



State gives center plan tax credits

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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The plan to replace the Golden Age Center and Sunflower Cinema with a new building including a bowling alley got a boost last week when the Kansas Department of Commerce awarded the project \$125,000 in Community Service Tax Credits.

The Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp. applied for \$175,000 in tax credits, which would have raised around \$250,000 for the project, but the state approved only \$125,000.

Greg Lohofener, a former board member who is working on the project for the corporation, said the \$125,000 will bring in roughly \$178,000, or 71 percent of what the corporation asked for.

At a public meeting at the Golden Age Center a few months ago and through a pledge campaign, the corporation got promises of dona-

tions totaling \$250,000 to \$260,000 to match the tax credits.

Now, said Mr. Lohofener, it's up to the corporation to sort out the pledges. Some people said they would give regardless of the refund on their state income taxes, he said.

Under the program, he said, a donor can get up to 70 percent of his or her gift to the project back as a credit on state taxes. With the lower amount authorized by the state, he said, around \$70,000 of the pledged money won't be eligible for the tax credit program.

Even though the corporation didn't get the full \$175,000, said Mr. Lohofener, being accepted into the program is good news.

The corporation hopes to use this money to buy equipment for the new senior center, cinema and bowling alley.

In the coming weeks, Mr. Lohofener (See CREDITS on Page 8A)

Showers slow wheat harvest

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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Spotty showers over the weekend slowed wheat harvest, which had barely started, to almost a standstill in the county by Monday.

In the Traer area, Dan Grafel, co-owner of D&S Grain and Cattle Co., said the area received around half an inch over the long weekend. That with the cooler weather and humidity has slowed things down, he said.

Farmers around Traer, he said, started to cut last Wednesday. The test weights have been pretty good, he said, and the yields on the summer-fallow wheat have been good, anywhere from 35 to 80 bushels per acre.

The elevator, said Mr. Grafel, has taken in around 73,000 bushels, with the ability to hold around 350,000.

Traer got 15 hundredths of rain Sunday night and then a light sprinkle Monday morning, said Mr. Grafel. He said he hadn't heard from a lot of the farmers in the area about this year's crop, except for the fact that people are ready to get harvest over with. It's later than normal, he said; most years they are done by now.

In Norcatour, the ground was wet, too, with the northeast part of the county getting around 25 hundredths of an inch of rain Sunday night and 10 hundredths Monday morning. With the little dabs of moisture, said Todd Johnson, general manager at Norcatour Grain, it's been hard for crews to get going.

Test weights in Norcatour have been 56 to 62 pounds per bushel, he said, with no trend in yields yet.

Most farmers in the area, he said, probably started cutting last Wednesday, although some brought in samples last Tuesday. It just hasn't really been busy yet, said Mr. Johnson.

At Hansen Mueller Grain in

Rain for year past normal once again

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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Oberlin has already received a little more than half the normal precipitation for the year in the first six months of 2008, so the area is on track for normal rainfall this year despite a budding drought farther west.

So far this year, said Jerry Killingsworth, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service office in Goodland, Oberlin has received 12.97 inches of precipitation. Typical precipitation for a year is 20.79 inches, he said, and last year, the area got 20.35.

The office, he said, has records back to 1893 for Oberlin, so there's a long history of what's typical.

In May, said Mr. Killingsworth, Oberlin received 6.32 inches of rain, a huge amount in just one month, and if things keep going as they are, there's no reason to believe that Oberlin won't have normal or above normal precipitation this year.

Last year, from January to June, the area got 9.97 inches, compared to this year from

(See RAIN on Page 8A)

Oberlin, things were slow on Monday morning. Janice O'Hare said they had probably taken in about 125,000 bushels. There's been some good-quality wheat harvested, she said, but so far no one is talking much about yields.

Some of the farmers in the area (See WHEAT on Page 8A)

Passing chief stops fire in rolling Bug

By **STEVE HAYNES**
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They say there's never a cop around when you need one, only when you're speeding. But what about a fireman?

Apparently, the same rules don't always apply.

Oberlin Fire Chief Bill Cathcart was driving up Elk Avenue, just a couple of blocks from his house Sunday, when he spotted a Volkswagen Beetle spewing smoke.

"I thought, 'That car doesn't look

like a diesel,'" he said later.

Bill Flynn said he had just pulled the car out of Roxie Pomeroy's garage at 108 S. Elk when he noticed it was on fire. He'd been working on the car and wanted to see how it was driving. Though he was glad he got it out of the garage, he said, he didn't want to park it near anyone else's house, either, "in case it blew up."

He pulled to the curb just as Chief Cathcart drove up. The chief (See FIRE on Page 8A)



Parade pleases all ages

PEDDLING A BICYCLE, a visitor from Phillipsburg (above) was one of a dozen or so entries in the Good Samaritan Center's Fourth of July parade on Friday. Erin May (left), who had been in the parade, enjoyed a dish of homemade ice cream afterwards. Dorothy Pryor (below) also enjoyed her ice cream.

— Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes

