

Hot days mean harvest will start soon

The fields are golden brown and the temperatures are predicted to be in the low 100s this week, which means farmers could be harvesting soon.

There weren't any reports of wheat coming in Decatur County as of Monday night.

Brian Olson, area agronomist with Kansas State University Research and Extension, said he wouldn't be surprised if they

aren't cutting in the southern part of Decatur County by the end of the week, especially on wheat that was planted early and is an early-maturing variety.

The time when harvest starts, said Mr. Olson, depends on the weather. He said when he was growing up, he remembers harvest being around the Fourth of July, but with the new varieties, the date can be

pushed up.

Obviously, he said, temperature plays a part in it too.

The weather this week will be good drying weather, said Mr. Olson, with hot temperatures and a dry wind.

The crop isn't going to be as good as it could have been, he said, but there is a chance that there will be respectable yields.

A dry spell from May 1 to the end of May hurt the crops. If the area had normal moisture then, he said, the fields were set up for excellent yields. There was a lot of loss during the dry spell, he said.

In early June, he said, the area received a good amount of moisture that helped the crop.

Besides the dry spell, said Mr. Olson, the

crop suffered from stripe rust on several varieties and there was damage to the fields along creek bottoms where there are colder temperatures in early May.

On Monday, Hoxie got its first load of wheat in. Mr. Olson said harvest was progressing near WaKeeney and in Gove County also. Cutting will move north and west as the week goes on, he said.

Sixth graders to be in one class at grade school

Principals iron out class details for the start of school in August

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

It looks like the Oberlin Elementary School might only have one section of sixth grade next year, since there are only 22 projected to be enrolled.

Principal Duane Dorshorst said this will be the first time that the school will have only one section of a class.

Carol Dixon will teach the class, he said, with Cynthia Matson teaching health three days a week for 40 minutes a session.

Mr. Dorshorst said the good news is that it has freed up some time for Terri Woolsey so she will still be doing two tenths of a day of title I which is a federal program in which she helps out with reading at the grade school, but will also be able to teach .2 hours of art. That means all of the students will get an art class once a week, he said.

Last year, said Mr. Dorshorst, classroom teachers had to take over art, and they did a great job. This next year, the art teacher will have time to teach it.

There were two complaints last year, he said, after the board cut staff to meet the budget. The first was that people wanted a full-time counselor. The second was that they wanted to have art again with an art teacher, and at least that has been taken care of.

The rest of the classes will have two sections, Mr. Dorshorst said. Kindergarten has 20 students, first

School Roundup

At the monthly meeting last Monday, the Oberlin School Board:

- Heard that the district will get around \$260,000 in insurance money to replace roofs on the three buildings, but still needs to decide what kind of roof to use and how to finance the rest of the cost. Story on Page 3A.

- Decided to replace and add to the hard surface on the playground at the grade school for \$32,737. Story to come.

- Heard that the district will save \$60,000 on medical insurance next year after changing companies, which means employees may get dental insurance. Story to come.

- Received a request from seven seniors and a handful of parents to keep graduation on Sunday instead of changing it to Saturday. Story on Page 3A.

- Heard that the grade school may only have one section of sixth grade next year, with only 22 students expected in that class. Story at left.

- Received scores from both schools on annual tests. Story to come.

grade 25, second grade 28, third (See GRADE on Page 10A)

Council member questions letters about neat yards

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

A new council member asked Thursday who was in charge of the "citizen harassment intimidation team" after he heard from an older woman who had received a notice under the ordinance requiring residents to keep a neat yard.

Councilman Rob McFee, who has received similar notices at least twice, said he wanted to know who was in charge of "the weed thing," sending out letters and the "citizen harassment intimidation team."

There is no team, said Mayor Ken Shobe. Usually, the city staff spots the violation and the administrator sends a registered letter.

Mr. McFee, who was elected to the council this spring as a write-in candidate, said he drove by this house—he provided a picture of the yard, but never said where it is—and would guess the weeds are on the city right-of-way, not on the owner's property.

Mr. McFee said he has weeds in

his yard and he is waiting for them to get tall enough so that he can treat them with chemicals.

If this woman is in violation, he said, then he is in violation.

"Why do you think there are so many houses in this town for sale?" Mr. McFee asked.

Some people have money to take care of their yards, he said, or they don't have a job and can work on their yard all day. Others can't afford to live up to those standards.

Besides the picture of the woman's property, Mr. McFee had a picture of what he said was city property with weeds on it.

He said the city needs to get its stuff in order first.

"Continued harassment is not keeping people here," he said.

"What do you want the city to do?" Mayor Shobe asked. "Stop sending letters?"

"No," Mr. McFee said. "There are yards that need it, but the owner of

(See YARDS on Page 10A)

Governor will visit for breakfast in July

The Oberlin Rotary Club will sponsor a breakfast for Gov. Kathleen Sebelius at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 5, at The Gateway.

Gov. Sebelius and former Gov. Mike Hayden, now secretary of the state Department of Wildlife and Parks, will speak. Gov. Sebelius will be in Norton on the Fourth of July and will head to

Colby from Oberlin.

The breakfast is open to the public. Anyone interested in attending needs to call The Gateway at 475-2400 by Thursday, June 30. Breakfast will cost \$6.25.

This will be the second time Gov. Sebelius has met with the public in Decatur County since her election.



HELPING UNFOLD A WET, FROZEN T SHIRT, Robbie and Jeni Henningson (above) took part in one of the games during the annual Relay for Life on Friday evening. Between fun and games, walkers including, Carol

Brown (below left) and her mother-in-law, Patty Brown, a cancer survivor, read the names of cancer victims on luminaries placed around the high school running track.

— Herald photos by Cynthia Haynes

Relay raises \$13,000

Young and old came out Friday night to walk for the annual Relay for Life, remember loved ones lost to cancer and honor those who are fighting or have won the battle against the disease.

Co-chair Sarah Fredrickson said the turnout was great. Seventeen teams stayed on the track all night and 833 luminaries were sold, about 34 less than last year.

The relay raised \$13,000 or more for the American Cancer Society, she said, and they are still accepting money for a week and half at The Bank. It needs to be given to Regina Stanley.

Mrs. Fredrickson said they received a surprise check from Wal-Mart in McCook, which was a sponsor, for \$500.

Set-up Friday afternoon went well, she said. They had a 4-H group helping out so it was done in an hour. The kids were awesome, said Mrs. Fredrickson, and everything went so fast.

That night it was too windy to send off a flock of doves as planned, she said, and some of the tents had to be more tightly secured.

The games went well and several people, more than past years, opted to put up tents on the football field and camp out.

Kent Ploussard and Stan McEvoy did a superb job as deejays, she said.



The relay couldn't go on without the sponsors and people in town

who continue to support those

The group went through 46 (See RELAY on Page 10A)

Wounded warriors ride across Kansas

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

The wind wasn't giving them any help, but the riders were used to doing things the hard way.

All amputees, they are peddling across the country in Soldier Ride, part of the Wounded Warrior Project started by John Melia, a former U.S. Marine who was in-

jured in a helicopter crash in 1992.

Thursday morning, cyclists and vans were strung out along U.S. 36 between Oberlin and Norton. They had spent Tuesday evening in Oberlin, and their destination was roughly 90 miles away at Smith Center.

The men said Soldier Ride was

formed by a group from East Hampton, N.Y., to show support for those injured in the armed forces and raise awareness and money to help wounded soldiers and their families.

Heath Calhoun, Clarksville, Tenn., said he lost both his leg Nov. 7, 2003, at Mosul, Iraq. He rides a hand-powered cycle.

Mr. Calhoun, a retired staff sergeant, has a wife and two children with another on the way.

Bob Haley, from New York, said he is an old Navy man, just along for the ride.

He said he was visiting his son in Colorado and decided to ride with (See BIKERS on Page 10A)

* Grade school will have art again next year

(Continued from Page 1A)
grade 33, fourth grade 30 and fifth grade 31.

The school will offer gym with Teacher Keith Grafel, music with teacher Jim Buchholz and band with teacher Christie Morris.

In pre-school, said Mr. Dorshorst, 18 students were interested as of the beginning of May. He said he set up a point system to rank the students including if they were in the program last year, if they are eligible for kindergarten and then based it on age and if they were a peer student. Peer students are students who are the same age as kids on the individual education plan, but aren't on the plan.

He said he talked with teacher Cheryl Soderlund, and they both want to keep the limit at 16 kids.

Mr. Dorshorst said he isn't sure if all 18 are still interested, but the school will be sending out letters soon.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt said the district has received two or three letters from parents thanking them for the pre-school.

The high school, said Mr. Glodt, will be bigger next year than it was this year. With a small graduating

class and a big sixth grade, there will be more kids. He said the high school also will pick up some kids who went to school in Jennings last year.

Jennings High closed after graduation, though the grade school should be open this fall.

Most of the teachers and programs at the high school are going to be the same, said Mr. Glodt. There will be a few new teachers, including Mrs. Morris who was hired Monday night by the board to teach high school band.

Bryan Miller, a former student, was hired as an assistant wrestling coach. He will replace Jim Andersen, who resigned the position at the meeting.

Mr. Glodt said the district has also hired a Spanish teacher, Maria Campo Cuesta from Spain, through the Visiting Teacher From Spain program. He said she has a certified degree for teaching Spanish as a second language and a degree in English.

Now the board has to find a vocational agriculture instructor and a school nurse, since Nathan and Angela Copeland resigned after he found a job in his home town.

Band teacher hired from within staff

Christie Morris will be teaching band at Decatur Community High this fall in addition to teaching students in grades 5 and 6 at Oberlin Elementary School.

She taught at the grade school for 16 years doing both band and enrichment. Mrs. Morris will continue teaching band at the grade school and will also teach band at the high school.

A native of Los Alamos, N.M., Mrs. Morris said she met her husband Ken while they were students at Hastings College in Nebraska. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in music, then taught in Grand Island, Lebanon and Indianola, Neb., before the family moved to Oberlin.

Her husband is a representative with the Bridges Group LLP insurance in Oberlin. Their daughter, Julie, also a graduate of Hastings College, teaches second grade in Lee's Summit, Mo., and will be married Saturday to Chris Laflan.

The Morrises' son, David, plans to enroll at Hastings College this fall, majoring in chemistry. Both are graduates of Decatur Community High School.

Mrs. Morris said her goal is to build up the band program. She encourages all interested students to contact Principal Charles Haag as soon as possible to work band into their schedules.



C. Morris

* Yards in the city need to stay neat

(Continued from Page 1A)
this yard shouldn't have received a letter. If there are that many people complaining, then there needs to be a different way of doing this."

The council meetings are public, said Mayor Shobe, and people know what is going on.

Mr. McFee said he knows of two people who received letters who live in a nursing home. He said neither of their laws is that bad.

"If you want to live in a controlled community," said Mr. McFee, "then move to a controlled community."

City Administrator Gary Shike said by ordinance an official notice must go out by mail or personal service. The ordinance can be changed, he added.

Mr. Shike said he signs the let-

ters, but his assistant who goes out to look at the lawns.

"Change the rules," said Mr. Shike, "but don't yell at me for trying to do my job."

A lot of the people who receive letters don't live in town, said Foreman Dan Castle. Most are absent landlords or live in nursing homes, said Mayor Shobe.

There have been notices sent out and the people who received them are trying to grow their weeds tall so they can spray them, said Mr. Shike. He said he has said OK to that before. Any citizen has the right to come before the council for a hearing, the mayor said.

Mayor Shobe asked the council if anyone had suggestions to change the ordinance. There weren't any.



MEMBERS OF SOLDIER RIDE, part of the Wounded Warrior Project, stopped for a few minutes six miles west of Norton on Thursday morning. They are (from left) Army Ranger Sgt. Lou Olivera, retired Navy man and guest rider Bob Haley, Staff Sgt. Ryan Kelly and Staff Sgt. Heath Calhoun.

— Herald photo by Carolyn Plotts

* Bikers travel eastbound on U.S. 36

(Continued from Page 1A)
the men to Kansas City. He is a weatherman and said he really appreciated the 20-30 mile per hour winds they had at their backs Monday and Tuesday.

Mr. Haley is one of many guest riders who have the group part of the way.

Riders can go online to www.soldieride.com and select one of 12 stages of the tour. Those who don't ride with the team can register as a virtual riders and help raise public awareness and dona-

tions. "The reception has been great all across the country," said Staff Sgt. Ryan Kelly, Prescott, Ariz. "We're getting the word out. We've got a great mechanism to help take care of our guys. The money goes to a good cause. It's going to help a lot of guys who are coming back."

Sgt. Kelly lost his right leg in a blast on Highway 1, south of Baghdad, on July 14, 2003. He wears a prosthetic device when he rides. He is married but doesn't

have any children. Another member of the team, van driver Reg Cornelia, East Hampton, N.Y., said he has respect for the men.

"After watching these guys, I am so impressed," he said. "Next time I complain about a headache, somebody just slap me."

He said the team would be traveling U.S. 36 across Kansas before dropping down to Fort Riley, Lawrence and Kansas City. He said the team left Marina del Rey in Los Angeles on May 21. They

plan to arrive in Montauk, N.Y., on July 19.

The men also do advocacy programs. Sgt. Kelly said he helped lobby for higher insurance benefits to help injured servicemen.

The goal of Soldier Ride is to raise \$5 million, the men said, and so far they have collected \$116,047.

For more information on the Wounded Warrior Project, to make a donation or sponsor a rider, go to the website or call toll-free, 1-866-RIDE G1 1.



GETTING 10 INCHES CUT OFF her long tresses during the annual Relay for Life, Alejandrina Ortiz allowed beautician Chris Dempewolf to trim her hair for Locks of Love, a program to provide wigs for young cancer victims.

— Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

* Relay brings in a crowd

(Continued from Page 1A)
large pizzas from the Re-Load, Crossroads Express, Pizza Hut and Keeno's Roadhouse. Every time fresh pizza arrived, said Mrs. Fredrickson, it was eaten right away. The concessions stand at the track was packed with food, and it was all gone by morning.

Eleven people cut and donated their hair for Locks to Love. Gary Orr Jr., Kimberly Davis and Lacey Ream had their hair cut before the event. Peggy Ream had kept her hair from high school, and she sent it in.

Those who got their hair cut that evening included Marci Matchett, Katrina Wentz, Elizabeth Nedland, Fabiola Ortiz, Aleandria Ortiz, and Kala Bose and her daughter Nakita.

Some people wanted to donate once they saw what was happening. The committee plans to collect hair again next year for people who want to start growing it out. Beauticians Leta Meitl, Chris Dempewolf and Emily Williams cut the hair.

Later that evening, Dan Nedland and his wife Rhonda May talked about his battle with cancer.

Mrs. Fredrickson said they ordered 50 survivor shirts this year and they didn't have very many left over after the first lap of the relay.

Everything went well, she said, adding that this is her last year of chairing the event. Next year, she said, her co-chair, Chris Dempewolf, will take over.

The committee will have a final wrap-up meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday at Pizza Hut.

Papers signed for grant

Decatur County commissioners signed paperwork for a 2005 "Click-It or Ticket" STEP mini grant to pay the sheriff's office to help cover highways during the holiday weekends.

The grant would allow \$2,500 to be paid for overtime to help patrol highways. Sheriff Ken Badsy said the signature should finish the application.

He said Undersheriff Michael French planned to move to Jennings this week and was scheduled to go in for shoulder surgery on Thursday. He won't be back to work until around July 9.

The commissioners signed a contract with H&H Construction of Oberlin for windows for the Good Samaritan Center. The final cost for the 26 windows is \$26,176, including materials and labor.

Chief Dispatcher Jeanne Pachner said she is going after a grant for software and maintenance for her office through the governor's office.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Appointed Ron Montgomery to the fair board to represent district 3.
- Held 10-minute closed sessions for non-elected personnel to discuss evaluations with Ms. Pachner, Emergency Preparedness Director Bert Cool and Appraiser Alan Hale.

N-O-T-I-C-E

All flowers and decorations at the Oberlin Cemetery must be removed before Sunday, June 26. After that the city will remove them in preparation for mowing and weed eating.

Please allow 10 days for mowing and weed eating before placing flowers

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