

## Weather slows pace of wheat cutting

Harvest slowed the last two days because of rains which kept the wheat too wet to cut and the fields too muddy to maneuver machines.

As of Saturday, Decatur Co-op had brought in 2,775,000 bushels of wheat. Dalene Horton, grain merchandiser, said the yields are running from 30 to 50 bushels per acre.

Harvest has really slowed down since

Saturday, said Ms. Horton, because of the rain.

She said she isn't sure when cutting will be over. Right now, she said, it is just going to depend on the weather. Farmers around Danbury, she said, got a later start than everyone else since the wheat in the south was ready to cut earlier.

At the Hi-Plains elevator in Selden, bookkeeper Jackie Schulte said the eleva-

tor has taken in around 660,000 bushels. The area is around 85 to 90 percent done.

The majority of the farmers, she said, have reported getting around 50 bushel per acre wheat or more, though a few have less.

Things slowed down Tuesday, she said, because the area got .20 of an inch of rain.

Cody Richards, general manager at Norcat Grain, said the elevator has taken in over 300,000 bushels. He said he has

heard yields ranging from 28 to 70 bushels per acre.

Test weights have been high, he said, all in the 60-pounds-per-bushel range. Those numbers should drop off a little with the rain.

Farmers in the Norcat area haven't been able to cut for a few days, he said, although some planned to try Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. Richards said he doesn't know when harvest will be over. It will depend on the weather, but farmers need to get the rest of the crop cut.

So far, he added, the harvest has been unbelievable compared to last year.

At the elevator in Traer, they said nothing has been cut in the area for two days, although farmers planned to get back in the field on Tuesday afternoon.

## Harvest stops for fix

### Repairs take all afternoon

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The 1976 Massey Ferguson 760 pulled around the corner around 4 p.m.

The header was up, which could only mean a sick combine.

Last week as farmers in Decatur County started to harvest, so did Ken Badsky and Tim Stallman, who started cutting with the big red machine.

They were working in a field about two miles north of KFNF radio station, but things hadn't gone as planned and they had to stop to fix the combine.

Mr. Stallman drove it down a dirt road to Mr. Badsky's place, where they both climbed on top to take a look. Mr. Stallman eventually pulled out two gears that weren't working right. The parts needed to be replaced, which meant their first day was going to be a short one.

Both men have their own ground, but they partner with each other on (See CUTTING on Page 8A)



ONTOP OF THEIR 1976 Massey Ferguson 760 combine, Tim Stallman and Ken Badsky tried to figure out why it wasn't running. The men got to cut for a short time before the machine broke down. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis



IN HIS INTERNATIONAL 101 combine, Kiezer Carman (right) got the combine as a Christmas present. (above) dumped a load of wheat he had just cut. Kiezer

## Christmas present leaves youngster speechless, busy

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Speechless.

That's how Kevin and Sherry Carman described their son when he saw his Christmas present this year.

The gift wasn't under the tree. It's way too big to get into the house.

Mrs. Carman said Kiezer, 12, thought he had been gypped because he only had one gift under the tree. Then the family went downstairs and Kiezer saw his present through the sliding glass door:

A red International 101 combine, year unknown.

And though the tires were flat and the engine didn't run, that's just what Kiezer wanted.

"I just like old combines," he said.



His dad said they had to push it over to the grain truck with a tractor to make sure the auger would reach the bed.

The first thing they had to do, said Kiezer, was get it running. He (See BOY on Page 8A)

## Governor stops to talk school finance

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius told an Oberlin crowd Tuesday she decided to cut a six-day Western Kansas trip short so she can get home and make sure the Legislature gets the job done to keep Kansas schools running.

The governor had planned a six-day bus tour around the edge of the state, but scaled that back to three days out west.

Tuesday, she met with members of the Oberlin Rotary Club and others at The Gateway for breakfast before heading to Atwood. She had spent the Fourth of July evening in Norton. The governor was traveling with her husband, Judge Gary Sebelius, and former Gov. Mike Hayden, now secretary of Wildlife and Parks for the state.

Along the way, she said, she had the chance to throw the first pitch at the Pee Wee championship game in Washington County, started the stock car races in Belleville and took part to ceremonies to honor the mili-



GOV. Kathleen Sebelius talked Tuesday in Oberlin.

tary and others who serve.

Although the trip was to last six days, she said, she decided to return to Topeka Tuesday night to be there when the legislature returns to finish their special session.

"I believe they will come to the table and fund good education in Kansas," she said.

Kids live in a different world today, she said. They aren't competing with neighbors in Colorado or other states; they are competing with our neighbors in India and other parts of the world.

The governor said Secretary Hayden, an avid outdoorsman, taught her how to be a turkey hunter in the last few years. She said she has learned how to shoot and has the full camouflage gear.

"It might come in handy," she said, "with the Legislature on Wednesday. I have the full camo, I know where to get a loaded shotgun and I have a turkey license I haven't filled yet."

The state is trying to help rural Kansas towns boost their economy, she said. A new entrepreneurial center in Wichita can help first-time business owners get started. The center will also help provide tools for smaller rural communities.

Gov. Sebelius said one entrepreneurial opportunity has been with ethanol. Within two years, she said, she has been told that NASCAR racers will be burning ethanol all the time. Ethanol fuel, alcohol blended with gasoline, is made from grain and is better for the environment.

Some people don't use ethanol, she said, because it is tagged that way at the pump and people don't know what it is. If NASCAR drivers use it, though, that is an opportunity.

With health care, she said, there are some strategies in place for small business owners to help them get into a pool for insurance. There is also talk about prescription cards for the elderly.

The state needs to help struggling rural hospitals to help them flourish. The state can't afford to lose rural hospitals, she said, and part of the answer is making sure they are getting paid on time.

The outcome of military base re- (See GOVERNOR on Page 8A)

## Water use climbs over limit in the heat

As temperatures climbed, Oberlin residents used more than the 700,000-gallons-per-day limit six out of the seven days last week.

With temperatures in the high 90s last Tuesday, the city pumped 226,000 gallons more water than the 700,000 trigger.

Last week was the first week the city was on even/odd watering. Those with odd-numbered addresses can water on Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday. Those with even addresses 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.

In the last week, the city has pumped:



- 926,000 gallons on Tuesday, June 28.
- 801,000 gallons last Wednesday.
- 720,000 gallons on Thursday.
- 838,000 gallons on Friday.
- 718,000 gallons on Saturday.
- 257,000 gallons on Sunday.
- 450,000 gallons on Monday.

# \*Boy cuts crop with present, an old combine

(Continued from Page 1A) said it needed a new fuel pump, alternator and other parts. All the gauges, he said, had to be switched over to 12 volt power.

He said he and his dad worked on it whenever they got a chance, but Kiezer wanted it ready for harvest so he could cut some wheat with it.

His sister Kanisha, 9, helped hold some of the parts.

Unlike most combines today, Kiezer's 101 doesn't have a cab, which means no air conditioning, radio or bells and whistles.

Although it was in the 90s to 100s last week, Kiezer said, it wasn't really hot while he was cutting the family's wheat off of road 13S.

So far, it runs real good except when it runs out of gas, said Kiezer, as he smiled at his parents. He said he learned the hard way not to forget to put the fuel cap back on.

Mr. Carman said his son had been after him for three days to start harvest. He said he kept telling him to

wait until Wednesday.

"And I held him to it," said Kiezer.

Last Wednesday, Kiezer used his fixed-up combine to cut the first truckload of the family's crop. It was the first load taken to the Selden elevator. By Friday, the family was pretty much done, although there was a little patch to finish up.

"I cut most of this field," said Kiezer, standing in the field across from the house, 13 miles and three west of Oberlin.

At least, he added, over half of it.

Mrs. Carman said they let Kiezer cut alone for a while and then her husband joined him in the field.

The family also does custom cutting for Dean Groneweg, she said, and Kiezer got to help with that, too.

Kiezer said he wants to grow up to be a farmer.

The family has lived in the Dresden area for 14 years, although Mr. Carman is a native of that area in Decatur County.

# Bridge repairs move to second site

The first span in the county's bridge project is almost done, with the crew from Husker Steel starting to work on the second one.

The first one is one mile east and a quarter mile north from Lyle.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman told the Decatur County commissioners last Tuesday the bridge that fell in last fall is being worked on now.

The second bridge is one mile north and 1 2/3 miles east from Lyle.

The road and bridge crew is also working on the third bridge, which is six miles east and 4 1/2 miles north of Oberlin.

Mr. Stallman brought in bids for grader tires, blades and culverts.

He received a bid from Ron's Tire Shop for Toyo driver tires for \$269

and Toyo steering tires for \$259, from Oberlin Tire for BF Goodrich driver tires for \$286, BF Goodrich steer tires for \$306 and for Firestone drivers for \$298 and Firestone steer tires for \$292. The lowest bids from Ron's Tire Shop were accepted.

They received bids for grader blades from Murphy Tractor for \$9,986, Martin Tractor for \$10,588, DC Wholesale for \$11,305 and Welborn Sales for \$10,574. The two lowest bids were taken with Murphy Tractor.

They received bids for culverts from DC Wholesale for \$5,120, from Welborn for \$5,180, from J.J. for \$5,811 and from Husker Steel for \$6,494. The commissioners accepted the lowest bid of \$5,120 from DC Wholesale.

# Commissioners sign gas contract

Decatur County commissioners renewed the county's contract with Midwest United for natural gas last Tuesday, although they didn't lock in a price yet.

Jeff Younger, with Midwest United, said the county saved around \$3,100 to \$3,200 in gas prices last year with the program.

If commissioners are patient, said Mr. Younger, he thinks there will be a better time coming up to lock into a price or lock in bits and pieces as they move along.

Be prepared, he said, to see an increase in cost, partly because last year was a mild winter and this year

might be colder.

"There is a lot of volatility in the market," said Mr. Younger.

Energy prices are going up.

The gas market, he said, has been driven to a spot no one has seen before. The contract, he said, includes a lowered index price, because the cost to transport the gas by pipeline has gone down.

The contract doesn't start until October, he said, and the market will dictate when the prices need to be locked in. Basically all the commissioners decided was to say that the county will go with Midwest for the next year.

# Companies want to bid on new ambulance

The Decatur County commissioners talked with the ambulance director last Tuesday about two companies interested in bidding on a new ambulance.

Director Patrick Pomeroy said both Life Line and Med Tech are looking at the specifications. Mr. Pomeroy said Wheeled Coach doesn't seem interested. He said an Iowa company called Osage doesn't have any vehicles in this area.

Contracts from the companies will be good for over 30 days, he said, and then will be pending if the department can get grant funding.

The ambulance department has received a box full of surveys for low to moderate income for grant purposes. Mr. Pomeroy said he needs to get the statistics compiled and wants to get it done by Aug. 1.

Commissioner Doyle Brown asked Mr. Pomeroy if he has 13 people interested in an intermediate and defibrillator class for emergency medical technicians. Mr. Pomeroy said he has 11 on the list. The class won't start until fall.

The ambulance crew has had 13 calls in the last six days, he said, with four of those being transfers.



AT THE ENTRANCE of The Gateway, several people greeted Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, who stopped for breakfast and to talk with voters about school finance and other issues. — Herald staff photo by Steve Haynes

# \* Governor talks at Rotary Club breakfast

(Continued from Page 1A) alignment was good for Kansas, said Gov. Sebelius. There are four important military bases in the state, and all survived the cuts proposed this year.

Some will grow, which is good for the state. The bases provide as much employment as the top eight private employers in the state together, she said.

With the realignment, there are

going to be more military jobs in Kansas. She said the state is viewed as friendly to the military.

Forbes Magazine, she said, listed Kansas as No. 1 for economic freedom for businesses. It is a great place for businesses to relocate and grow.

The state is taking a stand on the drug methamphetamine, she said, which is prevalent in so many Kansas communities.

Pseudoephedrine cold pills used in making the drug have been put behind the pharmacy counter under a new law, she said. It is a simple measure that has been effective in Oklahoma.

Connie Grafel, marketing director for the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Council, asked if there is a possibility of getting a casino in western Kansas. Dodge City is interested and wants

to put in a proposal, said Gov. Sebelius.

Once the state makes an investment in education, it will have to be paid for, so expanded gambling may be in order.

She said she wants to give communities the ability to make the decision about gaming for themselves.

"Western Kansas is very much on the table," said Gov. Sebelius.

# Center designed to help new businesses

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius held a large pair of fake scissors in her hands as she cut a ribbon for the new Business Enhancement Center at Penn and Commercial.

The Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp. purchased the building, which formerly housed The Bank, on Friday. Connie Grafel, marketing director for the agency, said an option the corporation had to buy the building was up on July 1 and the price was right.

Chairman Greg Lohofener has a proposal to go to Prairie Land Electric to see if the cooperative will help get the center up and running.

The idea, said Ms. Grafel, is to provide a place where businesses can get started. There are so many offices and spaces in the building which can cater to many small firms. Sharing office space and splitting rent and bills could make the first few years of a new business easier, she said. It is like an incubator, said Ms. Grafel, so new businesses can get off their feet.

She said members of the economic development board have talked about a lot of ideas for the center, including the idea of the Chamber of Commerce manager having an office there so there would be someone in the building all the time.

Ms. Grafel said she would probably have an office there, too, although she would be in and out.

The group has had a few people call who are interested in space, she said.

# \* Cutting starts slow

(Continued from Page 1A) the equipment, which includes the combine and a truck. They have been working together for five years.

Mr. Badsky, who also is the Decatur County sheriff, said he was on his own before that and did some custom farming too. Mr. Stallman is the county road boss.

Mr. Badsky said he started farming around 1988, leased out the ground for a while and then took it back. He said he has 60 acres of wheat, 60 of milo and 60 of summer crops.

When his father, Floyd Badsky, got out of farming in 1988, he said, he got his land and debt.

"Dad still lives on the farm," said Mr. Badsky. "He just doesn't farm any more."

Mr. Badsky said when he was a boy, he helped with the farming, especially after his brother went to college.

He said he went to college on a football scholarship and got a degree in law enforcement. When he came back home, he built terraces for Jim Gaumer.

Farming, said Mr. Badsky, wasn't what he wanted to do, but he enjoyed living on the farm.



AT HIS FARM, Ken Badsky unwound an extension cord so he and Tim Stallman could work on their combine. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

"In a few years," he said, "there won't be a lot of little farmers left, including me. You have to be big, and even then it sometimes isn't enough."

Mr. Badsky said he has regular, hard red winter wheat planted. The fields have some drought damage, he said, but he hasn't seen any freeze damage. He said he planted the wheat in late October, and he thinks that helped it survive the freeze.

Although he talks about getting out of farming, he said he hasn't made up his mind yet about when to do it.

The kids don't want to come back to help out for harvest, he said, nor

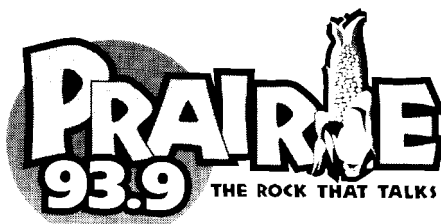
do they want to go into farming. The youngest, Regan, works for a farmer through the summer, but he is the only one who lives in Oberlin.

Eventually, said Mr. Badsky, he plans to put the ground back to grass and raise buffalo. He and his wife Jan have 12 head of the shaggy critters. Mr. Badsky said he has a friend in Colorado with whom he partners on the buffalo.

Mr. Badsky and Mr. Stallman were able to get the parts and install them by Thursday. They cut that day and broke down again on Friday. With rain over the weekend, the men still had 60 acres to cut. Their wheat was taken into Oberlin.

The yields have been good, Mr. Badsky said, the best since 1999. It has been in the 50 bushels an acre range.

Listen to Kimberly Davis of The Oberlin Herald every Wednesday between 9 and 10 a.m. on "Pulse of the Prairie"



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