

Rain keeps water restrictions at bay

Although there have been several hot days, the recent moisture has kept the mayor from having to declare a water warning so far this month.

In recent years, it has been a different story.

Last year, the city banned all outdoor water use in early May when a pump failed,

then lifted the ban. At the beginning of June, the mayor declared a water warning and the even/odd watering system went into effect for the rest of the summer.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the trigger this year is 700,000 gallons of water use in a 24 hour period.

Although the city has pumped that much

water at least twice this summer, one of the times was when the city crew was filling the swimming pool.

Mr. Shike said the city doesn't normally go on the even/odd watering system until use is consistently up against that trigger. He said before activating the restrictions, they also try to look at the weather forecast,

which has been for wet weather recently.

This year, the trigger was lowered 100,000 gallons, said Mr. Shike, mainly because well No. 9 has fallen off a little bit each year. The city is re-drilling that well with plans to have it done in the fall.

The re-drill, said Mr. Shike, should give the city more water.

The city used:

- 485,000 gallons on Monday, June 6.
- 332,000 gallons on Tuesday, June 7.
- 577,000 gallons last Wednesday.
- 401,000 gallons on Thursday.
- 335,000 gallons on Friday.
- 371,000 gallons on Saturday.
- 243,000 gallons on Sunday.



WITH HER HANDS UP, Molly Coleman (above) prepared to practice a kick she had just learned from Trooper Joe Vajart, who held the bag, and Trooper Bill Goodness.

Sue Glodt (below left), her daughter Heather and a friend, Lacey Ream, watched as the troopers demonstrated the defense moves.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Women learn to defend

Around 35 women learned what to do and what not to if attacked during a self-defense training class last week sponsored by the Decatur County Farm Bureau in conjunction with the Kansas Highway Patrol.

Troopers Joe Vajart and Bill Goodness from Salina put on the class at The Gateway.

Dianne Bremer with the Farm Bureau said they had 50 women signed up, but with the bad weather that night the number dropped to 35. The bureau plans on holding the class again next year, she said.

Troopers Vajart and Goodness went through several scenarios if



a person was attacking you. They agreed that it wasn't a bad idea for women to carry a bottle of pepper

spray in their purse so they could spray an attacker in the eyes.

Trooper Goodness, a licensed

martial arts instructor, said it is important to understand that Kan-

(See WOMEN on Page 10A)

Sirens send many to shelter, some to porches

Tornado seen outside of Oberlin but no damage reported in county

Sirens sounded in Oberlin around 4 p.m. Thursday as the sky above town grew a dark gray, almost black in spots.

Some left work and headed home to their basements; others went to the front porch to watch. Storm spotters were sent out.

From north of Oberlin, up in Nebraska, a radio announcer reported numerous tornadoes and bad weather.

Rain started to fall in town, but it never seemed to get too heavy during the storm. Around 4:35 p.m. the sirens went off again. To the east, the sky was pitch black in spots.

Dispatch reported one tornado spotted touching down in an open field southwest of town. Dispatcher Bert Cool said he thought Fire Chief Bill Cathcart had spotted the storm.

Mick McGuire, a meteorologist, with the National Weather Service office in Goodland, said an upper-level storm system moving in from the west ran into plenty of gulf moisture over the High Plains.

Thunderstorms developed along a "dry line" stretching from Gove County northward to the Oberlin area.

There were several weak tornadoes reported in Gove County, said Mr. McGuire. Then there was a significant tornado in Graham County and numerous reports of funnels as the storm moved into Rooks County.

There were reports of large hail across the area.

In the evening, the sun came out and things calmed down until the (See STORM on Page 10A)

County decides to close tire fill, recycle old rubber

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Decatur County will no longer bury used tires at the landfill, commissioners decided last week, but will take whole tires which will be picked up by a recycler.

At a meeting last Tuesday, Tim Stallman, road and bridge director, said it could cost \$10,000 in engineering costs for a new plan for the tire "monofill," because the Kansas Department of Health and Environment has changed the rules. The monofill is a special pit where tires can be buried. It is a separate location, and only tires can be buried in that pit. Both whole and shredded tires can be buried.

The landfill takes in around 500 tires a year, Mr. Stallman said, and people pay \$1 for each tire they drop off.

Mr. Stallman said the Becker Tire truck comes through the county about every two weeks and picks up whole tires. There is room at the landfill for 500 tires to be stored at a time.

Mr. Stallman said he thought one of the tire dealers in town was already getting rid of used tires with the Becker Tire truck.

Tires that are split into pieces will still be taken at the landfill, he said;

County Roundup

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Approved the purchase of around \$10,000 of chemicals for the noxious weed department. Story on Page 5A.

- Decided to close the tire "monofill" at the county landfill, knowing a new plan could cost the county around \$10,000. Story at left.

- Agreed to wait until budget time to decide if the county will give the soil conservation district \$10,000 next year. Story on Page 3A.

- Signed paperwork for a grant to help pay the sheriff's office for helping cover the highways during holidays. Story to come.

the recycler just prefers that the tires are whole.

Commissioner Doyle Brown asked if the county could just cover the monofill and that would take (See LANDFILL on Page 10A)

Oberlin highway to get new concrete during two projects

By STEVE HAYNES

U.S. 36 through Oberlin, from the U.S. 83 junction to Penn Avenue, will be repaved with new concrete under two "geometric improvement" projects approved by the state Department of Transportation.

Chris McDuffett, district engineer for the department from Norton, said both projects had been approved for bidding in December 2006. State and federal money will pay all the costs of the work, he said, so long as neither project exceeds \$600,000. The estimate for both jobs is \$1.1 million.

The improvements will include new concrete paving, replacing asphalt which in some cases had a bad base and tends to sink. Work will

start west of the Crossroads Express store and go past Penn.

The road should be about like the existing pavement, said City Administrator Gary Shike, except the pavement will be concrete, which will stand up better to over-the-road trucks stopping, starting up and turning at the intersections.

Mr. Shike said he was surprised when both projects were approved at the same time. The city had hoped to get at least one this year.

"I'm glad they let us combine the two," he said, "so we won't have everything torn up twice."

He said the city has hired Penco Engineering of Plainville to design the project. The state will pay for the (See HIGHWAY on Page 10A)

Relay to be held rain or shine on Friday

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The Decatur County Relay for Life starts at 7 p.m. Friday at the high school track.

Sarah Fredrickson, co-chair for the event, said 17 teams signed up to walk throughout the night. The teams are the FFA, the May family, the Bruggeman family and friends, Decatur Health Systems (two teams), the Decatur Professional Women, the Black family and Depperschmidts, the Fortins (two teams), the Determined Decaturites

(Decatur County employees, two teams), the Class of 2006, the Good Samaritan Center, the Farris, the Wildcat Walkers (the staff from the grade school), and Dr. Gary Fredrickson.

So far, said Mrs. Fredrickson, there are 375 luminaries sold for the evening. Although it is too late to get names in the program, the bags can still be purchased for \$10 up to the event. The luminaries usually are dedicated in memory of a cancer victim or in honor of a cancer survivor.

The relay has three new features this year, she said. Around 8:30 p.m., three people will be getting their hair cut to donate to Locks of Love, an organization that makes wigs for kids. Anyone who wants to participate can call Jan Carlisle at the Washboard at 475-3148. Donations can come from men or women, but they must have 10 inches of hair to cut off.

There will be games and activities all night at the track with prizes.

For survivors who can't walk, said Mrs. Fredrickson, there will be chairs so they too can be part of the opening ceremonies.

Teams, she said, need to remember to bring a basket to be given away.

The event kicks off with 7 p.m. with the invocation, presentation of the colors by the American Legion, and Anthony and Andrea Marshall several pieces.

Cancer survivors will walk the (See RELAY on Page 10A)



ON THURSDAY AFTERNOON, a dark cloud passed over Oberlin and headed on east. The storms reportedly produced a tornado that touched down outside of town. — Herald staff photo by Dave Bergling

* Storm sends some to their basements

(Continued from Page 1A) early morning, when it started to storm again. The area received .46 of an inch of rain in the storm. On Friday, it stayed cloudy most of the day with .63 of an inch of rain falling. The sudden downburst washed out many

tumbleweeds, blocking parts of Cass Avenue and clogging the drains at the south end of the storm drain. Much of the block south of Commercial Street was flooded until city workers got the drain clear. Willard Perrin of the water department used a backhoe to move the

weeds. Over the weekend, the area received an additional .63 of an inch of rain, meaning 1.72 inches fell during week. Mr. McGuire said although the temperatures were lower on Monday, the forecast showed that it

would start warming up by Tuesday and then be in the 90s by the end of the week. The area isn't completely done with the wet weather, he said, but the recent rainy spell has come to an end. He said there is a slight chance of storms in the middle of the week.

* Landfill won't have spot to bury tires

(Continued from Page 1A) care of it. Mr. Stallman said they are racing against the clock because the tire monofill regulations haven't actually changed yet, but could any day. He said he thought the county needed to get out of the tire business while they still can. He said he is just going to have to tell the tire dealers that the landfill doesn't take processed tires, which are shredded, anymore. The commissioners agreed to close the monofill although the landfill will still be a drop point for tires for the recycler to pick up. Basically, if you have a tire, even if it has been damaged, it can be taken to

the landfill for \$1. The landfill just won't take tires that are shredded. Recent rains have kept the road and bridge crew busy, Mr. Stallman said. Most of the men are blading roads now. Mr. Brown said he heard that Beaver and Sappa Creeks were out of their banks, but he never saw it. Mr. Stallman said there was at least one road in Sappa Township with water on it, but that is pretty normal since it is a low-water crossing. There weren't any reports of bridge damage, he said. Mr. Stallman said two of the crew are out mowing and one is helping with the bridge project.

The Kanapolis Sand and Gravel Co. got the bid for a highway project from Oberlin to Norcat, he said, and needs a place to store 300 yards of material. Mr. Stallman asked the commissioners about storing it the road and bridge yard. County Attorney Steve Hirsch said it could tear up city streets bringing those supplies into town. Mr. Stallman said the road crew needs to keep the supplies clean. He asked about them keeping it on the strips along the highway, but the people at the company didn't know if they would have room to move around. Mr. Brown said he would rather keep the trucks off the city streets.

Mr. Stallman said he would talk with the company and the Kansas Department of Transportation. In other business, the commissioners: • Approved non-potable water contracts for 2005 for the hospital and Good Samaritan Center. In an emergency, the county will provide non-drinkable water for those facilities for everything but drinking water. • Heard that Mr. Stallman has received some requests from people to purchase some of the county surplus items that didn't draw bids. The commissioners agreed the county would wait to sell those items until the next sale.

* Relay raises cash for cancer research

(Continued from Page 1A) first lap and then the survivors and care gives the second lap. By 7:30 p.m., teams need to be ready to walk. Mrs. Fredrickson said the community band will play several songs.

At 10 p.m., the committee will hold a luminary ceremony with more songs by the Marshalls. Names of all the victims and survivors will be read. Mrs. Fredrickson said there will be lots of pizzas and Pepsi products

for the walk, donated by Pizza Hut, Keenos' Roadhouse Grill, Re-Load and Crossroads Express and Pepsi. If it rains, she said, the alternate site is inside the high school. The relay, she said, brings together people who have cancer and

those who have lost someone they care about to cancer. It is like a big support group. The money raised goes to research and also so patients can be reimbursed for some of their expenses, including food, travel and even a wig.

Guess when harvest will start and win money

Cans are out at sponsoring businesses for this year's Harvest Countdown contest, and the person who guesses closest to the day and time the first load of wheat rolls in will win part of \$100 in scrip money. To enter, fill out a form next to the can at any sponsoring business and guess the day, hour and minute the first load of wheat will come into

one of the sponsoring elevators, including Decatur Co-op elevator, Hansen-Mueller Grain or Hi-Plains Co-op. The wheat has to be from this year's crop and have a moisture content of 14 percent or less. There is no purchase necessary to enter the contest, but those entering must be 18 or older. Previous win-

ners, those who have brought in the previous first loads and employees and relatives of *The Oberlin Herald* are not eligible. First prize will be \$50, second \$35 and third is \$15. The last day to register is 4 p.m. on Friday, June 24, or whenever the first load arrives. Sponsors of the contest are the LandMark Inn, Raye's Grocery,

Hansen-Mueller, Rocking R, Hirsch and Pratt, Decatur Co-op Association, Hi-Plains Co-op, Fredrickson Insurance Agency, Stanley Hardware, Southwest Implement, Ward Drug Store, Decatur County Title and Abstract Co., Home Planning Center, Decatur County Implement, Gorman Tarps, Pizza Hut, Addleman Drug Store and KFNF.

* Highway projects here get state's OK

New concrete to be placed in two projects on U.S. 36

(Continued from Page 1A) engineering, he said, but the city has to have the plans done first.

The state and city have been rebuilding the highway "connecting links" through town over the last decade. Work on U.S. 83 started at the south end of town and moved north over several years, but Mr. Shike said the project limit was \$300,000 in those days.

He said the city already has applications to fill out for the next two projects, taking the new pavement on east. It may take five to finish U.S. 36 to the east end of town, he said.

Mr. McDiffett said work would be done in the summer of 2007.

Mr. Shike said a detour will be built out to the west side of U.S. 83 at the intersection to allow work to proceed faster. The project will begin just past the west drive for Crossroads, he said.

Mr. McDiffett talked about the projects at the annual meeting of the U.S. Highway 36 Association on Friday in St. Francis.

Another project, he said, will be sealing the pavement on U.S. 36 from Oberlin to the Norton County line. Crews will put down a conventional seal, using road oil and crushed rock, at a cost estimated at \$343,000. The work will be done this summer, and the contractor is already looking for a work site. Ten miles west of Atwood and eight miles east of that town also will be sealed this summer.

In January, the department will

take bids on geometric improvement projects for the road through Atwood, which will be replaced with new concrete at a cost estimated at \$1.4 million. That work is being done in partnership with the City of Atwood.

Work continues on a \$6 million project to rebuild six miles road from Norton to the K-383 junction west of town. Paving is scheduled for August, the engineer said.

The next major project will be completely replacing pavement on a new alignment for 15.3 miles from there to the Decatur County line. When that job, estimated at \$17.5 million is done, Mr. McDiffett said, all of U.S. 36 from border to border will have modern shoulder with at least a three-foot pavement and room to pull off the driving lanes.

Elsewhere in the state, a new bridge over the Blue River is in service in Marysville, allowing rail traffic to run under the highway after tracks are moved. Total cost approaches \$50 million.

Work is in progress on a four-lane freeway for the first 12 miles out of St. Joseph, which sees heavy commuter traffic. That is a \$35 million project, said Jerry Younger, new district engineer in Topeka.

Two future projects will renew the pavement through Jewell County around Mankato for \$9.5 million. A section from Courtland to Belleville will get a hot recycle and overlay this year for \$1.76 million, said District Engineer Don Drickey of Salina.

* Women learn how to fight back

(Continued from Page 1A) sas law says if an attacker retreats or quits, you can't keep spraying them because then you would become the attacker and be charged.

Basically, he said, if you get attacked and you defend yourself, that is OK, but once the attacker is on the ground and you are still beating on him or her, you have become the attacker.

The men showed the women several kicks, including one with the top of the foot and one with the heel. The troopers also showed women how to cut off the wind to a person with their arms.

For the most part, said Trooper Goodness, women are stronger in

their legs than arms, so use them. It also helps when a person gets ready to kick or hit that they scream, he said. That actually makes the hit or kick stronger.

Trooper Vajart said in many cases, if a person is attacked and they yell help, no one is going to come. Instead, he said, the person should yell fire, because everyone comes for that.

The troopers went over many basic moves and let the women try them out. Trooper Goodness said there was a lot for the group to absorb, so each person should pick one or two things they like and practice.

Mrs. Bremer said she had gotten a lot of good comments on the event.

City to meet Thursday

The Oberlin City Council gave two people another month to clean up junk vehicles on their property.

Millard Kyte requested a 30-day extension for property he owns to the south and west of the county clinic. City Administrator Gary Shike said the vehicles on the property don't belong to Mr. Kyte and he is working to have the owner to get rid of them.

At the meeting on Thursday, June 2, the council approved the extension.

Mr. Shike said Willa Urban also asked for a 30 day extension for vehicles she hasn't been able to move. Mr. Shike said Police Chief Wade Lockhart told her as long as she was working on getting the vehicles moved, she is OK. The council agreed.

N-O-T-I-C-E

All flowers and decorations at the Oberlin Cemetery must be removed before Sunday, June 26. After that the city will remove them in preparation for mowing and weed eating.



Please allow 10 days for mowing and weed eating before placing flowers



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