

# Medical crews stay busy

The Decatur County Ambulance Department has already had a busy month, with 18 calls in April and 101 since the beginning of the year. Ambulance Director Linda Manning told commissioners at their meeting last Tuesday that the crew had done eight transports and runs since Friday. One ambulance each in Jennings and Oberlin had a recall, said Ms. Manning, and both have been fixed. The first response vehicle also had a recall, she said, and that needs to be done. Commissioner Ralph Unger said he's heard some good remarks about recent calls, especially those with heavy loads. "We have a good crew," said Ms. Manning.

The technician class is going well, she said. They are starting to plan for the final test, which might be given in McCook. Do you ever get to take time off? asked Commissioner Doyle Brown.

Ms. Manning said she had a vacation scheduled, but it didn't work out. She said she still gets calls when she's on vacation.

Check the cell phone with who you leave in charge, said Mr. Unger, and take a break. Ms. Manning is dedicated, he added.

After a fire in Clayton, said Mr. Brown, he was asked about the county putting on a fire ban. The county has done that before, said County Attorney Steve Hirsch, but the question is whether to do a total ban or a ban with permits. The commissioners can do what they want with it, he said.

If a farmer has ground in the Conservation Reserve Program, noted Gene Gallentine, who was in the audience, and it's signed into the habitat improvement program, they have to burn or disc 30 percent of it every so many years.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved paying \$70 to AT&T from the E911 grant and \$5,806 out of the wireless 911 tax fund.
- Approved Bert Cool, dispatcher, going down to 20 hours a week and still receiving county health insurance at his expense.
- Received an invitation from Undersheriff Randy McHugh to attend an award ceremony for Sheriff Ken Badsky, who is receiving an Above and Beyond award from the National Guard.
- Talked about asking the fair foundation to help pay for the parts for electrical lines to be put in at the horse arena at the fairground, with the City of Oberlin supplying the labor.
- Ratified a decision to buy three window air conditioning units from R&M Service Center for \$600 a piece.
- Held a 10-minute closed session to discuss personnel. There was no action taken.



**WAITING TO GET BALLOONS** from a clown (above) at the Tarzan Zerbini Shrine Circus in Salina were (from left) Wesley Geihlsler, Dakota Tate and Troy Juenemann, fifth graders at Oberlin Elementary School. An all-expense-paid trip to the circus was made paid for by the Decatur County Shrine Club. Demi Murray (below) showed off her hat at the circus; she was the winner of a bicycle given away.

— Photos by Jerry Lohofener, Decatur County Shrine Club

## Shriners take kids to circus

By MARY LOU OLSON

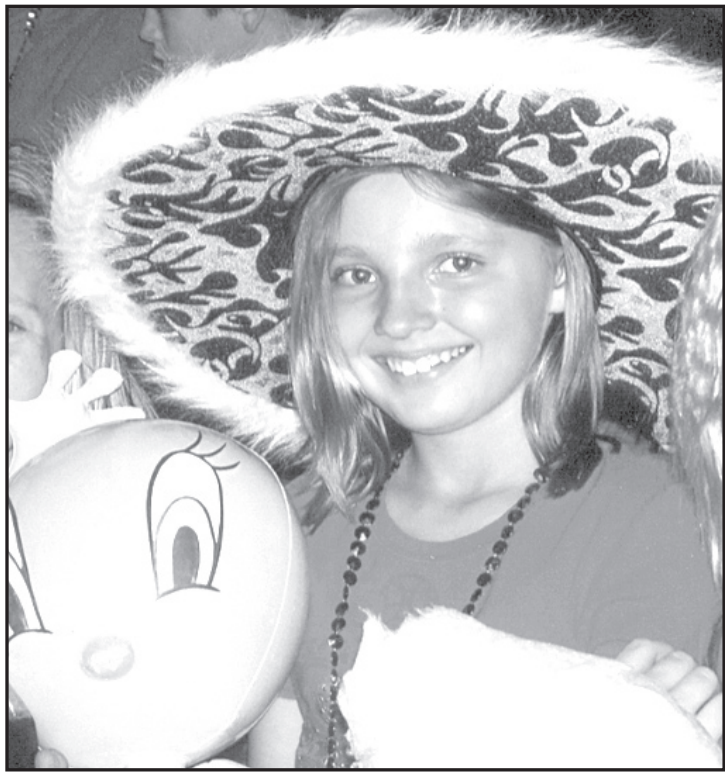
Thirty-three excited Oberlin Elementary School fifth graders and sponsors boarded a bus early Friday morning to head for Salina, where they were guests of the Decatur County Shrine Club for a day at the Tarzan Zerbini Shrine Circus.

Shriner Jerry Lohofener said the school district furnished the bus, but the club paid all of the other expenses, including the driver, fuel, circus tickets for everyone, plus \$10 spending money for each child.

The group made its first stop at the Masonic Center in Salina, where they had lunch and toured the building. Before going to the circus, Mr. Lohofener said, they spent some time at the playground at Kenwood Park. He said around 400 students from western and northwest Kansas were at the event, held at the Bicentennial Center.

Demi Murray of Oberlin won one of the two bicycles given by the Shriners, he said. The group had supper at McDonald's in WaKeeney on the return trip.

"One of the main projects



of the Shrine Club is to support the 21 Shriners Crippled Children's Hospitals and Burn Centers throughout the United States," Mr. Lohofener said. "There is no charge for children who use these facilities, and several from this area have received treatment."

Other students making the trip included Gabriel Anderson, Jordan Baker, Shawn Baker, Logan Berry, Kelden Breth, Kariah Castle, Aaron Cressler, Rex Diederich, Regent Erickson, Kaine Fredrickson, Wesley Geihlsler, Andrew Heller, Timothy Helm, Austin Hendrickson, Ganon Henningson,

Elizabeth Hollars, Molly and Morgan Jansonius, Troy Juenemann, Austin Kyte, McKenna O'Hare, Dallas Paul, Grace Randel, Daisy Rhein, Fernando Sanchez, Garrett Scott, Caitlin Shields, Dakota Tate, Kaleb Teddile, Rebecca Wentz, Whitney Witt and Kramer Wrinkles.

School staff making the trip were Jeri Buchholz, Kimberly Witt, Sheila Jansonius, Jeni Henningson and Mardi Lohofener. Dennis Agan was the bus driver; others on the bus were Mr. Lohofener and his wife Marcia and their son, Seth.

## Mexican picnic planned for park

Decatur Tomorrow is gearing up for a Cinco de Mayo picnic and community forum at Centennial Park to raise money for work at Sappa Park, giving people a chance to hear about what's going on at the park and what's already been done to improve it.

The forum, celebrating the traditional Mexican holiday, will also

be a fund raiser for park efforts, featuring "walking tacos" and live music.

Everyone is invited to bring their lawn chairs, sit and listen to the music and have a bite to eat, said Kem

Bryan, with Decatur Tomorrow. For the kids, the Decatur Tomorrow park committee will provide piñatas at 7 p.m.

The event will run from 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday, May 5.

# State claims business owes years of taxes

Reliance Body Shop of Oberlin was seized last Tuesday afternoon by agents of the Kansas Department of Revenue after what the state claims are "several years" of delinquent taxes adding up to \$152,209.

The seizure, executed by tax warrants served by the Oberlin Police Department, included all on-site cash, business inventory and personal property belonging to owner Glen Stragey.

The Kansas Department of Revenue, in a statement, said the assets will be sold at a public auction with the money going to the tax bill.

Delinquent taxes can include sales, withholding and income tax, plus others, the agency said, without specifying which were involved in this case.

Dedra Platt, manager civil tax enforcement at the department, said the owner is personally liable for the delinquent taxes. At this point, she added, no real estate has been seized. In most cases, she said, if that happens, the department will go through the foreclosure process.

Ms. Platt said the department makes every effort to collect taxes before seizing property. That includes letters, phone calls, letters about impending legal action, tax

liens filed, levies against bank accounts and payment plans, she said. The department is willing to make payment arrangements, but when nothing else has worked, said Ms. Platt, they can and will seize a business.

The statement said Reliance owed delinquent for taxes from October 1990 to November 1996, from January 1997 to March 1997, from January 2000 to January 2004, from December 2004 to July 2005, from September 2005 to December 2005 and for a few months in 2006.

The auction, said Ms. Platt, will most likely be in Hays. The department uses a firm known as Purple Wave. The company has a website and an office in Hays, she said.

A notice of the time and place will be sent to the newspaper, probably sometime this week, she said. It will need to be published twice.

Mr. Stragey said Monday he appreciated everyone who had done business with him over the past 23 years.

"I guess everything that has happened," he said, "happens for a reason."

Hopefully, he added, someone else will come in with a body shop, because, he said, he hates for the town to lose any more businesses.

## Personalized plates to get new design

People all over Kansas have the opportunity to help pick the design of new personalized license plates which will be offered starting in 2010.

The current plate has a buffalo on it. County Treasurer Jean Hale said a panel of judges has narrowed the search for the new plates down to five designs.

People can go online to [www.kstrevenue.org](http://www.kstrevenue.org) and vote on their favorite plate, said Mrs. Hale.

Voting ends on Wednesday, April 30, with the winning design being announced at the beginning of May.

To see the plates and, vote go the Kansas Department of Revenue

website. On the right side under the "Up to the Minute" heading, click on the vote for the new personalized plates.

The designs include:

- Two windmills, wagon wheels and a large sunflower.
- The state seal, a sunset, a windmill and the saying "America's Heartland."
- Green hills, a blue sky and Indian with a bow and arrow shooting towards the stars and the state motto, "To the Stars Through Difficulty."
- A windmill with the Kansas sun coming through clouds over a field.
- A map of Kansas and the saying, "Original Wild West."

## Free dump days set

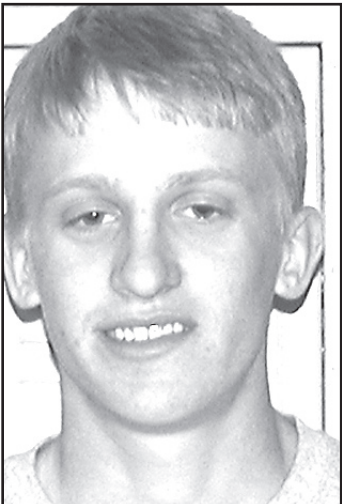
The Decatur County landfill will offer free dump days next week, from Monday to Saturday, May 3, county commissioners heard last Tuesday.

Citizens can bring one load for either a business or residence, said County Clerk Marilyn Horn.

There is a limit of five passenger tires for each person, he said. All refrigerated appliances must have a certificate saying the coolant has been removed or there will be a charge of \$10.

For information, call the road and bridge office at 475-8111.

## student of the week



**Name:** Jordan Tally  
**Parents:** Eugene and Tonya Tally  
**Grade:** 11  
**Age:** 17  
**We've nominated this student because:** He is a great worker. Very polite and has great initiative.

He will see what needs to be done, do it and can be depended on to follow through. He really stands out above many of his peers!

**Student Comment:** It is a great pleasure to be nominated for this.

**Activities involved in at school:** FFA, STUCO Vice President, Tact, Vocal, Drama and Golf.

**My choice of movies, books, and games:** Suspense movies.

**After I leave Decatur Community High School I intend to ...:** Attend an agricultural school and become a farmer.

**And 10 years from now, I think I'll be ...:** Running my own farm.

## student of the week



**Name:** Zach May  
**Parents:** Roland and Pam May  
**Grade:** 7  
**Age:** 13  
**We've nominated this student because:** He participates in all available activities. He is a good student who is always

ready to accept new challenges.

**Student Comment:** I am honored to receive this recognition.

**Activities involved in at school:** Football, Basketball, Wrestling, Track, Band, running for STUCO President and Vocal.

**My choice of movies, books, and games:** Comedy movies, any book and Hearts, Solitaire and Taboo games.

**After I leave Decatur Community High School I intend to ...:** Go into agriculture or engineering.

**And 10 years from now, I think I'll be ...:** Probably doing something around Oberlin.

**Favorite Quote:** "Just do it."

May  
Family Farms

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