

## Rainfall totals climb to a high

Sometimes when it rains, it pours, and that is what it did last week in Oberlin, as the area received 3.28 inches of rain.

Dave Floyd, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Goodland, said normal rainfall for the month of August for Oberlin is 2.75 inches. The area got more than that in just one week.

Recently, the area has had pretty decent moisture, said Mr. Floyd, as weather disturbances moved through the area and combined with stagnant instability at the right time of day to cause thunderstorms.

The area has been through the hot part of summer, when there were few storms and little rainfall. Things are cooling off some now, he said, and the fronts are moving through.

On Saturday, said Mr. Floyd, the weather bureau issued 18 warnings, two for flash flooding in Decatur and Norton counties.

He said radar gives estimates of how much rain falls, and it was showing heavy amounts over those two counties since the storm was moving slowly.

Mr. Floyd said golf-ball size hail was reported west of Oberlin. There also was large hail south and north of town.

Storm spotters were called out and firemen took up posts around the county. Fire Chief Bill Cathcart reported U.S. 83 covered with hail south of town, from about 8 miles south to the North Fork of the Prairie Dog Creek. It melted quickly, and there was little traffic.

## Water use drops with rain

Water use dropped below 500,000 gallons every day last week, with Oberlin getting steady rains throughout the week.

The town is still on watering restrictions which means people need to follow the even/odd system.

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:

- 480,000 gallons on Monday, Aug. 22.
- 463,000 gallons on Tuesday, Aug. 23.
- 394,000 gallons last Wednesday.
- 444,000 gallons on Thursday.
- 434,000 gallons on Friday.
- 492,000 gallons on Saturday.
- 259,000 gallons on Sunday.

In Goodland, Mr. Floyd said. (See STORM on Page 8A)

## Storms drench Oberlin area; hail hurts corn

Weekend storms drenched Oberlin but missed many parts of the county, causing a little damage to corn crops.

Ty Gerlits, agronomy production specialist with the Decatur Co-op, said an Oberlin farmer told him that a field about 12 miles south of town had some leaves stripped off by hail on Saturday night. The wind was blowing pretty good too, said Mr. Gerlits. The hail didn't total the corn field, he added, but it did some damage.

Mr. Gerlits said he has noticed several cane fields in the area that got knocked over by the wind. He said he didn't think the cane would be popping back up again.

At the Decatur Co-op fertilizer

plant, he said, there was a total of 1.6 inches of rain in the gauge from the storms Saturday and Sunday nights. The weather observer for *The Oberlin Herald* reported 2.26 inches over the weekend.

In Traer, in the northwest part of the county the report was .35 of an inch from the storm Sunday night and none from Saturday.

Rodney New of Norcraft, in the east end of the county, said he had .11 of an inch in the gauge from Saturday night and .19 Sunday night.

In Jennings got .40 inches over the weekend, but have gotten over 5 inches in the last two weeks.

For those areas that missed out on the rain over the weekend, storms and rain are forecast again this week.

## Sprint cars to race for first time here

By KIMBERLY DAVIS  
Get ready, race fans, for some fast paced driving to hit the Oberlin Speedway as the first ever sprint race is held here.

As an experienced sprint car driver, Rick Salem, owner of Salem Graphics, said he wanted to bring some heavy hitters in sprint racing to the town.

People here put in a lot of time, energy and money into the race track, he said, and he wants to bring a first-class show to town.

Sprint cars, said Mr. Salem, are by far the fastest dirt cars in the world. This will be the first time that these cars will run on the Oberlin track. They have 700 horsepower and only weigh around 1,200 pounds.

He estimated that the cars will go 120 to 130 miles per hour on the straightaway.

Mr. Salem said there are two major sanctioning groups for sprint cars, the American Sprint Car Series and the National Championship Racing Association, and this event will be sanctioned by the American Sprint Car Series.

Racers in the Rocky Mountain region are having a real point battle now, he said, and the race Saturday will be for points. Mr. Salem said he thought there would be 25 to 30 cars here from the region.

From the National Championship Racing Association, said Mr. Salem, there will be around 15 or so sprint cars.

The races held at the speedway now don't have sprint cars, he said, although there are some sprint car drivers here, including his son Cody Salem. Mr. Salem said Mark Walinder, who is from Oberlin and lives in Denver, will also race.

Besides the sprint cars, there will also be outlaw stock car races. Those are regular stock cars that have been modified. Basically, said Mr. Salem, there aren't going to be any rules. The racers can modify their stock cars as long as it is safe.

"Anything that makes the car go faster," said Mr. Salem, "I like it."

There will be several past and current champions here to race, including C.J. Johnson, Steve King. (See SPRINT on Page 8A)



AT DALE'S FISH 'N' FUN, Lance Lohofener and Joe Dejmal carried out a pedal boat he purchased with his winnings in Oberlin merchants' big Shopping Spree. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

## Winner buys boat, poles, gifts and food

By Thursday, Shopping Spree winner Lance Lohofener had shopped up and down Main Street and on the highway, spending the \$1,000 in scrip he won through *The Oberlin Herald's* annual give away.

Mr. Lohofener won the money on Saturday, Aug. 20, but wasn't able to start spending it until that Monday.

The first stop was at the LandMark Inn, where he took the family out to eat and bought gifts.

Mr. Lohofener said he has never won anything before. His mother, Deb Lohofener, said

she didn't realize how excited her son was until later in the day Saturday when his hands were still shaking.

The biggest purchase with the money was a pedal boat Lance bought for the family and fishing poles at Dale's Fish 'N' Fun. That took about half of the winnings.

The family took the boat and poles out last Tuesday to a spot the family didn't want to disclose.

He purchased a tool box and supplies for the boat at Stanley Hardware, a filter at R&M Ser-

vice Center, meat from Raye's Grocery, paid for plumbing repairs at Hansen's Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning and got treats at the soda fountain at Addleman Drug Store.

This is the second year the paper has held the giveaway, made possible by local sponsors, including Ward Drug Store, Raye's Grocery, Addleman Drug Store, the LandMark Inn, Dale's, Hansen's, Countryside Veterinary Clinic, Prairie Petals, Stanley Hardware, R&M Service Center, Rocking R, the Dresser and Culligan Water.

## School budget increases, and so do taxes

Taxpayers in the Oberlin School District will pay about 9 percent more this year in school property taxes since the district budget increased by \$855,603.

The board approved the \$6,218,113 million budget in a special meeting last Monday morning.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt said the increase will cover higher operating costs, including both natural

gas and highway fuel. "There is no question that all of our fixed costs will go up," he said, "from school supplies to iron for the vocational agriculture department, because of the increase in highway fuel and inflation."

The district budgeted more than will actually be spent, so there will be a cushion in case of an emergency, he said. For example, in capi-

tal outlay, said Mr. Glodt, there is \$566,000 in the budget, but it probably won't all be spent.

If the money isn't budgeted, he said, the board isn't allowed to spend it, even in an emergency. There also has to be some money left to carry over for next year. Several funds, including special education and food, need to start the year with a balance.

Taxpayers, said Mr. Glodt, will be paying a little more next year. The local property tax levy will go from 42.085 mills to 45.869 mills, an increase of 3.7 mills. One mill raises about \$27,000, he said.

That means on a \$50,000 house, a taxpayer will pay \$264 next year, up about \$22 from this year.

Mr. Glodt said although the bud-

## Team ministers in Africa

By KIMBERLY DAVIS  
The Divine Visitation is what the people of Africa called the three-week trip by seven missionaries from the United States.

Posters with the team members' pictures were all over the place, said Kristi Smith of Oberlin, the only woman on the team. They were on cars, in homes, everywhere.

The men, women and children of Cameroon were all waiting for the team, made up of Pastor Dan Rohm, Brian Elliot, both of Hoxie, Lewis Crayton, of Moreland, Schuyler Huelett, Rod Mathill and Ms. Smith, of Oberlin all members of Living Word Fellowship in Hoxie.

David Clifton of Denver, who runs Jesus to the World homeless kitchen there, was the seventh member of the team, which left Aug. 3 from Denver International Airport. The team flew to Cincinnati then to Paris then into Africa.



USING A LARGE BUCKET of water, Kristi Smith (left) helped Sister Gladys do the missionary team's laundry at the home of Pastor Yusuf in Cameroon, Africa.

"The people were very welcoming," said Miss Smith. "You could tell their hearts were big and they were very happy we were there."

The team stayed in the home of

Pastor Yusuf and Mama Rose in Cameroon, she said. The couple has one daughter Santish, 11. Miss Smith said also four young men stay at the home, who are being

trained to be pastors and men of God. During the day, she said, women would come to house to learn how to be Godly.

(See TEAM on Page 8A)



# \* Sprint cars to race

(Continued from Page 1A)  
Mile Woodruff, Randy Miller and Gary Lee Meyer.

Some of the drivers will be here early, said Mr. Salem. They will be at Crossroads Express from noon to 4 p.m. to sign autographs and posters. Anyone who wants to come meet the racers should stop by.

Mr. Salem said he hasn't retired from racing, although he won't be driving on Saturday. He said he tried to quit, but life after racing isn't any fun.

Many of the drivers, said Mr. Salem, are his friends and are looking forward to coming.

The total purse, he said, is \$10,000.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for kids 10 and under.

Mr. Salem said there are several businesses helping sponsor the event, including Raye's Grocery, Oberlin Automotive, Lincoln Repair, Don Hagan and Sons, Elm Street Storage, Fredrickson Insurance, Tally Farms, First National Bank, Fidele Electric and Woodworking, Dust Cloud Construction, Ward Drug Store, Ron's Tire Service, the Re-Load, the Apple Dumping Gang, Salem Mower Sales, Crossroads Express, Oberlin Fertilizer, Ron's Applicating, Custom Trophy and Engraving, Graphix by Salem, Farmers Bank and Trust, Southwind Saloon and Steakhouse, Fine Spirits, Moore Farms, D&S Grain, Addleman Drug Store, Rocking R, Mobile Music Express, K-Rock and KFNF.

# \* Storm hits area

(Continued from Page 1A)

There were reports of 80 mph winds. This weather is pretty typical for this time of the year, he said. There should be more showers later this week, and the temperatures should continue to cool down.

The 30-year average for rainfall for Oberlin is 22.59 inches, Mr. Floyd said. In the 12 months since August of last year, Decatur County had 10 to 20 percent more rain than normal.

That leaves the question of whether the area is still in a drought. Mr. Floyd said it depends on who you talk to. The weather service website rates Decatur County as a D0, which means it is recovering from drought, he said.

It usually takes one to two years for climate observers to realize an area is in a drought, he added, and then one to two years to figure out the same area is recovering.

This is still severe weather season, said Mr. Floyd. Normally, the storms drop off pretty rapidly in September and are gone by October. All that is left after that is snowfall over the winter.

# Businesses will close Monday

Most Oberlin businesses will be closed Monday for Labor Day, including federal, state, county and city offices, banks and financial institutions.

Schools in Oberlin, Jennings, Rexford and Selden also will be closed.

Most offices and downtown business will be closed, though some restaurants and convenience stores will be open. There will be no sale at Oberlin Livestock Auction.

The Oberlin Herald will print a day late next week so our staff can have Monday off. Copies may be picked up on newsstands on Wednesday afternoon, with mail delivery on Thursday in most areas.

The Herald office will be closed on Monday, but news and advertising may be placed in the slot on the front door or brought to the office by noon on Tuesday.

D and M Sinclair, A&W Restaurant, Ampride, Crossroads Express, and the Pizza Hut will be open on Monday. Keeno's Roadhouse, the LandMark Inn and the Frontier Restaurant will be closed.

Raye's Grocery will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday and Monday.



**AFTER THE TWO DAYS** in the jungle to get the visas for Nigeria, the men smiled big. The group that went to get the visas included an African driver (left), Pastor David Clifton, Rod Mathill and Pastor Yusuf (above). The team, Kristi Smith, Schuyler Huelett, Mr. Mathill, Lewis Crayton and Brian Elliott (below) performed a drama at an African church.

# \* Team preaches gospel in African country

(Continued from Page 1A)

The African women, said Miss Smith, are used to total submission. When the man of the house would say the woman's name, no matter where she was, she would be by his side immediately. They didn't do this out of obligation, she said. It was their joy to help their husbands.

In March, the Hoxie congregation learned of the chance to go to Africa. Miss Smith said she felt the trip was something God had been calling her to do since she was small. She said she had the chance to go to Africa while in Bible college, but didn't.

Now, she says, she will go back if the opportunity comes again.

While in Africa, Miss Smith said, she had the chance to teach a few small classes, one for women and one for a small group. The team traveled to nine churches in two countries.

The African people also ministered to the team. Miss Smith said the people were hungry for the Gospel. Americans need to have a deeper hunger for God like these people, she said.

The team traveled from Yaounde, Cameroon, to Nigeria for two days to minister at one church in the jungle.

Mr. Mathill helped, along with Mr. Clifton, Pastor Yusuf and an African driver, to get the visas for Nigeria. When the team left the States, they had passports and visas for Cameroon, she said, but



hadn't decided for sure if they would travel into Nigeria.

Some government officials didn't want the team to get into Nigeria, said Mr. Mathill, but the team persevered.

It took two days in the jungle to get from a little town on the border between the countries to Bermenda, Cameroon, to get the needed papers. The trip took 12 hours in a car in each direction.

After obtaining the visas, the men traveled back to the border town in a small car in pouring rain on jungle roads. Many times, the men had to push the car up steep hills.

At one point, Mr. Mathill said, when the men were ready to give up, they saw a campfire in the

jungle and a man walking towards them and the man helped them push the car up the hill. Mr. Mathill said after they got up the hill, the man and the campfire disappeared.

As he told the story at the team's homecoming night at the church in Hoxie last Tuesday, Mr. Mathill said he knew God was with them then and tears came to his eyes.

Every missions trip is different, said Pastor Rohm, adding that he had been on six earlier trips. Each trip, he said, is an expression of the body of Christ.

The people in Africa, he said, have a lot of hunger for God. The simplicity of their faith is amazing. Western civilization is logical and the African people have a more child-like faith.

Church looks completely different in the jungle, he said. Part of African worship is beating on a hollowed out log, and there is a lot of energy.

"They just believe," he said, adding that is probably why they see more miracles.

Living Word is a small church with around 50 members. A lot of churches never send out missionaries, Pastor Rohm said, but the people in the Hoxie church have a heart for the great commission. He said he thinks even larger teams will be sent out in the years to come.

The church is talking about a mission trip to India in January and China sometime next year, he said.

# Lecture to highlight black baseball teams

Raymond Doswell, curator of the Negro League Baseball Museum in Kansas City, will present the first of the season's Dr. Max Pickerill Lecture series at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 13, in the Cultural Arts Center on the college campus.

Using photographs to highlight his lecture, "Negro League Baseball: Times, Teams, and Talents," Mr. Doswell will talk about the legendary black players and the all-

black professional teams who were barred from organized baseball for the first half of the 20th century.

In 1920, an organized league structure was formed under the guidance of Andrew "Rube" Foster, a former player, manager and owner for the Chicago American Giants. In a meeting held at the Paseo YMCA in Kansas City, Foster and a few other midwestern team owners joined to form the Negro National

League.

In 1945, Major League Baseball's Brooklyn Dodgers recruited Jackie Robinson from the Kansas City Monarchs. Robinson became the first African-American in the modern era to play on a Major League roster.

While this was a key moment in baseball and civil rights history, it prompted the decline of the Negro Leagues.

The best black players were recruited for the Major Leagues and black fans followed.

The last Negro Leagues teams folded in the early 1960s but their legacy lives on through the surviving players and the museum.

The public is invited. There is no admission charge. For details, call Cathy Gordon at (785) 462-3984, ext. 310.

# Public television channel receives grant money

Smoky Hills Public Television has received a general support grant from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation for production of local programming.

"We are grateful that the foundation recognizes the ways in which Smoky Hills Public Television enriches people's lives and makes Kansas a better place to live and work," said General Manager Lawrence Holden. "Their support for Kansas programming helps make this programming available to all, only on Smoky Hills Public Television."

Smoky Hills has produced local programming, including special programs such as "Stories from the Dust Bowl" and "Bombers on the Prairie: The B-29 in Kansas," and series such as "Kansas Spotlight,"

"Kansas Arts Today," "A Conversation with Jerry Moran" and "Kansas Legislature." The station is producing a documentary on the Phillipsburg Rodeo, scheduled to air in September.

The Hansen Foundation made its

first grant to Smoky Hills Public Television in 1982, the year the station went on the air, and it has received Hansen grants over the years.

The foundation, established in 1965 following the death of contractor Dane G. Hansen, is a major chari-

table agency, serving primarily northwest Kansas.

Smoky Hills Public Television serves 70 counties in Kansas and one in Nebraska. For information, go to [www.shptv.org](http://www.shptv.org)

# School wants box tops

Students at Oberlin Elementary School will start collecting General Mills box tops Thursday to raise money for playground improvements.

Abby Hissong, a member of the Support our Schools organization, said the students collected the box tops, found on cereals and other foods, last year for the first time.

The students had a contest last year to see which class collected the most tops. It ended in a tie between Kathy Tacha's second graders and Carol Wasson's third graders.

The group will hold the contest again this year. The winning class, said Mrs. Hissong, will receive a surprise and the teacher gets \$25 to spend in the classroom. The school earned \$568 for the whole year.

Each box top is worth 10 cents, she said. Some products have double box tops from now until October.

The tops can be cashed in October or the spring, said Mrs. Hissong. The students will be collecting the tops through Friday, Oct. 14.

Anyone who doesn't have a grade school child can send the box tops with any student, drop them in the can at Raye's Grocery or at the school office.

To find out what products have the box tops, go to [www.boxtops-4education.com](http://www.boxtops-4education.com).

Mrs. Hissong said the school is also collecting the part of the front panel on whole-grain General Mills cereals like Cheerios. She said the school can send those in and be entered to win 10,000 free box tops.

Parents attending parent night at the grade school received a flier listing the products with the tops and a bag to use to collect them.

Mrs. Hissong said the grade school will also be collecting Campbell's soup labels this year. The students won't start collecting the labels until January, said Mrs. Hissong, but they hope people will start saving their labels now.

Mrs. Hissong said the results of how many box tops are brought in each week will be posted at the school and Raye's Grocery.

For a list of the kind of labels to save, go to [www.labelsforeducation.com](http://www.labelsforeducation.com).

# \* School taxes will rise

(Continued from Page 1A)  
get has been approved, if there are more students enrolled on the Sept. 20 count day than he had estimated, the budget can be republished. Right now, he said, there is one "extra" kid at the high school and nine more than expected at the grade school.

For each extra student, he said, the district gets \$4,257 from state aid.

Mr. Glodt said he plans to push for upgrading the electrical system and installing window air conditioning in the schools this year. It can be done through the capital outlay fund, he said.

The superintendent said he doesn't feel he should ask taxpayers to spend \$1 million or more on heating, ventilating and air conditioning, when the work can be done room by room.

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