

## Wheat might be ready a little early

So far, this year's wheat crop looks good, agriculture experts say, and it might be ready a little earlier than usual.

Keith VanSkiike, extension agent with Twin Creeks Extension, said normally the wheat heads around May 1 and that happened 10 days to two weeks ago. As it is now, he said, the crop is early, but that doesn't necessarily mean that harvest will

be early. Usually, said Mr. VanSkiike, the crop tends to even itself out as it gets later in the season.

If there is timely moisture, he said, the wheat will keep growing. If it is dry and hot, harvest might happen sooner.

Mr. VanSkiike said he hasn't seen any extensive frost damage, though there may be a little burned tips on the wheat or some on alfalfa and

some bad spots in low-lying areas.

There are some diseases people should be on the look-out for, he said, mostly diseases found here every year.

Mr. VanSkiike said stripe rust favors the cooler temperatures and leaf rust warmer weather.

Stripe rust, he said, tends to stay on the leaf, while stripe rust tends to move in the vein of the leaf and

leaves a line.

These diseases are carried up on the wind from Texas and move with the progressing growth of the wheat. It's important to protect the uppermost leaf of the plant when treating them.

Mr. VanSkiike said he doesn't think the diseases are necessarily worse than they have been in the past, but said they are prevalent.

The other diseases he's seen include barley yellow dwarf, a virus carried by an aphid, and wheat streak mosaic.

Barley yellow dwarf, said Mr. VanSkiike, has been worse this year than others. It hits large spots in a field, while streak mosaic tends to spread out in a larger area.

Some of the newer varieties will resist these diseases.

All in all, he said, he is pleased with the way the crop is looking. Mr. VanSkiike said he's cautiously optimistic about the potential harvest.

With the wheat greening up so early, he said, so far they have been lucky that we haven't had a major hard freeze. The closer it gets to the middle of May, said Mr. VanSkiike, the more the chance for a frost diminishes.

## Month of May is full of titles for recognition

By KEVIN BOTTRELL  
kbottrell@nwkansan.com

Pop quiz: Is it Beef Month, National Hospital Week, Bike Month, Foster Care Awareness Month or Building Safety Month?

If you answered "all of the above," you'd be correct. It's also Exercise is Medicine Month, National Brain Tumor Awareness Month, Jewish American Heritage Month, Mental Health Awareness Month, Skin Cancer Awareness Month, National Military Appreciation Month and Lou Gehrig's Disease Awareness Month.

Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback issued proclamations last week for Bike Month, Beef Month, Building Safety Month and Exercise is Medicine Month last week.

The Bike Month proclamation says that cycling provides both an "an excellent form of physical fitness and provides quality family recreation." It also asks people to be more aware of bicycle safety.

The governor recognized the \$5.5-billion-a-year cattle industry with Beef Month. The proclamation said it is in the public interest to advance the beef industry, since Kansas has more than 6.3 million cattle.

Building Safety Month encourages awareness of safe construction and maintenance of buildings. It is sponsored by the International Code Council and its foundation. The governor's proclamation asks citizens to consider projects "to improve building safety and sustainability at home and in the community, and to acknowledge the essential service provided to all of us by local and state building departments and federal agencies in protecting lives and property."

Exercise is Medicine Month, sponsored by the American College of Sports Medicine, encourages people to speak to their doctors about how exercise can help treat (See GOVERNOR on Page 12A)

## Students plan to promenade Main

Juniors and seniors will be decked out in their prettiest dresses and fanciest suits and tuxes Saturday for a night out at the Decatur Community High Prom and Promenade.

Before eating a fine meal and dancing the night away, the prom-goers will march down Penn Avenue as other classes before them have done.

Students will meet at the Sunflower Cinema at 6:45 p.m. Saturday to be ready to walk down Main Street.

The promenade starts at 7 p.m. and will be led by Nolan Henningson, prom marshal, and his date, Serena Stacy.

Dinner will follow at The Gateway at 7:30 p.m. and the dance will start at 8 p.m. This year's theme is "Couldn't Ask for More."

The Oberlin Rotary Club will sponsor the after-prom party.

Anyone who wants to see the decorations can do that from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The juniors will be decorating The Gateway on Thursday.

## School schedule continues to be full

With just 11 days left until the last day of classes, Oberlin schools have about twice as many activities scheduled.

Seniors will spend their last day in high school on Thursday, May 17, and the other students will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 23.

Other activities include:

- Speech awards at Decatur Community High School at 6:30 p.m. Thursday.
- Northwest Kansas League track meets, high school and junior high, here on Friday.
- League golf at Oakley on Friday.
- High school prom on Saturday.
- Oberlin School Board meeting at 7:30 p.m. Monday.
- Oberlin Elementary School

Support our School meeting at 5:30 p.m. Monday.

- High school regional golf tournament on Monday.
- Junior and senior high music awards and band concert at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday.
- High school awards at 2 p.m. next Wednesday.
- Baccalaureate at 7:30 p.m. next Wednesday in the auditorium.
- High school regional track meet Friday, May 18.
- High school graduation at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 19, in the gym.
- Junior high awards at 7 p.m. Monday, May 21.
- High school state golf on Monday, May 21.
- High school state track meet on Friday, May 25 and Saturday, May 26.

## Graduation section inside today's paper

Inside today's OBERLIN HERALD is the 2012 Graduation Section, with photos and information on seniors from Decatur Community and Golden Plains high schools.

The section has pictures of the graduating seniors from both schools and details on what the students were involved in during school, scholarships they've won and their plans for the future.



## Kids run during fun day

AFTER THE morning session of the Oberlin Elementary Fun Day on Friday, Dr. Travis Hissong (above) cooked porkburgers. The Support Our School group served parents lunch in the park while the school district provided food for the kids. Taylor Ketterl (right) loaded up a giant yellow sponge with water, then ran to a second bucket where she squeezed the water out.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



## Fourth grader picks her mom to win certificate

Each year, the Oberlin Business Alliance asks students at Oberlin Elementary School to write letters nominating their mom as "Mother of the Year."

Each letter is read by alliance members and one is selected as the winner. This year's winner will receive a gift certificate from the business group.

The winning letter was written by Bethany Mason about her mom Johanna:

I think my mom Johanna Mason should be the mother of the year because...

She tucks me into bed with a kiss on the head. She wakes me up each morning because I turn off my alarm clock and go back to sleep. She

makes lunch and supper and she tops it off with fresh-baked cookies. I can talk to her when I'm sad. She helps me with my homework and piano. She takes care of the kids at school if they are hurt or sick. She works hard every day. She works at both schools, so when I get hurt at home she knows exactly what to do. She is so nice. She is a wonderful mom! She has a heart warming smile. She takes me to all of my appointments. She's so loving and kind. She takes me on trips and buys me things. She is a great cook too. She is the best mom ever!!

Bethany Mason  
fourth grade

Here are the rest of the letters:

My grandma should be parent of the year. She should be parent of the year because she takes care of me. And she is nice.

My grandma should be parent of the year because she cooks for me. She also cleans for me. She also buys me things. Things she buys me are clothes, food and etc.

My grandma should be parent of the year because she pays for everything I get. She pays for food when we eat out and etc. She pays me when I do chores like clean my room or mow.

That's why my grandma, Pam VanVleet, should be parent of the year.

Sincerely,  
Ravyn VanVleet

sixth grade

My Mom is the best. My Mom is nice to me and others. She is very loving and helps me when I need it. Mom gets me ready for the future by making me do my chores. She lets me cook sometimes and she is never mad for long. If she gets really angry she comes back and is very kind; she also does work around the house. She brings out the best in me and punishes me when I need it. Once on a bike ride I accidentally hurt my Mom badly and my stepdad was angry with me and I said I was sorry to her and she said one

(See STUDENTS on Page 5A)

