

Low temps may have damaged wheat

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Temperatures dropped below freezing Saturday and Sunday, possibly causing some damage to the wheat crop in Decatur County, but the outlook is positive.

Logan Johnson, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Goodland, said the low temperature for Oberlin on Saturday was 27 and the low on Sunday was 29. Freezing is 32 degrees, but experts say it has to be colder, longer to damage wheat.

The soil temperature, said Mr. Johnson, typically responds much slower than the air, which means it is still at about 50 degrees, even though the air temperature dipped lower.

The ground didn't freeze, he said.

The average date of the last temperature below freezing for Oberlin is May 3, he added.

Brian Olson, area agronomist for Kansas State University Research and Extension,

said most of the wheat in the area is jointing now or has already jointed. Normally, he said, at that stage people don't want to see temperatures around 24 degrees for long periods of time.

Farmers need to keep in mind, he said, that this year, the wheat is thick, unlike the crop last year.

The thickness will help hold some of the heat in and down, he said, and it's good that there wasn't a lot of wind the nights it was

cold.

Mr. Olson said it will help that the wheat canopy is above the growing point. Basically, he said, when the leaf structure is above the growing point, it protects the plant.

Last year, he said, the growing point was above the canopy, which exposed it to a lot of damage.

There may be some problems here and there with the wheat because of the cold

weather, he said, but he didn't think there would be a lot.

The best thing for farmers to do, he said, is go out next week and split a few wheat stalks.

If there is a nice green growing point inside the stalk, then it is fine. If it is brown, then there will be some problems.

Mr. Olson said he is optimistic about the crop and doesn't think there will be as many freezing problems as there were last year.

Council allows 30-day extension on bids for water

The Oberlin City Council got a 30-day extension from two bidders because the city hasn't received approval on an Emergency Community Water Assistance grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The council received four bids altogether and asked for the 30-day extension from Woofter Pump and Well of Hoxie for redrilling well No. 9 for \$299,193 and Simmerman Electric of Elm Creek, Neb. for refurbishing well No. 10 with new electrical equipment for \$54,718.

The bids were good for 60 days, but expired on Monday.

Thaniel Monaco, with Miller and Associates, the city's engineering firm, said the council had to decide what to do because the government hadn't made a decision on the grant. Mr. Monaco said he talked with a man at the state office of the Rural Development agency, who told him the paperwork has to be approved by the Washington office before the city can spend the money or sign a contract.

Council Roundup

At the meeting Thursday night, the Oberlin City Council:

- Agreed to declare some of the buildings on the old Cochran property and a metal building at Sappa Valley Youth Ranch surplus and ask for bids for them. Story on Page 10A.

- Agreed to let an Oberlin man pave his half of the street in the 800 block of E. Jackson. Story on Page 3A.

- Agreed that the city pool will open this summer, despite rumors around town. Story below.

- Extended two bids since the council hasn't heard back on a grant to pay to replace well No. 9 and refurbish No. 10. Story to left.

The file is in Washington, said (See CITY on Page 10A)

Pool will be open at the end of May despite rumors

Despite rumors, City Council members agreed Thursday that the Oberlin city pool will be open this summer.

A new boiler has been ordered after the old one died last summer.

Contractor Roger Goltl has cleaned up and fixed part of the east wall, though City Administrator Gary Shike said he isn't sure if Mr. Goltl is done with his work at the pool. He said he hasn't had a chance to look at it.

Mr. Goltl scraped off the bubbled part on the east wall and repaired it, Mr. Shike said.

At the meeting Thursday night, the council approved wages of \$8 an hour for Sarah Ruf as pool manager this summer and \$7.50 an hour for assistant manager for Rusty Grafel.

All other lifeguards who are returning will receive a 25-cents-an-hour increase.

The city hasn't received many applications for lifeguards. Anyone who is interested can pick up an application at the city office.

The pool normally opens over Memorial Day weekend and stays open until Labor Day depending on weather, attendance and whether the city has lifeguards.

Mr. Shike said before the pool opens, the city crew needs to clean it and paint it.

The city received a draft agreement with Water's Edge Aquatics to develop a concept plan for a new pool. They agreed to table the agreement until the pool committee has a chance to review it.

Retired banker from Norcatour dies

Kenneth G. Ward, a banker and insurance agent in Norcatour for 59 years, died Saturday, April 23, at the Andbe Home in Norton.

Mr. Ward purchased the Citizens State Bank in Norcatour in 1956, and ran the bank until it was sold to Farmers National Bank of Oberlin in February 1992.

He was born Jan. 21, 1914, near Norcatour, the son of Clarence Leo and Ethel Pearl (Stevens)

Ward. He grew up in Norcatour and attended the school there, graduating from the Norcatour Rural High School in 1931. He also attended the School of Banking in Madison, Wis.

Mr. Ward married Erma Jaquetta Railsback in 1936, and she died in 1940. On March 10, 1946, he and Dorothy Arlene Dick were married in Norcatour.

He was a member and trustee of the Norcatour United Methodist Church and had been a member of the Norcatour City Council and school board. He was a past master of the Norcatour Masonic Lodge and the Mountain Slope Masonic Lodge

in Oberlin. He was a member of the Norcatour Commercial Club and helped establish the Norcatour Citizens Alliance.

Survivors include his wife, Dorothy, of the home; a daughter, Lora Linn Leichliter, Norcatour; a son, Mark and Debra Ward, Hugo, Colo.; a daughter-in-law, Paula Ward, Denver; two sisters, Edith Mavity, Cunningham; and Ruth Chamberlain, North Platte, Neb.; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Douglas; a son-in-law, Lyman Leichliter; three brothers; three sisters; and a granddaughter.

Funeral services were Tuesday morning at the United Methodist Church in Norcatour. Kathy Aeillo officiated, and burial was in the Norcatour Cemetery.

Memorials were established to the Citizens Alliance and the church. Contributions may be sent to Enfield Funeral Home, 215 W. Main, Norton, Kan., 67654.



K.G. Ward



WITH A HOSE IN HIS HAND, a Jennings fireman (above) helped put out the flames on Robert Amlong's property last Wednesday. Mr. Amlong (below) walked through the debris of the shed that burned. He told firemen

he was cleaning up the property north of Dresden when a controlled burn got out of hand and threatened a garage.

— Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes and Kimberly Davis

Wind fans flames

A controlled burn got out of hand last Wednesday afternoon in Dresden, burning the side of a garage.

Robert Amlong said he was burning a shed that had been knocked down. The wind came up, he said, and the fire got away from him. The flames started moving to the south and the side of a garage caught on fire.

He said he went home and told his wife Ramona to call the fire department.

The Amlongs don't live on the property, which is north of K-383 on the Dresden Road, but own it. He said he was cleaning it up a



little. Fireman Kent Ploussard said the call came in around 1:30 p.m. and crews from Oberlin and Jennings were called out. Mr. Ploussard said they are guessing that the heat from the controlled burn is what caused the garage to catch on fire. The flames didn't jump or anything, he said. There weren't any problems reported after the crew left.

Horsing around



AT A WORK DAY Saturday, April 16, Mick Glaze fixed the mane of one of his mares. Mr. Glaze's team of Belgian crosses and Ron McDougal's team of Percherons worked a field adjacent to the Oberlin Cemetery addition which the city owns.

— Photo by Gary Shike

Bridge project approved

Decatur County commissioners approved a \$347,375 project which will replace six bridges in the county at their meeting last Tuesday.

Lloyd Johnson of Husker Steel, out of Columbus, Neb., had the only bid for the replacement of the bridges. In December, Mr. Johnson met with the commissioners and Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman about the project.

Bridges to be replaced include:

- Roosevelt Township, five miles north and six and a half east of Oberlin for \$58,960.

- Grant Township, nine miles north and half a mile west of Norcatour, \$47,773.

- Grant Township, 9 1/2 miles north of Norcatour, \$75,586. This is the bridge that collapsed this winter.

- Pleasant Valley Township, 1 1/2 miles south and three west of Clayton, \$55,886.

- Prairie Dog Township, two south and eight and half west of Dresden, \$49,669.

- Oberlin Township, four miles south and three and a half west of Oberlin, \$59,401.

(See COUNTY on Page 10A)

* City waits for grant

(Continued from Page 1A)
 Mr. Monaco, but the people who have to decide on it have been in Oregon for a meeting.
 Mr. Monaco said he asked both of the bidders for a 30-day extension. Woofter will extend its bid, he said, but the Hoxie firm had three conditions. Mr. Monaco said the company asked for an additional 30 days of build time, which lengthens the project to 40 days; they need an additional \$4,000 for increased steel and other prices; and they have asked that their \$15,000 bid bond be returned to them.

Mayor Ken Shobe asked if the difference between Woofter and the other bidder was more than \$4,000. The other bids the council received were from Sargent Irrigation for the re-drill for \$417,063 and from Layne-Western for \$419,454. The first and second requests, he said, are no problem. Because the contractor is close by, he said, he doesn't think there will be any problems with them not getting the work done.

City Attorney Steve Hirsch said the only alternative is to deny all bids and start the process over. The problem with that, he said, is that everyone will know what the other bids were.

Mr. Monaco said the council could award a contract, and then if the grant doesn't come through, the city would have to get a loan. The city already has \$300,000 allocated through the agency. That would leave around \$185,000 more for the total project. The money is left from the transmission line and water main improvements, he said. The department has never closed that loan out. He said that probably isn't the option he would recommend.

The council approved an extension of the bid for 30 days under the conditions laid out by Woofter.

* County to fix bridges

(Continued from Page 1A)
 All of the bids include using 40-foot stringers, said Mr. Johnson, and if they need longer ones there will be more cost. If they can use 30-foot stringers, then the cost of each bridge will be less.
 The money for the project, said Mr. Stallman, will come out of the special bridge fund, which has been built up the past few years.

Originally there were eight bridges in the proposal, he said, but two were dropped.

One about four and a half miles west of Norcatar will be replaced by an eight-foot culvert. The other, three miles west and one south of Traer, will be done by the road and bridge crew. Mr. Stallman said they got some tips from Gerold DeBoer from Penco Engineering on how to fix it.

The road boss said the jobs will be done in late summer to early fall.

Mr. Johnson said that the crew will come in around the middle of May and probably will start with the northeast corner. They won't leave until all six bridges are replaced.

END



Volunteers honored at center

AT THE GOOD SAMARITAN CENTER last Tuesday, volunteers including Don and Goldie Stapp and Evelyn Olson (above) and Administrator Janice Shobe and Phyllis Metcalf (right) ate eggs and a muffin. The center organized the breakfast to say thanks to the many people who help out. Three students from the high school sang solos and gifts were given away.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



Road department to get used car trailer

The Decatur County commissioners approved the purchase of a used car trailer for the road and bridge department.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman said at the meeting last Tuesday that they could use a trailer that could be attached to a pick-up truck to haul things. Normally the department borrows one if it is needed, he said.

He said Kirk Ulery, who works on the crew, is selling one for \$1,000. Mr. Stallman said Mr. Ulery is upgrading his.

The trailer is in good shape and is one the crew has borrowed before. Commissioner Doyle Brown asked if they would be able to find a new one for that price. No, said Mr. Stallman that is around half the price of a new one.

The commissioners agreed to the purchase.

Mr. Brown said he received a call from a man in his district who wants the alley between the ambulance

County Countdown

At their meeting last Tuesday, Decatur County commissioners:

- Approved a bid of \$30,085 to get the north side of the courthouse tuck pointed and sealed. Story below.
- OK'd purchase of a used car trailer for the road and bridge department. Story below.

- Received a request from the Last Indian Raid Museum for continued support for next year. Story on Page 3A.

- Accepted a \$347,375 project to replace six bridges on township roads. Story on Page 1A.

barn in Jennings and the building to the north of it closed. The city has to approve the alley closing, said Mr. Brown, but they need the county's consent.

He said there isn't actually an alley in the spot. The commissioners said that if the city council approves the alley be closed, they don't have a problem with it.

Gene and Mary Plotts of Sherman Township talked with the commissioners about some spots in the road to their house. Mr. Plotts said parts of the road are dangerous. He said

you have to drive in the center and hope that you don't meet anyone, and the road won't hold gravel.

He said they called Mr. Stallman but he didn't do anything about it.

Mr. Brown said he would talk to Mr. Stallman.

The road is on the south side of the feed lot.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Held a 10-minute closed session for non-elected personnel. No action was taken.

- Heard the terms of Health Founda-

tion board members Steve Hirsch, Joann McKenna and Florence Vavroch have expired. Mrs. McKenna said she would serve again. Mr. Hirsch said he wouldn't and Mrs. Vavroch hadn't been reached yet. Anyone interested in the jobs needs to get a form from the county clerk.

- Approved a raise for Dwight Stateham from \$7.75 to \$8.10 an hour in the noxious weed department.

- Heard that Commissioner Patricia Glenn had received a call from a constituent who is interested in helping with the naming of the roads.

He said he didn't think using family names for the roads was a good idea because kids will steal the signs and take them to college. Mr. Brown said he received a call from a constituent, who said he liked the idea of using letters, like A and AA, for the roads. That way, he said, the signs wouldn't be very long.

Commissioners say yes to pump for truck

The Decatur County commissioners approved a bid of \$2,662 Tuesday, April 12 for a "quick attack" slip-in unit to replace the pump on a fire truck in Jennings.

Fire Chief Bill Cathcart said some of the parts on the pump were replaced two years ago, but he thinks the unit was original and doubts it

could be reconditioned.

The fire department received a bid from National Fire Fighters Corp. Chief Cathcart said the unit should just need to be bolted down and hooked up to connections.

The commissioners agreed to the purchase.

Chief Cathcart said he has been

looking for a new fire truck from Weis Fire Co., which will run \$130,000 to \$150,000.

He said he is looking into other ideas including, getting a four-wheel-drive truck and welding the bed to hold the fire gear.

He said he wants to get replacement tankers for Oberlin, Jennings

and Norcatar.

They can get a fire truck chassis for around \$70,000, he said.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said other counties have gotten grants for up to 95 percent of the cost.

The trucks he is looking at replacing, Mr. Cathcart said, were new in 1978 or 1979.

North side of courthouse will get sealed and tuck pointed

Decatur County commissioners approved a bid of \$30,085 to get the north side of the courthouse tuck pointed to preserve the brickwork and stop leaks.

At their meeting last Tuesday,

Custodian Bob Berls brought in the bid from Mid-Continental Restoration out of Fort Scott. He said the same company had tuck pointed the other three sides of the building. He said he wouldn't even consider any-

one else for the job.

The firm will tuck point and seal the north side of the courthouse, which leaked in the recent storm.

Mr. Berls said the county may need to buy some plywood to cover

air-conditioning units while the tuck pointing is done.

The commissioners suggested Mr. Berls check with Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman to see if he has any material that would

Buildings declared surplus

The Oberlin City Council agreed Thursday to declare some of the buildings on the Cochran property and a metal building at Sappa Valley Youth Ranch, which they own, surplus property and ask for bids.

City Administrator Gary Shike said he has had some requests from people who want to buy the buildings.

Does the city have any use for them? asked Councilman Jay Anderson. Mr. Shike said he didn't think so.

Does the city need to take bids? asked Councilman Ray Ward. Mr. Shike said they could ask for bids or sell them for a fixed price. First, he said, the property needs to be deemed surplus.

The council decided to take bids.

Frank Black, owner of Jr's Used cars, talked with the council about two trucks for the crew. Mr. Black said he didn't think the smaller pickups were that much better on fuel or costs if they have a V-6 engine.

He said he just got in a truck for \$9,000 which would be under the \$10,000 budgeted price.

City Foreman Dan Castle said he drove the other two trucks Mr. Black had notified the city about. He said he can go look at the other ones.

In other business, the council:

- Welcomed its newest member, Rob McFee, who was elected on a write-in vote earlier this month. Mr. McFee and Councilman Joe Stanley and Jay Anderson were all sworn in.
- Elected Joe Stanley to be council president.

School hires six kids

Six high school students will be employed by the Oberlin School District this summer, making almost \$2,000 apiece doing maintenance, custodial services and other jobs.

At an Oberlin School Board meeting Monday, April 11, members approved the number of students who will be hired, although they didn't approve who they would be. Superintendent Kelly Glodt said he will look over the applications.

Last summer, the district hired three students for summer projects. Mr. Glodt said this year he wants to hire more students because the kids will help the district save money. He said they can save money by replacing professionals for some work.

The district will be taking advantage of a program through the Northwest Kansas Service Education Center which will pay for 30 hours a week for one student to work. The district will only have to pay for the additional 10 hours each week.

There will be three students working with Plant Facilities Director Kenny Black, one with Outdoor Maintenance Director Terry Ream, one with Technology Coordinator Jess Randel and one with vocational agriculture teacher Nathan Copeland.

Prairie Chapel Lord's Acre Dinner & Auction
 Sunday, May 1, 2005
 At the Prairie Chapel United Methodist Church
 Come and have Dinner with us!
 Potluck Dinner provided by members beginning at 11:30 a.m.
 Auction of homemade baked goods and crafts starts at 1:00 p.m.
 On Hwy. 36 go East 8 miles, then 6 North, then 1/2 East
 Free will donations gladly accepted

Tuesday Senior Buffet
 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 (\$55 and over)
\$3.99

Thursday Night Buffet
 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
 (Includes coffee and tea)
\$4.79

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 Located along U.S. Hwy. 36 - Phone 785-475-3638
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