

City water gets OK from state

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The City of Oberlin doesn't have any violations when it comes to water.

Each year the Kansas Department of Health and Environment tests the water and this year the city came up violation free.

Although most people don't drink the water and the city is on water restrictions over the summer because of the quantity of it, the city is under all of the requirements when it comes to maximum contamination levels.

The water was tested in April, and in June city water customers received a two-page mailing saying — this is the short version — that there weren't any violations of state and federal standards found in the city's water.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the city has to send out the report each year, and if the water is over the limits on any of the contaminants it has to be reported to the users.

Mr. Shike said Miller and Associates, a McCook engineering firm that does most of the city's work, is doing a pilot study on a treatment

system and they have submitted a plan to the state. The study will help tell if the recommended treatment process, called coagulation filtration, will work, he said.

The treatment option, he said, was recommended by the engineers because they think it will work best with the city's system.

The treatment will help take out some of the contaminants.

State regulations say the treatment plant has to be built by the first of next year, he said. Mr. Shike said the plant probably will be built on the north side of Sappa Creek, near an irrigation well which the city bought southeast of town.

The city won't be treating all of the city's water, he said, but will treat enough to make a difference.

The treatment will make the water better, said Mr. Shike, but not perfect.

Most of the tests are done every year, said Mr. Shike, except for lead and copper, which the city only does every three years. Other contaminants tested include arsenic, barium, chromium, fluoride, nitrates, selenium, haloacetic acids, (See WATER on Page 5A)



AFTER A RAIN STORM last Wednesday two boys splashed each other (above) in one of the large puddles west of the high school. Youngsters of all ages including Bryant Gillund (below right) and his older sister, Brynna Gillund (be-

low left) played in the puddles left by the rain storm. The children were among those who attended the Back-to-School picnic, which was moved to the high school cafeteria.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Jennings to host Firemen's Funday all day Saturday

The Jennings Volunteer Fire Department will raise money for new equipment during its 15th annual Firemen's Funday on Saturday.

Since 1991, the firemen have been hosting the event with food, games, music and a parade to help raise money for their service and bring the city together.

The day will start at 9 a.m. with a health fair sponsored by Decatur Health Systems and the county's ambulance service.

Anyone who wants to have a blood profile, featuring 28 tests including a thyroid study and breakdown of cholesterol levels, should be fasting, with nothing to eat or drink after midnight. The test will cost \$25.

A prostate cancer screening test is available for \$20.

Dr. Stellan Andrecia will be the honored guest at a kolache coffee sponsored by the United Methodist Church. He will do skin cancer checks.

At 9 a.m., there will be a horse-shoe tournament hosted by Pat Foster of the Broken Wheel Bar and Grill. The three categories are men 20 and older, teens 19 and younger and women of all ages. The entry fee will be \$1, which will be donated to the Jennings fire department and ambulance service.

There will be a first prize given in each category.

Although most of the activities will take place in downtown Jennings, there will be a wobble trap shoot at the football field on the northwest edge of town.

Games for kids will include a dunk tank, coin search, tug-o-war, cake walk and a pedal tractor pull.

At 1 p.m., there will be a parade with the theme "Small Towns Pullin' Together," on Kansas Avenue through downtown. Line-up is on Pennsylvania Avenue.

The Czech Museum will be open all day, free of charge. Anyone can stop by and see improvements made possible by donations, free labor and proceeds from the sale of the Jennings School buildings.

About 75 dozen kolaches, made by Jennings women, will be for sale. Kolaches are a traditional Czech pastry with different toppings, from fruits to sour cream and raisins.

Other events include bingo, a fireman's team barrel competition, a whole hog roast and an auction.

Tickets will be sold for raffle items, including a television, surround sound system and a portable DVD player. Tickets are \$1.

At the end of the day, a street dance will feature the Aaron Traffas Band from Manhattan.

Rain storm provides fun for kids

It's almost been like spring around here, with mild thunderstorms and plenty of rain creating giant puddles for kids to play in.

A storm hit last Wednesday pouring down rain for about 45 minutes. On Friday night it started to rain again, leaving about .10 of an inch in town.

Although it isn't spring, forecasters say the weather is fairly normal for this time of the year.

Dave Thede, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Goodland, said the area is in monsoon season, which basically means high pressure over Texas and moisture coming out of Mexico which travels this way. Since the winds are light, he said, the storms don't move very fast and the moisture brings rain.

This is the typical time of year to get those showers and thunderstorms, he said.

That's what happened last Wednesday, when the skies opened up just before 6:30 p.m. and dumped out rain.

Although it didn't rain long, it rained hard filling up streets, lawns, gardens and some fields.

About .83 inches of rain fell in a quick storm on Wednesday.

After it was over, the sun came out and kids at the Back to School picnic found two large puddles in the lawn near the high school. After getting their fill of fried chicken and side dishes, kids ran and slid in the puddles, splashed water on each other and just had fun.

It seems the kids might have a



chance to play in the rain and puddles again this week, with a chance of showers in the forecast for Friday night or early Saturday. Mr.



Thede said by today, it should start warming up, then it will cool off for the weekend and warm up by Monday.

Businesses give woman \$1,000

An Oberlin shopper won a \$1,000 shopping spree last Wednesday in the annual summer drawing sponsored by *The Oberlin Herald* and Oberlin merchants.

Stunned when she heard her name, Carol Duncan stayed in her chair at the Back-to-School Picnic in the high school cafeteria after her name was drawn. She said she was dumbfounded.

The picnic had around 215 in attendance. The event was moved inside because it was raining.

Although she had registered several times for Oberlin merchants' Shopping Spree, Mrs. Duncan said, she didn't think that she would win.

Several names had already been drawn and none of them were at the

picnic. She said she didn't think her name would be drawn, so when it was she was shocked. She said her husband, Bill Duncan, had to tell her to get up when her name was called.

Mrs. Duncan said she was excited to win the \$1,000. She and her husband went to the sponsoring businesses on Friday and looked around.

She said she had thought about buying a new washing machine, but since her old one is still running, the couple decided against that.

While looking at R&M Service Center, she said, the Duncans saw a freezer. Their freezer is 40 years old, she said, and so they decided (See WINNER on Page 5A)



IN ROCKING R, Carol Duncan took her time as she looked at items. Mrs. Duncan was the winner of the \$1,000 Oberlin Merchants and *The Oberlin Herald* shopping spree drawing last Wednesday. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Fair Finale '06



Fair tab in paper

Inside today's edition of *The Oberlin Herald* is the Fair Finale section with results from the Decatur County Fair.

The edition includes pictures of several grand champion and reserve grand champions in the livestock categories and all of the results for 4-H and open class competition.