

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 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

on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

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

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 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 7.

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

Nineteen young adults are riding from Virginia Beach, Va., to Canyon Beach in Oregon this summer to raise money for the house-building charity Habitat for Humanity.

Last Tuesday, the bikers stopped in Oberlin to spend the night at the 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 finishing.

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

housing to those who don't have homes.

Along the road, said Miss Riemondy, the group helps build a house once a week. The group has built or helped build houses in 24 locations. They helped with two in 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 Monday, which means for the next week fireworks can be sold in Oberlin. Late on Sunday night, residents could already hear a few pops and 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, many families will still be in the field cutting wheat. Several elevator representatives estimate that harvest will continue for another week to 12 days.

Reservations open to meet governor

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



AT DECATUR CO-OP, Jack Brown (above) helped dump a load of wheat on Monday and a young worker (below) got a test sample out of a truck. Bob Strevey (below)

was the first farmer to bring in a load to Norcatour Grain last Wednesday.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis and Carolyn Plotts

Harvest in full 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 yields yet, 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 Norcatour Grain, they started taking wheat last Wednesday. The first load was brought in at 4:15 p.m. by Bob Strevey.

As of mid-afternoon Friday, General Manager Cody Richards said the elevator had around 6,000 bushels in already.

On Monday, he said he wasn't sure how much they had taken in

but they had a line down Main Street.

So far, he said, test weights have been good, in the 60-pounds-per-bushel range.

He said he wasn't sure when harvest will be over, but so far farmers who have brought their crop in have been pretty happy.

At the Hi-Plains Co-op in (See HARVEST on Page 10A)

