

Showers stop harvest as it starts

Farmers at a standstill because of rain storms

By KIMBERLY BRANDT
Farmers have been at a standstill this week as 1.61 inches of rain keep fields soggy and combines still. Although harvest started the second week of June, the rains have left the fields too wet and muddy to get into. According to the Kansas Wheat Harvest Bulletin, Decatur County wasn't the only area not cutting because of weather. Kingman, Sumner, Thomas, Finney, Barton, Rice and Greeley counties reported no cutting because of wet fields. With the forecast of more rain and cool temperatures, it is anyone's guess when the combines will be able to start to roll again. Brian Olson, Kansas State University extension service agronomist, said the wheat that is still in the field has an increased risk of sprouting. If the seeds in the head sprout, the grain won't be any good to take to the elevator. From what he has seen, Mr. Olson said, the hard red wheat has a good tolerance for sprouting, but the hard white wheat might have a problem. There is also the chance for some diseases to come in, but the biggest concern is sprouting. The more rain the area gets, he added, the bigger problem the area could have.

Mr. Olson said few fields are going to benefit from the rain because only a few have any sort of green in them. If there is any green in a field, he said, the rain may help a little. On the other hand, he said, the weather pattern has been cool and let the moisture get into the ground, which will be good for the fall crops. The rain can't do anything but good for the corn and milo, he said. Corn that was planted earlier wasn't far from going south, he said, since there wasn't a lot of subsoil moisture. In Decatur County, said Mr. Olson, the rain has bought the corn and grain sorghum another two to three weeks. Most of the milo is just getting out of the ground, but the corn is establishing a root system. In the next couple of weeks, he said, it will really start shooting up and growing. The corn will need that rain for it to grow and start to develop a tassel. The forecast is for more rain, which is good. Mr. Olson said by no means is the area out of the woods. The crops need more moisture. Mr. Olson said the rain has helped green up pastures, but farmers still need to give the grass a rest to allow it come back.

Mother Nature brings moisture, lowering water use

With rain, varying from a drizzle to a downpour, every day last week, water use in Oberlin dropped like a stone. The city is still on water restrictions, but residents didn't need to use outdoor water because Mother Nature was providing it. The city pumped:

- 748,000 gallons on Monday, June 14.
- 518,000 gallons on Tuesday, June 15.
- 265,000 gallons last Wednesday.
- 390,000 gallons on Thursday.

- 572,000 gallons on Friday.
- 373,000 gallons on Saturday.
- 326,000 gallons on Sunday.

The lowest water usage day was last Wednesday with 265,000 gallons pumped. The area received .60 of an inch of rain the evening before and about as much the next day. The previous week, the lowest usage day was 601,000 gallons, more than twice as much as was pumped last Wednesday. The cooler, rainy days are supposed to last through the end of the month.

Tornado may have hit area

By KIMBERLY BRANDT
A storm that blew into Decatur County last Tuesday night carried winds up to 100 mph and might have included a tornado in the mix. Patrick Burke, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Goodland, said there were some reports of 100 mph winds. A law enforcement officer who had wind equipment has measured 80 mph winds before, he said, but the winds Tuesday night broke the equipment. It can be difficult, he added, to tell if there is a tornado in a storm with such strong straight line winds. The storm hit around 10:20 p.m., damaging buildings and downing power lines west and southwest of Oberlin. Mr. Burke said there could have been a tornado. There was some circulation along the gust front, but no tight rotations. If there were tornadoes, he said, they were short lived, but it was possible. Jan Badsky, who lives six miles west of Oberlin, said it was a weird storm because it rained first and then the winds started to come. There were high winds, she said, almost like tornado type winds because of



INSIDE HIS GARAGE, Jim Hollowell stacked metal that formed the roof of the building until a storm came through Tuesday night and ripped it off. Last Wednesday morning, he collected all the pieces and put them in the garage, then called his insurance company. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Brandt

middle of the road and blew a tree limb down onto the eaves of their house. She said her house, which was built in the early 1900s, was shaking so bad that dirt was falling (See STORM on Page 10A)



WATCHING A DOVE FLY FREE, Isabel Grafel, 3, was excited while her brother Kade, 6, watched as their mom, Melinda Grafel shooed more birds from the basket. Isabel is one of the youngest cancer survivors in Decatur County.

Young survivor releases white doves to help start relay

By KIMBERLY BRANDT
A white dove flew out of the basket as 3-year-old Isabel Grafel let out a squeal. The basket of doves, donated by Cloud Nine Lofts, helped kick off the third annual Decatur County Relay for Life downtown Friday night. Isabel, a cancer survivor, was asked to release the doves. She stood in the middle of the street with her mother, Melinda Grafel, and brother, Kade. The doves took off from the basket and returned to Cloud Nine. The event was moved from the high school track to the canopies downtown because of rain. Chairman Sarah Fredrickson said the evening was great even if it was cold and damp. The ceremony kicked off at 7 p.m. with music by the DCHS Singers and Amy Carman, a "victory lap" by cancer survivors, who carried the balloons, the release of the balloons and then a walk by survivors and their caregivers. Although originally scheduled to last through the night, the relay ended at 11:30 p.m. because of the weather. With the rain, some walked on the sidewalks under the canopies. Others walked in the street when it wasn't raining or they wanted to move faster. DJs Stan McEvoy and Kent Ploussard played music from a van and some did the hokey pokey, the chicken dance and polkas in the middle of the street. One of the reasons the relay was held under the canopies is because the candles in the hundreds of luminaries won't stay lit in the rain, said Mrs. Fredrickson. Only about

After walking around the course, survivor Ralph Unger (below) enjoyed a soda and a piece of pizza which was being served in the old Duckwall's building. — Herald photos by Cynthia Haynes



70 percent of the luminaries were lit for the evening, she said, because the others wouldn't work. There were 878 luminaries total, she said. People paid \$10 to honor a cancer survivor or someone who had died of the disease. The ceremony was held in the old Duckwall's building, now (See RELAY on Page 10A)

New equipment in for driver licenses

By KIMBERLY BRANDT
The equipment for new driver's licenses has been installed in Decatur County and pretty much across the rest of the state. During the last session, the Legislature authorized the new system, where licenses are produced in a central location rather than at each county and state license office, said Bonnie Brown, assistant to the director at the state Division of Motor Vehicles. The idea is to make the licenses more secure and harder to duplicate. Each license will have a regular photo and a second "ghost" copy of the same photo. Licenses for minors under 21 will have a vertical format, which adult licenses will be horizontal. She said each day the licenses will be downloaded and sent to a contractor's facility in Washington state. The additional overhead cost for the digitized photos of \$4 a license has been passed onto the driver. The picture fee used to be \$2 and now costs \$4. The fee for the li-

Pool full of water to open this week

The Oberlin swimming pool was scheduled to open Tuesday with prorated season passes for individuals and families. City Administrator Gary Shike said Monday the swim team was using the pool that day and was scheduled to open Tuesday for the public. The pool will be open from 11 a.m. to noon for ladies swim, 1 to 5 p.m. for open swim, 6 to 6:30 p.m. for laps and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. for open swim Monday through Friday. On Saturday, the pool is open from 1 to 6 p.m. and on Sunday the pool will be open from 1 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. At a meeting Thursday night, the City Council decided to cut the cost of season passes for families from \$60 to \$40 and for individuals from \$30 to \$20 because of the shortened (See LEAK on Page 10A)

* Storm destroys roof and trees, delivers rain

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 from the ceiling. There were branches down all over the property, which took three to four hours to clean up.
 About a half a mile down the road to the south, the storm took part of a roof off a house and sucked in the garage door, which faces the south.
 Jim Hollowell, who lives on the hill south of the Decatur Co-op, said the storm hit around 10:30 p.m. It ripped the roof off his shed in three sections, throwing the metal into a pasture behind. He said he thought it was just high winds.

In the six years he has lived in that home, said Mr. Hollowell, there hasn't been damage like this. Last Wednesday morning, as he cleaned up the mess, he said he still had to call the insurance company.

He wasn't the only one who was out cleaning up after the storm. The city crew was out chopping up tree limbs.

Karla Jones and Marianna Bendon said a tree fell in their yard, blocking Adams Street, and the city crew came out around 1 a.m. last Wednesday morning to get it out of the road.

In Lund the area of southwest Decatur County, grain bins were destroyed and near U.S. 83, one

house lost a chimney. A pickup was damaged when a tree fell on it.

Not all of the news from the storm was bad, however. The area got .68 of an inch of rain. Throughout the week, Oberlin received 1.61 inches of rain.

Mr. Burke said the wet weather has been caused by cool air that moved out of Canada combining with a cold front coming in across Oklahoma and moisture out of the Gulf of Mexico. That convergence is causing a fog, drizzle, rain and cooler temperatures.

By the beginning of the week, he said, there will be a gradual warm up possible, with the temperature getting back into the lower 80s. At midweek, he said, another cold front should be moving in.

Overall, said Mr. Burke, the weather pattern doesn't look like it is going to change much, with cooler temperatures and a chance for rain through the month.

The area should get more moisture than is typical for this time of the year, he said.

Mr. Burke said for the rest of June, he didn't think there would be any 100-degree days. Around the beginning of July, he said, the area will probably start having normal temperatures again.

* Relay downtown raises \$14,000

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 owned by the Decatur County Hospital.

Mrs. Fredrickson said Mrs. Carman did several musical selections and Mary (Juenemann) Braden, a former area resident who now lives in Hays, told her story as a cancer survivor.

She said the walk couldn't have been held without the corporate sponsors, including Addleman Drug Store, Cloud Nine Lofts, Decatur County Feed Yard, First National Bank, Dr. Gary Fredrickson, KFNF Radio, Mobile Music Express, *The Oberlin Herald*, Oberlin Rotary Club, the ReLoad, Ward Drug Store, the Bargain Box+, the Decatur Area Chamber of Commerce, Diederich's Salon of Design, Hirsch and Pratt, Midwest Energy, Pauls Funeral Home, Pepsi Bottling Co., Raye's Grocery, Stanley Hardware, Unger Truists, Wal-Mart, Dr. Jay and Ann Anderson, CMA Distributors/Ultimate Fertilizer,

Countryside Veterinary Clinic, Culligan Water Conditioning, Decatur Health Systems, Farmers Bank and Trust, Frontier Restaurant, Dr. John Haugen, Kelley Drilling Co., LandMark Inn, Oberlin Concrete, Oberlin Ice Co., Oberlin Medical Arts, Prairie Petals, the Bank, Dr. Ryan Unger, United Northwest Federal Credit Union, the Oberlin School District, Oberlin American Legion, Dresden Thrift Shop, Hearth and Home Unit and Dr. Brad Hoppens.

She also thanked all the people who purchased luminaries and walked.

The event raised \$14,000, which is the most that has been raised in the county relay.

Mrs. Fredrickson said just after midnight, everything was cleaned up. Although she plans to help next year, she said they are looking for new co-chairs to do the organizing and then would like to have committees for people to serve.

* Leak is fixed; pool to open soon

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 season. Day passes will cost \$2 for adults and \$1 for kids 12 and under.

The pool was to have opened for Memorial Day weekend on May 29, but when workers filled it, most of the water leaked out. The city crew has replaced some pipes and drains and poured concrete to fix the leak.

When they filled the pool last week, it held water.

Mr. Shike said they aren't sure what the pool repairs are going to cost, but he does know that there will be more work. The repairs made were done to get the pool open this

summer, he said, but there will need to be more in the future.

The city's pool committee will be handing out questionnaires this summer about the pool. He said it will cover how people use the pool now, how they would like to use it and whether they would support some kind of renovation.

Mr. Shike said the committee has been in contact with an engineering firm which they would like to have come out and look at the pool. The engineers would need to see the pool full and empty for evaluation, he said.

Three win money in harvest contest

Three Oberlin people have a little spending money after guessing close to the time of the first load of wheat would be brought to a participating elevator in Oberlin merchants' Harvest Countdown promotion.

Each year, *The Oberlin Herald* and area businesses sponsor the harvest-time contest.

This year's first load of wheat was way early, brought in to the Decatur County Co-op at 3:56 p.m. on Friday, June 11, by Paul Tally from Dale Soderlund's field five miles

north and 4 1/2 miles west of Oberlin.

Alene Scott guessed the closest, 4:30 p.m. on Friday, just 34 minutes off. She will win \$50 in scrip money.

The second guess was Kevin Ketterl, who said 3:20 p.m. on Friday. He was 36 minutes off and will receive \$35.

Taking third was Willa Urban, who guessed 4:34 p.m. on Friday. She was 38 minutes off and will win \$15. The scrip can be spent only at participating Oberlin merchants.



TUESDAY MORNING, Treasurer Jean Hale and Joan Ward learned how to use new driver's license equipment with the help of Jerry Gibson from the state Division of Motor Vehicles. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Brandt

* System, equipment in place for licenses

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 cense also went up depending on what kind a person gets.

In the switch, all new equipment was put in both state license offices like the one in Colby and in county treasurers' offices. Ms. Brown said the equipment was provided by the vendor and actually saves the state money instead of buying the materials for security for all the old systems.

She said they probably have 95 percent of the systems installed. About seven county offices still need to be done. Those haven't been installed because they are farther out and there is only so much that can be done in a week's time.

Ms. Brown said the Legislature wanted the system effective by June 1.

She said the state put the plan into motion for security reasons. All the photos and addresses will be verified before a license is issued, said Ms. Brown. If there are problems — two photos pop up under the same name or two different names then that person will be investigated. Identities will be verified through the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and any other means the department has, she said.

Ms. Brown said that each person will get a temporary license while the permanent license is being made

and being mailed. She said the receipt is only valid for 60 days and can't be renewed. It should take less than 30 days, though, to get a new license, she said, adding that most people have only had to wait five to 10 days for the new license.

She said if the driver doesn't have their license after 60 days then there is probably a problem of fraud. Asked if the computer program could make a mistake, Ms. Brown said she doesn't see how it could.

She said she also doesn't see the license getting lost in the mail.

"The postal service is very good with governmental mail," she said.

If a driver doesn't have their new license in 60 days, she said, then

they need to contact the nearest Division of Motor Vehicles office. If one does get lost in the mail, a new temporary permit will be issued at no additional cost.

She said if the temporary permit gets lost or destroyed, it cannot be replaced. Ms. Brown said they make it clear to the drivers up front that the receipt is heat sensitive and can't be laminated.

Kansas, she said, isn't the only state that is going to a centralized system.

She said people shouldn't have any problem using the temporary license at airports, banks or with law enforcement officers. They have all been notified and will recognize it.

Principals working on teacher schedules

The Oberlin School Board talked with the elementary and high school principals about teaching assignments and class sizes for the school year which will start on Thursday, August 19, at its meeting last Monday.

The principals said they had just started to work on the schedules. Principal Duane Dorshorst said special education is a concern for him. Special education services have been turned over to the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center, a multi-district cooperative based in Oakley.

The district won't know for sure until later in the summer or fall what they are doing for early childhood education, he said, because it is all a numbers game.

He said they will offer developmental kindergarten and there are six students signed up so far. Only two of them are on an individual education plan, he said and it needs to be 50/50 to get federal money. There are some kindergartners on individual education plans, he added, but it is the parents' decision which class to put the students.

With the integrated pre-school, he said, they are setting it up now just for the students with those plans, but they may need to get some other 3 and 4 year olds. He said some have called about pre-school and they have taken their names, but currently they are just taking the kids on the plans.

Hopefully by July, said Mr. Dorshorst, they will have a better idea about what is going on, but it could be August.

Next year, he said, Terri Woolsey won't be teaching art at the grade school. Art will be taught by the classroom teachers, but Mrs. Woolsey said she would be happy to help with the curriculum. Mrs. Woolsey would still like to meet with each class once a month. She will be teaching sixth grade reading at the grade school and take on part of the Title 1 duties. She will also teach high school part-time.

He said the students will go to physical education and music classes every day, but instead of taking one class of a grade, all first graders will have gym or music together. It will be that way in all the grades. Each class will then have 20 minutes for gym and 20 for music a day. Mr. Dorshorst said in fifth and sixth grades, he would like to boost that time, but isn't sure what will happen.

The students also had those classes for 20 minutes this year.

Mr. Dorshorst said there are only one and a half "title" teachers for remedial programs in reading and math using federal money. Cynthia

Matson will work with Title students three-quarters of the time and also teach sixth-grade English. Mrs. Woolsey will spend a quarter of her time on Title 1, a quarter on sixth grade reading and will spend half her time at the high school teaching art.

The rest of the sixth grade will be similar to how it was this past year, he said with Steve Cullen teaching health and Jeri Buchholz doing computer classes.

Normally, he said, there is a teacher who comes over and teaches keyboarding to the fourth grade. This year, the fourth grade teachers said they may be able to do it themselves. In the past, Candy Dejmal has done it, he said, but she has a heavy load at the high school this year.

The rest of the schedule is the same for now, he said.

Linda Glaze will be librarian at both schools. When she isn't there,

Lisa Fortin, who is the library aide, will help students.

At the high school, said Principal Charles Haag, the English classes will be taught by Nita Lavielle, Leigh Davis and Brenda Breth.

Social studies will be taught by Trevor Williams, Marlene Moxter and Dick Ahlberg. With Miss Moxter teaching social studies, they will lose some family and consumer sciences. Either Miss Moxter or Mr. Williams may help at the school at Sappa Valley Youth Ranch.

Teaching science will be Randy Olson, Caleb Howland and Mark Bricker. Math will be taught by Tim Breth and Pat Dorshorst. Both will also pick up a section of physical education.

Mr. Haag said the freshman physical education and health classes have been taught with the girls and the boys separate in the past. This next year, they will be in the same class.

Mrs. Dejmal will have a one-person department. Mr. Haag said she will be able to double up and will be teaching computer for the seventh and eighth grades, computer 1 and 2, accounting and computer tech. Most likely, he said, they won't have a television class, although they would like to keep it up.

Jim Andersen will teach industrial arts and may help out at the ranch. Nathan Copeland will teach vocational agriculture and may help at the ranch. Susan Nelson, Deanne Spanier and Terri Woolsey will teach fine arts and Joe Dreher will teach physical education.

Rhonda Barth will be in charge of special education through the service center.

Mr. Haag said it looks like there will be 33 students in the seventh grade, 38 in the eighth grade, 36 in the ninth, 42 in the tenth, 49 in the eleventh and 27 in the twelfth.

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