

# Welcome Hunters!



# THE OBERLIN HERALD

75¢ (tax included; 54¢ delivered at home)

20 Pages, 2 Sections

Wednesday, November 1, 2006

128th Year, Number 44

## Fair building dream set to come true

The new livestock building for the Decatur County Fairground has been ordered and the check has been signed by the foundation president and treasurer.

Members of the Decatur County Fair Foundation met last Monday and agreed to buy the \$52,979 building from Kevin Brown of Sappa Valley Construction.

With the resignation of LaMoine Wolfram and Donna Groneweg from the foundation and fair boards, the four remaining members decided to choose officers before making decisions on the building — or anything else.

Members elected Sonya Gillespie, vice president of the Decatur County Fair Board, as president of the foundation board; Pam May, secretary of the fair board, as secretary; and Linda Schroer, fair board treasurer, as treasurer.

Mrs. Gillespie asked if there was any information on concrete for the building. Mr. Brown said he didn't have anything, but gave the board a contract to order the building.

County Commissioner Patricia Glenn, who represents the county on the fair and foundation boards, said she was in favor of

getting the building up. Maintenance and concrete can come later, she said, but lets get the building up.

Michael Wasson, who has helped raise money for the project, said he had another \$500 check for the foundation for the building. He said they also have about half a hog left in the freezer and were thinking about doing a grand opening supper or something.

Besides Mr. Wasson, his wife Kelly, Clay Anderson, Merlin Anderson, Mr. Brown and Dr. Mark Olson were at the open meeting.

Dr. Olson said he had talked with several

business owners, and wanted to say that he thought, as far as marketing and economic development go, the livestock building is a good idea. There has been a lot of money donated through memorials and fund raisers for the building, Dr. Olson said, and lots of people support the project.

If they need more money for concrete, he said, the community will come up with it.

This is a great project for the county, community and the fair, said Dr. Olson. It is also great for kids.

"Someone helped me when I was a kid to get to where I am at today," he said, "now

we need to support them and help them move forward."

No matter what has been printed in the paper, said Mrs. Gillespie, the foundation isn't against the building. It seems like the foundation has gotten a bad rap, she said, but there isn't an issue. The foundation just has to go through the motions.

From my stand point, said Dr. Olson, and what I have heard, the community is in support of the building.

It is nice to know that, said Mrs. Gillespie. That and it is nice to have people at the meet- (See LIVESTOCK on Page 12A)

## Banquet, auction to help update habitat

The Sunflower Chapter of Pheasants Forever is gearing up for its annual banquet Friday night at The Gateway.

The group has held the banquet at The Gateway the night before pheasant season opens for the last 13 years.

Rick Pauls, with Pheasants Forever, said the doors will open at 5 p.m., with dinner starting at 6:30 p.m. On the menu is prime rib and all the trimmings for \$25. No reservations are needed and people can pay at the door.

Pheasants Forever promotes habitat for wildlife, especially pheasants, Mr. Pauls said. At the banquet, he said, people will have a chance to join the group for \$30. All of the dues money will go to the national office.

The money that is raised at the banquet through donations and auctions will stay in town, he said, to be used for planting trees, shrubs and food plots for game birds. Last year, he said, the money was used at Sappa Park.

Mr. Pauls the last banquet brought in \$23,697, which included \$2,538 in donations.

After expenses of \$20,007 the group raised \$3,689, which stayed in town.

Again this year, he said, they will have live and silent auctions. Some of the items on the auction include

## Store will stay open for hunters

Decatur County will fill up this weekend as pheasant hunters from near and far come to try their luck at bagging birds Saturday morning, opening day of the winter season.

Some hunters come back every year while others will be new this year, and they should find plenty of birds even if numbers are down a little from last year.

Randy Rodgers, small game biologist with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (See BIRD on Page 12A)

the Pheasants Forever fine art print of the year, lots of guns, Pheasants Forever logo merchandise and a two-night stay at Sappa Creek Lodge, which includes breakfast and a hunt for two.

The banquet is open to everyone. Mr. Pauls said the food and conversation are good and the money goes for a good cause.

## County voters get their answer with more polls

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Polls will be open in Oberlin, Jennings, Dresden and Norcatour with machines and paper ballots at each place for the general election next Tuesday.

After the primary in August, voters and officials in Jennings, Dresden and Norcatour asked the Decatur County commissioners to get more machines so the polls could be open in each town. During the primary, everyone in Decatur County had to come to The Gateway in Oberlin to vote.

Count Clerk Marilyn Horn, who serves as the county election officer, said the commissioners listened to the people and got three more voting machines. Every voter doesn't have to use the machines, designed to help people who have trouble with paper ballots, she said, but they can if they want. Voters who choose not to use the machines can vote on a paper ballot. All polling places will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., said Mrs. Horn.

Decatur County voters in: •Custer, Lyon and Dresden townships and the City of Dresden vote at the Dresden United Methodist Church.

• Allison, Pleasant Valley and Jennings townships and the City of Jennings will vote at the Jennings

## Next paper will be late

The Oberlin Herald will be a day late next week to allow election results to be covered in the newspaper.

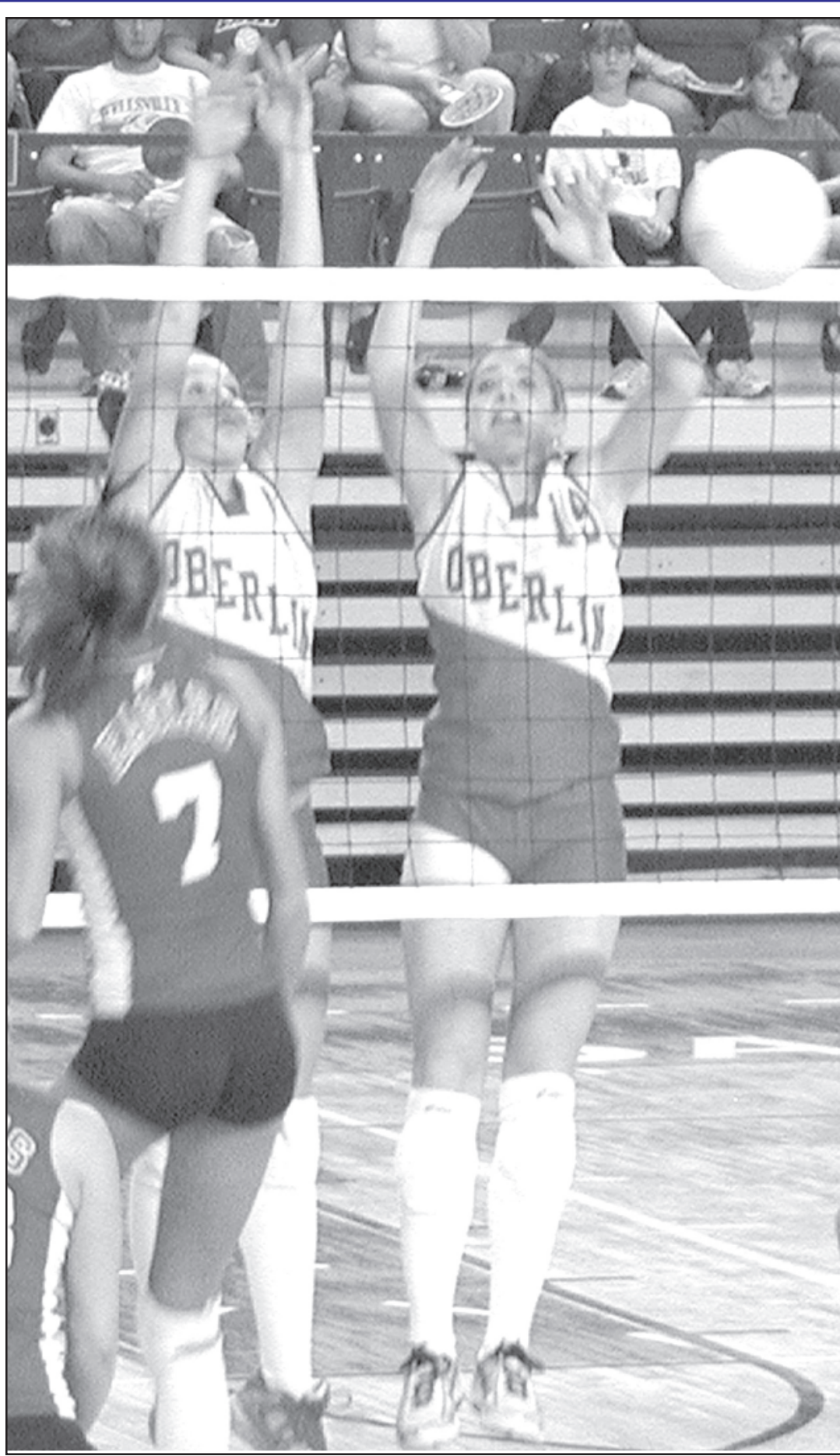
The paper will be printed on Wednesday and delivered mostly on Thursday, with complete results of Decatur County voting. It will be for sale on newsstands next Wednesday.

Senior Center.

• Garfield, Grant and Lincoln townships and the City of Norcatour vote at the Norcatour City Hall.

• Beaver, Finley, Harlan, Liberty, Logan, Olive, Roosevelt, Sherman, Altory, Bassettville, Center, Cook, Oberlin, Prairie Dog, Sappa and Summit townships along with Oberlin City Precincts No. 1 and No. 2 all vote at The Gateway in Oberlin. There are no polls at the courthouse or the American Legion.

Mrs. Horn said the county has 2,077 registered voters and as of Monday, 269 had decided to vote (See POLLING on Page 12A)



AT THE NET, Heather Williams and Lauren Fortin (right above) went up for a block in the state tournament this weekend. This sign (below) was placed about five miles south of town on U.S. 83 for the Lady Red Devils to see on their way to Salina.

— Herald photos by Sarah Fredrickson

## Devils travel to state

The 2006 Lady Red Devils were the first Oberlin volleyball team to have an undefeated regular season in at least the last 23 years and maybe longer, school officials say.

Athletic Director Randy Olson said he didn't think Decatur Community High School has ever had an undefeated volleyball team, but he wasn't sure. Coach Pat Dorshorst, who has coached at the school for 23 years, said she has never had an undefeated team.

This year's Lady Red Devils joined only two other teams by becoming league champions, said Mr. Olson. The other two were in



1996 and 2005.

They joined several past volleyball teams that went to state, Mr. Olson said, in 1986, 1987, 1990, 1991, 2001 and 2005.

It is always great to have the state tournament as an end-of-the-season achievement, said Mr. Olson, and good if teams can bring home some state hardware.

The goal of every coach and every team at the beginning of the season is to play in state and to win, he said.

Although this team didn't win the tournament, he added — they were eliminated by two losses in pool play — this bunch of girls is outstanding.

They are all good students, tremendous volleyball players and just good people.

"We are really proud of them," said Mr. Olson.

For a full story on the Lady Red Devils at state and more pictures, see Page 8A and 9A.

## City redoes plan

### Highway to get complete rebuild

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The Oberlin City Council cut \$300,000 from a project to rebuild U.S. 36 from west of U.S. 83 to Penn Avenue to keep the cost within the money the Kansas Department of Transportation has set aside for the work.

At the meeting on Thursday, Oct. 19, Dale Owens, with Penco Engineering out of Plainville, said he has looked at the project, which would include new concrete pavement from Fairway Drive, west of The Gateway, to Neill Avenue on U.S. 36. The work also will include new curb and gutter, and asphalt paving on east to Penn.

Mr. Owens said he looked at costs from a job in Colby and put an estimate together for this job. The state is giving the city \$1.127 million for the project, designed to improve the "geometric design" of the road. He said his estimates show the project costing \$300,000 over that, which the city would have to pay.

By scaling back on the project and putting in some asphalt instead of all concrete pavement, said Mr. Owens, the price should drop back down.

Basically, he said, there would be a little bit of asphalt to widen out the highway from Fairway to the Crossroads Express drive, then from Neill to Penn Avenue will be asphalt and the rest will be concrete. He said they will still replace the curb and gutter.

Councilwoman Rhonda May said (See HIGHWAY on Page 12A)

## 1,700 expected at service

By JAN KATZ ACKERMAN

Colby Free Press

Funeral services for Sheridan County Sheriff Jim Johnson were set for Tuesday in the Hoxie High School auditorium, with burial in the Hoxie Cemetery about a mile north of town on K-23.

Gove County Sheriff Allan Weber of Quinter, interim sheriff for Sheridan County, said Gov. Kathleen Sebelius was planning to come. More than 300 lawmen from across the state were expected, mostly in uniform.

Officials were preparing for a huge crowd, maybe 1,700 people. Pastor Derek Slack of the Hoxie Christian Church was to officiate, and Gov. Sebelius was expected to speak.

Thomas County Undersheriff Jason Moses spent much of the day Monday making arrangements for the funeral. Superintendent Scott Hoyt announced there will be no school in Hoxie that day.

(See 1,700 on Page 5A)