

New well ready to water Oberlin

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**

After searching for water for years, Oberlin has its newest well finished and on line, but city officials say there is no telling what it will mean for the summer when water use shoots up.

David Sporn, with the water department, told councilmen the new well, No. 12, can pump 400 gallons a minute, or 576,000 gallons a day.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the

city won't be pumping 400 gallons per minute unless they have to. The new well can be adjusted so the city can pump whatever amount it needs.

This is the first well, said Mr. Shike, that the city has had the money to build exactly the way they wanted. It is super high tech, he said.

Inside the new well house is a pump to get the water out of the ground, plus a line to put it into the city system. One well is filled with

the meters and machines, including one which shows how long the water well has been used.

As of Thursday morning, when officials toured the installation, the well had been pumped 262 hours.

Mr. Shike said work on the well started two years ago, when the city started to apply for grants. The well went on line March 7 and has been used since then.

The city has been pumping the well at 330

gallons per minute, he said.

The new source gives the city three wells. Well No. 12 can be pumped with No. 10, said Mr. Shike, with the two wells being adjusted. Both are east of town.

They also can be pumped with No. 11, which is south of town near the old bowling alley.

Last week, Mr. Shike said, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment approved the new well. Mr. Sporn said there

were a few little things that needed to be worked on.

After the new well went online, the city tore down the well house for No. 10 to do some work. The well will be updated and a separate chlorine room will be built onto the pump house, which is required by the state.

Well No. 10 is getting electrical work which will allow a backup generator to be hooked up if needed.

(See WATER on Page 12)

'Conversation' should help generate ideas

A "community conversation" will kick off at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at the cafeteria of the Decatur Community High School with dinner.

Around 6:15 p.m., a discussion will begin designed to help generate ideas about the future of the county.

In a month, said Terry Woodbury, president of Kansas Communities LLC, those ideas will be taken to a "vision retreat," with 35 people from the county being selected Thursday to attend.

At the retreat, said Mr. Woodbury, the ideas from the meeting this week will be made into a 10-year vision statement with four to six specific goals.

The conversation Thursday is open to everyone.

The entire project is about getting more people involved and developing more and different leadership, the consultant said.

The City Council, which normally meets the first Thursday of each month, will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the high school library so council members can attend the conversation.

The Decatur County Museum also has a conflict, with "A Matter of Chastity" author Douglas Yocom from Oregon slated to speak at 5:30 p.m. at the museum's Bohemian Hall for its annual meeting.

Mr. Yocom will sign copies of his book from 3-4:30 p.m. and the annual business meeting for the museum will be at 5 p.m. before Mr. Yocom speaks.

Although the museum sometimes holds a dinner with its annual meeting, the whole schedule was changed and the dinner dropped in favor of cookies and coffee so that people could attend the community conversation.

'Free' machines could cost voters a bundle of money

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**

Decatur County will receive two voting machines to be used in the next election with federal money from the Help Americans Vote Act, but the new equipment may mean the end of voting in the county's small towns.

The machines will help people with hearing or vision problems vote, said County Clerk Marilyn Horn, but most voters will still use paper ballots.

With only two machines, the county will go from seven polling places to one, at The Gateway in Oberlin, she said. There will be no more voting in outlying towns unless state law changes.

Each machine, said Mrs. Horn, costs \$5,000, but the county gets two free. Although the two machines are free, the county will have to pay for the programs and maintenance for

County Roundup

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Held the yearly township road meeting in the courtroom. Story on Page 12.

- Talked with representatives from Court Appointed Special Advocates about the county paying for services for children here this year. Story on Page 12.

- Sold off equipment from the road and bridge department and purchased two road groomers. Story on Page 12.

the machines each year. Maintenance could cost \$5,000 per year (See VOTING on Page 12)

Speaker to motivate at seminar

The new operator of Sappa Valley Youth Ranch will give a motivational seminar from 7 to 9:30 p.m. next Tuesday in Morgan Theater at The Gateway.

Rep. Dick Kelsey is hiring staff to work at the ranch, a residential facility for juvenile offenders.

Topics of the seminar include adopting a winning attitude, setting goals for work and rowing through the rough waters of life.

Anyone interested in attending can pick up tickets at the Oberlin School District office on Commercial or the city office in The Gateway.

A collection will be taken at the end of the seminar, with a minimum donation of \$10 suggested.

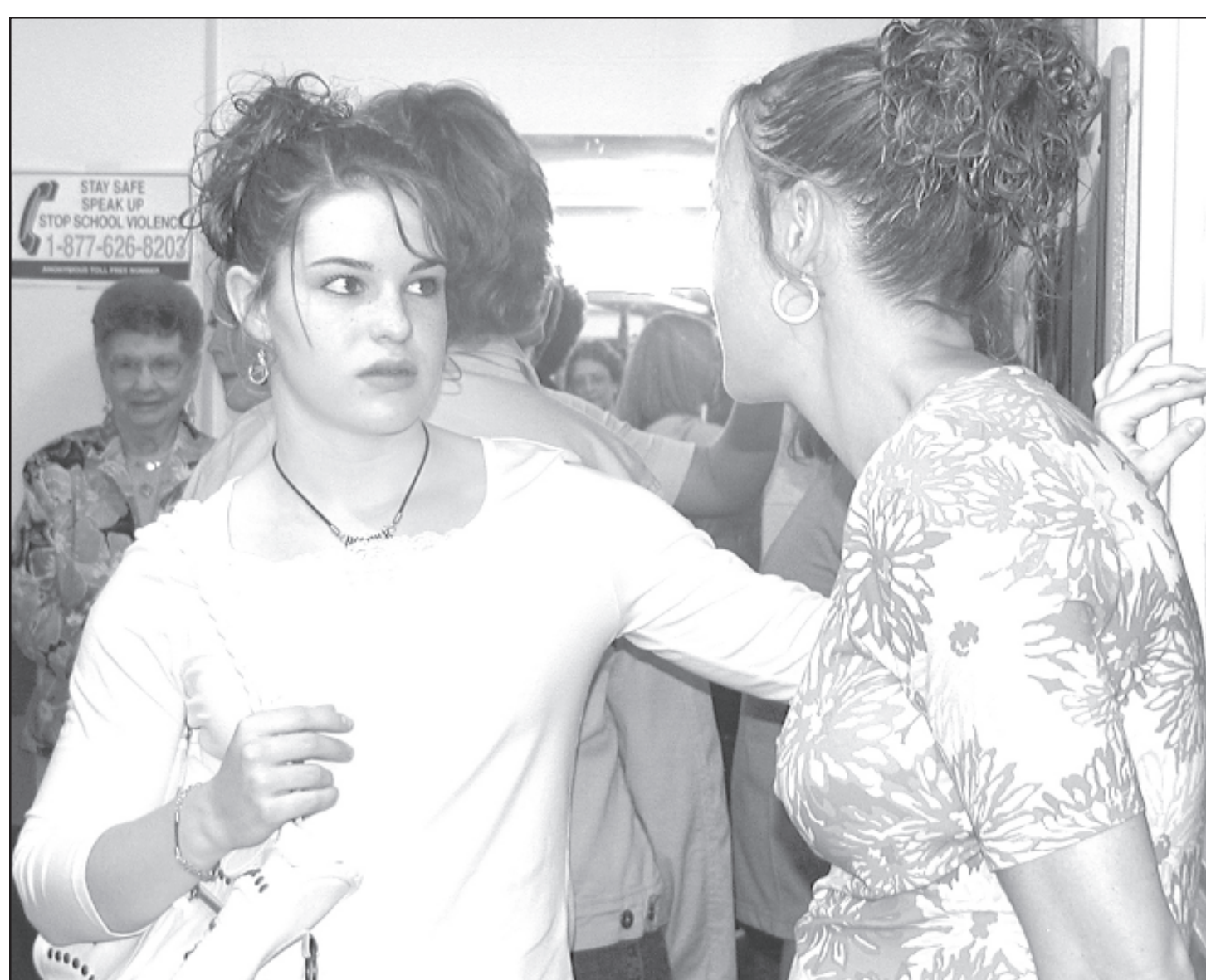
Rep. Kelsey owns King's Camp Inc., which has worked out a lease with the city for the youth ranch east of town.

He took over the property Monday and plans to have boys in the facility by Monday, April 17.

Custer's cook talks back



DRESSED AS A COOK AND LAUNDRESS, Angela Bates told about the life and times of Eliza Brown, an African-American woman who worked for Gen. George Custer and his wife Libby. Sunday was the third time Ms. Bates has portrayed frontier women during dinner-theater programs at the LandMark Inn in Oberlin. —Photo by Cynthia Haynes



PREPARING FOR THE FASHION SHOW at the high school, Heather Glodt (above) talked to her mother Sue before modeling Sunday. Jordan McHugh (below) showed

off some jewelry when it was her turn to model clothes and accessories from the Dresser.

— Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes



Fashion show cash goes to fight cancer

Spring outfits helped fight cancer Sunday with a fund-raising fashion show at the Decatur Community High School cafeteria.

Kayettes, their mothers and volunteers showed off the newest colors and styles in clothing, jewelry and accessories from the Dresser.

The audience donated a little more than \$150 to Relay for Life, a cancer fund raiser set for Friday and Saturday, June 16-17.

Eight mother-daughter pairs and other volunteers, both young and not-so-young, showed off the new outfits from the Oberlin dress shop while manager Karen Metcalf served as moderator.

Pairing off were daughters and

mothers Marci and Lolita Metcalf, Sarah and Elaine Marcuson, Jennifer and Anna Sha-w, Jessica and Dianne Bremer, Heather and Sue Glodt, Destry and Aurelia Jackson, Anne and Carol Wasson and Lakin Lahe and Jackie Mayberry.

Also helping show off the new spring fashions were Amanda Grafel, Linda Hollowell, Shirley Shields, Susan May, Jordan McHugh, Mary Ann Amack, Carol Morford, Pat Wright and Fern Jording.

The show ran in two segments with pianists Anne Wasson, Jessica Bremer and Sarah Marcuson entertaining and cookies and punch during intermission.

Spring snowstorm aids thirsty wheat

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**

The snowstorm last month helped the county's wheat crop, experts say, but it is still anyone's guess what will happen between now and harvest.

Brian Olson, Kansas State University Research and Extension regional agronomist in Colby, said the wheat is looking considerably better after the snow. The wheat needed to get moisture before the plants started to joint, he said, and that is what happened.

Jointing means that the wheat's growing point is pushing off the crown, said Mr. Olson.

The crop is starting to move out of the vegetative stage into the productive stage.

The moisture will benefit farmers a whole lot more who got fertilizer on the crop before it started to snow, he said.

Things look pretty positive for the crop right now, he said, but that doesn't mean that it is going to be a good year. It just means, said Mr. Olson, that farmers are further down the road to making a good crop. The

wheat has dodged one more bullet.

There was some damage to some fields that got either too dry or too dry and too cold, he said. Overall, though, the wheat in northwest Kansas is sitting pretty good now. To the south, he added, it is a whole different story.

For the most part, everything that needs to be done to the wheat has been done at this point, Mr. Olson said. Farmers need to look for rust on wheat, because it could be a problem when the crop gets to the heading stage.

Generally, he said, harvest in this area starts around the fourth week in June, with farmers test cutting around the third week.

When harvest will start, he said, depends on the weather over the next few months.

If there is nice, cool weather with some rainfall, then harvest will be later. If it is hot and dry, harvest could be earlier.

Mother Nature will determine when harvest comes and what the yield will be between now and then, he said.