

Teams walk to raise cash during Relay

The Decatur County Relay for Life, which kicks off at 7 p.m. Friday at the high school track, will be raising money for cancer research and to help cancer patients.

Decatur County cancer survivors are invited to a reception from 6 to 6:50 p.m. in the high school cafeteria before the relay.

Again this year, a barbecue fund raiser will be offered, with meat cooked by Robert Groneweg with R&M Service Center and Dave Bergling with *The Oberlin Herald* on Traeger grills. The May family has donated the meat.

At 7 p.m., the Oberlin American Legion will present the colors. Nora Bell Manning and Patty Brown, both cancer survivors, will be honored for getting the relay started here in 2002. The survivors will take the first lap around the track, joined by their caregivers and relatives for the second.

The relay has 12 teams including the Decatur County Employees, Covenant Cancer Fighters, Herndon Covenant, Family and Friends, Decatur Co-op, Bruggeman Family and Friends, Good Sam Shufflers, May Family and Friends, Beat Cancer, Class of 2010, Decatur Health Systems and the Black Peppers.

The event, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, said Mrs. Dempewolf, raises money for cancer research and other related needs. Money is raised, she said, through the donations for the barbecue, luminary sales, T-shirt sales and a

craft auction. At the craft auction, she said, they will sell quilts, blankets, hook rugs and other items.

Everyone is invited and although the cut-off date to purchase luminaries to be listed in the program has passed, people can still purchase them until the ceremony on Friday. Each one costs \$10.

Committee members who have organized the Relay this year include Chris Dempewolf, chairwoman, Rhonda May, Lynn Doeden, Carla Depperschmidt, Jean and Byron Hale, Sharon Black, Melinda Grafel, Ralph Unger, Regina Stanley, Leanna Bryan, Charles and Betsy Haag, Linda Hunt, Tiffanie Farr, Sharee Dempewolf, MJ Dempewolf and Tyler Bruggemann, an honorary member. Jennifer Van Eaton of Colby is the American Cancer Society coordinator for this area.

Both the Stick-to-It and Star Valley 4-H clubs have volunteered to help.

Mrs. Dempewolf said cookies or brownies for the walkers would be appreciated.

At 8 p.m., the craft auction will start. At 8:45 p.m., chairman Chris Dempewolf and Leta Meitl will cut hair for Locks of Love. Donors' hair needs to be at least 10-inches long.

At 10 p.m., the luminary ceremony will start.

In case of bad weather, the event will be moved to The Gateway, as it was last year, said Mrs. Dempewolf.

Renters ask for 50-year lease on lake bottom

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
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Members of Pheasants Forever asked the Oberlin City Council for a 50-year lease at \$1 per year for farmland at Sappa Park Thursday night, but the council agreed only to give the group a longer, less expensive lease.

The Sunflower Chapter of the wildlife group leases the lake bottom and grass land from the city for \$3,500 a year under a three-year lease which expires in February. Two months ago, Dr. Richard May, a member of the group, talked to the council about wanting to turn the area into more of a recreational place than a crop production area.

Thursday, Dr. May and Sheriff Ken Badsky, also a member of the group, said they would like to plant switch grass or Conservation Reserve Program grass on the lake bottom for habitat instead of having the ground farmed.

Currently, Pheasants Forever leases part of the lake bottom to farmer Jim Abbey, who formerly leased much of the park. The council agreed that Pheasants Forever could terminate the lease with Mr. Abbey so the lake bottom would no longer be farmed.

Councilman Jay Anderson said

Council Roundup

At the meeting Thursday, the Oberlin City council:

- Approved the bid to seal streets and decided to work on a plan to fix the humps in the streets. Story on Page 10A.

- Received a letter warning the city about a water violation, because the newest well is too high in uranium. Story at right.

- Talked with the city foreman about purchasing property from a McCook man so the city won't have to build a structure to house equipment. Story on Page 10A.

- Agreed to give the Sunflower Chapter of Pheasants Forever a longer and less expensive lease for the old Sappa Lake bottom, but didn't specify how long or how much. Story at left.

- Talked about putting a seven-foot high fence around the new waste water treatment facility to keep deer out. Story on Page 10A.

the council may need to form a group that encompasses everything (See BIRD on Page 10A)

Fathers, flag honored

A special section devoted to fathers and an American Flag poster is included in today's *Oberlin Herald*.

Students at Oberlin Elementary School wrote short essays nominating their dads as Father of the Year. Inside is the winner and all of the essays by the kids.

The flag which is brought to you by sponsors and the newspaper can be hung in a window at a person's home or business for Flag Day on Thursday.

THE OBERLIN HERALD'S
Father of the Year

A special section to Fathers by Oberlin Elementary School students



Kids learn at church

AT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL at Faith Lutheran Church on Friday Drew Juenemann (above left) and Sage Lohofener worked as a team to build a house made with graham crackers and pink frosting. Dani Rouse (right front) and Caleb Hileman learned about patience as she picked a puzzle piece out of a brown paper bag and found the correct place for it. The kids spent the week at the community event learning about God with a Veggie Tales theme.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



City gets water violation for uranium

The City of Oberlin received a letter warning it about a water violation, because its newest well has too high of a uranium content.

City Administrator Gary Shike told the city council about the violation at its meeting last Thursday.

The letter from the Kansas Department of Health and Environ-

ment says that the test taken from the well shows uranium at 34.1 parts per billion which exceeds the state and federal maximum contaminant level of 30 parts per billion.

The test was taken from well No. 12, said Mr. Shike, which replaced No. 10. Well No. 12, which is east of town, was just built last year.

Mr. Shike said he expects to get a letter on all of the city's wells.

The city is preparing to do something about the problem with plans for a water treatment plant.

Is this the city's first letter on uranium? asked Councilwoman Marcia Lohofener.

This is the first time the city has

had to send out notices, said Mr. Shike. Everyone in the city will get a notice in the mail within 30 days of the notice of the violation.

Chris Miller, engineer with Miller and Associates, said the good news in the violation is that it makes the city more desirable to get grants to help build a water treatment plant.

Rattlesnake killed blocks from downtown

An Oberlin man killed a rattlesnake last week only blocks from downtown.

Harold Berry said he saw the snake at the intersection of Hall Street and Beaver Avenue and wants people to be careful because several rattlers have been seen in town.

Mr. Berry said he wanted parents to be aware of the snake and to let their kids know.

Dr. Mark Olson, veterinarian at Countryside Veterinary Clinic, said the most common rattlesnakes here are diamondbacks. All rattlers, he said, are poisonous.

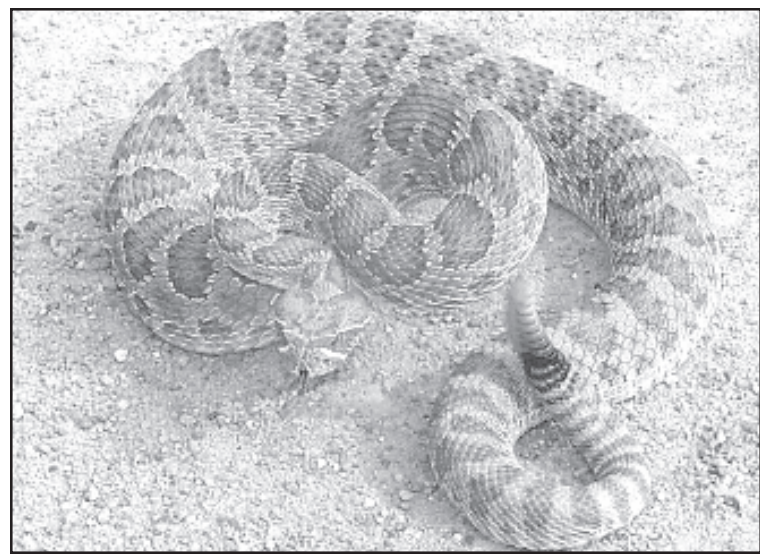
The snakes which have a consecutive diamond shape on their back can be gray, tan or black sometimes with a strong yellowish, red-

dish or greenish tone, according to a website about the snakes.

Dr. Olson said over the last few years the snakes have been seen more and more. The rattlers cause problems with livestock, horses and dogs. Dogs, of course, are more inquisitive than livestock or horses, wanting to check out the rattling noise. He said they now have a rattlesnake vaccine for dogs. One is being worked on for horses.

Livestock and horses commonly get bit on their nose when grazing.

Although it isn't really common to see rattlers in town, because they like to stay away from people, it does happen. Dr. Olson said no one can tell how poisonous a rattler can be. The little ones are just as poisonous as the big ones.



COILED UP, rattle going, this diamondback was not happy with all the attention. — Herald staff photo by Dave Berolli