

## Fireman's Funday to be on Saturday

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

Jennings' annual Firemen's Fun Day starts Saturday with a morning health fair and ends with a street dance that night, with lots of food and fun in between.

Now in its 14th year, the Fun Day was started in 1991 by Jennings volunteer firefighters to give people a chance to get together and have fun. The health fair at the Senior Center runs from 8 to 9:30 a.m., sponsored by Decatur Health Systems, Oberlin Medical Arts Clinic and the Decatur County Emergency Medical Services. Blood tests will offer screening for thyroid problems, anemia and 28 other tests. It will cost \$22. Participants must be fasting. A test for prostate cancer is available for \$16.

Jonna Inman, advanced registered nurse practitioner, will do free

screenings for skin cancer and provide information on hypertension, osteoporosis and the recent addition of cosmetic laser treatments at the Oberlin Clinic. Decatur County ambulance volunteers will provide free blood pressure and blood sugar checks and demonstrate their defibrillator.

Kolaches and coffee will be available during the health fair, compliments of the Jennings United Methodist Church. Everyone is encouraged to stop by and meet Carrie Buehler of Morland, the new pastor appointed for the Jennings and Dresden United Methodist churches. Kolaches, sold individually or by the dozen, will be available throughout the day.

Activities on Main Street will begin at 10 a.m. with a cake walk at City Hall, sponsored by Mary

Wahlmeier, and mini-train rides for youngsters offered by Greg Otter.

A wobble trap shoot begins at 10 a.m. at the football field on the north edge of town and will continue until 5 p.m. Participants need to bring their own guns and ammunition. Bingo will be in the Senior Center from 11 a.m. to noon and will resume after the parade.

The Czech Museum will be open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the sanctuary of the old Jennings United Methodist Church and the Royal Neighbors building. It is known as one of the best small museums in the area. Admission is free but donations are accepted.

The lunch counter at the Fire House opens at 11:30 a.m. Tickets for a drawing will be sold throughout the day for a television, a sur- (See FUNDAY on Page 5A)

### First day of school



AFTER THEIR FIRST DAY of kindergarten, Celianna Shobe, Emily Howland and Lily Marine (above) walked from their building to the main building at Oberlin Elementary School together. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

## Young man wins money, plans to purchase boat

One lucky young man out of about 60 people present became \$1,000 richer Saturday when his name was drawn out of the can to win *The Oberlin Herald's* big \$1,000 shopping spree.

Two other names were drawn before Ben Glading drew Lance Lohoefer's name. The first two, Bernadette Malcor and Helen Kamopp, both of Oberlin weren't present at the drawing as required by



Lohoefer

the rules.

Since the winner had to be present, they didn't get the \$1,000 in scrip money.

Mr. Lohoefer said he has never won anything before. He said he wasn't sure how he was going to spend the money, but thought he might buy a boat from Dale's Fish 'N'

livers *The McCook Gazette*.

He said he was excited about winning the money.

Mr. Lohoefer has this week to spend the money at participating businesses, including Ward Drug Store, Raye's Grocery, Addleman Drug Store, the LandMark Inn, Dale's Fish 'N' Fun, Hansen's Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning, Countryside Veterinary Clinic, Prairie Petals, Stanley Hardware, R&M Service Center, Rocking R, the Dresser and Culligan Water Conditioning.

## Finding water on the plains

### City starts search seven years ago as levels decrease

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The City of Oberlin has been dealing with water problems for more than 10 years now, fighting issues with water quality and with finding enough water to supply the town.

Mostly, it's been a losing battle, with no new supply on the horizon and a steady decline in production from city wells.

In 1994, the City Council hired Miller and Associates, an engineering firm in McCook, to help with the Oberlin Warehouse project. Engineer Thaniel Monaco, said well No. 5, near the Oberlin City shop downtown, had been contaminated by fuel from an underground storage tank.

The firm helped install a treatment system to help clean up the water, said Mr. Monaco, and it is still in place today.

With the contamination, though, well No. 5 was taken out of use, it wasn't replaced. The city still has the water right to it.

Four years later, he said, the council asked the firm to look for a new source of water.

Fifteen years ago, said City Administrator Gary Shike, the city was pumping six wells and could produce over 1.6 million gallons a day, every day, all summer.

Seven years ago, when the search for water began, the city was able to pump 1.36 million gallons a day out of three wells.

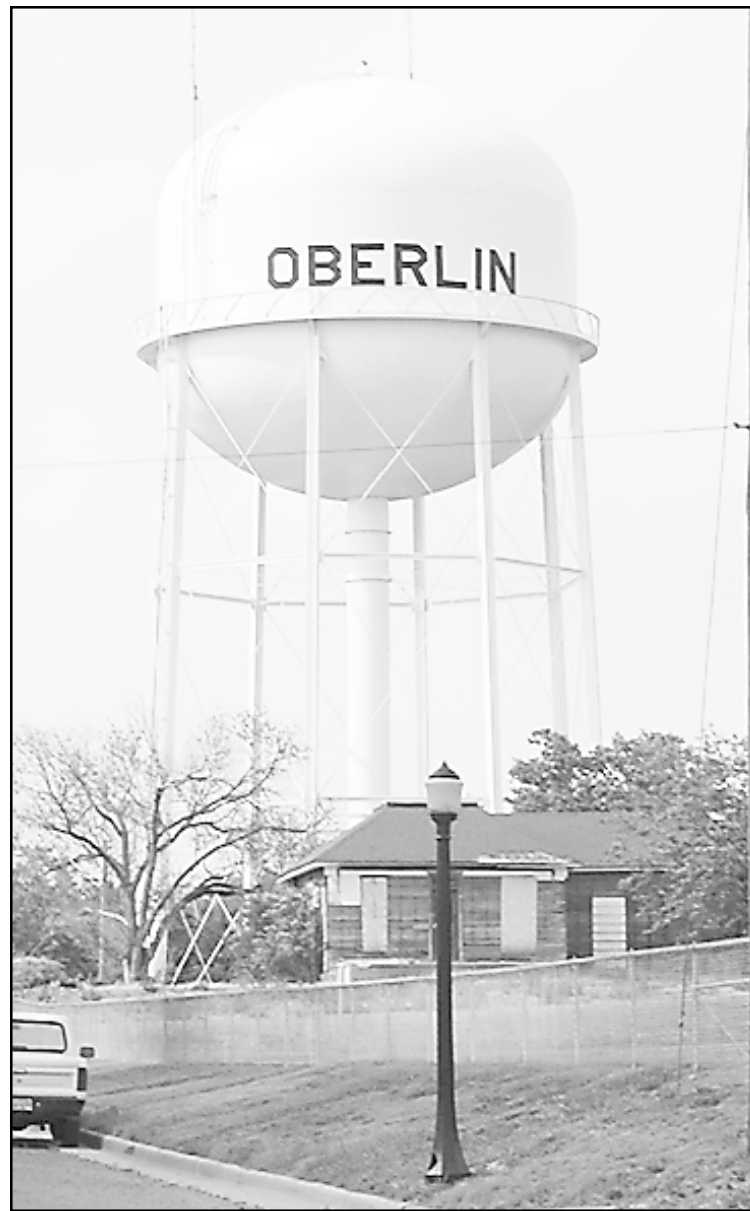
When the search started, said Mr. Monaco, it was driven by contamination problems. Nitrates were a big issue and the regulations on them had been out for a long time, but federal rules were getting more stringent.

The city was under administrative orders to do something about nitrates.

Well No. 6, south of the high school, was high in nitrates and had to be shut down.

At first, said Mr. Monaco, the firm tried to identify areas surrounding the city for likely water sources. He said they talked with landowners, other entities and the Division of Water Resources.

They took samples of irrigation, domestic and stock wells, looking



ONTOP OF THE HILL the Oberlin City water tower stands. — Herald staff photo

### Users will gain water with re-drill of existing well

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Work has started to re-drill water well No. 9, which could increase the amount of water the city can pump by around 50 percent.

Thaniel Monaco, an engineer with Miller and Associates who has planned most of the city's water work over the last decade, said the two main wells the city uses now are No. 10, which is east of town just south of U.S. 36, and No. 11 south of town. Both can pump around 350 gallons per minute now.

Well No. 9, which is being re-drilled, can pump around 100 gallons per minute, but isn't really used because it's too close to No. 10. After the re-drilling, No. 9 will be replaced by a new well No. 12, which should be able to pump around 400 gallons per minute.

An application for a \$400,000 Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant was sent to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development administration in May 2004.

The grant went to Rural Development in Kansas, but the approval

had to come from the national office. Final documents for re-drilling the well were approved just last week.

The total project includes the new well and new casing of No. 9 and putting in controls to operate the wells remotely. An emergency generator will be based at the new well, but will be able to run the city's other wells if the power goes out. Well No. 10 will get a new motor, bowl assembly and pump.

Woofter Pump and Well, which is doing the work, drilled a test hole this month for the well and should start drilling soon.

Fifteen years ago, said Mr. Shike, the city's water capacity was 1.6 million gallons a day, a few years ago the maximum was 1.3 million gallons a day, but now if the city pumps 1 million gallons a day for more than a few days it would have to ban outdoor water use.

The trigger for stage 2 water emergency is 700,000 gallons a day, which the city has hit off and (See WELL on Page 5A)

## Treatment is in the long term plans to help boost city's supply

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

In the long term, city officials say, Oberlin will have to build a treatment plant to get more water and to get rid of the natural contaminants like arsenic, nitrates and uranium.

That's the only hope of getting back to where the city was 15 years ago, and even gaining water capacity, but it'll be expensive, as much as \$2 million.

There just isn't enough water close enough to serve the city, said Thaniel Mo-

naco, the engineer with Miller and Associates Engineering who has done most of the city's water projects.

The city bought well rights and built a blending system, but it hasn't added any water to the system for a decade because both old and new wells have been contaminated by leaking fuel, trace minerals and nitrates.

Partly, that's because of an increase in nitrates, which can come from livestock operations or from domestic and farm fer-

tilizers. But new federal standards have created problems with arsenic and uranium, minerals which cities once did not test for.

It looks like the only way for the city to get more water is to build a treatment plant so it can use water from its contaminated wells, said City Administrator Gary Shike. That is the direction the Kansas Department of Health and Environment is guiding the city with stricter limits on trace minerals such as nitrates, uranium and arsenic, he said.

That means the city is facing another big project in the next few years. Already the city is working on a new waste water treatment facility. By the end of the year, said Mr. Monaco, his firm should have a pilot study online for water treatment.

If everything goes smoothly with a water treatment plant, it should be finished by the middle of 2007 to early 2008. That means that the financing comes through right away and all the plans are accepted, said Mr. Monaco.

With a plant, said Mr. Monaco, the city should be able to re-drill the irrigation well south of town it purchased in 2002 and bring it online. That was an 800-gallon-per-minute irrigation well, he said. It should be at least a 400-to-500-gallon-per-minute municipal well.

Currently, he said, the city can pump 1 million gallons in a day from two wells. When the new well No. 12 is running, the city should be able to pump 1.4 million (See PLANT on Page 5A)

# \* Water search spreads outside to private land

(Continued from Page 1A)  
for quality water, basically sources that were low in nitrates

After the firm found likely areas, said Mr. Monaco, and a sample for quality had been taken, the search area was refined and test wells were drilled. These never turned up enough water to be useful.

The firm searched south of town last, but that didn't pan out. This was before arsenic regulations were put into effect, said Mr. Monaco, but they knew the limits were coming. They identified some areas farther south of town to look at.

Back then, he said, well No. 9 was a better pumper, well No. 5 had been taken off line for contamination and well No. 6 was high in nitrates.

Everyone could see, he said, that the supply was decreasing and wells were pumping harder.

Since then, the city has looked at other options for more water and better quality.

In 2002, the city purchased the Cochran property south of town and east of the sewage treatment plant, which had an irrigation well.

The city hoped to use some of the land to expand the treatment plant and use the water, Mr. Shike said, but tests showed that the irrigation well was too high in arsenic and uranium.

The city buying the land was a real benefit, said Mr. Monaco, because not only did it have a water right, but they will have the land for a treat-

ment plant some day.

Mr. Monaco said the council asked the firm to do a complete water distribution model. The engineers discovered that some of the water mains were encrusted, nearly clogged with decades of mineral deposits and gunk. One of those mains happened to be the one down Cass Avenue, which went right past the school.

In 2003, the first visible water project started. The city replaced the main on Cass Avenue, plus some on Hall Street, and some work was done around the high school.

A blending pipe to allow the city to mix water from east of town with high-nitrate water from the well south of the football field was put in. Mr. Monaco said the blending pipe was about a third of the cost of the project. The total cost was \$1 million.

The pipe is not being used for blending now, said Mr. Shike, but it is being used to move water from the east side of town to the central area.

Though it was intended to boost the water supply, he said, the old well had declined so much it was never put online. There were questions about whether the city still had a water right for that well, too, he added. In the future, the blending pipe may be used when a treatment plant is put in. Mr. Shike said the pipe and work done in the water project will be an integral part of a treatment plant.

# \* Plant likely to be built here for treatment

(Continued from Page 1A)  
gallons a day. When the treatment plant, is done the city should be able to pump close to 2 million gallons a day, which is more than the city has been able to pump in the last 15 years.

Some of that water might be lost in treatment, he said, depending on what kind the council decides. The most complete treatment is reverse osmosis, which takes pretty much everything out of the water.

No matter what treatment the council decides to go with, Mr. Monaco said, not all of the water will be treated, just enough to make it meet federal standards.

The junk in it like the nitrates, arsenic and uranium won't be completely gone.

The council had three choices on where to put a plant: they could de-

cide on the southwest, center or northeast of the city. Mr. Monaco said the city has determined the center would be best.

With treatment, he said, old wells that aren't used now will be able to be used, except for No. 7, to which the city lost the water rights.

The project, he said, isn't inexpensive. A treatment plant could cost the city from \$1.5 million to \$2 million, which means that water rates will increase.

With the treatment plant, the city will get a chance to look at a lot of the distribution system. Some areas need to be upgraded. Mr. Monaco said he knows the council is interested in using grants for the project.

The council hasn't decided what kind of treatment to use yet, and won't until the pilot project is online.

# Use continues to drop

Oberlin's water was down quite a bit with cool days last week, but the city is still on watering restrictions.

The highest use was Tuesday, Aug. 16, with 762,000 gallons pumped, still over the trigger level for a water warning.

City officials say water users need to continue to follow the even-odd watering plan.

The city pumped:

- 557,000 gallons on Monday, Aug. 15.
- 762,000 gallons on Tuesday, Aug. 16.
- 416,000 gallons last Wednesday.
- 639,000 gallons on Thursday.
- 596,000 gallons on Friday.
- 644,000 gallons on Saturday.
- 383,000 gallons on Sunday.

# Giving to the community



**GIRL SCOUT** Rebecca Helm set up a program on the computer for the Head Start to use their new digital camera. Rebecca and Kenzie Fisher raised the money for the camera with a soup supper last December. The girls both earned

the silver award which is the second highest award in Girl Scouts. Part of the award is doing a community service project.

— Herald staff photo by Karla Jones

# \* Well re-drill project will start soon

(Continued from Page 1A)  
on all summer. The city has been on outdoor water restrictions, which means even/odd watering and no outdoor water use on Mondays, the majority of the summer.

The water level in Well No. 10, said Mr. Shike, has dropped around 11 inches, and No. 11 has dropped

around seven inches since January. Mr. Shike said there is some seasonal fluctuation since more people water in the summer, and there is no telling how much of the drop is because of that.

From January 2002 to April 2004, he said, No. 10 has dropped five feet. No. 11 has dropped over five feet in

that time.

The re-drilling of well No. 9, said Mr. Shike, will give the city some more flexibility.

The city should be able to rely on No. 9 when No. 10 is down or the city can switch off using one or the other, said Mr. Shike.

Mr. Monaco said the new well

should allow the city to pump the old No. 9 and No. 10 wells together without interference. The new well will be around 550 feet away from No. 10.

Most of the project is scheduled to be done by the end of the year, but the remote control system will be installed at the beginning of 2006.

# Oberlin's system one of most complex

Of the towns Miller and Associates works with, Oberlin's water system is one of the more complex, says engineer Thaniel Monaco, because there is no way to tell which wells are high in nitrates or arsenic.

Wells in the center of the city are higher in nitrates, but then so are those to the west. Wells to the south and east aren't as high.

It seems that wells in the alluvium

along Sappa Creek are higher in concentration of the chemicals, he said.

That is why Atwood and Norton, both of which use groundwater wells, also deal with arsenic and uranium.

Nitrates are known as a "nonpoint source" type of contamination, said Mr. Monaco. Basically that means it is caused by a lot of different

things, with no one cause to pinpoint.

Both uranium and arsenic are naturally occurring, he said.

Mr. Monaco said the firm is working with Atwood, Norton, Haigler, Benkelman, Stratton, Culbertson, Indianola, Bartley, Cambridge and Holbrook on water projects, to name a few.

Some of the cities face the same

decisions and problems as Oberlin with high nitrates, uranium and arsenic.

Others simply need more water and the solution has been a new well field. A few, he said, have just needed an upgrade to the treatment plant.

Out of all of them, said Mr. Monaco, the system in Oberlin is probably the most complex.

# \* Funday to have games, food and music

(Continued from Page 1A)  
round-sound system, and a stereo donated by the Jennings Fire Department. Jennings American Legion members have tickets available for a Henry rifle.

The parade will begin at 1:30 p.m. Entries will line up in the schoolyard from noon to 12:30 p.m. Pre-regis-

tration is not necessary. All entries are welcome. The theme is "A Salute to the Jennings Schools".

A dunk tank with local volunteers on the platform and a coin search sponsored by The Bank will be available for children following the parade. A children's tractor pull for kids 3-10 will begin at 3 p.m., fol-

lowed by a tug-o-war and the centerpiece of the afternoon, the Firemen's Team Barrel Competition.

A hog roast prepared by the Jennings firemen will begin at 6 p.m. An auction of donated items begin at 6:30 p.m. All drawing items will be given away during the auc-

tion. Winners need not be present.

The evening will conclude with a street dance with music presented by Kent Brown and "The Night Owls." Proceeds from the day's events will be used to buy fire fighting and safety equipment and to support local organizations and projects.

**Internet tonight!**  
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**September 2005**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Dr. Curtis Cardiology	22	23	24
25	26 Dr. Rubinowitz Hematology/Oncology	27 Dr. Miller Cardiology Clinic	28 Dr. Frankum General Surgeon	29 Dr. Reeves Podiatry	30 Dr. Reeves Podiatry	

**+++ OBERLIN +++**

**Enrollment: August 22 & 24, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Decatur Community High School Room 112. Education Coordinator: Candy Dejmaj, 785-475-2179 (home) or 785-475-2231 (school).**

No.	Course	CR.	Instructor	Place	Start	End	Start Time	End Time
CO126	Presentation Software	1	C. Dejmaj	H.S.	Mon. 8/29	12/5	7 p.m.	10 p.m.
CO176	Intro. to Computer Concepts & Application	3	M. LaRue	H.S.	Wed. 8/31	12/7	7 p.m.	10 p.m.
AC101	Accounting Fundamentals	3	C. Dejmaj	H.S.	Wed. 8/31	12/7	7 p.m.	10 p.m.
EN176	English Composition I	3	B. Breth	H.S.	Mon. 8/29	12/5	7 p.m.	10 p.m.
EN110	Medical Terminology	1	L. Doeden	H.S.	Mon. 8/29	12/5	7 p.m.	10 p.m.
HE101	Basic Nutrition	3	M. Moxter	H.S.	Wed. 8/31	12/7	7 p.m.	10 p.m.
PS176	General Psychology	3	T. Woolsey	H.S.	Wed. 8/31	12/7	7 p.m.	10 p.m.
PS276	Developmental Psychology	3	T. Woolsey	H.S.	Mon. 8/29	12/5	7 p.m.	10 p.m.
SO176	Intro. to Sociology	3	J. Wenger	H.S.	Thurs. 9/1	12/8	7 p.m.	10 p.m.
MU176	Intro. to Music	3	Staff	H.S.	TBA	TBA	7 p.m.	10 p.m.
SO123	Criminology	3	J. Wenger	H.S.	TBA	TBA	7 p.m.	10 p.m.
CH176	Fund. of Chemistry with Lab	5	G. Sanden	H.S.	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
CH176L	Fund. of Chemistry Lab (\$25 Lab Fee)	0	G. Sanden	H.S.	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
MA185	Plane Trigonometry	3	P. Dorshorst	H.S.	Tues. 8/16	1/6	Day	Day
MA205	Elements of Statistics	3	P. Dorshorst	H.S.	Thurs. 8/18	1/6	Day	Day
MA220	Analytical Geometry & Calculus	5	W. Scott	H.S.	Thurs. 8/18	1/6	Day	Day
HI177	American History 1865 to present (25 Telecourse Fee)	3	R. Walz	H.S.	Wed. 8/24	12/16	7 p.m.	9 p.m.
EN219	Intro. to Literature	3	L. Davis	H.S.	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

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