

Fun Day planned in Jennings

The 18th annual Jennings Firemen's Fun Day, which raises money for the town's volunteer fire department, kicks off Saturday with a health fair, lunch and a parade, and ends with a dinner and street dance that night.

Chief Kerry Green said the community has the Fun Day to raise money to buy equipment for the Jennings Department; it just helps better the community's fire district. Bring the kids, grandkids and family to visit and have fun.

This is an opportunity for the community to come together and even some come back for the event, said Chief Green.

The day starts at 8 a.m. Saturday in downtown Jennings with a health fair at the senior center. Blood will be taken for a \$35 health profile and \$20 prostate cancer screening. Dr. Elizabeth Sliter plans to give out information on swine flu.

From there, the events just keep going, ending with the crowning of the Fun Day queen at 7 p.m., announcement of the raffle winners and the street dance with deejays from Mobile Music Express.

Here is the schedule:

- 8 a.m. – Health fair at senior center.
- 8 to 10 a.m. – Kolache coffee at the senior center.
- 8 a.m. – Community garage and bake sale starts in the American Legion Hall.
- 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. – Safety demonstrations by Kansas Highway Patrol troopers.
- 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. – Wobble trap shoot five miles north of Jennings on Bill Heilman's farm. Bring your

own shotgun and shells.

- 10 a.m. – Train rides for the kids start.
- 10 a.m. – Cake walk at City Hall.
- 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. – Czech Museum open with free admission.
- 10:30 a.m. – Treasure hunt, meet at the Legion Hall.
- 10:30 a.m. – Children's games, including dunk tank, corn search, pony rides and giant slide.
- 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. – Bingo at the Senior Center.
- 11 a.m. – The Old Time Band from Hoxie will play.
- 11:30 a.m. – Lunch counter opens in the fire station.
- Noon to 12:30 p.m. – Line up for the parade on the south end of Pennsylvania Avenue.
- 12:30 p.m. – Queen candidates register at the parade site.
- 1:30 p.m. – Parade starts.
- 2:30 p.m. – Children's games resume.
- 3 p.m. – Kid's tractor pull.
- 4 p.m. – Firemen's team barrel competition.
- 6 p.m. – Hog roast at the fire station.
- 7 p.m. – Crowning of queen on Main Street, followed by a street dance with Mobile Music Express.

Money raised over the years has helped buy equipment for the fire department. Most recently, the department was able to purchase a 1996 International 9400 tanker, which holds 5,400 gallons of water. Chief Green said the tanker was bought in 2009, but they haven't had to use it yet.

Rain covers town over the weekend

Sometimes when it rains, it pours, or at least that's how it was this weekend, with over three inches falling on Oberlin.

The National Weather Service in Goodland reports that from Friday to Saturday Oberlin received 1.94 inches of rain as storms came in waves. Saturday night and early Sunday, another .08 of an inch fell.

Early Monday, it stormed again, although there isn't an official report on how much rain fell. One unofficial observer had .15 of an inch.

This isn't typical weather for the middle of August, but it's what's been happening. Meteorologist Brad Mickelson at Goodland weather station said an upper-level storm system moved out of southern Canada and through the northern states. That system clipped the central High Plains, he said, and there was plenty of moisture in the lower level, making things just right for severe thunderstorms.

That's what happened over the

weekend, he said.

Late Saturday into early Sunday, a cold front moved through the area from the north, said Mr. Mickelson, and the cool air combined with moist winds from the south. All of that helped create the storm that had warnings out pretty much all night. The storms hit heaviest in the south.

Around 9:52 p.m. Saturday, a severe thunderstorm warning was issued for southern Decatur County, with the possibility of golf ball size hail and winds up to 70 mph. At 10:08 p.m., there was another severe thunderstorm warning for the county, this time with walnut-size hail with damaging winds in excess of 60 mph. That was canceled at 10:16 p.m. and replaced with a new one.

Power was reported out in both Dresden and Jennings during the storms. Many streets in Oberlin were flooded, and city workers came out to clear storm grates.

Early Sunday morning, said Mr. (See RAIN on Page 5A)



AT SAPPA PARK on Thursday, Rick Pauls (above left) explained the plans for the wetlands in front of the shelter house to former Mayor Ken Shobe and Mayor Joe Stanley. City Administrator Austin Gilley (below) and his daughter

Savannah walked down the steps to the former lake bed to help dig the first shovel full of dirt.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



Wetlands project gets start

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

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About 50 people met at the Sappa Park shelter house Thursday to watch the first shovel full of dirt be moved from the bottom of the former lake bed where the new wetlands will go.

After about three years of research, meetings, plans and vision, dirt work for the wetlands will start in September.

The farm contracts on the lake bed had expired, said Mayor Joe Stanley. The city had a lucrative option to lease the farm ground for hay, but the council decided it would be better to use the park for recreation. The city didn't have a plan, he said. That's when the volunteer group Pheasants Forever stepped in.

Pheasants Forever has leased the ground since 2004. In those years, the group has taken out fence, planted thousands of trees, grasses, sweet corn and pumpkins and worked on making the area not just more of a recreation place, but better habitat for the wildlife.

On behalf of Pheasants Forever and the community, Rick Pauls, who has been the spear head on the project, thanked Mayor Stanley, former mayors and everyone who has helped.

It's been a lot of work, said Mr. Pauls, but people soon will be able to see the finished product.

The plan for the wetlands, he said, includes digging around the current concrete spillway, where the water will be 11 feet (See SHOVEL on Page 5A)

Budget to be set

The Oberlin City Council will hold a budget hearing first thing when it meets at 7 p.m. Thursday upstairs in The Gateway.

The hearing, originally scheduled for the council's meeting last week, was postponed when that meeting was canceled.

The published budget included \$500,000 for possible stimulus money that could be used at the airport, \$32,000 for cost of living raises, 5 to 15 percent raises for a few employees (See BUDGET on Page 5A)

Woman wins \$1,000 in scrip in Shopping Spree

Shocked about winning the scrip prize for the Oberlin Merchant's Big \$1,000 Shopping Spree, Linda Weber wasn't sure where she was going to spend the money at first.

At the Back-to-School Picnic last Wednesday, Mrs. Weber's was the second name drawn from a trash can, just about full of

little white slips of paper. For the past six weeks, people have been able to sign up for a chance to win the \$1,000 in scrip at sponsoring businesses.

The sponsors include Dale's Fish 'N' Fun, Culligan Water, Ward Drug Store, Stanley Hardware, Raye's Grocery, Shear Creations

West and Day Spa, Rocking R and *The Oberlin Herald*.

The first name drawn was Cory Marine, but she wasn't at the picnic to claim her prize.

Mrs. Weber said she never thought that she would win the spree. She said she probably hadn't signed up even 10 times, maybe just

a few at Ward Drug Store, Stanley Hardware and Raye's Grocery.

Although at first she didn't know how she would spend the \$1,000 in scrip, later a plan started to form, she said.

On Thursday, she went to the hardware (See WINNER on Page 5A)

Former hospital employee faces 22 charges

The former chief financial officer for the Decatur County Hospital and Decatur Health Systems has been charged with 22 counts of writing checks on Wheat Ridge Terrace apartments for his own benefit.

Dave Nichols, 65, will step in front of a judge for the first time the last day of the month. Court

officials said he has been issued a summons to a first appearance at 10 a.m., Monday, Aug. 31, in the Decatur County courtroom.

The 22 counts, all level 8 nonperson felonies, add up to \$37,766.01.

According to the court documents filed Thursday, Mr. Nichols wrote fraudulent checks out of the

Wheat Ridge account. The first one dates back to last May, with the last one at the end of January. Mr. Nichols no longer works at the hospital.

Each check is listed in a separate count, including:

- May 28, 2008 for \$1,394.22.
- June 13 for \$2,299.97.
- July 18 for \$1,354.22.

- Aug. 1 for \$2,056.93.
- Sept. 11 for \$1,836.83.
- July 31 for \$2,347.79.
- Oct. 1 for \$1,988.45.
- Oct. 21 for \$2,253.01.
- Nov. 3 for \$1,965.65.
- Nov. 22 for \$2,148.
- Jan. 2, 2009 for \$819.13.
- Jan. 2 for \$2,203.54.
- Feb. 18 for \$2,433.88.

- Feb. 27 for \$781.02.
- March 16 for \$1,151.33.
- March 30 for \$1,937.34.
- May 1 for \$2,156.93.
- June 1 for \$786.70.
- June 2 for \$411.18.
- June 8 for \$1,978.54.
- June 11 for \$1,254.28.
- June 30 for \$1,852.07.