will be doing a matching fund raiser for the museum to help move the old St. Mark's Lutheran Church in from Norcat.

Saturday evening, the museum board will hold a barbecue dinner from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Bohemian Hall for \$6 a person. Dinner is free for those who have registered for the car show.

Mrs. Wurm said all proceeds will go for operating and maintenance costs at the museum.



Planting veggies

AT CEDAR LIVING CENTER, Alice Fiala (above) put some fertilizer in boxes which she and Teresa Shaughnessy added plants to later. Ms. Shaughnessy (right) showed off her dirty hands. Residents planted tomatoes, squash and eggplant. — Photo by Othelia Vacura



* Senator dies in car accident during storm

(Continued from Page 1A)

ance, Rules and Regulations, Assessment and Taxation and Election and Ethics committees; and was vice chair of the Kansas Agriculture Added-Value Center.

He was a supporter of the National Federation of Independent Businesses, chairman of the Oakley

Board of Zoning Appeals, vice chair of the Oakley Planning Commission, president of the Oakley Area Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the Oakley Pride Committee and president of the Fick Fossil Museum board.

He was a member of the Dunkard Brethren Church in Quinter and the

Hudson Essex Terraplane Club.

Preceding him in death were his grandparents, Chester Clark, Anna Clark, John Suter, Ida Suter and Marie Suter.

Survivors include his wife; a son, Will P. Clark of the home; his parents of Oakley; two brothers, Drake (Janice) Clark of Wallace and Ron (Pat) Clark of Oakley; and two sisters, Susan (Dan) Brabec of Manhattan and Mary (Jay) Ochs of Oakley.

Services will be at 10 a.m. (Mountain Time) Thursday, at the Oakley

High School auditorium, 118 W. Seventh, with Gordon Jamison officiating. Burial will follow in the Oakley Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 1-8 p.m. Wednesday at the Kennedy-Koster Funeral Home and from 9-10:30 a.m. Thursday at the auditorium.

Memorials may be made to the Gideons International, the Will Clark Education Fund or the Wild West Historical Foundation in care of the funeral home, 217 Freeman, Box 221, Oakley, Kan. 67748.

* Party to hold special convention

(Continued from Page 1A)

then be replaced by whoever is elected to the seat in November.

Mr. Borjon said there are some requirements to be a senator. The person must be over 18 years old, a citizen of the United States and a resident of the district.

Sen. Clark had filed for the upcoming election. He would have met Dan Rasure of Goodland in the primary on Tuesday, Aug. 3. Mr. Borjon said Monday morning the

filling had become null and void under state law.

Anyone who is interested in filing can do so up to noon on Thursday, June 10.

There is a filing fee and a form to be filled out. Mr. Borjon said candidates filing for the Senate have to do so at the secretary of state's office in Topeka.

He said he has received several calls about what happens to the seat since Sen. Clark's death.

County says no golf cart

The Decatur County commissioners voted last Tuesday not to purchase a golf cart for the ambulance department.

At a recent meeting, Ambulance Director Patrick Pomeroy said he would like to purchase a golf cart to get injured players off the football field and for public relations. He said the cart could be entered in parades and the like.

Commissioners got one unsigned letter against the purchase, and they said they had also heard some comments.

Although Mr. Pomeroy was not at the meeting, the commissioners voted not to approve the purchase.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn said she had sworn in three new first responders who passed the recent class: Sabrina Cooper, Todd Hartough and Sharyn Bodfield.

She said Brady Richards, an Oberlin graduate who now lives in Ellis County, has been hired to fill in when he can. He was sworn in, too.

The commissioners agreed to set up a committee to talk about the fu-

ture of health care and facilities in the county. Commissioner Doyle Brown suggested Hospital Administrator Lynn Doeden, Good Samaritan Center Director Janice Shobe, Nursing Officer for Cedar Living Center Margee Wilson, Wheat Ridge Terrace Director Marcia Lohofener, Good Samaritan maintenance supervisor LaVern Burtis and Jim Sullivan, facilities manager for the hospital.

Mr. Brown said he also would suggest a couple of board members from the hospital and the center. All three commissioners will serve on the committee.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard that Commissioner Ralph Unger received a call from Diane Bremer of the Decatur County Farm Bureau, who said they have someone who is knowledgeable to help with the plan for bio-terrorism. Mr. Unger said he would talk with Mrs. Bremer about it.
- Heard that the Golden Age Center is putting in an oak coat rack with memorial money.

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