



**AT THE PLATE SUNDAY**, LaMoine Wolfram (above) was ready for the ball during the vintage ball game between the Oberlin First-Nine and the Hodgeman Nine on Sunday. Grady Lohofener (below) rang the "tally bell" after he

## Town plays old ball

### Crowd enjoys vintage game

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**  
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The cranks sat in the stands and folding chairs, cheering as their team dressed in gray and black hacked away at the ball in the town's first game of "vintage" baseball since the days when baseball was, well, vintage.

The newly formed Oberlin First Nine included players Jim Vanek, Boyd Wilson, Joe Stanley, Rick Touslee, Byron Hale, Chris Koerperich, Dick Carman, Phil Wurm, Chris Bailey, Jay Fortin and Josh and Justin Williby. The local boys played the Hodgeman Nine, an experienced vintage-ball team from Jetmore, on Sunday afternoon at the Decatur County ball diamond.

Before the men – and one woman on the Jetmore team – took the field, the umpire (known as "Blind Tom") explained the rules to the Oberlin team and asked for a "tally keeper" from the audience. Ruth Wolfram volunteered for the job, despite her obvious relationship to one of the players.

Throughout the game, umpire-announcer Mark Wellbrock of Jetmore explained parts of the game to the cranks, or fans. Gary Anderson said at one point he explained that in the old days, there was a backstop behind the striker, or batter. The cranks often bet on the game and would throw things at the strikers to affect their play.

The game, which Mr. Wellbrock described as "a form of living history," used mostly the rules from the 1860s. The teams did allow some more modern rules from the 1870s, allowing a batter to overrun the first base bag, for instance.

Information handed out to the cranks said that "the version of the game we now know as baseball is generally credited to Alexander Joy Cartwright Jr., who composed a set of rules for his team, the New York Knickerbockers Base Ball Club, in 1845. Those rules included the diamond-shaped field, three strikes and three outs, fair and foul territory and elimination of the practice of 'soaking,' or throwing the ball at a runner to put him out."

When the striker got up to bat, he could ask the pitcher for a fair, high or low pitch, or whatever he wanted. When someone made an out, he was called dead, and when a striker scored a tally, or run, they

ran the bases following the game. Josh Williby (bottom) connected the bat to the ball for Oberlin.

— Herald staff photos by Steve Haynes and Kimberly Davis



had to ring the "tally bell."

The Oberlin team ended the game down by just one point to the Hodgeman Nine, with the ending tallies showing a 10 to 9 loss. Or 12-10, depending on who you talked to.

Members of the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce served fresh squeezed lemonade during the game, while the Oberlin Lions Club opened its concession stand.

Mr. Anderson said the Hodgeman team did a great job letting the kids in the crowd come out after the game so they could learn how to bat and then run the bases and ring the tally bell.

There was a good crowd, said Mr. Anderson, adding that he thought everyone had a good time.

The Hodgeman Nine is planning a tournament next year and invited the Oberlin team down to play.

Although a team from Nicodemus was originally set to come play on Sunday also, someone called and said they couldn't make it.

After seven innings, Mr. Wellbrock asked if Oberlin wanted to play seven or nine. The vote from the bench, where players had been complaining about sore muscles and aching feet, was unanimous, said Oberlin manager Rusty Addleman.

The game was staged as part of Oberlin's Quasiquintennial celebration. Next up for the year-long celebration is Mini Sapa Day at the Last Indian Raid Museum on Saturday, Oct. 2.



## Antiques, machinery on display

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**  
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It's time for the annual Mini Sappa Antique Thresher and Engine Show at the Decatur County Fairground this Saturday and Sunday. This year will be the 30th anniversary of the event.

Everyone is invited to the free two-day event. If you like, bring along an entry for the parades.

Events for the family range from watching how old machinery was used on the farm to train rides for the kids both days.

The free registration for entries starts at 7 a.m. Saturday. Other events include:

- SATURDAY**
- 11 a.m. – Kids' pedal tractor pull.
  - 1 p.m. – Stock garden tractor pull.
  - 4 p.m. – Parade.
  - 6 p.m. – hog roast supper for \$6 per person.

**SUNDAY**

- 8 a.m. – Church service.
- 4 p.m. – Parade.

Two raffles are planned, with tickets available both days of the show. The winners will be drawn Sunday after the parade. Prizes include a club-made quilt and an Allis Chalmers WC tractor. Reva Marshall, a club member, said the raffle tickets are \$1 each or \$5 for six tickets.

Mrs. Marshall said the show is important to keep some of this area's history alive.

"We first started with the show to keep some of our heritage going," said Mrs. Marshall, "and so our kids and grandkids could learn how our ancestors did things."

She added that it's important for people to see how hard it was for people to do things on the farm in the old days and how different things were.

She invited everyone to bring their family down for the two-day (See ANTIQUE on Page 8A)

## Hospital takes steps to open own clinic

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**  
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The Decatur County Hospital is filling out paperwork for a license to open up its own primary clinic, Decatur Health Systems Family Practice, where patients will be able to see a doctor by appointment.

No date has been set for when the clinic will open, said Hospital Administrator Lynn Doeden, but the hospital will let people know.

Dr. Leslie Dally, who was here to look at the hospital and area several months ago, will work at the clinic at first. Mrs. Doeden said Dr. Dally will serve temporarily, and they are looking for a permanent physician.

The family practice will share space in the hospital's speciality clinic, she said, along with the speciality physicians.

The practice, said Mrs. Doeden, isn't taking appointments yet and won't until the week before it opens.

Dr. Dally can see patients for many reasons, she said, and he is qualified to deliver babies, but while he is here temporarily, he won't be doing that. He also won't be doing "scopes," such as colonoscopy procedures.

The hours for the practice haven't yet been set, said Mrs. Doeden, but might include some early morning and evening hours.

The administrator said Dr. Dally will probably help cover the emergency room, but will not be working at the Oberlin Medical Arts Clinic next door. As far as she knows, Mrs. Doeden added, Dr. Stelian Andreeca, Dr. Elizabeth Sliter and Jennifer Taylor, a physician's assistant, will continue to work in the emergency room.

While asked if Jonna Inman, a nurse practitioner formerly at the clinic, had been offered the job at the family practice, Mrs. Doeden said only that she "couldn't respond to that."

## Memorial wall moving into Norton

By **CAROLYN KELLEY PLOTS**  
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The Moving Wall, a half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, will stop in Norton from Thursday to Monday, Sept. 23 to 27.

Norton County Arts Council President Carol Erlenbusch heads a committee of volunteers who worked to bring the wall to Norton.

"Bringing the Moving Wall to Norton is by far the biggest project I've ever personally undertaken," Mrs. Erlenbusch said. "After my

husband Gary, and I visited the Wall in Alma, Neb., we decided we would try to bring it here.

"The council agreed to be the sponsor, but we needed the help of the community. After an organizational meeting, a committee was formed ... made up of individuals and organizations from throughout the county. The only goal we have is to give our Vietnam veterans the honor and respect they deserve."

Opening ceremonies will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 23, she said. Families of fallen soldiers will receive special recognition and (See MOVING on Page 8A)

## Health department sets two-day flu shot clinic

With flu season quickly approaching, the Decatur County Health Department has two days set aside next week to give flu shots, which should help prevent both the seasonal flu and the H1N1 virus.

The two vaccines have been combined since last year, said Health Administrator Marilyn Gamblin, so most people will get only one shot.

Vaccines will be given from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday and next Wednesday. The office is closed for the lunch hour from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

The injectable version of the vaccine costs \$25, said Ms. Gamblin, while the nasal mist costs \$40.

Everyone who is 6 months on up should get the vaccines. It's especially important for people who are in the high-risk category for getting the flu, doctors and other medical workers and people who are around babies.

Anyone wanting the vaccine can just go to the health department those days, Ms. Gamblin said; appointments aren't necessary. The department can bill Medicare, Medicaid and Blue Cross/Blue Shield insurance if the patients bring their cards.





## Come and get it



**BEFORE THE RED DEVIL** football game on Friday, Dr. Travis Hissong volunteered to help grill up some hot dogs and burgers for a tailgate party in City Park sponsored by

parents. The event raised money for paint for the football field.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

# \*Moving Wall to be in Norton on Sept. 23-27

(Continued from Page 1A) will take part in a wreath-laying ceremony.

At 7 p.m. Friday evening, Sept. 24, the Norton American Legion will conduct a service to honor Vietnam Veterans. At 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 25, the Vietnam Veterans of America will hold a Prisoner of War/Missing in Action candlelight ceremony and at 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 26, the Norton County Ministerial Alliance will have an interdenominational church service.

One of the requirements to host the Wall, Mrs. Erlenbusch said, is to have someone at the display 24 hours a day. These people will help visitors find names on the wall, help them make rubbings of names and help at the hospitality tent. Jon Wyatt, director of the Norton Legion Riders, along with other volunteers, will help while the Wall is in Norton.

Mr. Wyatt and his wife, Eve, are coordinating volunteers into four-hour shifts with four people per shift. Members of the Christian Motorcycle Association from Phillipsburg have been invited to help also. If you would like to volunteer, call Mr. Wyatt at (785) 202-0282.

Site preparation is important, Mrs. Erlenbusch said, since the Wall must have a perfectly level

base. The Norton Lions Club has constructed a platform on the east lot of Prairie Land Electric, just west of Norton on U.S. 36. The cooperative is providing lighting and electricity.

Mrs. Erlenbusch said several area schools plan to visit the Wall in Norton. So far, teachers with over 800 students have requested a time.

She said the Moving Wall is the realization of a dream for Vietnam veteran John Devitt of Stockton, Calif., who vowed to make a transportable version after he recognized the healing nature of the Wall. He wanted those who were not able to travel to Washington to be able to see and touch the names of friends or loved ones in their home towns.

Using his own money, Mr. Devitt founded Vietnam Combat Veterans, Ltd. With the help of friends and volunteers, the first replica wall was built and displayed in 1984 in Tyler, Texas. The Moving Wall has been touring the country since.

Demand for the Wall was so high and the waiting list so long, the group built a second replica. A third Wall was added in 1989 and in 2001, one of the Walls was retired due to wear. As the wall moves from town to town, it's often escorted by state troopers or other law enforcement officers.

## \*Antique show set for weekend

(Continued from Page 1A) show, have some fun, and learn about some of the area's history.

Antique farm machinery demonstrations should start at 9 a.m. both days, she said.

Mrs. Marshall said there are five or six vendors signed up to sell items, but often people just show up to set up a booth.

Anyone who wants to set up on the north end of the fairground for the 5th annual great U.S. Highway 36 Treasure Hunt, said

Mrs. Marshall, can do so; the club doesn't mind.

There will be some kids games, a barrel train and pedal pull, she said. There will also be some tractor games for the adults.

Food will be available, starting with breakfast at 7 a.m. Mrs. Marshall said she's not sure what all will be for sale, but normally there are fruit cobblers, foot-long hot dogs, chili cheese dogs, chili, chicken noodle soup, brownie ice cream sundaes, and tea, coffee and soft drinks.

## Decatur County man died in Vietnam

By CAROLYN KELLEY PLOTT

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He did his duty. He served his country.

That's the matter-of-fact way Weldon Brooks of Norton explained how his son, Bart Brooks, came to be in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

Bart was the first of four Norton County servicemen to give the ultimate sacrifice during that war.

The second son of Weldon and Merrice Brooks, Bart graduated from Jennings High School in 1965 and attended Fort Hays State University before being drafted. He took his basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and his advanced training at Fort Polk, La. He was an infantryman attached to the 1st Infantry Division, the Big Red One, out of Fort Riley when he was sent overseas.

"At that time, there was a lot of unrest about the war," his father recalled, but my father served his country. I was in World War II. We felt everyone is obligated, when it's your turn, to go.

"You just consider it your duty as an American."

The Brookses learned of their son's death when a warrant officer from the Norton National Guard armory and their minister, the Rev. Wayne Sharp, came to their home. Mrs. Brooks said at first they were

told Bart was missing in action. Later, officers came to say their son had been killed. The couple said they asked Steve Wright, one of their son's high school buddies, to accompany his body back to Kansas for burial.

Specialist Fourth Class Brooks was killed in action in late January of 1968 while on a "search-and-destroy" mission near Saigon. His funeral was held March 10 at the Evangelical United Brethren Church in Clayton. Burial was in the Clayton Cemetery. An honor guard from Fort Riley came to the burial and presented a flag to Mr. and Mrs. Brooks.

After their son was killed, they recalled, reporters from "the national news media" pressured the couple to

make statements against the war.

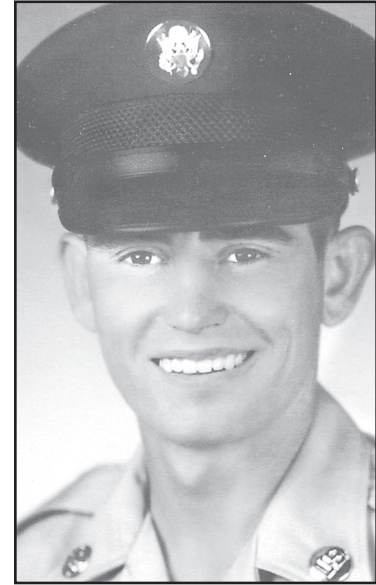
"We wouldn't do it," Mr. Brooks said. "We just tried to accept it the way it was. We were just humble dirt farmers who lost a son. Anyone who has lost a child knows how we felt."

"Without our faith," his wife added, "we couldn't have gotten through it."

The couple said they have seen the Moving Wall in other towns and have visited the real wall in Washington.

"It's nice Norton is getting the wall," Mr. Brooks said. "We are proud to see it here."

On Thursday, Sept. 23, they will be participating in the opening ceremonies, where they will lay a wreath in honor of their son.



Bart Brooks

## Fire department busy in past weeks

The Oberlin fire department has been hopping the last few weeks, putting out fires here, helping in other counties and working at accident scenes.

Fire Chief Bill Cathcart said on Thursday, Aug. 26, the Red Willow Western and Culbertson fire departments requested some help from Oberlin with a fire in one of the shop buildings at Perry Grain, between Culbertson and McCook on U.S. 34.

The Oberlin firefighters here had just had some training on a new fire-fighting agent that takes the place of foam, the chief said. Around 11 p.m., he said, he took some of the fire-fighting agent to Nebraska.

Two days later, around 1:30 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 28, the volunteers were called out to get the driver of a 1999 F-150 out of his truck. Josh Ashbury had rolled the truck a mile east of Reager on U.S. 36. He was taken to the Norton County Hospital by ambulance.

The following day around 11 a.m., Kirk Young drove over a gas meter at the Truck Town building. Firefighters were called out, the chief said, but there was no fire.

At 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 30, the fire department was called to the Good Samaritan Center because the alarms were going off. A wall heater in one of the rooms had malfunctioned and there was smoke, but no flames.

At 7 p.m. the same night, said Chief Cathcart, rural volunteers were called eight miles west and half a mile south of Oberlin to a farmstead owned by Kent Euhus. High winds caused an electrical short, sparking a fire that burned through about 35 acres, an unoccupied trailer house and a couple of sheds.

There were no injuries. Chief Cathcart said the fire was called in by a neighbor.

Firemen had just returned to the station after fighting a house fire at 604 N. Wilson on Sept. 2 when the department was called to a rollover accident two miles east of Oberlin on U.S. 36. Chief Cathcart said Matt

Kasten was driving a farm truck when one of the front tires blew and it rolled.

He was taken to the hospital. At 3 p.m. Friday, Sept. 3, the alarms at the Decatur County Hospital went off. It turned out to be a false alarm, the chief said. The same thing happened at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 4.

Shortly after 11 a.m. Monday, Sept. 6, Rawlins County firemen called for help. Two fires had started in the county, both apparently by lightning from an isolated thunderstorm, said Chief Cathcart.

The first, a quarter mile west of Ludell, was out when the crew got there, so they men were transferred to a blaze five miles west and half a mile south of Atwood.

That fire burned around 400 acres of pasture. At least five departments from the area helped out, said Chief Cathcart, and fertilizer dealers brought their tankers filled with water.

With the high wind that day — clocked 15 to 20 mph with gusts up to 30 in Goodland — it could have been a lot worse, the chief said.

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## Public Notice to Residents of Oberlin

the City Water Department will be Flushing City Water Mains Thursday — September 16 and Thursday — September 23 at approximately 10 p.m.

Please be aware that certain amounts of discoloration may appear in your domestic water supply.

Thank you for your cooperation  
Karen Larson, Interim City Administrator

## Oberlin Arts & Humanities 2010-2011 Schedule

### Season Ticket Events:

Sat., September 18, 2010 Gateway Theater	7:30 p.m.	Donna (Kump) Tucker Jazz Singer
Sat., October 2, 2010 Gateway (Oberlin Sesquicentennial)	7:30 p.m.	Little Sun Drum & Dance Group
Sat., October 23, 2010 Gateway	7:30 p.m.	The Kid Fiddlers
Sun., November 14, 2010 Gateway	2:00 p.m.	Jackie Creamer's Dance Group
Sun., December 5, 2010 Gateway	7:30	Oberlin Area Concert Band
Sat., January 29, 2011 Gateway Theater	7:30 p.m.	Branson on the Road
Sat., February 19, 2011 Gateway Theater	7:30 p.m. Dinner Theater 6:30	Ronnie Kole
Sun., March 6, 2011 Gateway Theater	2:00 p.m.	4Hymns Vocal Group
Sun., May 8, 2011 Start at Centennial Park	2:00 p.m.	Walking History Tour Oberlin Main Street

### YOUR MEMBERSHIP ALSO SUPPORTS:

High Plains ArtFest April 15-17 2011, Sat., Sun., 10:00 am-3:00 pm  
A.M.S. Shaw Watercolor Workshops (will be equal to 12 workshops at 2 hours each)... Times to be determined by Instructor and Class. (Tentative Times will be 1-3 p.m. on 2nd Sat. of each month) Call 785-475-2707 or 470-0218 for information.

For Program information call Ella Betts (785-475-3557) or Mary Henzel (785-470-0218)  
Information also available at [www.oberlinarts.org](http://www.oberlinarts.org)

Season Tickets:

1. \$75 Each, all season ticket events; one Dinner/Theater
  2. \$155 Family, all season ticket events; all school age youth and two Dinner/Theater
  3. \$80 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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
State type of ticket as above  
1. \$75. x \_\_\_\_\_ tickets \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$85. (1 ticket) Patron \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \$155. x \_\_\_\_\_ tickets \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$110. (1 ticket) Benefactor \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \$80. x \_\_\_\_\_ tickets \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$500. Corporate (includes 4 tickets) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact:  
Ron Jansonius ..... 475-2648 Joy Russell ..... 475-3371 Ray Ward ..... 475-3593  
Christie Morris ..... 475-2070 Charlotte Meints ..... 475-3959 Sarah Bricker ..... 475-2487  
Pam May ..... 475-3606 Mary Henzel ..... 470-0218 Ella Betts ..... 475-3557

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