

Winter storm didn't materialize

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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Depending on the forecast you caught, Decatur County was suppose to get anywhere from one to nine inches of snow last week. Instead, all it did was rain.

It rained and rained and rained some more actually, with 1.81 inches falling from late Tuesday night to Thursday. Some parts of the county reported more than 2 inches.

It may seem like it's rained a lot this month. It seems every other day or every

third day there were showers, which is why we've had 3.5 inches of moisture so far — and the month isn't over.

The average for Decatur County for October, based on numbers kept at the National Weather Service in Goodland, is 1.32 inches, said meteorologist Chris Foltz.

It's typical, said Mr. Foltz, during the transition between summer and winter for things to be wet and the weather to be more active.

Last week, some counties in northwest

Kansas, eastern Colorado and southwest Nebraska got a lot of snow out of the storm, while others got a lot of rain. The snow didn't materialize further east into the state, said Mr. Foltz, because the storm pulled more warm air in that originally thought. That warm air minimized the snow, turning the precipitation into rain instead.

It did snow a little in Decatur County, he said, but when it hit the ground, the white stuff just melted. During the early winter storms like this one, said Mr. Foltz,

the ground is normally warm enough that snow melts right away, that is unless a lot of snow falls.

That's what happened in St. Francis, where they recorded around four inches of snow. In Stratton, Colo., around a foot of snow took out power poles and knocked the electricity out for a short time. Interstate 70 was closed snow packed and icy Thursday morning.

There's another storm system moving in, Mr. Foltz said, but different computer

tracking systems show different information. From today to Thursday, the weather service shows rain and a chance of snow for Oberlin.

Generally speaking, said Mr. Foltz, the large-scale weather pattern is for a little warmer temperatures than normal over the next three months. Normal for this area is mid to upper 50s in November, he said dropping to highs in the 30s in January. So if in December, the weather gets in the mid to high 50s, that's obviously above normal.



County gets several doses of flu vaccine

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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With flu season here, a lot of people might be interested in receiving the H1N1 Influenza A vaccine, but Decatur County has only received a few doses and is saving those for high-risk patients, including toddlers and babies, pregnant women and health workers.

Administrator Marilyn Gamblin said the department has only received 30 of the flu mist and 28 of the shots for the H1N1, or swine flu, vaccine it ordered.

Ms. Gamblin said they have identified high-risk groups to begin vaccinating, including pregnant women, those who care for kids younger than 6 months, health-care workers, kids 6 months to age 4, and people from 5 to 18 years old who have a medical condition that makes them susceptible to serious side effects.

While the department is receiving vaccine doses each week, she said, so far they are only getting nine to 10 at a time. The department is going

in with departments from Norton, Cheyenne, Rawlins, Phillips, Graham and Rooks Counties, to receive the grants, said Ms. Gamblin, since the allotments have to be sent 100 at a time.

As the county gets more of the vaccines, she said, the department plans to expand the target groups.

During flu season, Ms. Gamblin said, it's important for people to remember to wash their hands with soap and warm water or use an alcohol hand sanitizer. People should also avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth.

If people are sick or if their kids are sick, she said, they should stay home. If a tissue isn't handy, people should cough or sneeze into their elbow, said Ms. Gamblin.

Another part of keeping the flu at bay and remaining healthy, she said, is to eat a balanced diet, drink lots of water and get enough rest and exercise.

Symptoms for the H1N1 or swine flu are the same as the seasonal flu. (See FLU on Page 10A)

Physician assistant to treat patients at medical clinic

The staff at the Oberlin Clinic will grow at the beginning of November with a physician's assistant coming

Jennifer Taylor of Phillipsburg will start at the clinic on Monday, Nov. 2. This is her first post as a physician assistant after graduating from Wichita State University with a master's degree at the end of July. Prior to that, she received a Bachelor of Science degree from Fort Hays State University in general science.

Mrs. Taylor said she went back to school after her kids went to college. She and her husband Tony have two children, Amanda, who is in her first year at the University of Kansas School of Medicine in Kansas City, and Nick, who works on a ranch in Brewster.

Although this will be Mrs. Taylor's first job as a physician's assistant, it's not her first time working in the medical field. She said she was the education coordinator for the

Phillipsburg hospital for 11 years, starting in 1984, clinic manager for Health Care Associates in Phillipsburg and a community case manager for High Plains Mental Health.

Mrs. Taylor said she decided to become a physician's assistant because medicine is a fascinating subject. After working in the field, she said, she enjoyed it and it was a good job. With her new degree, she said, she can do more to help people. Mrs. Taylor

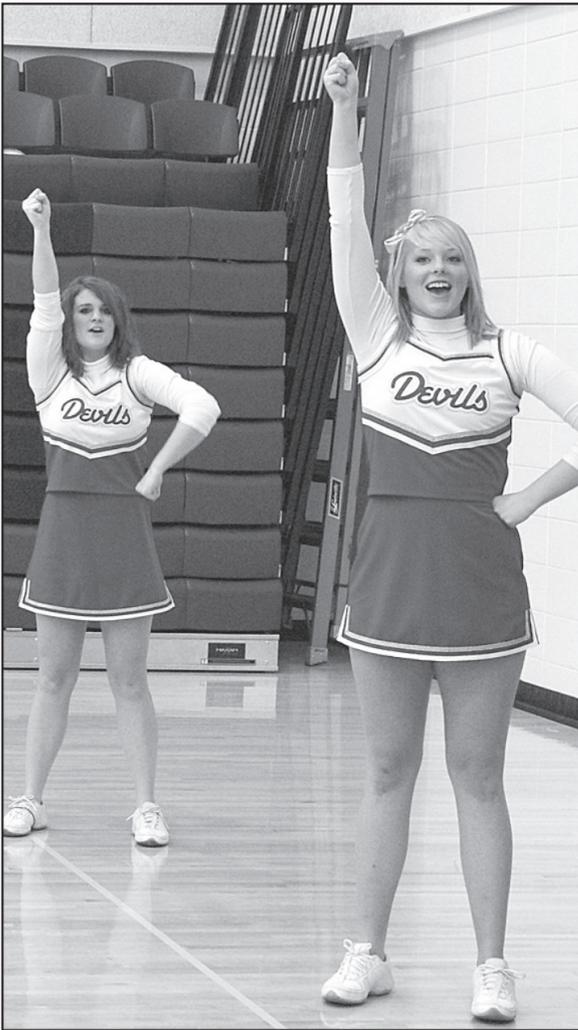
added that she likes being around the patients and their families and being able to help them.

The plan is for Mrs. Taylor to work in the clinic and then have privileges at the Decatur County Hospital, she said, that is pending at the hospital.

Mrs. Taylor said she loves small towns and wants to remain close to her family. She said she plans to continue living in Phillipsburg, where her husband farms.



J. Taylor



Volleyball team heads to state play

WITH HANDS CLINCHED, Coach Sherri Ruf (above) waited with her players to make the last point during the substate tournament Saturday in Plainville. Serena Stacey and Sara Kyte (left) cheered the girls on to victory. Jordan Dreher and Rachelle Scott (below) held up the championship trophy. See the complete substate story on Page 6A.

— Herald photos by Sarah Fredrickson



Businessman bought ride for the fair

A single phone call made by Ward Allen Sauvage to a friend back in April 1976 helped change Decatur County.

Mr. Sauvage placed the call to Floyd Lotker, who was the president of the county Amusement Authority at the time. Friends recalled that Mr. Sauvage said he would give \$15,000 towards a merry-go-round for the home-owned carnival

at the fairground.

At that time, the only ride offered was the Ferris Wheel, which had been purchased in Minnesota. Mr. Lotker called the man in Minnesota who had sold the group the first ride. He had a merry-go-round for sale, for \$15,000.

That merry-go-round, purchased after a single call, sits at the Decatur County Fairground to-

day, and pleased kids each August during the carnival.

The merry-go-round was just one of the contributions Mr. Sauvage made to the town he was born in. He also built the Sauvage Gas station on U.S. 36, which now houses Sinclair. His company, Sauvage Gas, had widespread operations

(See MAN on Page 10A)

Clocks to turn back early Sunday morning

With fall here and winter just around the corner, Daylight Saving Time will come to an end this weekend.

The clocks will turn back an hour at 2 a.m. Sunday, which means the evenings will seem even longer throughout the winter as the sun continues to set earlier and earlier.



While the official time change is overnight, most of us probably will set the clocks back Saturday night before going to bed or when we get up.

Just don't forget, or you'll miss that extra hour of sleep and be early for everything Sunday morning.

City plans to pay for sidewalk at new center

The Oberlin City Council has agreed to pay for the sidewalk on the east side of the new Golden Age Center downtown.

Greg Lohofener, with the Oberlin-Decatur Area Economic Development Corp., asked the council to pay for the sidewalk at a meeting on Thursday, Oct. 15. The council previously agreed to pay for the sidewalk on the south side of the building, he said.

Councilwoman Rhonda May asked why the sidewalk on the east side hadn't been included in that bid. Mr. Lohofener said they didn't want to get ahead of themselves, since they might have needed to rip up the curb and gutter on that side to get the project done.

Members suggested that he work with the city foreman, and Mr. Lohofener said he would.

The \$6,769 bid for the sidewalk on the east side came from Dallas Johnson, who did the work on the south side, he said. The city will pay for the six feet or so on the north side.

If the city is going to pay for this, said Councilman Ray Ward, he would like to see it finished before the weather gets too cold.

Ms. May said she imagines the city will pay for it one way or another, so they should just do it now.

The money will come out of the community development fund, which is over budget, but isn't in the red, said City Administrator Austin Gilley.

Why weren't the sidewalks in the original bid? asked Councilman Rob McFee. It's been in the newspaper that the group has money for this and that, he said, but it seems the corporation is asking for money every three weeks. There was no answer, although the group has been raising money for months and continues to raise money to complete the movie theater and bowling alley.

The city put in \$15,000 for the transformers and then \$10,000 for the sidewalks, said Ms. May. That's probably a decent contribution.

Mr. Gilley said his problem is that it's an unbudgeted expense. He added that he's said for a while that the city could set aside a portion of the sales tax to go toward projects like this one. It would put the donation on the books and would keep Mr. Lohofener from having to come see the council all the time, he said.

Director to order chemicals for weeds

The Decatur County commissioners approved the noxious weed director buying chemicals at the best price possible from the bids he received.

Director Gaylen Huntley had five bids at the meeting Tuesday, Oct. 13, from Van Diest Supply Company of McCook, Red Willow Fertilizer and Chemical, Decatur Co-op, Crop Production Service and Sims of Osborne.

Mr. Huntley said he plans to buy a little less chemical this year, thinking the county won't need as much because of the fall weather.

He said he plans to pick and choose the lowest bids for each item from all of the companies.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said he's noticed and had a few comments from farmers about the

conservative spraying on the roads, where there are still weeds.

This is the first year to do the "chemical mowing" on the roads, so they are working out the problems, said Mr. Huntley. It's a learning experience, he said, and the crew got better at it as the year went on.

The recycling program is going well, he said, with an e-waste pick up day scheduled for Tuesday.

After the trailer goes to the three smaller cities in the county, it has to be taken to Colby to be unloaded, he said.

Commissioner Stan McEvoy asked if the trailer still needs to go to the other towns. When it's spraying season, said Mr. Huntley, it's a pain for the crew, but this time of year, it works well.

Health department buys new refrigerator

The Decatur County commissioners approved buying a new refrigerator for the county health department for vaccines.

Health Administrator Marilyn Gamblin said the Sanyo fridge from DAI Scientific Equipment in Illinois costs \$3,925. The commissioners and Ms. Gamblin had talked about the new refrigerator at a previous meeting.

The refrigerator has an alarm on it in case the temperature gets too hot or too cold. It also has a lock. The

fridge will be paid for with a grant from the state.

Ms. Gamblin said the department is out of the seasonal flu vaccine, with 100 of the vaccinations going to the hospital and Good Samaritan Center because neither of those facilities got its allotment of the vaccines.

She said they are expecting H1N1 vaccine shipments weekly. They are looking at giving them to health care workers and pregnant women first.

Rocking the day away



ON SATURDAY, Doris Marintzer rocked back and forth in her chair at the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center. The center's annual "Rockathon" brought in \$1,609 in donations for the Decatur County Food Pantry, with the 22 participants rocking from morning until evening.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Program receives applications

The U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service says it has received 21,300 applications to participate in the new Conservation Stewardship Program, covering an estimated 33 million acres, nearly twice what it had money for.

"NRCS has received enough applications to carry out conservation activities on more than twice the number of acres Congress authorized for CSP this year," said service Chief Dave White. "This incredible response shows that conservation-minded producers and landowners want to attain higher levels of conservation stewardship."

Kansas received 778 applica-

tions, said State Conservationist Eric B. Banks of Salina, head of the service for the state.

"Kansas received 541,404 acres in agricultural land and 6,418 acres in nonindustrial private forest land for its share of the annual acreage enrollment," said Banks.

Congress capped the annual enrollment at 12,769,000 acres per year.

Land accepted can include private cropland, pasture, range and forest — a new land use for the program — plus ag land under jurisdiction of an Indian tribe.

The program provides financial and technical help for landowners

to conserve and enhance soil, water, air and related natural resources, encouraging them to implement more conservation practices and improve, maintain, and manage existing ones, the service says.

"Those who are not approved for funding ... will have the option to participate in the second ranking period," said Banks, "which will be held from Oct. 1 through January."

For information, including eligibility requirements, the interim final rule, and to submit comments, go to www.nrcs.usda.gov/new_csp, stop by the county office or go to the Kansas website at ks.nrcs.usda.gov.

Grain loans are available

Commodity loans will be available on grain stored on the farm in long polyethylene storage bags, provided certain provisions are met.

"The prior Kansas FSA State Committee had determined that poly grain storage bags would not be eligible storage for FSA commodity loans in Kansas," said Diane Barrett, Decatur County executive director for the U.S. Farm Service Agency. "For several years, producers have been using these bags as alternative grain storage, and research indicates the grain remains in good condition if the bags are packed and sealed properly."

Commodity loans for grain stored in these bags may be approved with

conditions to reduce the risk to Commodity Credit Corporation:

- For regular nonrecourse loans:
- The moisture content must be 15.5 percent or less for corn or 14 percent for grain sorghum or soybeans.
- The farmer must agree that the corporation will have the right to probe the bags to see if the grain is remaining in good condition.
- The farmers must reseal the bag with no liability to the corporation.
- The loan quantity will be 95 percent of the determined amount.
- There will be no reduction in the loan rate.

For regular recourse loans:

- The moisture content is above

the level as noted for non-recourse loans or the farmers does not agree to have the bags probed.

- The loan quantity will be reduced according to the normal shrinkage procedure and the loan quantity will be 90 percent of the reduced amount.
- There will be no reduction in the loan rate.
- All other provisions of recourse loans apply.

Nine-month farm-stored and warehouse-stored commodity loans can be obtained at the Decatur County office of the Farm Service Agency office at 410 S Buffalo, Oberlin, or call 475-3131.

*Flu shots given

(Continued from Page 1A)

which include a temperature higher than 100 degrees, body aches coughing, sore throat, respiratory congestion, diarrhea and vomiting.

Some people in the county have been tested for the H1N1 flu, she said, with at least two coming back positive.

A rapid test for influenza A is done if people are hospitalized, she said, by taking a nasal swab. If that swab comes back positive, then another nasal swab is taken and sent to the state. The second swab is the actual H1N1 test, she said.

If the rapid test comes back negative, she added, the second test isn't needed.

*Man bought ride

(Continued from Page 1A)

in many fields. Mr. Sauvage, 84, a longtime businessman in Oberlin, died at his home in Las Vegas on Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2009.

He was born June 6, 1925, the son of Walter and Opal (Macy) Sauvage. He grew up in Oberlin and attended Oberlin Elementary School and Decatur Community High School. At age 18, he enlisted in the Navy and served on the USS Pittsburg during World War II, spending most of his time in the Pacific.

After the war, he began a career in gas and oil, helping to found Western Gas Resources, which became a publicly traded company on the New York Stock Exchange, in Denver; and in banking, real estate development, farming and livestock feeding. He grew cotton in Australia for more than 30 years, and had interests a casino in Missouri.

Mr. Sauvage was a past member of the Elks Lodge and the Order of Quiet Birdmen and a member of the American Legion. He was an active pilot most of his life. His family said he was a self-made man who loved to work and continued to do so until his health declined.

Survivors include his wife Janice of Las Vegas; three sons, Nolan Sauvage, Denver; Marquis and Dianne Sauvage, Chicago, and Alan and Julie Sauvage, LaJolla, Calif.; three daughters, Mary and Mike Anderson, Goldfield, Nev.; Ellen and Stewart Swain, Bentonville, Ark.; and Jan and Ric Richards, Morrisville, N.C.; and 10 grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Keith Sauvage, who died Oct. 3.

Memorial services were Monday morning at the Oberlin United Methodist Church with Pastor Keith Reuther officiating. Military graveside services were conducted by the Oberlin American Legion at the Oberlin Cemetery.

A memorial was established to the Nathan Adelson Hospice at www.nah.org. Contributions may be sent to Pauls Funeral Home, 121 N. Penn, Oberlin, Kan., 67749.

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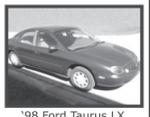
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