

## Food pantry keeps busy for summer

### Agency say use is up compared to last year

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**

The Decatur County Food Pantry is low on just about everything except for people who could use a little help.

Melanie Anderson, who helps run the pantry in the basement of the United Church, said they have been busy this summer, and traffic seems to be a little heavier than normal.

Twelve families used the pantry from Aug. 11 to Sept. 11. In those families were 51 people.

There are people out of work, some with health issues and others who have a couple of jobs and still aren't making enough to get by, she said.

Although there was a good response at the food drive this summer at R&M Service Center, the pantry is low on almost everything.

Miss Anderson said the pantry stocks all kinds of personal needs, from food to personal hygiene products to laundry soap.

It is run by the Decatur County

Ministerial Association, but housed in the United Church. Each church in the association takes one month and has a collection for the pantry. Teens for Christ plans to help set up those monthly mini-drives and get the food back to the pantry, where people who need it can pick it up.

Anyone who is in need of food, out of money, lost a job or is ill can use the pantry, she said, but they do need to fill out a form and sign it for the ministerial association.

Miss Anderson said a log is kept of those who use the service. People are allowed to use it three times a year. Miss Anderson said they prefer for families to use the pantry no more than once a month, but for sure only three times a year. Most people abide by the rules, she said, and as far as she knows, they haven't turned anyone away.

She said she doesn't know if there are people going out of town. If the volunteers at the pantry think some-

(See **FOOD** on Page 10A)

## Oberlin native escapes storm in New Orleans

By **MARY LOU OLSON**

An Oberlin native learned firsthand what it was like to escape a fierce hurricane when Hurricane Katrina came roaring into New Orleans.

Judy (Blickenstaff) Dufrene, her husband Dale and his brother and wife, Bob and Louella Dufrene, live at Harahan, La., on the ridge of the "bowl" that forms around the Louisiana city.

Mrs. Dufrene, a graduate of Decatur Community High School, said the two couples decided to evacuate after the warnings came in and headed for higher ground. She said they found refuge in a motel in Alexandria, La., after driving three to four hours. They stayed there only two days, since they did not have reservations in advance.

On the way to Luling, La., where they stayed one night with a nephew on the other side of the Mississippi River, they faced flood waters and downed lines all the way. After a

night there, she said, they found a motel in Lafayette, La.

"We had relatives in Harahan, so by calling on our cell phones, we learned that damage to our homes was mostly from the high winds," Judy said. "Otherwise, our own homes, as well as our lake home, were spared. As soon as we could, we returned home, as Bob and Louella had to leave without their cat and they were anxious to check on it."

"Everyone was trying to find a place to stay, and a 50-by-110-foot

(See **COUPLE** on Page 10A)



D. Dufrene



J. Dufrene



## Praying at the flag pole

**STUDENTS CIRCLED** the flag pole at the Decatur Community High last Wednesday to praise and pray to God for the annual "See You at the Pole" event. Amber Mason (above) played guitar and led the students in the first song. Kyle Huntley (right), Joe Hirsch and Ethan Merrill looked at the words to the second song.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



## Men rebuild Ford tractor to give away

At the beginning of the year, three Oberlin men started to tear down and re-build a 9N Ford tractor to be given away at the annual Mini Sappa Antique Thresher and Engine Show this weekend.

The tractor was donated by Bill Riedell in January, and he worked on the project, although he still lives in Colorado. Ray Kircher, Jim Marshall and Robert Fringer, all members of the Antique Thresher and Engine Club, also worked on the machine.

When they started, the tractor didn't run, but getting it going wasn't too challenging, said Mr. Kircher. The tractor was fixable

Mr. Fringer and Mr. Kircher tore down the tractor during the winter,

### Engines, vehicles on display this weekend

The annual Mini Sappa Antique Thresher and Engine Show will kick off at 9 a.m. on Saturday with exhibits, vendors and a parade each day.

Admittance to the event, held at the county fairground, will cost \$3 for an adult and 50 cents for a child.

Both days, there will be a parade of antique vehicles, tractors and engines at 4 p.m. There will also be a poker run at 5 p.m. on Saturday.

There will be a craft market, with vendors selling all kinds of items, plus exhibitions of old-fashioned hay baling, corn shelling and grinding,

free train rides, threshing, a sawmill and storytelling on both days.

There will be antique engines, tractors, hot rods and custom cars to see each day.

At 6 p.m. Saturday, there will be a hog roast for \$6 per person. For exhibitors and vendors, the meal is free.

At 2 p.m. on Sunday, there will be a kids' pedal tractor pull.

Anyone wanting to camp at the fairgrounds can pay \$3 per day or \$5 for both days.

then Mr. Marshall put it back together.

Mr. Kircher said from what he

could tell, this tractor came out in March or April 1940.

The tin work on the machine was

beat up, said Mr. Kircher. He and his grandson Nic Martin,

(See **TRACTOR** on Page 10A)

## Mini Sappa Days to celebrate history at county museum

The Last Indian Raid Museum is getting ready to celebrate the 47th annual Mini Sappa Days, which will kick off with breakfast at 7 a.m. Saturday.

Curator Sharleen Wurm said the pancake feed will be offered for two hours in the Old Bohemian Hall for a donation At 8 a.m., the DCHS Singers will perform.

The museum will be open all day, with free admission for visitors of all ages.

A bake sale will be held in the land office from 8 to 9:30 a.m., featuring treats made by board and museum members

From 10 a.m. to noon, there will be pumpkin painting for the youngsters. Mrs. Wurm said there will also be a money tank with money donated by Farmers Bank and Trust, and face painting for the kids.

At 11 a.m., lunch will be served by the museum board in the Bohemian Hall. The PEO Sisterhood will be selling slices of homemade pie.

Throughout the day, there will be

crafters showing and selling their wares. Offerings will include flower arrangements, Christmas items, Pampered Chef gear, hand-painted portraits, metal yard ornaments, jewelry, Mary Kay cosmetics, raggy throws, baby blankets, smelly jellies, sewing, crocheting, painted rocks, jewelry, beads, wooden shelves, quilt racks, toys, kids books, honey, jewelry, wooden crafts, candles, blarney stones, home and garden, cookie sales and wheat weaving.

If the weather is bad, the crafters will move inside.

At 2 p.m. St. Mark's Lutheran Church will be opened to the public. Bee Nelson, one of the last remaining members of the congregation from Norcatour, will open the church door. A homemade ice cream social with toppings will follow while Ron Temple and his gospel singers perform.

Mini Sappa, said Mrs. Wurm, started when the museum in down-

(See **CRAFTS** on Page 10A)

## Petition turned in and certified Monday

A petition to put the question of whether beer and alcohol should be sold on Sunday on the ballot was certified by the county election officer Monday morning, meaning the city will have to hold a special election.

Pastor Steve Smith started to cir-

culate the petition last week and turned it in with 50 signatures. Of those, three were thrown out. Two of those, said County Clerk Marilyn Horn, who serves as the county election officer, hadn't re-registered and one hasn't ever registered.

That means the petition ended up

with 47 signatures, but it only needed 40, said Mrs. Horn, to make it good.

She said she will send a letter to the Oberlin City Council to let them know, and then the city will have to work with her on an election date. Mrs. Horn said she will have the let-

ter to the council by their next meeting on Thursday, Oct. 6. The council approved Sunday Sales in September.

Since there isn't a scheduled election coming up, the council will have to hold a special election for the one issue, she said.



# \* Couple leaves home

(Continued from Page 1A)  
 lot next to our home sold after the hurricane for \$140,000 to be used for recreational vehicles, campers and the like for those left without a home.”

The two couples took refuge in their fishing cabin, but had no water or electricity.

Judy, a niece of Eva Bryan and a cousin of Randy Walters, Nila Jean Hafner and Don Barratt of Oberlin, graduated from Decatur Community High School in 1963. She earned a sociology degree at Fort Hays State University, then worked as a psychiatric social worker at Parsons.

She decided she wanted to see the country and after driving through several states, ended up in New Orleans. She got a job as a nursing assistant at East Jefferson Hospital, and it was there that she met her husband. He has lived in New Orleans all of his life.

Judy is employed by Medicaid of Louisiana, but her husband is retired. She said that the office where she works in the downtown area was 10 feet under water, so when she returns to work, it will be at a new location.

Mrs. Dufrene said she and Leola Zodrow of Oberlin were high school classmates and friends, and she and her husband, Gary, and family have spent many vacations fishing with the Dufrenes in the New Orleans area. She said it was Gary Zodrow that they called first to let them know they were all right.

“Through it all,” she said, “we have had so many friends in Oberlin and other places in Kansas and Nebraska who have been there for us, willing to send anything we may need, as well as offering us a home if we needed it.”

“We know how fortunate we are and put our family and friends at the top of God’s blessings.”

# \* Crafts to be for sale

Museum tours free Saturday

(Continued from Page 1A)  
 town Oberlin opened. The idea was to remember the victims of the Last Indian Raid and celebrate the area’s history.

Something new this year, she said, is if anyone visits either the museum or the Mini-Sappa Antique Thresher and Engine Show at the fairgrounds that day, they get 15 percent off at the antique stores in town.

In the past, Mini Sapa has only been held on Saturday, but this year the celebration will spill over to Sunday. Since the church moved onto the museum grounds recently, there will be a dedication ceremony at 5 p.m. by Pastor Charlotte Strecker-Baseler of Faith Lutheran Church in Oberlin. After the ceremony, the church will be open to all denominations.

There will be a potluck in the Bohemian Hall following the rededication. Mrs. Wurm said everyone is welcome. Remember to bring a covered dish. The museum will provide coffee, water and tea.

## Taking aim



**AT A BLACK POWDER SHOOT** Saturday at Sappa Park, Janet Anthony pointed her gun toward a target before she fired. With chilly weather Sunday morning, only a few at the Beaver Creek Muzzloaders ventured out to shoot before they headed home. The group met at the park this weekend, where they took part in shooting, knife throwing and other frontier contests, camped and cooked over open fires. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

# \* Food bank needs more donations

(Continued from Page 1A)  
 one might be abusing the service, she said, they do call the pantries in the surrounding towns.

The pantry offers all kinds of food, from canned to boxed to frozen to fresh.

The association bought a chest freezer to store frozen food.

Miss Anderson said the association gives each family a food voucher which is good at the grocery for bread, milk, potatoes and some fresh fruit.

The voucher is specific as to what it can be used for. The money goes through the ministerial association fund. The Oberlin Rotary Club

gives \$50 a month to the pantry to help pay those costs.

Anyone can donate food, cleaning or personal hygiene items to the pantry. Miss Anderson said the church is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The pantry is open to people who need help from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mondays and Thursdays.

Someone will be there to help, she said. On Mondays, Erica Chambers will be volunteering with the pantry.

If someone wants to make a donation and the church is closed, Miss Anderson said, call the church at 475-2280 and she’ll work something out.

# McCook Food Bank serves hundreds

Serving six counties in southwest Nebraska, the McCook Food Pantry has been busy for the summer, although they haven’t had anyone from Decatur County.

Fran Allacher, who is secretary at St. Alban’s Episcopal Church, which houses the pantry, said they have one person who comes from Atwood, but she doesn’t know of anyone who uses the pantry from Decatur County. She said she doesn’t think anyone would be turned away from the pantry because of where they live.

The pantry is a lot like the one at the United Church in Oberlin, she

said. It is sponsored by the Red Willow County Ministerial Association, while the one in Oberlin is sponsored by the Decatur County Ministerial Association. The McCook program serves a lot more people, though.

The McCook pantry is housed in the Canterbury House at 509 West First Street.

Mrs. Allacher said people who use the pantry need to give their name, address, Social Security number and the number of people in their family.

Since the pantry gets commodities from the federal government,

people need to meet federal government poverty guidelines, she said.

The pantry gets the commodities twice a year. In May, said Mrs. Allacher, they got two tons of food.

Those who qualify can use the pantry once a month. The pantry gives out non-perishable food. Mrs. Allacher said they don’t have a lot of paper products, although there are a few groups that donate diapers. The pantry doesn’t give gift certificates to grocery stores or vouchers.

The pantry has been busy this summer, said Mrs. Allacher, but not really any more so than last year. There really isn’t any pattern or cer-

tain time that people need help more than others.

Last year in June, the pantry helped 201 families, in July 215 and in August 181. This year the pantry helped 173 families in June, 148 in July and 199 in August.

This weekend, she said, the pantry will hold its big food drive, with Boy Scouts dropping bags at each house on Friday and then picking them up Saturday.

# Colby kids caught partying

By PATTY DECKER  
 Colby Free Press

Colby High School had to cancel a junior varsity football game in Oberlin last Monday after several players were caught at a drinking party at a Colby trailer court

Colby High School Principal Rocky Robbins told the Colby School Board earlier that day that “athletic suspensions” had been issued for 13 students involved.

“That’s unfortunate, but that’s what I have to report,” he said.

The junior varsity game in Oberlin last Monday was postponed, said Activities Director Jeff Quenzer. Mr. Robbins said later that was mostly because so many starters had been suspended that coach Greg Koenig thought he might need the younger boys in the main game.

There were 13 players suspended, eight of them varsity starters, and two junior varsity players who also are varsity reserves, Mr. Robbins said. Three junior varsity players were caught in the net as well.

Colby police officers arrested four teenagers and detained another 19 youths until their parents could arrive after a neighbor complained about loud noise Saturday, Sept. 17, at the Friendly Acres Mobile Home Park in Colby..

Arrested were Corey Allen Reed, 19; Matthew M. Grove and Brandon Lee Wade, both 18; and Travis Jo-

seph Parker, 16. All were booked into the Thomas County Jail on charges of disturbing the peace, disorderly conduct, minor in possession of alcohol and furnishing alcohol to minors, said Gary Shull, detective sergeant with the Colby Police Department.

Of the 19 who were held, but not charged, two were 20, two 18, eight 17, one 16, seven 15 and one was 14, said Mr. Shull. Police Chief Randy Jones said about 10 youths ran off when police arrived.

Shull said a complaint was received at 9:07 p.m. about noise at mobile home No. 27. Two officers, Sgt. Kent Dible and Ron Alexander, went to the scene and were met by Thomas County Sheriff’s Deputy Alan Markham.

Of the 23 youths at the party, Jones said, officers decided to call parents or a responsible adult to come get 19. He said the 19 could face consequences under Colby High School’s policy on underage drinking, since many of the youths were students.

All parents and the 19 youths were asked if they wanted to take a preliminary breath test to show they weren’t drinking, Jones said. Some parents chose to have their children take the test, but others declined.

Jones said his officers walked into the mobile home after noticing underage youths drinking alcohol.

“When officers see someone in plain view committing a crime,” Jones said, “the officer has the right to make contact, and no warrant is necessary.”

Earlier this week, Jones said, an official from Colby High School called the police department and got the names of students at the party.

“We believe parents want to know whether or not their children are at underage drinking parties and consuming,” he said. “We are doing whatever we can to protect our youth.”

Jones said the easiest is for young people to stay away from underage drinking parties altogether.

Until then, the police will continue to respond to complaints, assessing each situation and make arrests when they believe crimes have occurred.

The four who were arrested have been released, he said.

# \* Tractor tickets for sale

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Herndon, got the tin back into shape. The men were able to order parts from magazines. You can buy about any kind of parts, said Mr. Marshall; you just have to have the right magazines.

Mr. Kircher said his grandson painted the tractor back to its original color. He said his grandson painted his first tractor when he was 14, seven years ago.

The tractor is back to its original shape, even the paint, he said, gray with a black steering wheel.

Mr. Kircher said the tractor is sort of an ugly duckling, but that is what it is supposed to look like.

It runs good now, he said; it turned into a pretty darn nice tractor.

The tractor, said Mr. Marshall, is probably worth around \$3,000 now.

This is the second year the men have re-built a tractor to help raise money for the club. The first year, Calvin Ufford helped out, too.

The tractor will be given away on Sunday after the parade at the fairgrounds. Tickets are \$1 apiece and \$5 for six.

# Tech club building a robot

The Tech Club at Decatur Community High has started to work on its second annual project, with plans of taking it to Wichita in October.

At the Oberlin School Board meeting Monday, Sept. 12, Superintendent Kelly Glodt said the club is part of the Kansas Boosting Engineering Science and Technology.

Sponsors include Science teacher Mark Bricker, Vocational Agriculture teacher Jason Ketterl, technology coordinator Jess Randel, and Rob McFee, a parent.

The project this year is to build a robot to replace parts on a mock Hubbell telescope. There are around 15 students in the club.

## Bubble Gum Bash 5th Anniversary

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