### THE OBERLIN HERALD **75¢** (tax included; 54¢ delivered at home)

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# **Even/odd outdoor watering starts**

Water restrictions start today in Oberlin after the city pumped over 700,000 gallons a day twice last week.

City Administrator Gary Shike said Mayor Ken Shobe decided to declare a water warning on Monday, although it didn't go into force until The Oberlin Herald was published today.

In a warning, residents on the Oberlin on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. water system can use outside water on an even/odd system.

Those with odd-numbered addresses, those that end in a one, three, five, seven or nine, can water on Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday. Those with even addresses, that end in a zero, two, four, six or eight can water

There is no outside watering on Mondays. People can water on their day from midnight to 10 a.m. and 9 p.m. to midnight.

There is a progressive fine for violations, with the end result being that a person's water can be shut off.

Included in the warning is refilling private 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 7.

swimming pools, car washing and lawn watering, which can only be done in the specified hours. If the mayor and council feel like these restrictions aren't working, emergency water rates can be imposed.

The council is set to approve the action taken by the mayor at the next meeting at In the last week, the city has pumped:

- 713,000 gallons on Monday, June 20.
- 549,000 gallons on Tuesday, June 21.
- 648,000 gallons last Wednesday.
- 788,000 gallons on Thursday. • 691,000 gallons on Friday.
- 781,000 gallons on Saturday.
- 599,000 gallons on Sunday.

## **Grade school** playground to get new surface

The Oberlin Elementary School will get a new hard surface on the playground, a landing north of the kindergarten building for kids to wait for their rides and a sidewalk to the north of the teachers' parking lot before school starts in August.

At a meeting last Monday night, the school board approved a bid of \$32,737 from John Nelson to re-do and expand the hard surface at the playground.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt said the playground committee, made up of the parents and teachers, has been working all year to come up with a plan. There are some major projects to complete at the playground and the board isn't going to be able to do them all, he said, and not all at the same time.

Some of the other projects include new equipment, replace the gravel with a soft landing for kids made out of rubber material, another fitness area and kickball field.

The expanded hard surface will include an area for a volleyball court and basketball court. For now, the area where the swings are will be kept as it is now with the gravel underneath it.

Mr. Glodt said there will be some dirt work done on the playground.

At the beginning of the school year last year Shanna Long, parent approached the board about putting in a sidewalk north of the teachers parking lot, one up Cass Ave and a landing outside the kindergarten building for kids to wait on to be picked up by parents. She said she was asking about the items for safety issues.

The board decided not to put in the sidewalks at the time but asked Mrs. Long to serve on the playground committee which she did.

The bid from Mr. Nelson said the work will be completed by Aug. 1, and school starts on Thursday, August 18.

#### **Young adults** ride, raise money to build homes

from Virginia Beach, Va., to Canvon Beach in Oregon this summer to raise money for the house-build- Riemondy, the group helps build a ing charity Habitat for Humanity.

Nineteen young adults are riding housing to those who don't have homes.

Along the road, said Miss house once a week. The group has Last Tuesday, the bikers stopped built or helped build houses in 24 in Oberlin to spend the night at the locations. They helped with two in



AT DECATUR CO-OP, Jack Brown (above) helped was the first farmer to bring in a load to Norcatur Grain dump a load of wheat on Monday and a young worker (be- last Wednesday. low) got a test sample out of a truck. Bob Strevey (below)

Harvest in full

Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis and Carolyn Plotts



United Methodist Church.

The ride is for those 18 to 24, although there was an exception made for one rider, who is 26. Most are in college, just starting or just finish-

Three of the riders are Kristin Camp, 23, from Virginia Technical College; Lisa Riemondy, 20, from the University of Florida; and Leah Welbourn, 20, from the University of Virginia.

Miss Riemondy said she found out about the ride when she looked into Habitat for Humanity on campus. The program helps provide

Kansas, one in Manhattan and one in Garden City. Each of the riders had to raise

\$4,000 to go on the trip, then each person gets to decide where the money they raised is going to go. All of it, said Miss Camp, goes to Habitat for Humanity but the rider can determine where the money can be used.

The group left Virginia on May 21 and plan to be in Oregon on July 24. The total ride is 3,700 miles and Oberlin is the halfway point. Each day, said Miss Camp, the

(See RIDERS on Page 10A)

#### **Firework display** planned for Monday

Stands selling loud crackling fireworks, ones that whistle and some that go high in the sky have gone up all over the county, which can only mean it's time for the Fourth of July.

Fireworks stands are one of the first signs that July is almost here. Over the weekend, the red and blue flags went up and signs with the infamous black cat are visible again.

The Fourth of July will be Monfireworks can be sold in Oberlin. Late on Sunday night, residents whistles around town.

The community will again have a fireworks display at dusk Monday at the Decatur County Fairgrounds, sponsored by the Oberlin Business Alliance with both the city and county helping pay for the display.

From 1 to 6 p.m. that day, there will be games at the pool for kids. The first 25 kids will receive a free Frisbee.

With harvest starting last week, day, which means for the next week many families will still be in the field cutting wheat. Several elevator representatives estimate that harvest could already hear a few pops and will continue for another week to 12 davs.

#### **Reservations open** to meet governor

Anyone interested in hearing Gov. Kathleen Sebelius speak at a Hayden, now secretary of the state breakfast sponsored by the Oberlin Department of Wildlife and Parks, Rotary Club on Tuesday at The and Adrian Polansky, secretary of Gateway needs to call for a reservation by Thursday.

The breakfast will begin at 8:30 a.m. and go for an hour. It is open to the public and reservations are being taken by calling The Gateway at 475-2400.

Gov. Sebelius, former Gov. Mike agriculture, plan to be there. Gov. Sebelius will be in Norton on the Fourth of July and will head to Colby from Oberlin.

This will be the second time Gov. Sebelius has met with the public in Decatur County since her election.

#### swing Numbers look good so far By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Harvest was in full swing Monday, with the first load of wheat coming in last Wednesday in Decatur County and at least some areas reporting a surprisingly good crop.

Trucks rolled down Main Street on Monday, dumping at either the Decatur County Co-op or Hansen-Mueller elevators.

At the Co-op, Manager Karol Evans said the elevator stayed open until 11:30 p.m. on Sunday. All the coop' locations had taken in around 400,000 bushels by Monday afternoon. The firm has elevators in Oberlin, Kanona, Jennings, Danbury, Herndon and Ludell.

It is hard to compare this harvest to last year's, Mr. Evans said, since it was such a bad year, but this crop does look a lot better. In just the few days harvest has been going, he said, the elevator in Jennings has taken in 167,000 bushels. In all of harvest last year, he said, Jennings took in just 100,000 bushels.

"It is off to a better start," said Mr. Evans.

The test weights have been surprisingly good, he said, with averages of 60 pounds per bushel and some at 63 to 64 pounds. That is back to normal, he said.

Mr. Evans said he isn't sure of vields vet, since everyone is just getting started, but what he has heard has been a broad range.

This harvest will be better than last year. He said he is guessing it could end up being a pretty close to normal year with all the co-op elevators taking in around 3 to 4 million bushels.

Mr. Evans said he isn't sure when cutting will be over, but in the summer of 2003, harvest started on June 23 and went until July 14.

At Hansen Mueller, the manager wasn't available, but the receptionist said both test weights and moisture on the wheat were good. The company has elevators in both Oberlin and Cedar Bluffs.

In Traer at D&S Grain, Rich Grafel said Sunday was the first full day of cutting in the area. He said the elevator took in around 20,000 bushels.

"The wheat has been surprisingly better than we all thought it would be," said Mr. Grafel. "It is really good."

He said they have been getting wheat at 59 to 62 pounds per bushel and yields of 30 to 47 bushels per acre.

If the weather holds, said Mr. Grafel, they will be cutting anywhere from 10 to 12 days, which will finish harvest at the end of the



first full week of July.

At Norcatur Grain, they started Street. taking wheat last Wednesday. The first load was brought in at 4:15 been good, in the 60-pounds-perp.m. by Bob Strevey.

As of mid-afternoon Friday, said the elevator had around 6,000 farmers who have brought their bushels in already.

but they had a line down Main

So far, he said, test weights have bushel range.

He said he wasn't sure when General Manager Cody Richards harvest will be over, but so far crop in have been pretty happy.

On Monday, he said he wasn't At the Hi-Plains Co-op in sure how much they had taken in (See HARVEST on Page 10A)

## **Customers** ask about increased city sewer bills

#### **By KIMBERLY DAVIS**

The Oberlin City Council discussed looking at "snowbirds" city bills case by case or changing the way things are done after a man and woman questioned why their sewer charges had gone up.

After 30 minutes of discussion, however, members took no action on the issue.

Sam Steinmetz and Jeanette Miller talked with the council at the meeting Thursday, June 16. Both said they were gone for two months out of the winter and both had minimum usage on sewer, but when they came back both their bills had been increased to the median rate.

For the last year, the two said, they each had a minimum sewer bill, which is \$14.50 a month. When they came back from their winter break, both received bills with the median amount for the sewer bill, \$21.49 a month. That is an increase of \$6.99 a month, around \$84 more a year.

The way the ordinance is written, said City Administrator Gary Shike, is that you go in at the median rate after a reconnection.

Both Mr. Steinmetz and Ms. Miller were only gone for two months, not three. Mr. Steinmetz said he didn't think they should be paying the higher rate, because they were not gone all three months of winter and there was some sewer

Sewer charges are based on water use in three months of the winter, when presumably most people are not using water outdoors. The idea is to measure the amount of water run into the sewer by indoor use.

Ms. Miller said she thought both should have been told they might face an increase before they left. She said she called the city office to stop the trash service for the two months they would be gone, and the computer flagged the accounts. Both have always used the minimum rate, she said.

Mr. Steinmetz had the originals of their city bills from 2004. He said all are minimum usage. The utilities weren't shut off in the homes, just the trash service, he said. The two still paid the city bill.

The ordinance could be changed, should stay on that rate.

fice needs to tell them what will happen.

Is it a requirement to be hooked up to the sewer? asked Councilman Rob McFee. Yes, said Mr. Shike. Then it should cost the same amount, said Mr. McFee.

It isn't a hook-up fee, it is a usage fee, said Mayor Shobe.

If it is a flat rate then the people on the upper and median ends are going to get a bargain and those on the low ends are going to be paying a lot.

Ms. Miller said she knows of someone who was gone this winter and had their trash shut off and they are still paying the minimum rate. Shutting off the trash, said Mr. Shike, is what made the city aware the couple was gone. It is a manual process to change from minimum to median in the computer. Apparently, he said, the staff missed someone.

The sewer rate is taken off the amount of use in the winter.

It seems to be better to shut off the service, said former Councilman Stan McEvoy, so the increase of \$105 a year won't be there. But if someone shuts off the service, they will come back in at the median rate, said Mayor Shobe.

The city needs a policy to inform people, said Dr. Anderson. Why not set it up so they can leave and come back on the same rate, said Mr. McEvov.

That would require a change in the ordinance, said Mr. McFee.

If the ordinance is changed, then the council needs to make sure the sewer system still has enough money, said City Attorney Steve Hirsch.

"Hate to say it, but this one might be chalked up to experience," said Mr. McFee.

"Hate to say it," said Mr. Steinmetz, "but maybe it is time to move.'

**Councilman Patrick Pomeroy** said he thinks someone who has established minimum use should stay there.

If someone has stayed on the same rate for 18 months, said Councilman Ray Ward, and they aren't adding anyone to the household, then they



MEN WITH H AND H CONSTRUCTION (above) worked outside and inside to install windows at the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center. The center will get 26 new windows at a price of \$26,176. Decatur County commissioners approved the contract at beginning of the month. - Herald staff photos by Dave Bergling

### \* Riders bike Kansas

(Continued from Page 1A) group rides 60 to 70 miles. Last Wednesday, they left around 6 a.m. and headed for St. Francis, where they stayed that night.

None of the girls did a whole lot of out of the normal training.

Miss Welbourn said she just did regular workouts, mostly running, to get in shape for the trip, although she did ride a stationary bike at the gym a little.

Miss Riemondy said she rides her bike to class. Anyone can go on a ride like this, she said, at least so far, but they haven't gotten to the Rocky Mountains yet.

This is a good way to see the country and help people, said Miss Welbourn. She said she has been able to learn about others on the trip.

The girls said they have a website at www.bikeandbuild.org which has daily journal entries on it.



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Jeep

said Mayor Ken Shobe.

the trash, said Councilman Jay There was no motion to change or Anderson, the person at the city of-

The council didn't make any de-When someone calls in to shut off cisions about the problem, however. study any rates.

### \* Harvest starts, crops look good

(Continued from Page 1A) Selden, as of Sunday they had received 288,000 bushels of wheat. Bookkeeper Jackie Schulty said test weights have averaged around 63 pounds per bushel and the moisture has been around 11 1/2 percent.

She said she hasn't heard any yields yet, but most of the farmers have walked away smiling.

Mrs. Schulty said she isn't sure when they will be done cutting in the Selden area since several haven't even started yet. It will at least be another week, she said.

As in past years, the harvest labor office is at the old Port of Entry at the intersection of U.S. 36 and U.S. 83. Debra Lohoefener is the representative this year. She reported in the Kansas Wheat Harvest Bulletin that the Oberlin area took in 134,746 bushels over the weekend, Dresden 189,000; Norcatur 67,000; Jennings 70,000; Selden 100,000; Clayton 15,000; Traer 20,000, and Herndon 34,000 bushels.

Test weights so far have been in the area of 59 to 65 pounds per bushel, she said.

#### Three men win money

The annual Harvest Countdown load had come in 30 minutes before contest ended when Decatur that. County's first load of wheat was brought in at 3:26 p.m. last Wednes- farmer Roger May, who said the day to the Decatur Co-op elevator in first load would come in at 4 p.m. Jennings by Leo Zodrow.

That afternoon, The Oberlin Herald got a call that a load had been brought into the Hi-Plains Co-op elevator in Selden at 4:58 p.m. by Kevin Carman.

from the Jennings Co-op to say a scrip.

The closest guess came from that day. Mr. May won \$50 in scrip money. The second-closest guess came from Henry Edgett, who said 4:18 p.m. Mr. Edgett will receive \$35 in scrip. The third-place winner was Rocky Diederich, who guessed On Thursday, someone called 2:30 p.m. He will receive \$15 in

**Offices to close Monday** 

closed on Monday for the Fourth of July, including city, county, state and federal offices, the Decatur County Museum, the Decatur County landfill and financial institutions.

The Oberlin Herald will be closed Monday and print a day late next week. Copies may be picked up at newsstands on Wednesday after- Monday.

Most Oberlin businesses will be noon, with mail delivery mostly on Thursday.

Deadline for the Country Advo*cate* will be noon on Friday, as usual. The Frontier Restaurant, A&W Restaurant, D&M Sinclair, Crossroads Express, Pizza Hut and Ampride will be open regular hours. Raye's Grocery will be open holiday hours, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., on

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M DODGE