



AT DECATUR CO-OP Friday afternoon, Paul Tally (right) and Jack Brown watched as the the summer's first load of wheat was emptied out of the truck and into the hopper for transfer to a grain bin. — Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

## City keeps well rights for future

By KIMBERLY BRANDT  
Oberlin has three wells that are not hooked into the municipal system, but are part of the water rights owned by the city.

The three are No. 6, which is south of the railroad tracks and is high in nitrates; No. 5, which is by the city shop and is contaminated by a fuel spill; and the Cochran irrigation well, which is east of the waste plant and has not been tied into the system. All of the wells, said City Administrator Gary Shike, are metered by the state Division of Water Resources. The city actually has the meters, he said, but the state can come get the data.

All of the wells have to be used, he said. If they aren't used within a three-year period, then the city would have to retire the water rights. This year, he said, water from No. 6 has been used to wet down the race track at the county fairground. Last year, said Mr. Shike, water for the race track came out of No. 5. The race crew pumps water into a truck and hauls it to the track.

The city has lost water rights to wells before. Mr. Shike said the city lost the rights to the wells by the high

school because they weren't used. He said he isn't sure when.

Mr. Shike said the wells don't have to be pumped a certain amount. The city just has to show that they have been used.

He said he guesses the state's thought is that if a city can get by for three years without using a well, then they don't need it.

In order to get No. 5 usable, said Mr. Shike, the city would be looking at a pretty expensive treatment plan. The well was contaminated by an underground gasoline tank.

The state came in and installed a "remediation" system around nine years ago, circulating air into the aquifer and venting fuel to the air. Theoretically, that will clean the fuel out of the ground water.

Mr. Shike said he doesn't think the state knows how long it will take for the system to clean up the well. The city has talked about moving the water right or combining it with another, he said.

Well No. 6 is high in nitrates. The city has talked about putting it on the system and blending it with water from the irrigation well.

(See WELLS on Page 10A)

## First wheat rolls in early, light

By KIMBERLY BRANDT  
Wheat harvest started Friday in Decatur County, with one farmer five miles north and 4 1/2 miles west of Oberlin bringing the first load to the Decatur County Co-op at 3:56 p.m.

As reports that someone had started to cut reached downtown, Paul Tally was bringing in the first load of Dale Soderlund's wheat.

The Oberlin Herald and area businesses sponsored the annual Harvest Countdown again this year. The three who guessed closest to the time the first load would be brought

in will win a total of \$100 in scrip money. The first-place winner will receive \$50, second place \$35 and third \$15.

Winners will be announced in next week's paper.

Since the first load has been brought in, the Co-op in Oberlin has received 25,000 bushels over the weekend, said a representative.

Test weights have been averaging around 57 pounds per bushel, a little light. Sixty pounds per bushel is considered a good weight.

Although it is still a little early to tell what kind of yields there will be,

reports of 10 to 30 bushels per acre have been heard.

Trucks continued to come into the co-op on Monday, but there was no steady traffic yet.

Only a few loads have come in at Norcatour Grain. Manager Cody Richards said they had one small load on Friday afternoon and then got a few in over the weekend.

So far, he said, the wheat looked as bad as they thought it was going to, but he didn't have any figures yet.

Although part of the county received a sprinkling recently, he said, the Norcatour area didn't get any of

it. Mr. Richards said the start of harvest has been slow because some fields aren't ready and some of the farmers aren't either.

To get ready for harvest, he said, they have been tidying up the elevator, which can hold 635,000 bushels at total capacity.

Once harvest gets into full swing, he added, they will start having longer hours as needed.

In Traer, at D&S Grain, a representative said there hadn't been any cutting as of midafternoon Monday, but there had been some talk of starting that night or on Tuesday.

## Water use down with emergency

Oberlin water users have been on an even/odd watering system for around two weeks now, and the restrictions apparently are keeping water use below the trigger level.

- In the last week, the city used:
- 601,000 gallons on Monday, June 7.
  - 780,000 gallons on Tuesday, June 8.
  - 638,000 gallons last Wednesday.
  - 608,000 gallons on Thursday.
  - 687,000 gallons on Friday.
  - 731,000 gallons on Saturday.
  - 786,000 gallons on Monday.

City Administrator Gary Shike said from the numbers, it looks like people are trying to conserve water. There are still some who aren't following the rules, he added, and they will have to face the consequences sooner or later.

The city's water emergency ordinance provides fines of \$100 for a first offense and \$200 for a second offense. A third offense could draw jail time, but so far, no one has been cited.

Water use is still close to 800,000 gallons per day that triggers a state 2 water emergency, Mr. Shike said, and the numbers are climbing back up.

If usage gets above a million gallons in a 24-hour period, that would trigger the next stage in the water emergency plan.

That could mean a total ban on outside water use.

The last few years, the trigger levels have been 1 million and 1.2 million, but the city dropped them down this year as failing wells and failed plans for new water have cut the system's capacity.

## Pool nearly fixed; will open if it holds

The pipes at the Oberlin City swimming pool have been fixed and the hole has been filled.

Soon, the city will fill it with water. Anxious Oberlin kids will be watching to see if it stays or if, as happened when the pool was filled in May, the water seeps away.

On Tuesday, a thin layer of concrete will be poured to cover the hole which was dug on the east side of the pool, said City Administrator Gary Shike.

Mr. Shike said the city crew fixed all the pipes on that side of the pool and installed new drains. The crew would probably start filling the pool with water on Tuesday, he said.

It takes two to three days to fill the pool and then it takes a few days to stabilize the chemistry, he said. If it holds water, they will open it after that.

By next week, he added, they'll have a better idea of when the pool might open.

## Elders revisit weddings

By KIMBERLY BRANDT  
Residents at the Decatur Good Samaritan Center reminisced about their weddings during the bridal tea on Friday.

Amy Carman played wedding music on her guitar and sang. Anita Hirsch sang while her daughter Jennifer accompanied her on the piano.

Lisa Stacey, assistant activities director at the center, asked the women if they remembered the flowers from their weddings. She said she had alstromaria in her bridal bouquet. Mrs. Stacey said they are the "I'll still marry you flowers," which is what the name sounds like.

Administrator Janice Shobe said she had daisies in her bouquet.

"When I think of daisies, I think of innocence," said Mrs. Stacey.

One of the most popular flower to use in weddings today is lilies.

Activity Director Jan Badsky said she has noticed that daughters or brides look for men to marry who have some of the same qualities as their fathers.

She said sons or grooms look for some of the same qualities of their mom.

An important part of the wedding is the vows, said Mrs. Stacey.



AT THE GOOD SAMARITAN CENTER, Anita Hirsch sang a wedding song which she said was like a prayer while daughter Jennifer accompanied her on the piano. The center held a "bridal tea" Friday for the residents. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Brandt

She read the standard vows, which she said brought back memories.

She said it is important for the bride and groom to understand the commitment they are making before they go to the altar. Mrs. Stacey said after talking to many of the residents, she knows that they took their vows seriously. For many, she

said, it really was "till death do us part."

At the end of the ceremony, she said, it is time to kiss bride and then the couple is presented to the guests. Mrs. Stacey said one of the most important parts of the wedding is to include God.

At the end of the tea, Mrs. Hirsch

sang a song that she said was like a prayer.

A silk cake decorated in roses, which was given to the late Lena Simpson by a granddaughter, Patty Amici of Las Vegas, is on display in the china cupboard at the center.

Wedding cake and punch were served to all.

## Volunteers to walk night away on Friday

In the last week, Decatur County Relay for Life walkers have sold over 400 luminaries in honor of cancer survivors and victims.

Sarah Fredrickson, chairwoman for the event, said so far almost 900 luminaries have been sold, but anyone can still purchase them up to the start of the event at 7 p.m. on Friday at the high school track. She said their goal is 1,000. The plan is to take the luminar-

ies and not only encircle the inner loop of the track, but the outer one too.

Each luminary, made with a paper sack, a candle and sand for weight, costs \$10.

Mrs. Fredrickson said around 9:30 p.m., those who want to light the luminaries of their friends and family members can do so. Volunteers will do the rest. By 10 p.m., all will be lit and the names (See WALKERS on Page 10A)

## New driver's licenses to come in the mail

By KIMBERLY BRANDT  
Decatur County drivers will see a change in the license renewal process this month as a new system is installed in the treasurer's office.

Treasurer Jean Hale said the Kansas Division of Motor Vehicles planned to install a new system Tuesday, changing how people get licenses or renew them.

Actually, everything will be the same except for the product the driver receives. Mrs. Hale showed the commissioners Tuesday morning what the drivers it will look like.

Basically, it looks like a receipt with the driver's picture on it and the vital information. That receipt will

serve until the actual license is received in the mail, but the temporary receipt is only good for 30 days.

The old-style driver's licenses will be good until they expire. In theory, Mrs. Hale said, there will be two kinds of licenses in Kansas for six years.

Mrs. Hale said people will not be able to get a second temporary receipt. Because of that, people should not lose it, wash it, leave it lying in the sun or laminate it. She said the paper turns black when it is heated and the print will be unreadable.

Mrs. Hale said some time in the third week of June, the new system will be up and running.

Commissioner Doyle Brown asked why the change. Security, said Mrs. Hale. For one thing, the new licenses will be mailed to drivers. That means they will have to give an accurate address.

The new licenses will look a little different, with people under 21 years old having a vertical license instead of horizontal. There will be a smaller "ghost" photo in the license, making it harder to duplicate.

If the person is an organ donor, that will be shown with a red heart.

Mrs. Hale said there will be two bar codes on the back. These will have the same information that is printed on the front, including li-

cence number, date of birth, name, address, issue date, expiration date, class, endorsement and restrictive information. It will not contain the photo or the signature, however.

Old licenses will be valid until the regular expiration date.

Mrs. Hale said she was told that the state plans to have all the offices in the state on the new system by the end of the month.

Commissioner Ralph Unger asked if the receipt could be used as identification if a person wanted to fly. According to the Division of Motor Vehicles, she said, the temporary receipt can be used for everything a driver's license can.



# \* Walkers to hit track on Friday

(Continued from Page 1A)  
 in the program will be read.  
 Last year, she said, Cloud Nine Lofts released white doves before the ceremony. This year, that will be done again, but the best part is that Isabel Grafel, 3, who is a cancer survivor, will release the birds.  
 The event will open with the traditional lap of the survivors at 7 p.m. and then the second lap will be for survivors and their family members and caregivers.  
 With 14 teams signed up for the relay, there will be a person from each team on the track at all times from the beginning of the event to the end at 7 a.m.  
 The only exceptions will be the first two laps and at 10 p.m. when the lights on the track are lowered and the luminaries lighted.  
 Teams include the Bruggeman Family, high school teachers, Depperschmidts, Diederichs, high school girls, the Dresser, Decatur County employees (three teams), Ploussards, Decatur Professional Women, Decatur Health Systems, Fortins and Mays.  
 Mrs. Fredrickson said those who aren't on teams can show up and walk.  
 Around 1 p.m. on Friday, volunteers will start setting up luminaries around the inner ring of the track at

the Decatur Community High School. Anyone who still wants to volunteer to help can show up. Mrs. Fredrickson said people of all ages are welcome to help. She said they are still looking for anyone who can donate the use of canopy tents.  
 The committee, she said, appreciates all the sponsors this year, including cash gifts and things like use of the track and stadium. She said the T-shirts are packed with sponsors this year.  
 The relay has grown each year, she said. The Decatur County effort started when Patty Brown and Nora Bell Manning went to the relay in McCook. They came back and thought that Decatur County needed one, and they stopped to talk with Dr. Gary Fredrickson and his wife, Sarah.  
 The couple agreed to organize the event. Dr. Fredrickson's mother Jody, a nurse, died from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in 1998, said Mrs. Fredrickson.  
 A committee was formed and even the Fredricksons' kids helped out.  
 She said they are searching for someone to take her spot next year, since this will be her last on the committee.  
 Mrs. Fredrickson said everyone is invited to come out for the relay.

# Nursing home asks for fire sprinklers

The Decatur County commissioners talked with the administrator and maintenance director of the Good Samaritan Center about several planned improvements.  
 The center needs a fire sprinkler system to meet the state fire code, new windows and a new roof that doesn't leak. Although the commissioners are starting to look at bids for the projects, no decisions have been made on what or when to do anything.  
 Administrator Janice Shobe said they received two proposals for sprinkler systems, from Jayhawk Fire Sprinkler Co., Topeka, and McDaniel Co. of Wichita. Both were in the \$100,000 range. The commissioners asked building superintendent LaVern Burtis to call the companies and make sure the two proposals are the same.  
 Commissioner Ralph Unger noted that one of the companies wasn't bonded and would need to be to work on the center. The McDaniel bid didn't include any overtime rate over the bid price.  
 Mr. Burtis said once the system is installed, Eagle Life would come in and check the sprinklers. The company also checks the fire alarm system.  
 Mrs. Shobe said the center has used up its first 90-day extension

from the state fire marshal, but she applied for and got a second 90-day extension.  
 The commissioners talked about replacing the windows in the center. Two companies in town have expressed interest in the job.  
 Mr. Burtis said the management firm has a contract with Marvin Windows, so they may be able to go through them to get the windows and then would just need installation.  
 Mr. Unger said they need to find out what Good Samaritan's national contract is with Marvin. The original plan was to use county money for the windows, said Mrs. Shobe, but she wondered if the county would pay for the sprinklers? Mr. Unger said the only money he was aware of is from the Cochran Estate which the center received.  
 There is \$200,000 that was held out of long-term investments, said Mrs. Shobe.  
 What about the roof? she asked. That is in the insurance company's hands now, said Commissioner Doyle Brown. Several contractors have looked at the roof.  
 Mr. Burtis said he would call the Kansas Counties Multi-lined Pool, the county's insurance carrier, again and will report back to the commissioners.

# Commissioners sell old dozer from landfill

The Decatur County commissioners sold the old dozer from the landfill at their meeting last Tuesday morning.  
 The commissioners opened three bids, from Kansas Tractor of Great Bend for \$14,100, Tri-County of Burlington for \$8,111 and Weller Tractor of Great Bend for \$3,500, accepting the high bid for \$14,100.  
 Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman said he thought they would spend around \$10,000 to get the new dozer updated. The road and bridge department picked it up from the state surplus property lot for around \$25,000.  
 Mr. Stallman said the Kansas Department of Health and Environment sent a letter saying that the tire area, which is a part of the landfill but just for tires, and the construction and demolition area of the landfill need a separate permit.  
 It will be costly. Mr. Stallman said

he is working with Miller and Associates, an engineering firm out of McCook, about the plan the state says they need.  
 In other business, the commissioners:  
 • Ratified the purchase of 252 mower blades at \$10.19 apiece. Mr. Stallman said he decided to purchase the blades since the cost of steel is increasing.  
 • Heard that the courthouse will fly the American flag at half mast for 30 days for the late Ronald Reagan, 40th president of the United States.  
 • Received a petition from Paul Uehlin to close a road in Roosevelt Township. County Clerk Marilyn Horn said she would let the appraiser's office know and they will notify other landowners in the area and township officials.  
 • Held a closed session for 15 minutes for nonelected personnel. There was no action.

# City to meet on Thursday

The Oberlin City council will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at The Gateway.  
 A representative from the Northwest Kansas Family Shelter will be at the meeting to talk about budget. In the past, the city has given the shelter \$500 a year.  
 City Administrator Gary Shike said the council will need to sign some paperwork for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Administration for the water main extension to the industrial park north on U.S. 83.

The meeting is open to the public and will be aired on local access channel 7.

# Not the job she expected



LIFEGUARD ANDREA MARSHALL helped paint planters downtown last Wednesday. Since the pool has been closed, the lifeguards have been given a chance to work for the city in other areas.  
 — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Brandt

# \* Wells needed one day

(Continued from Page 1A)  
 If the city has to put in a water treatment plant, which will probably happen, Mr. Shike said, the plant will probably be near the irrigation well, which came in high in uranium.  
 If the city decided to put No. 6 back into the system, said Mr. Shike, it would probably need to be re-drilled. There haven't been any test holes drilled. Even when No. 6 was on the system, he said, it wasn't a big well.  
 The city has been talking about re-drilling No. 9, which is east of town. Test holes have been drilled. Mr. Shike said he thinks the engineer is still working on the plans.  
 Recently the city finished a water project which they thought would cost \$1 million. Instead it cost around \$700,000. The project fixed several water mains in town and also added in a blending pipe to tie well No. 6 into the system.  
 The blending pipe was put in place, said Mr. Shike, and is hooked into system, but it isn't hooked into well No. 6 to do blending. He said the pipe can be used to move water to the middle of town.  
 Once the decision on what to do with No. 6 and the irrigation well is made, he said, then the pipe is already there. He doesn't know how much more water the city will get with blending because it depends on the re-drilling of the irrigation well and how much water will have to be blended to get the uranium, arsenic and nitrates to good levels.

# Three generations die in I-70 accident

A Colorado woman allegedly driving drunk when she smashed into a Goodland family's vehicle faces murder charges in the deaths of a grandmother, her daughter and granddaughter.  
 The three women were killed in a two-car accident Friday afternoon on I-70 about six miles east of the Edson exit. A funeral service was set for 10 a.m. Wednesday at Max Jones Fieldhouse for all three. A vigil and rosary will be at 6 p.m. tonight at the fieldhouse.  
 The driver of the other car, identified as Jennifer Adams, 28, Edgewater, Colo., scored a blood alcohol count of .265, according to court papers. In Kansas, a reading of .08 or above is considered intoxicated, so her blood alcohol was more than three times the legal limit.  
 The victims were Mary Wyant, 55 a paraprofessional at West Elementary School; her mother, Aline Becker, 85, a retired upholsterer and homemaker; and her daughter Christine Williams, 35, a science teacher at Goodland High School.  
 Wyant was pronounced dead at the scene. Becker and Williams, who was trapped in the wreck for about nearly 45 minutes, were taken to Goodland Regional Medical Center.

Injured in the accident were Williams' daughter Caylee, 5, and son Garrett, 8. Both were taken to the hospital, and Caylee was later flown to Children's Hospital in Denver. She was in good condition Monday morning, said Rachel Robinson, a spokesperson for the hospital.  
 All passengers in the Ford Explorer were wearing seat belts, according to a report by the Kansas Highway Patrol.  
 The accident occurred about 4:30 p.m. in the westbound lane of I-70, said state Trooper Troy Smith. A 1998 silver Honda Accord driven by Adams passed a semi-trailer rig, then cut back in front of it and struck the 1994 white Explorer driven by Wyant, in the rear. The impact sent the Explorer into the north ditch, where it rolled several times, ejecting at least one person.  
 The Explorer came to rest about 20 yards from the roadway on its driver's side, trapping Christine Williams in the back seat. The Honda wound up in the median.  
 The driver, Adams, was out of her car and appeared dazed. She was holding her head, leaning against the wrecked Honda.

Passersby stopped to help and called emergency dispatch. The first fire rescue rig blew two tires about halfway to the scene from Goodland, and dispatchers had to call another truck.  
 Firemen, state troopers, sheriff's deputies and emergency medical crews responded. As officers arrived at the scene, they first called for two ambulances. Five minutes later, they summoned a third from Brewster.  
 Crews worked feverishly to free Williams from the smashed Explorer, crawling under the wreck and leaning into the windows. Witnesses said the vehicle may have rolled as many as nine times.  
 Adams was uninjured. Originally

charged with driving under the influence, Sheriff Doug Whitson said, she was charged Sunday with three counts of second-degree murder, plus aggravated battery, transporting an open container (a bottle of vodka) and drunk driving.  
 She was being held in the Sherman County Bastille on \$100,000 bond.

## June Savings Event

<p><b>'01 Dodge Neon</b></p> <p>4 Cyl., Auto <b>\$5,995</b></p>	<p><b>'94 Honda Accord LX</b></p> <p>PW, Tilt, Cruise, A/C <b>\$4,700</b></p>	<p><b>'99 Oldsmobile Cutlass GS</b></p> <p>Sunroof, Spoiler, Leather, All Extras <b>\$5,995</b></p>
<p><b>'99 Dodge Intrepid ES</b></p> <p>Perfect Condition, Leather, All Power <b>\$6,995</b></p>	<p><b>'02 Mercury Sable GS</b></p> <p>PW, PL, Tilt, Cruise, A/C, 1/2 Price of New <b>\$8,499</b></p>	<p><b>'01 Ford Mustang</b></p> <p>V-6, Convertible, Auto <b>\$12,900</b></p>
<p><b>'05 Chrysler T &amp; C</b></p> <p>New! W/ Stow &amp; Go Seating, All Options <b>\$27,490</b></p>	<p><b>'05 Chrysler 3000</b></p> <p>New! Starting from... Only 2 left with Hemi's! <b>\$34,600</b></p>	<p><b>'05 Chrysler PT Cruiser Convertible</b></p> <p>New! Easiest Convertible Made! <b>\$19,995</b></p>

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2001 Toyota Tacoma..... <b>\$14,900</b>	1988 Toyota Pickup..... <b>\$4,600</b>
1999 Dodge 2500..... <b>\$10,900</b>	1985 GMC Jimmy..... <b>\$3,900</b>
1999 Ford F250 Bail Hauler..... <b>\$16,900</b>	1983 Toyota Landcruiser..... <b>\$3,900</b>
1998 Dodge Durango..... <b>\$8,900</b>	1980 Ford F150..... <b>\$1,495</b>
1995 Jeep Wrangler..... <b>\$3,995</b>	1972 GMC 1500..... <b>\$3,900</b>
1989 Toyota 4-Runner..... <b>\$3,900</b>	1990 Ford F350..... <b>\$5,995</b>
1994 Ford F250..... <b>\$5,995</b>	2001 GMC 1500..... <b>\$16,900</b>

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