

# Harvest gets a start but is slow

By RAMELL TAYLOR  
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The Decatur Co-op received its first wheat samples last week, and managers expect farmers in other areas to send in samples this week as a late harvest edges closer.

Co-op General Manager Kurt Anderson said evaluating the harvest in the Oberlin area has been problematic.

"It won't come close to the harvest of the last four years," he said "but we will have a wheat harvest."

Some areas in Decatur County have nicer-looking fields than others, Mr. Anderson added.

"Jennings and Norcatour caught rains that other towns didn't," he said. "Jennings has already sent in test samples."

Mr. Anderson said farmers in Lenora started cutting test samples last week as well those with fields along Interstate 70.

Keith Van Skike, agriculture agent for the Twin Creeks Extension District in Norton, said relatively poor harvest in much of the area can be attributed to a mixture of the freeze injury in early April and damage created by recent high temperatures and the drought.

"Wheat has been influenced with slow, droughty growth this season," he said. "The effects of light test weight wheat may cause some concern this year, but (the wheat) can be used for feed and seed, depending on how light."

James Garner, agronomy manager for Decatur Co-op, said fields north and west of Oberlin, around Hemdon and Atwood, aren't doing so well.

"Their harvest could be anywhere between two and 15 bushels per acre," he said. "(Farmers in) those areas where the crop is spotty will look into insurance claims."

Mr. Garner said the test weights across Decatur County are getting better. Last week, the average test

## First load delivered

The first load of wheat for Decatur County came from Jennings resident Eric Fleckenstein, who delivered 1,089.83 bushels to the Decatur Co-op elevator at Jennings at 12:16 p.m. on Thursday.

The load weighed in at 59.4 pounds and the moisture tested 8.8 percent.

Out of 27 entries, Alex Heeger won *The Oberlin Herald's* Harvest Countdown contest with a guess of 3:30 p.m. on June 27. Amber Barnes came in second place with a guess of 8 a.m. on June 27, and Terri Brantley of Selden had the third-best guess of 2 p.m. on June 28.

The first-place winner will receive \$50 in scrip money, second will get \$35 and third \$15. The scrip may be spent at the sponsoring businesses, which include Fredrickson Insurance Agency, Stanley Hardware, Ward Drug Store, Decatur County Title and Abstract, Hansen Mueller, the Decatur Cooperative Association and *The Herald*.

weight was 44 pounds per bushel, he said, but this week, the average was 56 pounds.

"On the first cutting, you usually get the dry stuff," Mr. Garner said. "Things will get better by next week."

After talking with several farmers, Mr. Garner said, most of them are hoping to be cutting wheat shortly after the Fourth of July, with harvest in full swing next week.

# Festivities planned for Fourth of July

By RAMELL TAYLOR  
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Day Star Laser International will bring its laser light show to Oberlin for the first Fourth of July Festival on Thursday, sponsored by the Decatur County Firemen's Wives.

Teresa Diederich, event coordinator, said the laser show will take place in the high school parking lot about 10 p.m.

She said they decided to change the location from the football field because the all-terrain lifts used to hold up the screen are more stable on asphalt.

Bleachers will be set up for people to watch the show, Mrs. Diederich said, but she encouraged spectators to bring lawn chairs to ensure a seat.

Although the light show will take place at the end of the day, festivities will begin as early as 7:30 a.m., with a breakfast buffet at the LandMark Inn.

The Independence Day Parade will begin at 9 a.m. at the Oberlin fire station and will pass the Good Samaritan Center so the residents can watch, then proceed on down Penn (See PARADE on Page 12)

# City starts restrictions for outdoor water use

With water use at the limit, no rain over the last week and little, if any, in the forecast for this week, Oberlin Mayor Rob McFee declared a Stage 2 water warning Monday, restricting outside watering in town to every other day.

City Administrator Karen Larson said the city will go back on an odd-even lawn watering system.

People with odd-numbered addresses may water on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and those with even-numbered addresses on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. No watering is allowed on Monday. A rotation system for nonresident

water consumers will be developed later, the administrator said.

Outdoor water use will be restricted to from midnight to 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. to midnight. Refilling of private pools will be allowed one day a week after sunset.

Willard Perrin, city water department supervisor, said the town had been under a Stage 1 water watch, asking residents to conserve, especially when using outside water.

"When 700,000 gallons is pumped," Mr. Perrin said, "the city determines if there needs to be any restrictions."

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AT A SOFTBALL BENEFIT for coach Sherri Ruf over the weekend, Keithen Fortin (top) slid in trying to beat Colleen Rittman at third base. Danielle Bailey (bottom, right) was keeping her eyes on the ball and swinging for the fences. Sherri's son, Ryan Ruf (bottom, left) ran the bases for a run.



# Tournament raises \$3,000

By RAMELL TAYLOR  
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A softball tournament to raise money for coach Sherri Ruf on Saturday exceeded expectations, raising \$3,000 to help the popular coach with medical expenses in her battle with cancer.

The tournament was put together by Dana and Chase Juenemann, who said they were thankful to everyone who contributed time and money to the cause.

"We especially would like to thank Amanda Sowers Photography and Dusty Trail Red Angus for donating the shirts from Custom Trophy," they said. "to Dakota Soderlund and the Decatur Recreation Commission for the use of the fields and Dakota's time he spent at the field helping keep the tournament running smoothly."

"Thanks to Kennedy and Conner Fortin and Kyle and Kelden Breth for helping throughout the day with the books and scorekeeping. Thanks to the other volunteers who helped umpire the exciting games. Many thanks to all the Oberlin School District staff for their time serving hamburgers and hot dogs from Raye's Grocery and donating items to be sold."

"The shade for the dugouts was provided at a discount from Stanley Hardware. Thank you to the Lions Club for having concessions open during the tournament and donating a percentage of their proceeds. And thanks to the Jaycees for



bringing the grill down to grill the hamburgers and hot dogs."

Mrs. Juenemann said 10 teams participated in the tournament, which stretched throughout the weekend to avoid running late games. After three days of softball, "The Storm Chasers," led by Mr. Soderlund, won the tournament, going undefeated in the process.

"Thanks to all the teams who made the tournament possible," Mrs. Juenemann said. "Thanks to the countless people who helped out and donated in any way to this event. It showed great support for Sherri and her family."

# Concealed-carry owners can pack heat

By KEVIN BOTTRELL  
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Starting Monday, people with concealed-carry licenses are able to take their handguns into many public buildings — unless the agency running the building got an exemption under a new state law.

The law, passed by the Legislature this year and effective July 1, requires local governments and state agencies to allow people to carry concealed weapons in their buildings if those buildings do not have "adequate" security measures. Up until now, cities and counties were allowed to make their own decisions about concealed carry.

Even under the new law, there are a few exemptions. Local governments and some state agencies can send in a letter to exempt themselves from the law until January. The issue of whether or not to request

figure out what the requirements are going to be," Mr. Moser said. "The attorney general's office is expected to send out their interpretation, hopefully by the end of the month."

One question that will have to be answered, said Goodland City Manager Doug Gerber, is whether or not municipal judges will still be allowed to ban guns in their courtrooms. The law allows district-court judges to ban concealed guns, but does not mention municipal courts.

Mr. Gerber said he expects a lot of cities to ask for the attorney general's opinion on this issue.

The manager said there is also a provision allowing public employees to carry concealed weapons on the job. He said he objected to that, as it might interrupt work flow. An employee carrying a weapon would have to spend time finding some

way to safely store the gun before entering a building that prohibited concealed weapons, he said.

The law does allow governments and state agencies to continue to ban concealed guns in their buildings through 2017 as long as there is "adequate security" at those buildings or if they plan to install security. Mr. Moser said this mostly means metal detectors at public entrances.

"The large majority of counties won't have that," he added.

If the county wanted to put in those security measures, he said, it would have to be either a walk-through metal detector or an officer with a wand stationed at each entrance. Either option would be

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