

## Rain puts brakes on wheat harvest

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**  
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Rain Saturday night and early Sunday put the brakes on wheat harvest, but not before area farmers could get several loads in.

Kurt Anderson, general manager of the Decatur Co-op, said Monday afternoon that the Oberlin harvest is probably half done. In Lenora, he said, farmers are close to done, while in the Danbury area north of the state line, harvest hasn't yet started.

The company has taken it around 2.4 million bushels of new wheat, he said,

while last year the harvest totaled over 4.5 million bushels.

It's been a little different kind of a harvest, he said, with very few lines at the co-op's nine elevators. He said they will get busy and have several trucks and then not have any for a while, and then another rush.

There is a lot of different maturity in the fields, said Mr. Anderson, based on when the farmers were able to plant around the fall rains last year.

Test weights have been good, he added, anywhere from 58 to 63.5 pounds per

bushel. With the recent rains, those could go down.

Mr. Anderson said he thinks there could be some people out cutting by this evening in the Herndon area. Farther to the east though, more rain was received. Out that way, they probably won't be going until Thursday.

At Hansen Mueller Grain in Oberlin, office manager Janice O'Hare said harvest is going very well so far.

The company took in half a million bushels in three days. Actually, she said, they had

one of their biggest days on Saturday, taking in 140,000 bushels in Oberlin and 30,000 in Cedar Bluffs.

There hasn't really been lines, with the average dump speed at 7 to 10 minutes a truck.

Mrs. O'Hare said she thought things would start moving again on Thursday – if it doesn't rain again. Some people had up to two inches of rain, leaving things pretty muddy.

She said they are seeing good test weights, 60 to 61 pounds per bushel average.

Farmers are just getting started in the Cedar Bluffs area, said Mrs. O'Hare, but they normally start a little after the Oberlin area.

So far things are running fine, she said. Most of the farmers, she said, are waiting to sell their crop. In the last week or so, the wheat price has rallied and come up a little.

On Monday, the market closed at \$3.69 a bushel.

## Council passes resolutions for water plant

The Oberlin City Council passed resolutions allowing the city to use either revenue or general obligations bonds, or both, to pay for a proposed water treatment plant.

At a meeting on Thursday, June 17, the council had tabled the resolutions until the entire council could be present. (Mayor Joe Stanley and Councilman Bill Riedel were absent.)

Passing the resolutions, said City Attorney Steve Hirsch, gives the council the authority to use either kind of bonds, but doesn't actually tie it down.

So why not do both? asked Councilwoman Rhonda May, until the council decides what will work best.

Revenue bonds, noted Councilman Bill Riedel, don't go against the city's debt rating and the general obligation ones do.

Debt is debt, said Mr. Hirsch, but revenue bonds might not go against the debt rating the same as general

obligation bonds do.

By the definition of revenue bonds, said Ms. May, the city will be using water revenue to pay back the borrowed money. The city could be forced or required to bring water bills up to a high level to pay the bonds. What good is a good debt rating, asked Ms. May, if no one can afford to run the dishwasher because the water bill is too high?

Mr. Riedel said the way it was explained to him, general obligation bonds count against the city's debt limit. With the airport project and maybe others coming up, it might be a good idea for the city to be able to borrow if needed.

Another project to look at, said Ms. May, is that the city has needed a new pool for at least the last 10 years. The old one is sort of patched together, she said. How long is that going to last?

In order to proceed, said Mr. Hirsch, one or another of the reso-

(See WATER on Page 5)

## Families celebrate Independence Day

Kids wandered around the park playing on the swings, trying their hands at volleyball, getting their faces painted and searching for coins in a tank full of corn.

Oberlin's sesquicentennial Fourth of July Celebration lasted all day Sunday, kicking off with a packed house for a community church service at the Golden Age Center and ending with a spectacular fireworks show at the fairgrounds.

Organizer Kem Bryan said there were around 180 people at the community church service. Although it had been scheduled for City Park, organizers decided to move it inside with the forecast for a chance of more rain.

The area received around 2 inches of rain the night before, shutting down harvest a few days and leaving the lawn at the park damp.

Although the Golden Age Center was packed, said Mrs. Bryan, no one seemed to care. She said she hadn't heard any complaints.

After a potluck lunch, families moved to City Park for face painting, volleyball and the corn tank.

Oberlin graduate Anthony Marshall, a graduate of K-State, took his time painting motorcycles, butterfly masks, American flags, tiger faces and much more on kids' faces while parents milled around talking.

In the afternoon, several teenage boys and girls tried their skills at using one hand to push mowers half a block down Main Street. While one hand was on the mower, the other held a bottle of water that was used to spray the opponents. Three teens raced at a time.

Following the push mowers, two

(See EVENTS on Page 5)

## Fun day planned at Sappa Park

The Decatur County Helping Hands group plans a "fun day" next week at Sappa Park to raise money.

The group gives 100 percent of the money raised back to Decatur County residents for help with medical expenses, said Chris Dempewolf, president of the group.

Ms. Dempewolf said people have to meet some criteria before any money is given out. No money, she said, is given to the applicants. The group pays bills directly to the health providers. Helping Hands also has gift certificates to gas stations in case of an emergency.

Last year, Helping Hands helped six families with medical expenses and travel, she said.

"We hope to double that for this year," she said, "but can only do so with the help of donations."

Applications for the group are available at the Decatur County Hospital, the Oberlin Clinic and

the Norcat City Office. People can also contact her, Lynn Doeden or Regina Stanley, who all serve on the group.

Helping Hands plans to hold one main fund raiser, the fun day from 4 p.m. to midnight Saturday, July 17. The event will include adult and kids games, a disk golf tourney, a raffle, a hog roast, a dance and more.

The schedule includes:

- 9:30 a.m. frisbee golf registration with beginners startin at 10:30 a.m., intermediate at noon and advance at 2 p.m. The entry fee is \$10.
- 1 p.m. registration for the washer tournament with a 2 p.m. start. The entry fee is \$10 and prizes will be given.
- 4 p.m. games start with a \$5 wristband good for all games.
- 7 p.m. hog roast.
- 8 p.m. dance starts with Mobile Music Express.



**IN THE FIELD** on Friday, Gene Gallentine (above) sat behind the steering wheel of his Case IH combine, while his father Norman (below) climbed out of the tractor.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

## Farmer harvests wheat

A broken combine part didn't hold the spirits of Gene Gallentine back much during the third day of harvest for his family last week.

He just jumped in the pickup and headed to the implement store in Hoxie. The idler pulley had never been replaced, he said; it was the original and he needed a new one.

Within a few hours, the Case IH combine was up and running with Mr. Gallentine behind the wheel.

While cutting a field close to Kanona, he said he is a fourth-generation farmer. He's been farming on his own for over 30 years now.

His father, Norman Gallentine, still joins him on the job. His dad, now 83, was in the field for harvest, driving the grain cart.

Mr. Gallentine said he and his father hardly need to communicate. His dad just knows when the combine is full and when to pull the grain cart up along side.

The Gallentine men are joined by a harvest crew out of Missouri that's been hired by the family for the last four years. Gary McEaneld, said Mr. Gallentine, helps with summer and fall harvest.

Dean Forbes and Von Johnson of Norcat also help, driving the grain truck back and forth from the elevator.

Mr. Gallentine said they started cutting last Wednesday, but it was still a little wet. By Thursday, they were going.

By Friday afternoon, the grain was running around 13 to 13.5 percent moisture, he said. While they had two combines and his and the custom cutters going all morning, shortly after lunch the Case broke down and it was off to Hoxie for the part.



The straw is tough and ropery on this year's crop, said Mr. Gallentine. It's kind of slow going and takes power to get through.

From the field just a couple of miles east of the Jennings road,

the grain was being hauled to the Decatur Co-op elevator in Jennings. Mr. Gallentine said he takes grain there and to Norcat, and to elevators in Clayton and Reager.

In a normal day, he said, they

are in the field and cutting by (See FATHER on Page 5)



# \*Father helps son harvest

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10:30 a.m. and often working past sundown. This year, he said, once the sun is down, the moisture in the wheat rises and straw has been getting tougher and harder to thresh.

He gave kind of a chuckle when he said he started to make his own decisions on the farm 32 to 34 years ago. Mr. Gallentine said he's been helping on the farm since he was a kid. He and his two brothers drove the combines. Neither of them decided to stay and farm, said Norman. One lives in Florida and the other in Junction City.

Mr. Gallentine said he started driving a combine probably when he was 10. The first one was a 1961 John Deere with a 16-foot header. There was no cab, just an umbrella. Air conditioning meant taking your shirt off, getting it wet and putting it back on.

The combines dumped directly into the trucks. He said they had a 1954 GMC that hauled around 270 bushels. Now the semi-trailer trucks haul around 1,000 bushels.

He said his first combine with a cab was a 1967 John Deere.

The first combine that he owned, said Mr. Gallentine, was a 1979 Gleaner. He said he ran that for several years and then bought another

Gleaner.

In 1998, he said, he bought the Case IH. It had been used by a custom harvester for a season and had 400 hours on it. Now it has almost 3,300.

About every 1,500 hours, the combine needs repair, he said.

At the end of the day, he thought they would have close to 300 acres harvested. That would leave around 700.

It's been slow going, he said. The humidity has just been high and the straw has been tough.

Normally, with perfect weather and things going good, he said, it will take them about a week to harvest. With the two combines running, they can normally do 200 acres a day.

Mr. Gallentine said he planted TAM 111 wheat this year. Although he doesn't normally plant just one variety, he said, that's what happened this year. It has some resistance to stripe rust and a good disease package.

Normally, he said, he plants three to four varieties.

Mr. Gallentine said he plants wheat and corn each year. He used to have cattle, but got out of that 20 to 25 years ago.

"You have to have a passion to

farm," said Mr. Gallentine. "or you are just kidding yourself. I guess I just had that passion."

Some might say that Mr. Gallentine learned or inherited the passion for farming from his Dad. Norman Gallentine said he's been farming since 1947. He said he took over for his father.

Over the last 63 years, Norman said, farming has changed tremendously. Some things stay the same, though: you still get up every day and head to the field. In the past, though, you got up, fed the horses, did the chores and then you ate.

He said he doesn't remember using horses to pull the combine, but they did use a tractor-pulled one.

"Farming is a good way to lose money," said Norman with a smile "but to me there is no other way to live. As far as I'm concerned, life has been good to me."

He said he can remember one time he was out harvesting with his father, and a neighbor came over. His father gave him the sign to cut the engine. The neighbor's cattle were out of water and he needed help. They went and helped him.

"My Dad always said it's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice," he said.



ON THE FOURTH of July, Jeni Henningson (above) pushed a wheelbarrow with Remington Creed of Moundridge in it during fun races downtown. Cheryl Metcalf (below) walked into Centennial Park with her mom, Eileene Grose, as they checked out the sidewalk art.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

# \*Water plant moves forward

(Continued from Page 1)  
lutions needs to be approved. Both were approved, and then the council can decide later which kind of financing it wants to go with.

Can the city do a combination? asked Ms. May.

Mr. Hirsch said the cost would increase, but he wasn't sure if a combination could be used or not. That question could be asked, he said.

The water project, which has grown to close to \$6 million, includes around \$3 million for the

treatment plant and water-line improvements.

While the council talked about tabling the decision and asking a representative from Ranson Financial, the city's bond advisors, and the city's bond counsel to the meeting Thursday, July 15, David Blau, with Miller and Associates, said right now the city doesn't have any interim financing for work being done on the project. The approval for bonds needs to be done so financing can move forward, he said.

Interim Administrator Karen Larson said the council can decide later what to do, but this will prepare the city for either.

The council passed both resolutions and asked the finance people to come to a future meeting.

Ms. May said she thought a representative from Ranson was coming in part to help the council figure out how to lower its sewer bills. There's a huge sewer reserve that the council can't touch, she said.

# \*Events draw families

(Continued from Page 1)  
raced their riding mowers farther down the block.

In the parking lot across from Raye's Grocery, decorated bicycles were judged while others raced on a rip stick, a fancy skateboard, and then in wheel barrows.

Kids of all ages rode inside the wheelbarrow while directing a parent or older sibling, who was blindfolded, through a course of orange cones.

Across the street in Centennial Park, others drew on the sidewalks with chalk. Some of the older kids got involved with that, said Mrs. Bryan, as well as the younger ones. She said she heard there were some awesome drawings.

That evening, they served around hot dogs and watermelon to over 200 people at the Golden Age Center. The Last Indian Raid Museum did



a great job with the historical scavenger hunt, she said. Twelve teams entered, and all had a great time. Mrs. Bryan said it was fun to watch. It was a lot of work for the museum staff to put the hunt together. Clues sent people to 20 places. It went great, she said.

Mrs. Bryan said she thought the day had been wonderful. It's amazing what can happen when people

# County to replace country bridge

The Decatur County commissioners talked with the road and bridge supervisor about a bridge and a culvert that need to be replaced.

Supervisor Tim Stallman said at the meeting last Tuesday that the bridge two miles south of Lyle and east on a township road is standing, but the pilings and back wall are rotten.

Two miles north and a mile and a half east of Jennings, he said, a culvert caved in when a combine drove over it. Mr. Stallman said the crew was off to fix the culvert as he spoke.

Mr. Stallman said as the crew is out blading, they are checking culverts. They are also going to do some road-top spraying to get the weeds off.

The commissioners voted to ratify some repairs needed on ambulance No. 3. Commissioner Stan McEvoy said three of the four injectors on the one side of the engine were going out.

While the ambulance was in the shop, he said, they found a hole in a heater hose and a leak in the air conditioning hose. Those, too, will be repaired.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Held a 10-minute closed session for nonaffected personnel. There was no action taken.
- Denied a request from the Kan-

sas Department of Wildlife and Parks to advertise the Decatur County landfill as a place that would accept deer carcasses with Chronic Wasting Disease for disposal. The commissioners agreed to continue

to refuse those carcasses.

- Heard the last free electronic waste collection day at the recycling center at the old county shop would be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, July 13.

# Congressman's wife to visit

Congressman Jerry Moran's wife plans to stop in Oberlin next Wednesday.

Robba Moran will be in the east side of the Golden Age Center at 4 p.m. next Wednesday to talk with Decatur County women.

Mrs. Moran was born in Independence, Mo., and graduated from William Jewell College with a bachelor's degree in business administration and has a law degree from Duke University.

She practiced law in Kansas City, where she met her husband. The two were married in 1984 and have lived

in Hays since.

Mrs. Moran taught business law at Fort Hays State University for several years, then spent 15 at home raising kids. She now is an accompanist for the vocal department at Hays High School.

She has served as a board member for the Kansas State Fair, Hays Medical Center, the Kansas Federation of Republican Women and Kids Voting Hays.

Her husband serves the Big First District in Congress and is running for the U.S. Senate.

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**Tract Size:** 38.35 Assessed Acres  
**2009 Taxes:** \$520.06

**The Property:** Situated along the South side of Rd 707 about 1/2-mile West of Hwy 83, this mini-ranch consists of the House & Shop on approximately 2 Acres with a mostly Buffalo Grass yard plus 36 Acres (+/-) of Native Grass lying in irregular-shaped pockets West of the House for about 1/2 mile.

**The House:** This 1-story home has 762-sq-ft with 2 Bedrooms, a Bathroom, an eat-in Kitchen & Living room on the main floor. The interior has been remodeled including windows & the Rear Entry area is also the Utility area. This home is heated with a propane central forced-air furnace & cooling is provided by a window air-conditioner built into the north wall of one of the Bedrooms. The full Basement is unfinished.

**Shop / Storage:** An enclosed Metal Building 20-ft x 40-ft (+/-) with a concrete floor, roll-up door & walk-through door is utilized as a Work Shop & Storage area. Other out-buildings included are 2 Steel Grain Bins, a small "Oil Shed" & a small Chicken House with a concrete floor & tin roof.

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