



Way to go at state!

THE OBERLIN HERALD

75¢ (tax included; 54¢ delivered at home)

14 Pages, 2 Sections

Wednesday, November 3, 2004

126th Year, Number 44

Harvest late, but a surprise to many

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Unlike recent years, fall harvest has lasted over a month and a half this season, with the first load being brought in to Decatur Co-op's Oberlin elevator on Sept. 15 and farmers still cutting as of Friday.

General Manager Karol Evans said the co-op has taken in a total of a little over half a million bushels of corn, milo, sunflowers and soybeans as of Friday at all of its seven locations. At the end of the day, said Mr. Evans, he thought it would be about 75 percent of what was brought in last year.

In past years, he said, the co-op has had

to store some of the milo on the ground. That isn't going to happen this year, said Mr. Evans.

This hasn't been a particularly good crop, he said, but neither was last year's.

The crop varied, said Mr. Evans, depending on where it rained. In some areas farmers are cutting 70-bushel-an-acre corn and in others it has been 20 bushels. The quality throughout, he said, has been pretty good.

Mr. Evans said he thought farmers were expecting what they were getting in the combine, and the results might even be a tad

better than what they hoped for.

He said he isn't sure when harvest will be over. The Co-op branch in Danbury, Neb., is just starting to get loads in.

In a normal year, said Mr. Evans, harvest would be about done now, not just getting started.

He said he thought soybeans and sunflowers in the county are pretty much cut. The co-op has received around 75,000 bushels. In a lot of places, though, milo isn't ready to be cut.

The recent rains changed the harvest, he said. There have been several delays. Farm-

ers who started back in September have had to stop and wait several days.

While cutting, farmers also were trying to get wheat in the ground. Last week, farmers were still drilling, but by Friday, said Mr. Evans, he thought everyone had the seed in.

In the Norcatour area, harvest started around Sept. 30 when the first load of corn was brought into Norcatour Grain.

Manager Cody Richards said they were accepting grain Monday morning, but they were getting ready to shut things down because it was starting to mist.

So far, he said, test weights are looking

really good. He said a high test weight would be 60 pounds and they are seeing that at the elevator.

Farmers have been optimistic when bringing in a load. Harvest is a lot better than last year, said Mr. Richards.

With the recent moisture the area has received, he said, there are some milo fields that aren't ready to be cut yet. Mr. Richards said he isn't sure when harvest will be over.

When a farmer brings the crops into Norcatour Grain, he said, they generally buy the mill and then resell grain or take it to their mill and process the grain into feed.

Early voting is heavy

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The general election in Decatur County was in full swing Monday, with 345 people coming in by 11:15 a.m. to cast early ballots.

With advance voting closing at noon, County Clerk Marilyn Horn, who is the county's election officer, said she didn't know how many more they would get. Not since the year both she and Sheriff Ken Badsky had opponents were there this many early voters, she said. Usually, around 275 come in early.

The advance ballot number includes those from the Good Samaritan Center and Cedar Living Center, she added.

Mrs. Horn said the early voting has to close at noon the day before so that they can get the names of those who did advance voting to the polling places so people can't vote twice.

This year, the only county race is between Sheriff Badsky and Derrick Bolliger, a former police officer who is a write-in candidate. Mrs. Horn said there are a few races at the township level as well.

Polls will open up at 6 a.m. on Tuesday, with voting allowed at 7 a.m., and the clerk's office was trying to get everything ready Monday and also do tax statements.

Mrs. Horn said at 4 p.m., election workers would be there to talk about (See VOTERS on Page 8A)

Men raised big bucks

By TOM BETZ

The Goodland Star-News

The battle to fill the 40th Senate District seat, which came open after the death of the incumbent in a dust storm in May, was furious up to the primary election. Contributions topped \$102,407 for all three candidates.

Since then, though, things have settled down some, with each candidate raising about the same amount before the final weeks.

Contribution reports filed Monday in the candidate's home counties show that since the primary, Republican Ralph Ostmeyer of Grinnell, has raised \$13,045 since the last report July 23 while Democrat Tim Peterson of Monument had \$13,894.

Dan Rasure of Goodland, no longer in the race, raised more money between the last report and the primary on Aug. 3, a total of \$15,150. This brought his total contributions to the campaign up to \$67,749. His latest report for spending showed a balance of \$13.99 and expenditures of \$17,417.12.

Mr. Ostmeyer's total contributions for the campaign were \$39,681 with spending of \$28,275. He had a cash balance of \$11,406 as of Monday. He won the Republican primary 8,553-7,385 over Mr. Rasure.

Mr. Ostmeyer reported many (See CANDIDATES on Page 8A)



IN THE SPOOK PARADE Friday afternoon, Reece Dawson Kempf, 2, walked down Main Street (below) dressed as a skunk. Grafel (above left), 13 months, rode with his friends Mutsy and Gavon Uehlin (right), 17 months, in a big wagon.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Spooks parade on Main

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

There were witches, princesses, Care Bears and even one little unicorn marching down Main Street on Friday for the annual Spook Parade.

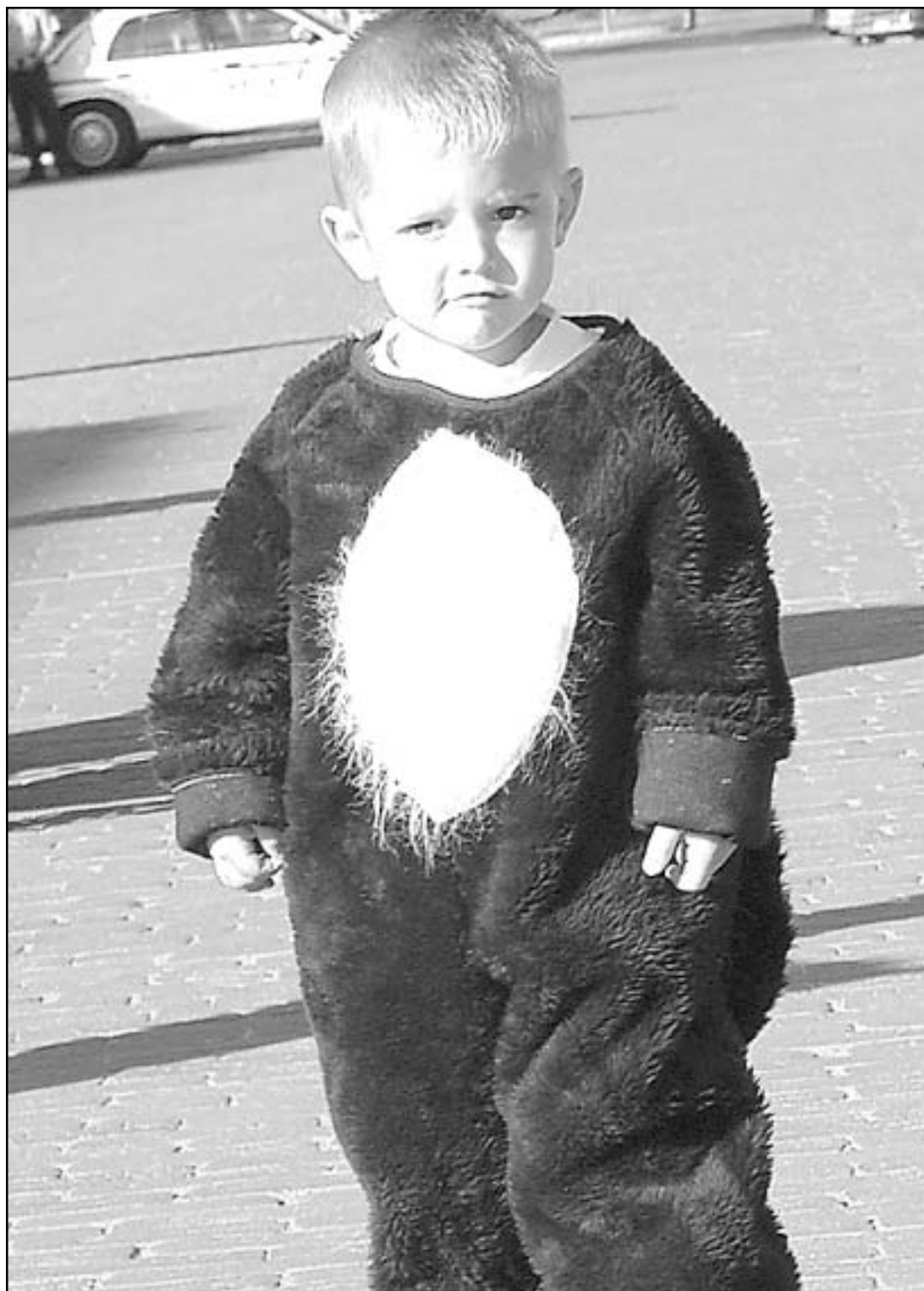
The kids, dressed in their Halloween costumes, started at the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center a little before 4 p.m. and walked around the halls showing the residents their outfits.

Some had their faces painted, while others wore masks. Some of the costumes were store bought, while others were straight from the parents and kids imaginations, like the little boy dressed as a race car, with a big box hanging from his shoulders.

The kids walked to the south end of Penn Avenue and then doubled back with a strategy in mind to get the most candy in the merchants annual Trick or Trunk event. Some headed into the courthouse first and others went down the east or west side of the street. Within 45 minutes to an hour, they'd hit all the stores and they were full of chocolate, gum, candy corn, suckers and other sweets.

The holiday isn't just for kids, but children at heart, too. The Oberlin Business Alliance gave first place in its costume contest to employees at The Bank, who dressed in grass skirts. Second went to the Good Samaritan Center, where everyone dressed up, and third to the courthouse staff, with the theme of "red hat ladies."

On Sunday, kids and parents



got dressed back up to go out trick or treating. Although the weatherman said there was a threat of snow

or rain, it didn't happen, and the kids were out in numbers looking for candy.

Later in the evening, streets were quiet and there were no reports of trouble.

Student writes for pool

A Wichita State University student who calls Oberlin home says she's entering an essay contest which could win her \$25,000, which she plans to give to the city's pool commission.

Danielle Diederich, 21, said she wrote an essay for an "ideas happen" contest. The prize is \$25,000, which she plans to give to the swimming pool commission to hire a grant writer and maybe a pool architect to get the project moving. The name of her essay is "To Swim Admidst the Drought."

Anna Shaw, leader of the commission, said the whole thing got started when Kem Bryan, another member of the commission, was poking around on the internet and found the contest at www.ideas.happen.msn.com. The site gave information about the contest for people between the ages of 18 and 29. They had to enter an essay to win the money.

Mrs. Bryan called Ms. Diederich about it and she took it from there.

Mrs. Shaw said the essay is in and now it is up to the judges to pick a winner. She said everyone who has a computer can log onto the website and vote for a winner. Mrs. Shaw asked that everyone who can get online and vote after Thursday, Nov. 11, when voting opens.

This is about a college girl who has a big heart and is trying to help her hometown with something that is really important, said Mrs. Shaw.

She said she thinks the winning essay is chosen by judges but the online voting plays an important part.

The pool evaluation has shown that Oberlin most likely needs a new pool, she said. The commission wants to look for grant money so that the full price tag doesn't have to be carried by taxpayers.

Kids to honor vets

Schools in Decatur County will honor veterans with programs in Jennings and Oberlin next Thursday.

In Jennings, the program will start at 10 a.m. in the school gym on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. All veterans from the area and anyone who wants to participate are welcome.

In Oberlin, the program starts at 2:30 p.m. in the Oberlin Elementary gym. The school asks that all veterans attend. For questions, call the school office at (785) 475-2122.

New this year, *The Oberlin Herald* will print a Veterans Day section honoring World War II veterans. The special edition will be inserted in next week's paper.

We expect stories on between 60 to 70 veterans whose families have turned in their information.

With the national holiday next Thursday, the post office, banks and federal, state, county and city offices will be closed.

Other closings include Decatur Co-op, unless farmers are harvesting. Most other businesses will be open.

Health group shows research on assisted living

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Decatur County commissioners met with their health care committee last Tuesday to continue discussions about building an assisted living facility in the area.

Margee Wilson, Chief Nursing Officer at Cedar Living Center, said she went to Whispering Pines in Norton for a tour. She said they spent from \$1.5 to \$2 million to remodel the 28-unit facility, a former motel.

The facility is licensed for assisted living, she said, although there are some people who fall into that category and some in the independent living category. The home is almost full.

The director at Whispering Pines said it normally takes three years to fill that type of facility, but it only took 16 months in Norton. The Andbe Home, which provides nursing care, is also full.

Whispering Pines got a loan for the renovation, said Mrs. Wilson. The staff includes licensed practical nurses and aides. There has to be a registered nurse on call.

She said she is going to talk with someone about getting a loan and how to get started on the process.

Marcia Lohofener, manager at Wheat Ridge Terrace Apartments, said Norton has other independent living apartments by the Andbe Home, and those have been full for years.

Mrs. Wilson said they have a program at Whispering Pines where the library takes books there every two weeks and residents can check them out, then the books are rotated.

Janice Shobe, administrator at the Good Samaritan Center, said she e-mailed her boss and asked about building costs. For 12 units, he said, construction only would cost \$900,000. The entire project would cost around \$1.2 million.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said the commissioners may send a letter to the contact person for the loan

and ask a few questions. He said he thinks they have enough land to build something.

Mrs. Lohofener said she worries that there are two nursing facilities in town that aren't full.

Yes, said Commissioner Doyle Brown, but the group has agreed that it would probably cost more to remodel the existing homes than it would be to build a new one.

Mrs. Shobe said there are 46 residents at Good Samaritan now, with four vacancies. Cedar Living Center was up to 33, said Lynn Doeden, administrator, but they are now down to 30 residents, with seven beds open.

All the apartments at Wheat Ridge, said Mrs. Lohofener, are either full or committed to someone.

If continuing care isn't offered, said Mrs. Shobe, then people leave the community and then they don't come back.

Mrs. Wilson said she would still like to go to Hoxie to check out a facility.

Like Mrs. Lohofener, said Mr. Brown, he has some concerns about the nursing homes, but those people who need to go to assisted living don't want to be attached to a nursing home.

Mrs. Lohofener had made a call to someone in the prison system about helping with their elderly inmates. Lynn Doeden, hospital administrator, said she called the person and they didn't remember Mrs. Lohofener calling.

What about the veterans administration? asked Mrs. Lohofener. Mrs. Shobe said the Good Samaritan Center has an agreement with the government to help if a veteran needs placement.

She said assisted living is an area the group needs to continue to investigate.

The group decided to wait until after the holidays to hold its next meeting.



WITH THE HELP of Colleen Geishler at the county clerk's office, Marvin May got a ballot to vote early on Monday morning in the Decatur County clerk's office.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

* Voters come out early to avoid storm

(Continued from Page 1A) what to expect at the polling places, new rules and what everyone is doing. The county has between 75 and 80 workers for the general election, she said. Most of them have been doing the work for some time now. There are a few men, but it is mostly women.

She said they did ask some new people to help this year. For the primary election, she said, they had high school helpers, but they are back in school.

The workers get an hourly wage, said Mrs. Horn, for the one day of service. They start at 6 a.m. counting ballots and folding them.

Although the ballots are made ahead of time by the clerk's office, they don't actually get folded until election day. Workers will put a number on each ballot as a person comes in to vote.

Mrs. Horn said the office gets the format for the ballot from the secretary of state's office, but the ballots can't be printed until they are certi-

fied. That certification didn't happen until Oct. 10, three weeks ago.

She said they need to have enough ballots for every registered voter, although not all of them will vote.

A list is run to show how many ballots are needed. The paper ballots are packaged in groups of 25, 50 or 100. For example, if one polling place has 756 registered voters, said Mrs. Horn, they would send 750 ballots.

In the past, the ballots were printed by a local business, but re-

cently they decided to make the ballots in the office on the computer and printer.

Mrs. Horn said she wasn't sure why the advance voting was up. The talk of snow may have played a part in it, she said, but also some voters thought if they voted early they wouldn't have to use a machine under new federal regulations. There won't be any machines used this year in Decatur County to vote, but some people didn't know for sure if the election process had changed.

* Candidates raise, spend money for race

(Continued from Page 1A) contributions from business groups and political action committees.

Contributions of \$1,000 were received from Southwest Pro Home of Wichita, Prairie Bank Potawatomi Nation, the Kansas Republican Senatorial Committee and Kansas Farm Bureau Vote Fund.

Other contributions of note were \$800 from the Boeing Co., Wichita, \$250 Raytheon Aircraft Holdings, Wichita, \$250 Kansas Agri Business Council, Topeka, \$250 Pfizer

Inc, Overland Park, \$250 Koch Industries, Wichita, \$250 Occidental Oil and Gas, Sacramento, Calif., \$250 Kansas Motor Carriers Truck political action committee, Topeka, \$250 Kansas Chamber of Commerce and Industry political action committee, Topeka, \$250 El Paso Energy Service, Houston, \$250 Kansas Medical Society political action committee, Topeka, \$250 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas, Topeka, \$500 Kansas Livestock Association political action com-

mittee, Topeka, \$250 Sprint State political action committee, Topeka, \$250 Kansas Hospital Association political action committee, Topeka, \$500 Kansas Chiropractic Association, Topeka, \$350 Kansas Insurance Agents political action committee, Topeka, \$500 National Rifle Association Political Victory Fund, Fairfax, Va., \$500, Kansas Contractors Association political action committee, Topeka, \$500 Pioneer Communications, Ulysses, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., Topeka, \$250 Harrah's Entertainment, Las Vegas, and \$500 SBC Kansas, Topeka.

Mr. Peterson reported a balance of \$1,168 as of Monday. His largest contributions came from Kristine Polansky, a Topeka lawyer, \$2,000, First District Democrats \$500, Kansas National Education Association political action committee \$1,000, Laverne Youngquist, Rock Island, Ill. \$1,100, Stephen J. Irisk Jr., Ingalls, \$1,000, and Billie Flora, Quinter, \$250.

Mr. Peterson listed 83 contribu-

tors for an average of \$190 per person, and Ostmeyer listed 72 contributors for an average of \$236 per person.

Both candidates were putting final pushes on this weekend, and said they expected a good turnout on Tuesday.

In the final days of the primary campaign, Mr. Rasure received \$1,000 from Pioneer CV, Oakley, Keller RV, Oakley, Kansas Livestock Association political action committee, First National Bancshares of Goodland, Brenda McCants of Goodland, and Pioneer Communications of Ulysses.

Contributions of \$500 to Mr. Rasure were received from Phil Ruffin, Wichita, Warren and Carol Weibert, Oberlin, Upland Park, L.C., Long Island, Steven Cox Associates, Long Island, Cynthia Strnad of Goodland, Kansas Quarter Horse Racing Association, Eureka, Responsible Republicans of Kansas, Shawnee Mission, Christopher Goebel, Wichita, and Kansas Racing, Kansas City, Kansas.



AT THEIR NEW OFFICE downtown, Lynn and Roberta Johnson checked out what they had on the agenda for the day.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Couple moves business to downtown office

After 14 years of running Johnson Realty out of their home, Lynn and Roberta Johnson have moved downtown, filling up an empty store front.

The couple purchased the building at 122 S. Penn from Steve and Anita Hirsch and moved in at the beginning of October after putting in carpet and doing some painting.

Broker Roberta Johnson said the business has expanded, so they needed to move out of their home and into an office.

Although they have 11 people who are able to sell property, said Associate Broker Lynn Johnson, they are still looking for more.

The business sells farm land, residential properties, commercial properties and offers full-service auction service.

Although they have had the business for 14 years, the couple actually has 19 years of realty service under their belts.

They worked for five years with Farm and Ranch Realty out of Colby.

Mrs. Johnson said the business is open around 8 a.m. Monday through Friday. In the real estate business, she said, they really are open all the time since they forward their office number to the home. So far, she said, they have also been at the office Saturday mornings until about noon. They are available on weekends by appointment.

The business number is 785-475-2785 and the home number is 785-475-3242.

The couple has two daughters and four grandkids: Jay and Shelli Fortin of Oberlin and their sons, Josh and Jacob, and Terry and Sherri Ramsey of Arkansas City and their two, Bryson and Bryanna.

Mrs. Johnson was born and raised in Oberlin. Mr. Johnson moved here when he was 7. Both graduated from Decatur Community High School.

Other salespeople are Jacqueline Votapka, David Juenemann, Roger Emigh, Shirley Simpson, Joe D. Green, Randy Ostmeyer, Michael Wilson and Jerry and Marcia Lohofener.

County agrees to pay mileage for volunteers

The Decatur County commissioners agreed last Tuesday to pay out-of-town volunteer emergency medical technicians mileage when they are called to Oberlin to take a call or a transport.

After a five-minute closed session for non-elected personnel with Ambulance Director Patrick Pomeroy, the decision was made.

The county will pay the state rate, currently 37.5 cents.

Mr. Pomeroy said he has only one person, Chris Koerperich, left in the first responder class. A first responder/emergency medical technician bridge class was supposed to start last Tuesday and he said he thought they would have seven students.

The ambulance service, he said, planned to hold a fund raiser on Halloween at the Golden Age Center.

Businesses to be on tour

The annual Business to Business tour sponsored by the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce and the Oberlin Business Alliance will begin 4 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 14.

The idea of the tour is to allow business owners, employees and shoppers a chance to see what's in the stores in Oberlin.

The tour will start at the Chamber office. It costs \$8 per person, which pays for soup, sandwich, pie and a beverage at the LandMark Inn after the tour.

There is no fee to include a business on the tour. Contact the Chamber at 475-3441 if you're interested in having a business on the tour or attending it by next Wednesday.

Center gets grant for kids

The Northwest Kansas Educational Center has been awarded a grant through the Workforce Investment Act to assist youths in achieving educational and/or employment goals.

Youth ages 14-21 may qualify for the program. It offers a number of services which may benefit youth including: counseling, mentoring, support services, paid work experi-

ence, tutoring, assistance in completing the General Education Degree/alternative school assessment, training, summer work experience and guidance.

Youth who are having difficulty obtaining employment or completing an educational program may benefit from services through the grant. Contact Judy Taylor or Misty Mildenerger at (785) 672-3125.

Urgent news for people who took

VIOXX

Many VIOXX® users suffered strokes, heart attacks, heart failure, chest pains, blood clots, serious bleeding and even death. If you or a loved one took VIOXX® and had any of these problems, call us now toll free at 1-800-THE-EAGLE for a free consultation. We practice law only in Arizona, but associate with lawyers throughout the U.S.

GOLDBERG & OSBORNE
1-800-THE-EAGLE
(1-800-843-3245)
www.1800theeagle.com

Offices in Phoenix & Tucson

Open 7 days a week

**FLUORESCENT
NO
HUNTING
SIGNS**

Small 3
for \$1

THE OBERLIN HERALD
170 S. Penn — Oberlin — 785-475-2206

