

Mini Sapa tour to roll Saturday

The weather forecast shows sunny and warm for the tour of the Last Indian Raid and Western Cattle Trail on Saturday.

Museum Director Sharleen Wurm said all the seats on the busses for the tour are full, although people can still take their personal vehicles. The bus tour is just one part of the Decatur County Last Indian Raid Museum's Mini Sapa Day.

Buses will load at 12:45 p.m., said Director Sharleen Wurm, and leave the museum at 1 p.m.

The Cheyenne followed roughly the same path as the cattle trail north from Oklahoma, she said. She said the tour will last around 2 1/2 hours. To ride the bus costs \$5. People can follow along in personal vehicles, although they will miss information given on the buses. There will be re-enactments of the raid along the tour.

Mini Sapa starts in the morning with a pancake feed from 7:30 to 9 a.m. in the Old Bohemian Hall on the museum grounds. From 8 to 9 a.m., the DCHS Singers will perform.

At 9:30 a.m., said Mrs. Wurm, the museum opens for anyone who wants to look around.

From 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Gary and Margaret Kraisinger will be signing their book, "The Western, the Greatest Texas Cattle Trail 1874-1886," and James Leiker and Ramon Powers will be signing their book, "The

Fun run scheduled

Early birds who want to get a head start on Mini Sapa Day activities should join the 5K Fun Run/Walk scheduled for 7 a.m. Saturday at Sappa Park.

The event is a fund raiser for Creative Movements Gymnastics. A registration fee of \$20 for adults may be paid at the shelter house. A one-mile course will be available for children 14 and under for \$15, with a waiver signed by a parent.

The course is paved and includes slight inclines. Restrooms are available at the shelter house. For information, call Robin Rouse at 475-8987.

Northern Cheyenne Exodus in History and Memory."

From 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., the museum board will be serving hamburgers, chips, cookies, coffee, tea and water for lunch.

All the meals, said Mrs. Wurm, will be served for a donation.

Money raised will go towards upkeep and maintenance of the museum.

Fall corn harvest could start soon

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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With the corn crop drying down and autumn here, fall harvest should start soon.

At Oberlin's two elevators, trucks and trains are moving grain to get ready for this year's corn and milo.

Out on U.S. 36, Janice O'Hare with Hansen Mueller said they are getting 35 to 40 trucks in each week to move out last year's corn. When

that's done, Hansen Mueller will have four bunkers ready for this year's harvest.

Most of the corn, she said, is going south as feed for cattle or to make ethanol.

Mrs. O'Hare said they have moved some wheat out as well and should be in good shape for harvest.

While the elevator hasn't taken any new corn in yet, she said she

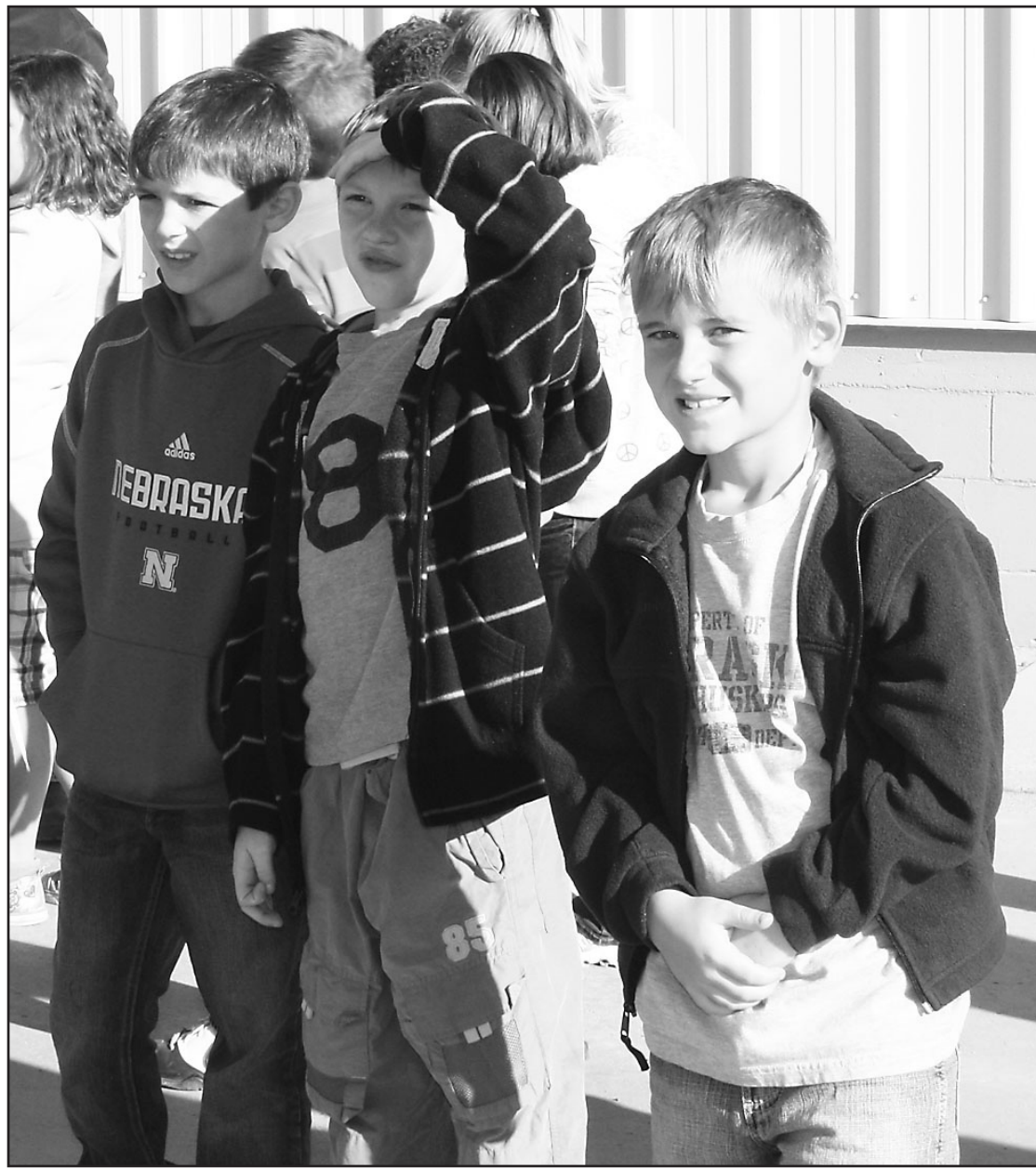
(See FALL on Page 8A)



Kids learn at co-op

AT THE DECATUR CO-OP during a field trip last week, R.D. Wait (above) explained how his spray rig works to the Oberlin Elementary School fourth graders. Landen Macfee, Kaleb Hileman and Kalen Townsend (right) watched the spray rigs leave the yard.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



Woman asks city to reimburse her for costs of lost puppy

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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An Oberlin woman asked the City Council to reimburse her for a pet that was put to sleep after it was found loose in town earlier this month.

Leslie Plotts said she got a puppy around fair time. On Friday, Sept. 2, she said, the puppy got loose. While the puppy had escaped before, it had stayed around the house. She said she thought it had suffered heat stroke and would get confused and not know where it was going.

Ms. Plotts said the city ordinance says dogs caught by the dog catcher or strays taken to the veterinarian are supposed to be held for 72 hours.

She said she looked at state regulations,

and they say if a dog is ill, its head is supposed to be tested for rabies.

Ms. Plotts said when she got home and found the puppy missing that day, she called dispatch and they said to call the High Plains Veterinary Service, which she did. She said she was told the dog had already been put to sleep.

Ms. Plotts said she would like to be compensated for her dog. She said she had been working with another veterinarian about what was wrong with the puppy. Maybe, she said, someone would have thought that the dog had rabies, but if they would have waited they would have found out that it didn't.

Councilman Rusty Addleman asked if the dog was tagged.

The puppy was only 3 months old, said Ms. Urban. It had some problems, but she was working with the doctors.

She added that a lot of people just aren't happy with the way they have been treated over their dogs.

"What kind of compensation?" asked Mayor Bill Riedel.

The price of the dog and the \$64 charged by her vet, not High Plains, said Ms. Plotts. She said she wasn't sure how much it had cost, since she hadn't paid everything.

Police Chief Wade Lockhart said he talked with city's dog catcher, Jeff Johnson, about the case. This dog, said Chief Lockhart, wasn't picked up by him, but by a citizen who took it directly to the clinic.

Dr. Randy Leska said the Catahoula

puppy was brought in. He said he didn't suspect rabies, but could tell the dog had some neurological issues. It didn't seem to hear or see well.

Dr. Leska said he deemed the dog a non-adoptable pet. It didn't have a tag and he had never seen the dog before.

He said he does normally hold animals, but didn't this one and doesn't believe the dog was having heat stroke.

If rabies is suspected, said Dr. Leska, the animal is put in quarantine. There was no bite history that he knew of with this dog. If there is, then quarantine is mandatory.

The dog was brought in by someone other than the dog catcher, he added, because it had entered someone else's property and got their dogs excited.

Lisa Urban, Leslie's daughter-in-law, said they had been told by the animal control officer and judge that an owner had until a dog is 6 months old to get it tagged.

City Administrator Karen Larson said the city doesn't require dogs to be tagged until they are 6 months. If the dog is tagged in the first three months of the year it costs \$5 if the animal is neutered and \$10 if not. After March 1, it costs \$8 if the animal is fixed and \$15 if it isn't.

Dogs can get a rabies shot as early as three months, said Dr. Leska.

Lisa Urban said she had a complaint about the animal control officer: when some dogs down the street got loose and attacked a cat, she said, the cat, which wasn't theirs. (See WOMAN on Page 8A)

Petition question OK'd on recreation system

The Decatur County attorney gave the stamp of approval Friday to a petition to establish a public recreation system that could raise an annual tax on property not to exceed one mill.

While the petition has been approved, organizers said, it hasn't started being circulated yet. If they get enough signers, though, an election would be called to allow voters to decide the issue.

The Decatur Tomorrow recreation team plans to meet today, said member Deanna Castle.

The group's "action team" for recreation got started after a "community conversation" with 40 people talking about the idea, she said.

From there, 19 expressed interest in helping form a recreation commission.

The group includes representatives from the schools, three high school students, the Golden Age Center, the county, the city, the hospital, businesses and farming.

Since the original meeting, said Mrs. Castle, group members have gone to the city and county asking for financial help to start a countywide recreation program. The county attorney, she said, suggested organizing a recreation system that could raise tax money. That can be formed through the city or the school, she said. (See PETITION on Page 8A)

Property tax section inside today's paper

A Nor'West Newspapers special edition taking a closer look at property taxes in north-west Kansas is included in today's newspaper.

Staff members of *The Oberlin Herald*, *The Saint Francis Herald*, *The Norton Telegram*, the *Colby Free Press* and *The Goodland Star-News* gathered information about county budgets and property taxes in 1990, 2000 and 2010 for comparison.

COUNTY TAX REVIEW
Fewer payers; higher bills

Nor'West Newspapers
September 2011

Bird City Times The Goodland Star-News The Colby Free Press THE NORTON TELEGRAM THE OBERLIN HERALD The Saint Francis Herald

Jennings conversation brings out more ideas

By **CAROLYN KELLEY-PLOTT**
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Ideas were flying during a Community Conversation at the Senior Center in Jennings, including representatives from Decatur County's four cities, Oberlin, Jennings, Dresden and Norcatur.

More than 50 people attended the supper and meeting last Monday, Sept. 12, to talk about how to improve their communities. The barbecue-beef supper was served for a donation by the Jennings American Legion Post.

Sponsored by the Decatur Tomorrow Steering Committee, and directed by Terry Woodbury of

Public Square Communities, the conversation asked people to identify:

- Something each town in the county could be proud of.
 - Something in each town that would improve the community.
 - A project or event that would benefit the entire county.
- People from each town named its strengths:
- Oberlin, the new recreation center and Sappa Park.
 - Norcatur, Elden Auker Park and
- (See MEETING on Page 8A)

