

## Elevators full with bumper crop

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**  
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Harvest has come and gone, leaving elevators full, piles of wheat on the ground and elevator operators coming up with plans of where to store the fall crops.

Farmers and others in the business say it's possibly the best harvest many have seen, at least in years and years. Wheat filled the area elevators and is being moved out as fast as rail cars and trucks can take it.

With rains just about every night or

every other night, the harvest lasted nearly a month.

Kurt Anderson, general manager of the Decatur Co-op, said he thought the first load came in to the Lenora elevator on June 24 and the last one was dumped in Nebraska around July 23 or 24.

The co-op brought in 5.3 million to 5.4 million bushels at all its nine locations. Mr. Anderson said that was a definite increase over last year's harvest, but because they added three locations since then, he hasn't figured out just how much. Since last

year, he said, the farmer-owned company added elevators in Lenora, Edmond and Norcatour.

Those bushels include wheat that's been stored on the ground in Oberlin and Jennings, he said, but on Monday, the crew in Oberlin was moving that wheat from the ground to the elevator.

Historically, he said, this was probably the best wheat harvest the co-op ever had.

With a big harvest, though, said Mr. Anderson, this year's crop isn't going to be sold or moved right away. It will take two years,

he predicted, to get rid of all this wheat, unless something happens worldwide.

Most of the delivery points, including terminal elevators and mills, are jam packed, with everyone in northwest Kansas shipping wheat out.

Monday morning, he said, the price of wheat was up 23 to 24 cents, so he thought farmers would be selling some. Others will wait to see what the price is going to do.

Mr. Anderson said they are selling and moving the crop so they can to make room for corn, which looks to be good, too.

Corn use seems to be down with cattle feed numbers down and the overall use of the grain, which means it will be a storage situation.

Dan Grafel, co-owner of D&S Grain and Cattle Co., said the Traer area saw big yields throughout this year's harvest, with a record crop. In general, the area had yields in the high 50s on continuous crop wheat and everything else. There was some summer fallow wheat that was in the 70s, he said.

There have been high yields here and (See CREW on Page 8A)



**AT THE HORSE SHOW** on Saturday at the Decatur County Fairground, Cheyanna Hale, 4, (above) rode her pony, Hot Fudge, led by her dad, Byron. Gideon Carman, 2, waved to the audience during the lead-line part of the show.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

## Work planned to move dirt for new wetland

After years of planning, paperwork and vision, dirt work for the Sappa Park wetlands should start at the end of September, weather permitting.

The wetlands, essentially a pond carved out along the creek bank behind the existing dam and spillway, should back up enough water for recreation and wildlife. A new overflow will be cut through the dam to keep the water from getting too high after the existing drain pipe is closed.

Rick Pauls, with Pheasants Forever, which leases the lake bottom and farm land at the park from the city, said contractor Dave Bose will do the dirt work. With the rainy summer this year, said Mr. Pauls, Mr. Bose will probably start toward the end of September. Nelson Construction will do some work on the spillway and rip rap work for a foot bridge that will be needed, he said.

Mr. Pauls said he thinks the project has been in the works for close to three years. The needed permits are now in place, he said, and the plans are approved and ready.

The water, about 15 acre feet, he said, should provide four acres of surface north and west of the shelter house at the park.

Work not only includes moving dirt from the former lake bottom to

allow water to be held, but a new outlet through the spillway 10 to 11 feet higher than the existing drain.

At the spillway, said Mr. Pauls, the water will be about 11 feet deep, and it should be three to five feet in front of the shelter house.

The wetlands will provide a piece of tranquility, said Mr. Pauls, a place for quiet recreation activities and will improve the habitat for the wildlife.

At this time, the wetlands will not be stocked with fish.

Sappa Park was built in the 1930s with a state fishing lake, but the city lost the water rights after receiving title to the land from the state in the 1960s.

Money for the wetlands project will include around \$66,000 from the city and a \$5,500 grant from the Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams which will be filtered through the city.

Mr. Pauls said the group plans a ground breaking for the wetlands at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 13.

The Sappa Park Committee, part of Decatur Tomorrow, is working on plans for bathrooms in the former bathroom areas in the historic shelter house.

The plans include men's and women's facilities, each with two toilets, a shower and a sink.

## Celebration set for city's 125th

Oberlin's 125th anniversary, or quasicentennial, is only a year away, and members of civic groups and committees met last Wednesday to start brainstorming ideas for the celebration, set for the weekend of the Last Indian Raid Museum's 2010 Mini Sapa Day.

Those involved include Connie Grafel, marketing director of the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp.; Rusty and Sharon Addleman, former business owners; Carolyn Hackney, Chamber manager; Mary Henzel, with the Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission; former Mayor Gary Walter, with the Bank; Gary Anderson, owner of the LandMark Inn; Sharleen Wurm, museum curator; Tami Shaw, a museum board member; LaMoine Wolfram, owner of Oberlin Automotive; Carolyn Wurm, with the Mini Sappa Antique

Engine and Thresher Show; Kim Davis, with *The Oberlin Herald*; and community members Barb Dehlinger, Charlotte Meints and Ruth Miesner.

Some of the members helped organize and implement the town's Centennial celebration in 1985.

None of the ideas is set, with the exception of plans at the museum for Mini Sapa. Mrs. Wurm said the museum still wants to do a breakfast and lunch and plans to create a calendar with pictures of the way the city used to look.

Other ideas discussed included:

- A parade.
- A weekend celebration instead of just a day, or holding events piggybacked to others, including the Mini Sappa Antique Engine and Thresher Show in September, homecoming at the high school, (See ANNIVERSARY on Page 8A)

## Swine flu confirmed in two teenagers here

Decatur County has its first two confirmed cases of the H1N1 swine flu virus.

Health Administrator Marilyn Gamblin said the confirmed case was in a 17-year-old girl who spent two weeks at camp. Ms. Gamblin said the girl said she didn't notice that anyone had been sick.

Another sample was sent in last week, said Ms. Gamblin, which also came back positive. The samples are sent to the state for testing.

The virus, first noticed in Mexico, has been responsible for deaths in both Mexico and the United States.

Symptoms, said Ms. Gamblin, include a fever of 100 degrees or more, body ache, coughing or sore throat, diarrhea or vomiting and

congestion or a runny nose.

If someone has those symptoms, she said, they should see a doctor.

To slow the spread of the flu, she said, everyone needs to make sure that they are washing their hands with soap and water or a disinfectant several times a day. If you are sick, she said, try not to touch your nose, mouth or eyes. Cough into a tissue or your elbow.

Ms. Gamblin said if someone knows they have the flu, they should rest, take care of themselves, eat fruits and vegetables and not be around other people.

For questions, she said, people can call the health department at 475-8118 or the Kansas Department of Health and Environment toll-free number at (877) 427-7317.

## Horses start the fair

The Decatur County Fair and Home-Owned Carnival started with the fashion revue, horse show, games and rides, but the real show is yet to come.

At 5 p.m. tonight, 4-H members will hold their sheep show, while in the parking lot, kids can register for a pedal tractor pull, sponsored by Farm Bureau, that starts at 5:30 p.m.

Exhibits, including photography, arts and crafts, woodworking, flowers, vegetables and more, will open from 6 to 10 p.m. The carnival rides and games open at 7 p.m.

The schedule for the rest of the week includes:

### Thursday

- 9 a.m., swine show.
- 11 a.m., pictures of the reserve and grand champion winners in livestock classes.
- 3:30 p.m., senior and intermediate round-robin showmanship contest.
- 6-10 p.m., exhibits open.
- 6:30 p.m., livestock auction.
- 7 p.m., carnival opens.
- 8 p.m., Tough Truck competition, grandstand.

### Friday

- 8 p.m., clean up livestock barn.
- 1:30 p.m., pet parade at the Good Samaritan Center.
- 5:30 p.m., public fashion revue at The Gateway.
- 6-10 p.m., exhibits open.
- 6 p.m., Kid's Ranch Rodeo,



grandstand.

- 7 p.m., carnival opens.
- 8 p.m., Demolition Derby, grandstand.

• 9:30-10:30 p.m., release of exhibits.

### Saturday

- 5:30 p.m., motorcycle prac-

tice, track.

- 7 p.m., carnival open.
- 7 p.m., motorcycle racing, grandstand.



# \* Anniversary celebration set for city

(Continued from Page 1A)  
alumni weekend or the Fourth of July.

- A wedding dress or dress show of the era.
- A Drum and Bugle Corps.
- A beard contest.
- A baby contest.
- Showing an old time movie at the new theater.
- Games and dancing, like a mini-carnival, in City Park.
- A performance by traveling can-can girls.
- Having an old-time photography outfit come in.
- Indian dancers.
- A trail ride tied in with a meal at the Ginther Ranch again.
- An ice cream social.
- Opening the time capsule at the courthouse.
- Reprinting the 100th Anniversary cookbook with additional recipes for the 125th.

Decorating windows on Main Street with the history of each building.

- A 125th anniversary special section in the newspaper.
- A coloring books for the kids.
- Asking the Indian Dancers or someone to perform at the half time show of the high school football game the Friday before Mini Sapa, if it's a home game.
- Having a jazz band or the Community Band play.
- Holding a heritage homes tour.

Ms. Grafel said anyone who wants to suggest an idea or serve on a committee can call the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce office at 475-3441 or come to the next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 9, in the parlor at the Last Indian Rain Museum.

The museum's 2010 Mini Sapa Day will be Saturday, Oct. 2.



**ON MONDAY**, workers at the Decatur Co-op worked to pick up wheat that had been stored on the ground since harvest. With a bumper crop, the co-op had to store wheat on the ground in Oberlin and Jennings while waiting to ship some out. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

## \*Crew moves wheat off the ground

(Continued from Page 1A)  
there in the past, he added, but these numbers were consistent across the area.

The problem is that there is no home for all the wheat, he said. The protein in the grain is down, so the mills don't like it as much. That means there's wheat in the bins, and a giant corn crop in the field.

Mr. Grafel said he foresees a lot of corn going on the ground.

There's been a little bit of hail damage on the fall crops, pockets here and there, he said. There was some damage on Friday night, said Mr. Grafel, but he hadn't heard the extent.

Wheat harvest, he said, did seem to drag out some. It was damp and cloudy. Guys couldn't get started until late afternoon, instead of after morning chores.

The weather kept them out of the field until 2 or 3 p.m., he said, and then they would have to shut things off at night.

Mr. Grafel said he thinks the fall harvest will be later than normal, too. Much grain was planted late and the area had a cool, wet spring.

At Hansen Mueller Grain in Oberlin, Janice O'Hare said they, too, are getting ready for fall. She said they are shipping 20 to 30 trucks a day

to be ready to take in corn. Just this week, she said, they have 160 loads of corn to be shipped, and that didn't include the loads of wheat to be moved.

She said she estimated the elevator took in 1.3 million bushels at both locations. Mrs. O'Hare said they took in more grain than in the past year, but added that they have 1 million bushels in capacity this year.

Farmers are saying this was the best harvest they have every had, she said, and it probably was the best harvest she's seen as far as yields go.

## Tickets on sale for garden tour

Tickets are ready and on sale for the Decatur Professional Women's Pond and Garden Tour in Oberlin this month.

In the past, the group has held a homes tour in December as the fund raiser for scholarships. The club plans to take a year off from the home tour and then resume it in 2010.

In its place, the women have talked to several homeowners and will sponsor a Pond and Garden Route from 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 23.

The tour will visit the ponds and gardens of Gary and Mary Ann Erickson, Gaylord and Shirley Shields, Richard and Clara Russ, Eunice Richards, and Bernard and Frieda Goetze.

Everyone attending is asked to meet at the gazebo in Centennial Park. Tickets, \$7 for a single or \$12 for a couple, can be purchased from members of the group or at the Dresser, the Chamber office or *The Oberlin Herald*.

## Group offers to pay half of porta-potties

The Oberlin Convention and Visitors Bureau discussed restrooms at Sappa Park, offering to pay for half of the cost of two portable units for six months.

The group discussed some ideas at the meeting Wednesday, July 15, including building new restrooms with showers at the park, renting portable units or building restrooms and showers in the historic shelter house.

There might be some resistance to putting the restrooms inside the shelter house, said Carolyn Burtis, owner of the RJ Metcalf Realty and former co-chair of the Sappa Park committee. That building should be on the historic registry, she said.

A plan which the old park committee had, said Gary Anderson, owner of the LandMark Inn, didn't change anything on the exterior of the shelter house. The bathrooms would go on the inside of the building on the north side of the breezeway.

The bureau members agreed that the restrooms need to be handicap accessible.

Mr. Anderson suggested that the park committee invite plumbers to

come give a price estimate on the restrooms.

The members voted at the meeting Thursday, July 16, to help the city pay for six months of rental on the portable units now in use at the park. Permanent restrooms were shut down in the spring after a state inspector discovered they were basically just outhouses.

Connie Grafel, a board member who is marketing director of the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp., said she was talking with the city administrator about the parks, and he asked her to be a city liaison and resign from the bureau's board.

There doesn't need to be another park liaison or committee, said Mrs. Burtis. Maybe the city needs to hire a park superintendent who will do his job. The city doesn't need to add another layer to the parks, agreed Mr. Anderson.

At some time, the city is going to have to take ownership of the park, said Mrs. Burtis. They can't expect volunteers and Pheasants Forever to do the work forever.

Maybe that should be the recommendation to the city administrator,

that the city hire an active park superintendent, said Mr. Anderson.

Ms. Grafel said a man from Nebraska came and did a feasibility study on building a new motel in Oberlin. When he left, said Ms. Grafel, he seemed positive.

While he was here, he had a good meeting with the city administrator. Mr. Anderson said he met with him and he talked with others in town.

Ms. Grafel said he talked with people around town who all had a story to tell about a family member or someone who came to town for an event and had to go out of town to find a room.

He didn't like the spot next to the Gateway the city offered him, said Ms. Grafel, because the visibility from U.S. 36 was not good. Ms. Grafel said they would probably have a feasibility plan in about three weeks.

Chamber Manager Carolyn Hackney said she thought she would nominate Sappa Park to the "8 Wonders" of Kansas. It has to be open 40 weeks out of the year, said Ms. Hackney, and meet other criteria.

Mr. Anderson said the home-owned carnival might be considered because even though it's only open for one week in the summer, it can be seen all year around.

The bureau members decided to sponsor the second annual "Up in Smoke" barbecue cookoff on Saturday, Sept. 19, at Sappa Park. The sponsorship costs \$250.

## Officer leaves hospital

Dave Nichols, who has been the chief financial officer for Decatur Health Systems and the Decatur County Hospital, has left his position.

Administrator Lynn Doeden said she wasn't able to give any information about Mr. Nichols, except that he no longer works at the hospital.

Amanda Fortin, who works in the front office, is serving as the interim financial officer, she said.

Mr. Nichols was reached at home on Monday, but had no comment.

Police Chief Wade Lockhart said a case has been turned over to the Oberlin Police Department for investigation.

## City's park superintendent resigns

Oberlin's city park superintendent resigned Thursday after working for the city for 21 years.

City Administrator Austin Gilley said he does not plan to hire someone right away to fill the position vacated by Rocky Diederich.

Instead, he said, he's running an ad for contract mowing and asking other departments to pitch in for parts of the job.

The city may re-evaluate hiring

someone for the job before the next mowing season, said Mr. Gilley. Mr. Diederich did park maintenance and assisted with other public works jobs.

## Special Olympics trucker convoy set

Special Olympics is calling all truckers in northwest Kansas to be a part of the World's Largest Truck Convoy on Saturday, Sept. 12, by joining of drivers from 34 states and seven Canadian provinces to raise money for the program.

"Last year, Kansas ranked 13th in the event," said Joe Mentlick, of Colby, area event chair, "and this year we hope to place in the top 10 states for funds raised."

Mr. Mentlick said he and his wife, Jane, have a son Greg, who is a Special Olympics athlete on the Colby Angels team.

The western Kansas convoy will start at 10 a.m. at the Mitten Travel Plaza in Oakley and end at Truck Town in Colby with lunch. Vehicles must be 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight or larger. The lead truck will be determined by an auction at 9:30 a.m. the day of the event. Entry fee is \$100 per truck, which includes the convoy, a goodie bag, lunch and entertainment. Pledges may be collected to cover the fee.

"Truckers keep America moving," said Mr. Mentlick, "and through events like the convoy help to keep Special Olympic Kansas

athletes moving from the sidelines to the playing field. Money raised is directed toward programs for the 4,854 athletes in Kansas, who compete in 22 sports. Over 1,600 certified coaches help athletes train and compete throughout the year."

For information, call the Mentlicks (785) 443-1682, Tom Sloan (785) 675-8540, Jack Collins (785) 675-8375 or Daryl Goetz (785) 673-4336. For details, go to [www.kssso.org](http://www.kssso.org).

**Planning a Wedding?**

**The Oberlin Herald**  
is happy to run pictures and stories of weddings.

However, we need the information within five weeks of the marriage. Write-ups received after this date require a \$10 charge for each month past the deadline date.

**Stop by our office for a wedding form.**

### Oberlin Arts & Humanities 2009-2010 Schedule

#### Season Ticket Events:

Sat., September 12, 2009 Gateway Theater	7:30 p.m.	Crossroads Gospel Choir
Sat., October 3, 2009 Colby Community College Auditorium	7:30 p.m.	Jim Salestrom and Suzy Boggus <small>In conjunction with Western Plains Arts Association</small>
Sun., October 11, 2009 Gateway Theater	2:00 p.m.	Wichita Children's Theater
Sat., October 17, 2009 Gateway Arena	7:30 p.m.	Theater in the Round "Harvey" <small>SWNE Community Theater</small>
Sat., November 7, 2009 Gateway Theater	6:30 and 7:30 p.m.	Dinner Theater Acoustic Eldolon
Sat., December 5, 2009 Gateway Theater	7:30 p.m.	Table for 5 Vocal Quintet
Sat., January 30, 2010 Gateway Theater	7:30 p.m.	Keith West Magic and Illusion
Sun., February 21, 2010 Gateway Theater	2:00 p.m.	Jackie Creamer's Dance Studio
Sun., April 18, 2010 Start at Bohemian Hall	2:00 p.m.	History tour of Local Churches <small>Lund, Prairie chapel, and Leoville</small>

**YOUR MEMBERSHIP ALSO SUPPORTS:**

October 11, 2009, Sun. ....	Wichita Childrens Theater performance at Good Samaritan Center and Cedar Living Center
April 24-25 2010, Sat., Sun., 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. ....	High Plains ArtFest Spring 2010
Monthly, (call 475-2707 for reservations) .....	Anna Seeber Shaw Watercolor Workshop Series

For Program information call Ella Betts (785-475-3557) or Mary Henzel (785-475-3329)  
Information also available at [www.oberlinarts.org](http://www.oberlinarts.org)

**SINGLE EVENT TICKETS AVAILABLE AT DOOR**

Season Tickets:

- \$60 Each, all season ticket events; one Dinner/Theater
- \$125 Family, all season ticket events; all school age youth and two Dinner/Theater
- \$65 Single Family, all season ticket events; all school age youth and one Dinner/Theater

Tickets will be mailed to you if the mail-in form below is completed with payment enclosed and returned to Oberlin Arts & Humanities, Ella Betts, 601 N. Penn, Oberlin, KS 67749

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

State type of ticket as above

1. \$60. x _____ tickets \$ _____	\$75. (1 ticket) Patron \$ _____
2. \$125. x _____ tickets \$ _____	\$100. (1 ticket) Benefactor \$ _____
3. \$65. x _____ tickets \$ _____	\$500. Corporate (includes 4 tickets) \$ _____

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For more information or to purchase tickets, contact:

Ron Jansomius ..... 475-2648	Joy Russell ..... 475-3371	Rhonda May ..... 475-1500
Christie Morris ..... 475-2070	Charlotte Meints ..... 475-3959	Sarah Bricker ..... 475-2487
Pam May ..... 475-3606	Mary Henzel ..... 475-3329	Ella Betts ..... 475-3557

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