

## County may not get vaccine

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

With the national shortage of flu vaccine, there is no telling when or if the Decatur County Health Department will receive any doses this year.

Health Nurse Marilyn Gamblin said an inspection done in August at Chiron, one of the companies that makes the vaccine, turned up contaminated doses. Officials kept checking at the plant in England, and found contamination. They took Chiron's license away so that they can't sell to the United States. That was half of the shipment of vaccines expected for the whole country. Nearly all the vaccine is made in England.

The other company making the vaccine is Aventis, said Ms. Gamblin. Places that ordered from that company have already received their vaccine. That includes both the Good Samaritan Center and the Decatur County Hospital, which order from Ward Drug Store, she said.

The health department, on the other hand, orders through General Injectable Vaccines, which ordered through Chiron.

Some of the agencies that got vaccines are going to try to re-direct doses so people at high risk will get it, she said. If the health department gets some of the vaccine that way then, she said, she would have to screen patients and give it to those with the highest risk.

### Risk will be evaluated

With a shortage of flu vaccinations this year, if the health department here receives any vaccine, the county health nurse may have to evaluate patients to see who gets a shot. High risk categories include:

- Children 6 to 23 months old.
- Seniors 65 and older.
- People of any age with underlying chronic medical conditions.
- Pregnant women.
- Residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities.
- Children on aspirin therapy.
- Health care workers.
- Caregivers and household contacts of children 6 months and younger.

Ms. Gamblin said, however, that she doesn't think they will get any this year. That means people are going to have to be extra careful over the flu season, which starts in December and lasts until March.

People should wash hands frequently and thoroughly, stay away from anyone who has a cold, stay out of crowds, not leave used tissues laying around and cover their mouth with a tissue when coughing. She (See SHOTS on Page 5A)

## Pool group talks grants with official

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The Oberlin Pool Commission met Thursday with a representative from the Western Resource, Conservation and Development Area out of Colby to talk about possible grants the group might look for.

Duane Cheney, coordinator for the agency, which is sponsored by the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service, said they basically do a lot of networking. He said they have had the pool project in Oberlin on file since 1999, but they have been waiting for someone to call for help. Basically, he said, they were waiting for an active committee.

He said it is a good sign that they have an active committee and community match money. Lots of grants require a community match, he said.

The service works with federal, state and private funding agencies, said Mr. Cheney, and all of those can be brought to the committee.

The main thing, he said, when a committee writes a proposal is they need to have a plan, and it looks like the group has done a lot of planning.

As the project develops, the question needs to be answered if the pool would be built for recreation or health reasons. Mr. Cheney said it seems that has been taken into consideration.

It is hard to find money for recre-

ational needs, he said, but if the committee can tie health and wellness needs in with the project, there may be some possibilities.

Who owns the pool? asked Mr. Cheney. The city, said Anna Shaw, an artist and chairwoman of the pool commission.

Can the committee include trying to fight child obesity into the project, ask Sue Glodt, administrator at the Sappa Valley Youth Ranch, and a commission member. Yes, he said.

The group agreed it would be a good point to include that the boys from the ranch use the pool.

Mrs. Shaw said she has started going to Colby to use the computer to look for grants for the last four years. She said she has found some foundations that have given money to pools.

From the surveys they have done, she said, and people who are willing to donate money, the committee is being pushed towards an indoor pool, but the maintenance on an indoor pool could be expensive.

The group decided they need to talk with the city, county, ranch, hospital, Good Samaritan Center and school to see if they would work together to help pay for pool maintenance.

What about site development? (See POOL on Page 5A)



## Auction brings crowd

AT AN AUCTION Saturday at the Oberlin Storage Units on U.S. 83, Warren Bainter (above) checked out his \$1 treasure. Lynn Johnson (right) held up a scoop that was for sale. Johnson Realty ran the auction.

— Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes



## Election is right around the corner

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The general election, where voters will decide races for state representative, senator and county offices, will be held in less than three weeks, on Tuesday, Nov. 2.

Anyone who wants to vote needs to register if they haven't yet. The last day to do that is Monday. The county clerk's office will stay open until 9 p.m. that night.

There are races on the ballot for state representative and state senator, but none for county office. In August, the candidates were chosen

in the primary election. In Decatur County, there were three races.

For the 120th District for state representative, Republicans John Faber and Doug Sebelius battle in a replay of their race two years ago. After all was counted, Rep. Faber won with 3,404 to Mr. Sebelius's 2,375 votes.

Next month, Rep. Faber will meet Democrat Bob Streyev in the general election, another replay from two years ago. That time, voters gave Rep. Faber a 5,441 to 2,742 victory.

In the 40th District state Senate race, things changed shortly before the primary election when Sen. Stan Clark died in a car accident in May. Sen. Clark, who had served a decade, had been campaigning against Dan Rasure, a college graduate from Goodland.

With the announcement that Ruth Clark, Sen. Clark's widow, wouldn't run for the upcoming election, Republican Ralph Ostmeyer, a state representative from Grinnell, and Democrat Tim Peterson of Monument both threw their names

in. Although Mr. Rasure had been campaigning longer and spent more money, Mr. Ostmeyer won 8,553-7,385.

He will meet Mr. Peterson in November.

On the county side, incumbent Ralph Unger turned away challenger Phillip Lahman for the district 2 commissioner seat, 170-99. Mr. Unger is unopposed in November.

Candidates for other offices in the (See ELECTION on Page 5A)

## Officers learn to shoot stun guns in training

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Decatur County sheriff's officers learned how to use the four new stun weapons the department received through a federal Byrne grant in a training session earlier this month.

Undersheriff Michael French learned how to train officers at the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center in Hutchinson. On Fri-

day, Oct. 1, Undersheriff French trained Sheriff Ken Badsky, Deputies Barry Richards and Lisa Copeland and Oberlin Police Officer Troy Haas.

Undersheriff French said in a rural setting, the weapons, known as Tasers, are a good idea. He said if they pull someone over and the person is drunk and hostile, the (See GUNS on Page 5A)

# \* Shots not here

## Clinic waits on vaccines

(Continued from Page 1A)

even suggested carrying a hand sanitizer.

The last three years, said Ms. Gamblin, the health department has had problems getting the vaccine, but they always have received some even if it was late or if they didn't get it all at once.

It seems health officials are cracking down on the regulations for flu vaccines. She said she read that Aventis is trying to get out of the flu vaccine business, so the company made less this year.

Even if the company started to make more vaccine now, it wouldn't get here in time. The vaccine takes five to six months to make, she said. By the time it would be ready, the flu season would be over.

She said normally she starts giving shots the end of October and continues into November.

Ms. Gamblin asked that people in the county be patient. She said there is nothing the department can do. She asked that people not call the office about the vaccine. They will notify patients when and if they get any vaccine.

In the state this year, there were several clinics set up where free flu shots were to be given. Saline County was planning on giving out 5,000 shots, for example. Ms. Gamblin said those in Saline, Pratt and Osborne counties have been canceled.

The vaccine, she said, doesn't mean that people won't get the flu, it just lessens the chance and the severity. People can die from the flu, she said, but normally that is because they have an underlying health condition.

Health officials are trying to encourage people to use an inhaler vaccine which is made for people ages 6 to 49. Ms. Gamblin said the clinic has a few doses, but they are expensive.

The age limit on the inhaler is due to the fact that it is a live vaccine and there are more side effects for people under 5 and over 50.

Ms. Gamblin said that if someone gets the flu and is really sick, they should go to the doctor. There are some oral medicines to help get over it, although she isn't sure how much stock there is in town.

# \* Election almost here

(Continued from Page 1A)

county also are unopposed. They include incumbent Republicans Marilyn Horn, county clerk; Ken Badsky, sheriff; Steve Hirsch, county attorney; Jean Hale, treasurer; John Bremer, magistrate judge; and Doyle Brown, District 3 commissioner. Judy Gaumer, the only Democrat, is running for re-election as register of deeds.

On a higher level, voters here will have the opportunity to cast a ballot for either President George Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney to return to office for another four years or to put Democrats John Kerry and John Edwards in charge in Washington.

Republicans Sam Brownback, George Cook with the Reform party, Democrat Lee Jones and Libertarian Steven Rosile are all running for the U.S. Senate seat. U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran is running unopposed for his fifth term, but there are no races for statewide offices.

# Bake sale planned

Red Devil fans will be holding a bake sale before the football game Friday, Oct. 22 to raise money to paint the field.

The sale will start at 6:30 p.m. under the grandstands. The money will be used to purchase paint for the Red Devil stencil on the field.

Volunteers can join in the fun of painting the field at 5 p.m. next Wednesday for the game against Hill City on Friday, Oct. 22.

# Working on the road



**IN BASSETTVILLE TOWNSHIP** southwest of Oberlin, a grader driven by Seth Lohofener pulled off the road to let a car pass. Mr. Lohofener was working on the east/west road just before 5 p.m. on Saturday.

— Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

# \* Guns send electric shock into victim

(Continued from Page 1A)

officer can use the Taser to control the person until back-up arrives.

When using the Taser with a partner, he said, it is important to let them know you are going to deploy it so they can get out of the way. He suggested the officer say "Taser, Taser, Taser."

Each of the officers had a chance to fire the Tasers at a cardboard target. When the Taser was used correctly, lights on the dummy went off.

In a case where the shot misses the target or only one of the two probes hits it, Mr. French said, the officer can press the gun against the body to Taser the person.

After the gun is used, the probes have to be pulled out. Undersheriff French said if the probes hit the face, head, the chest of a woman or the groin area, the officers will wait until an ambulance crew shows up to remove the probes.

If the probes are in the back or leg area, the officer should turn the Taser off, tear off the wires, remove the cartridge and pull out the probes. He said they shouldn't twist the wires.

Consider the probes as needles, he

said. They will have blood on them, so wear gloves to remove the probes. Undersheriff French said not to throw the contacts in the trash. The probes are considered contaminated sharps, he said, and must be disposed of properly.

The success rate for the Tasers is 94 percent between one and seven feet, he said, and it goes down the farther away the Taser is used.

Undersheriff French said pepper spray can cause problems with the Tasers. If it is just the regular cayenne pepper spray, he said, it is OK, but an alcohol-based spray could be set on fire by a spark. He said the officers should be careful with their surroundings.

The probe could be blocked by clothing two inches thick or more. If a person has on a thick jacket, he said, then they should shoot the person in the leg.

There can also be a problem with low batteries.

Undersheriff French said there haven't been any deaths attributed to Tasers. The only reported deaths have been because of drug use or underlying medical conditions, he said.

The amount of electricity is 1.76

joules, said Sheriff Badsky, and a defibrillator needs way more electricity to get a heart going. The Taser shouldn't have any effect on a pregnant woman unless the woman was to fall. He said the officers can use the Tasers on vicious dogs as well as people.

When a person is hit with the Taser, he said, they can't move but can hear the officer. Undersheriff French said if the person doesn't respond, the Taser can be fired again while the probes are in the person.

When each cartridge is shot, he said, numbers on little pieces of paper come out.

Each cartridge can then be tracked to who shot it.

The officers had to take a test that day, which they all passed, and are now able to carry a Taser.

In addition, each of the officers was shot by Undersheriff French with the Taser so that they could see how it felt. Undersheriff French said he hooked up two alligator clips with wires on them, which were attached to the gun and each officer got a two and half second burst of electricity. Sheriff Badsky said that way, if it comes up in a court case, the officer can say they know what

it feels like.

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# Floats needed for light parade

The annual Light Parade, sponsored by the Oberlin Business Alliance the Friday night after Thanksgiving, will be a little different this year.

Instead of the business owners coming up with a theme, the kids at Oberlin Elementary School were asked to do the brainstorming. Suggestions included Have a Heavenly, Homespun Christmas in Oberlin; Reindeer on the Rooftops; Christmas Craziiness; Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells-Oberlin Rocks; Santa Claus is Coming to Town; We Wish you a Merry Christmas; Ho, Ho, Here We Go-Christmas is on its Way; Hip Hop Holidays; and Christmas Soldiers.

Gary Walter, with The Bank, said it may not be a bad idea to have a central theme for all of the Christmas events in town, including the parade and the window-decorating contest.

Alliance members narrowed the decision to three: Reindeer on the Rooftops; Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells-Oberlin Rocks; and Ho, Ho, Here We Go—Christmas is on its way. Members voted by secret ballot, and the third one, from Sheri Ruff's fourth graders, won.

Mr. Walter said the winning class will get a pizza party thrown by the alliance.

The winner of the window decorating contest will receive \$25 off their alliance dues next year.

Anyone who wants to sign up for the parade should call the Chamber of Commerce office at 475-3441. The parade marshal once again will be Doris Black.

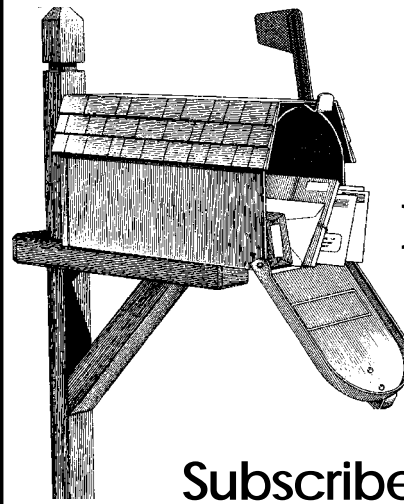
The parade will start by the Decatur Co-op elevator, go north up Main Street and pass by the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center.

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