

## Devil fever

# Pilot dies Tuesday in Wichita

A Wilsonville, Neb., spray pilot who suffered extensive burns in a July crash died Tuesday, Oct. 12, at a Wichita hospital.

Dennis Clark Kasson, 52, was at Via Christi-St. Francis Medical Center in Wichita the last three months after being rushed there by air ambulance after his spray plane crashed on July 15.

Mr. Kasson, with third-degree burns that covered 60 percent of his body, was in the hospital's burn center. He had undergone many skin grafts and was kept in the intensive care unit.

The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating to find out what caused the accident.

The plane Mr. Kasson was piloting crashed in a field near two miles north of U.S. 36 at the intersection of road W2 and J. After hitting the ground, the plane hit a power pole in the field.

The aircraft caught fire, burning Mr. Kasson. He was taken to the Norton County Hospital by Leroy Lang, and from there, he was flown to Via Christi.

When the Norton County Sheriff's Department arrived, the plane was burning and Norton Fire and Rescue was trying to put it out. A search was started to find Mr. Kasson, and then a call came that he had been taken to the hospital by private vehicle.

Mr. Kasson was a farmer in the Wilsonville. He was born Sept. 22, 1951, in Norton, the son of Curtis and Evelyn "Bobbie" (Meyers) Kasson, and grew up southeast of Wilsonville on the family farm. He attended school in Wilsonville, graduating from high school in 1970, and attended Central Nebraska Technical College at Hastings.

He married Mary Margaret "Sandi" Harr on Oct. 1, 1971 in Wilsonville and they made their home on the farm.

He was a former member of the Lower Republican Resource District, and a member of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association and Floyd's Wednesdays Social Club. He enjoyed cars and planes.

Survivors include his wife, of the home; a son, Mathew (Jennifer) Kasson, Norcat; a daughter, Melissa and Bradley Uehlin, Danbury; his parents, Norcat; a brother, Michael and Moni Kasson, Morrow, Ga.; his mother-in-law, Mary Ann John, Arapahoe, Neb.; and four grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by an infant brother, James Wynn Kasson.

Funeral services were Friday at the Wilsonville School. Kirk Kasson officiated and burial was in the Wilsonville Cemetery.

A memorial fund was established in his name. Contributions may be sent to Lockenour Jones Mortuary, Box 247, Cambridge, Neb., 69022

## Council to meet

The Oberlin City Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday at The Gateway.

The council will be working on paperwork for funding the new waste water treatment plant. The meeting is open to public.



AT THE VOLLEYBALL games Saturday, Quinton Cook, dressed as a Red Devil, helped the cheerleaders. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

# Men arrested with marijuana

Three young men were arrested for possession of marijuana with the intent to sell after police got permission to search one's car and then got a search warrant for a house at 206 N. Wilson.

Michael Steen, 20, Coffeyville; Eric Farr, 19, Oberlin; and Jacob Morton, 21, Topeka, but formerly of Oberlin, were arrested on Monday, Oct. 4, after city officers found more than seven pounds of marijuana in Mr. Farr's residence.

All three young men have criminal records. Mr. Farr has arrests due to marijuana but no convictions. Mr. Morton is on probation out of Sherman County for selling marijuana and has a misdemeanor in Decatur County for possession of the drug.

Police Chief Wade Lockhart said he received a tip that at least two of the young men had a substantial

amount of pot at 206 N. Wilson. The information was that it was packaged and the young men had said they were going to sell it.

Chief Lockhart said the informant said the drugs were in the trunk of Mr. Steen's car.

The officers went to the house, where the car was parked, and asked if they could search it. Mr. Steen gave his consent.

A small quantity of residue was found on the floorboards, said Chief Lockhart, but the officers didn't find the quantity they were looking for.

He said they asked Mr. Farr if they could search his house. He said no,

adding that someone might have brought something into the house, but it wasn't him.

The officers went and got a search warrant for the home, and found more than seven pounds of the drugs in the house.

The three young men, who were in the house, were arrested and charged with possession with intent to sell.

Both Mr. Steen and Mr. Farr were being held on \$25,000 bond. Mr. Farr is out of jail. Mr. Morton is being held on \$35,000 because he has a prior arrest for the same charge, the chief said.

# Local company holds grand opening

Customers, downtown business people and others got a chance to see inside the new headquarters of Sappa Valley Construction at a grand opening Friday on North U.S. 83.

Kevin and Jackie Brown have operated the business for 20 years in Oberlin, but decided to move the business out of a smaller office facility and worked with the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp. to buy land on U.S. 83.

Connie Grafel, marketing director for the agency, said they have an agreement for 5.6 acres of land to the east of U.S. 83 across from the city airport. If Sappa Valley Construction stays on the land for nine years, there will be no repayment. If they sell it or move before that time, they will have to pay for the land.

At first, said Ms. Grafel, the expanding company tried to go through the Western Resource Conservation and Development office in Colby for financing. The agency was doing a project with the U.S. Rural Development Administration to do a revolving loan fund. She said they could tell it was going to take months instead of weeks to get any money so a person in Colby suggested the company through Rural Telephone revolving loan fund.

The Browns placed an application with Rural Telephone, which

has a government-backed revolving loan fund.

Linda Yohon, economic development/networking specialist with the company, said the Browns had to put in 20 percent of the equity and the project has to be able to show cash flow. The company has a plan and guidelines for the loan.

This loan was the first business the company has worked with in Decatur County, she said, adding that the Browns have been professional and dedicated.

The business also received \$98,000 through a Rural Business Enterprise grant for sewer and water lines. The extension was estimated to cost \$150,000.

Ms. Grafel said business expansion is part of economic development. She said they hear from state officials all the time that the best thing in small communities is to help businesses stay and grow. This is the third business in the last six months to expand, she added, and that may be a sign that things are turning around a little. She said Mr. Brown has already hired a full-time person since the expansion and has two part-time workers also.

She said her board members feel that the new facility will help attract attention of those passing by on U.S. 83 rather than a field with nothing in it but corn stalks. It helps show that Oberlin is growing, she said.

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## FARM MACHINERY AUCTION

**Saturday, October 23, 2004 • 10:00 a.m.**

**LOCATION:** FROM OBERLIN, Kansas go 13 miles south on U.S. 83, 3 miles west, 3 miles south, 1/2 mile west and 1/2 mile South. **FROM SELDEN,** Kansas, go 1 mile North, 1/2 mile West, 2-1/4 miles North, 1/2 mile West and 1/2 mile North. Signs will be posted.

**Lunch will be served.**

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## It's Clean Up Time!

## Hazardous Household Waste Cleanup

for Decatur County residents will occur on Saturday, Oct. 23 between 8 a.m. and 12 Noon.

This event will be held at the county shop at Norcat. This program is designed to provide residents a place to dispose of their used oil, antifreeze, car batteries, lawn fertilizers and pesticides, latex and oil paints, unwanted chemicals, etc.

**If you have any questions concerning this program, please call the Decatur County Engineer's Office at 785-475-8111.**


Please clip out this ad and save for handy reference.

# PUBLIC NOTICE

The burning of vegetation, limbs and other organic material will be permitted (no rubber tires):

Saturday, Oct. 16 through Sunday, Nov. 21 provided adequate safety measures are taken, and being mindful of wind conditions.

By Order of  
City Mayor  
Ken Shobe



**Please Help Keep Oberlin LOOKING CLEAN!**

