

# Keep safe while fishing on ice

It seems that we all complain about the weather, and this year is no exception, with the heavy snow and chilling temperatures.

It has been a tough winter on every living thing.

It affected the end of pheasant season when my sons came home from college on break and found two feet of snow.

Even Charley, my hunting dog, has been upset and out of breath, thrusting in leaps and bounds in the drifts.

The bedroom ceiling began to leak and the blower motor on my furnace went out Wednesday when the temperature dipped to -10, but one thing the cold weather brought us was ice fishing, and it has been fairly good.

From Swanson Reservoir in Trenton to Bonney Reservoir, just north of Burlington, Colo., to Glen Elder, Kanopolis, Norton, Wilson, Cedar Bluff and Webster, crappie, walleye and catfish have been caught after fishermen punched holes through the ice.

Now it might sound crazy, but if you properly prepare yourself, this can be an enjoyable outing.

Preparation is the key. And this has been a banner year for fishermen who walk on water. Remember, skiers and snow boarders make vacations out of the winter months.

The most important thing to remember in any sport is safety.

Testing the ice for thickness and having safety equipment needed to



## The Jayhawker

By Jim Merriott

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survive a tumble into the water is the No. 1 priority.

I know from learning the hard way. Some 15 years ago I fell through the ice at Lake Granby in Colorado.

Prior to this, it was impossible for me to understand what the passengers of the Titanic felt on that terrible night.

The cold water immediately takes your breath away. It is kind of like getting hit in the "bread basket" or getting the wind knocked out of you in football. It just happens.

In a matter of minutes, it was virtually impossible for me to move.

Ice formed over my entire body, including my face and beard, in just a few minutes.

What I remember the most was my heart racing and the sound of its pounding in my eardrums.

My fishing buddies, Mert Leeper and J.D. Hill, used a rope to pull me out and then dragged me to a warm camper to thaw out.

A good rule of thumb is never ice fish by yourself. Take a buddy.

Dress for the occasion, especially keeping your feet, head and hands

warm.

There are numerous ways to fish, but I prefer short rods and reels, tip-ups, a good motorized auger, a nice hut, a propane heater, sharp hooks, a gaff where it is legal, and strong new line with meal worms, wax worms and minnows for the best results.

A minnow head or a perch eye can be one of the best baits on the mar-

ket, or use small jigs in bright colors. Neon green has worked best for me. Neon pink and hunter orange are also good selections.

Using a flasher (reflecting jig) can also help attract lethargic fish in murky water just off the bottom.

Be patient. Fish metabolism slows down with the water temperature.

If you have a temperature gauge use it to find the thermocline or the comfort zone where fish hang.

Water temperature usually stabilizes at 39 degrees. Hunt for the warmest zone. Sometimes that can be in deep water, not near the surface.

Above all use good common sense when heading for the ice.

Play it safe and have a good time.

## Hoxie Indians beat junior varsity boys

The Decatur Community High junior varsity boys basketball team fell 63-38 to the Hoxie Indians on Feb. 9.

Oberlin jumped out to a 16-10 lead after the first quarter.

The Indians tied the game at halftime, 23-23. Then Hoxie's depth on the bench allowed the Indians to out score the Red Devils, 40-15, during the last half.

Oberlin was led by sophomore Jacob Fortin, who hit 12 points. He was followed by Nolan Peters, 7; Sam Stapp, 5; Lucas Juenemann, 4; and Nathan Baker, Cameron Weishapl, Cody Haas, Cole May and Kaden Macfee, 2 each.

Hoxie scorers were Heath Best, 19; Jon Peltz, 17; Joe Ratcliffe, 9; Patrick Eland, James Kaufman and Jon Johnson, 4 each; Josh Gaede and Josh Taylor, 2 each; and Steiner Scott, and Curtis White, 1 each.

"I'm glad it's over, or getting real close to it," said junior varsity coach Greg Olson.

The Hoxie C-team downed the young Red Devils 19-7 in two quarters of play.

Oberlin scorers were Nolan Was- son, 4, and Peters, 3.

Hoxie scorers were Casey Heim, 6; Taylor and White, 4 each; Scott, 3; and Johnson and Kaufman, 1 each.

## Sprint car racers want to keep sport affordable

The United Rebel Sprint Series driving teams have voted to keep the series affordable.

"If it is a performance advantage and will cost every team more money to be competitive, I will not allow it," said series commissioner Rick Salem. "My job is to make sure that the better-funded teams will not have an advantage over less-funded teams."

Series rules will allow stock-diameter (.842-inch) flat-tappet cam shafts; magneto, electronic or lettering-type points only; right rear

wheels must have bead lock tires with an American Sprint Car Series stamp; and the left must meet specification. Any racing tire may be used on the front and no titanium rear brake rotors will be allowed. In-board and left front brakes must be used at a minimum.

The racing circuit will have three new sponsors this season — Weld Racing Wheels, Hoosier Tires and Myers Engine Service of Ness City.

For information go to [www.unitedrebelsprintseries.com](http://www.unitedrebelsprintseries.com).

## Oberlin graduate to perform at rodeo

Jamie Elwood, daughter of Danny and Judy Elwood of Oberlin, is competing this semester on the women's rodeo team at Garden City Community College.

The nine women and 20 men who ride for the Broncbusters will open the spring segment of their season this week-

end at Kansas State University as the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association's Central Plains Region resumes competition.

The Garden City team plans to celebrate its 40th annual Intercollegiate Rodeo, the longest-running community college rodeo in Kansas, with "long go" performances at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 2, and Saturday, March 3,

followed by the "short go" at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 4, at the Horse Palace at the Finney County Fairgrounds.

Miss Elwood will ride in barrel racing, breakaway roping, goat tying and team roping.

In the individual women's all-around standings in the Central

Plains Region, she is first in barrel racing.

The men's team is holding fifth place in the regional standings, out of a field of 15, with 721.66 total points. The women are sixth in the standings with 320 shared points.

Tickets for the rodeo are \$5 for adults and \$4 for children 6 to 12 at the gate. Family passes are \$20.



J. Elwood

## Weather forces schools to cancel basketball

The high school basketball games between Oberlin and Golden Plains scheduled for last Tuesday were canceled due to bad weather. The games will not be rescheduled as Golden Plains will be in the sub-state tournament this week.

## Bulldogs get byes in regionals

The No. 1 seeded Golden Plains girls basketball team of Rexford received a first-round bye in their regional tournament bracket this week.

The 17-1 Lady Bulldogs will play the winner of the Almaena-Northern Valley and Logan game Thursday night in Rexford.

The No. 2 seeded Golden Plains

Tuesday was to be the last home basketball games for the Red Devils. Seniors and their parents were to be honored before the start of the girls game against the Phillipsburg Panthers.

The Bulldogs are scheduled to play the winner of the Logan Almaena-Northern Valley game. The girls regional championship starts at 6 p.m. Saturday. The boys game will follow.

## QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF

Jean Ann Hale, County Treasurer of Decatur County, Kansas, Showing Balance on hand for the Quarter ending January 31, 2007

County General .....	288,180.80	Sp Alcohol Program ....	5,109.13
SW Bell Rural 911 ...	24,924.32	Special Park & Rec .....	2,216.57
Wireless E-911 .....	10,016.01	Public Trans .....	2,228.79
Landfill .....	6,077.45	Special Jail Equip. ....	722.30
Road & Bridge .....	335,251.13	PATF .....	170.29
Special Bridge .....	170,149.97	Sp Fire Equip .....	94,001.77
Home for Aged .....	88,051.31	Bond & Interest .....	45,179.84
Conservation Dist ....	3,623.76	RFD Memorial .....	2,458.14
Co. Health Nurse .....	35,879.69	Economic Devel. ....	3,210.00
Mental Health .....	14,548.83	CORE .....	804.72
JUCO .....	456.87	RFD .....	152,277.19
Ambulance Memorial...1,	767.72	Bad Check Trust Fund .....	905.91
Ambulance .....	147,639.43	Stray Animals .....	1,930.29
Noxious Weed .....	56,515.76	History Books .....	2,879.00
Sp. Road Machinery	256,942.75	Corp. Plan Emp Trust ...	49,583.59
Election .....	19,426.67	Current Tax .....	113,964.17
Special Liab. ....	9,504.84	Motor Vehicle Tax .....	8,130.95
Ambulance Sp Eqp .	56,247.94	Delq Personal Tax .....	249.00
Deeds Tech. Fund .....	9,675.42	Good Sam Mem. Prin.	478,360.33
Employee Bene. ....	478,730.58	Treasurer Spec Auto ....	12,205.73
Equip. Reserve .....	60,065.87	Motor Vehicle License ....	4,323.50
Juvenile Detention .....	735.00	Sales Tax .....	20,798.49
Conceal & Carry .....	240.00	Partial Pay .....	6,857.11
Summer Rec Memorial ..	2,864.60	Escaped Tax .....	61.72
Senior Citizens .....	40,803.10	Redemp & Assign. ....	31,235.57
Employee WH .....	29,773.48	Suspense Acct .....	2,810.05
Cafeteria 125 .....	23,344.19	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,214,111.64</b>

TOWNSHIP OR CITY	GEN'L Revenue	Road	SP Road
Bassettville		12,012.81	5,635.25
Beaver			1,855.16
Dresden	SW 714.00		
Finley		17,253.39	
Lincoln			1,448.68
Logan		6,438.74	
Oberlin		6,745.64	7,954.73
Olive		8,532.53	
Sherman		9,827.05	
Summit		11,828.22	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>SW 714.00</b>	<b>72,638.38</b>	<b>16,893.82</b>

CEMETERY	
Norcatatur	541.86
Dresden	784.58
Hawkeye	1,327.65
Finley	4,444.94
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,099.03</b>

FUND		CASH:	
County Funds	3,214,111.64	Investments	353,636.58
Township Funds	90,246.20	The Bank	459,343.84
Cemetery Funds	7,099.03	The Bank Oberlin	818,180.60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,311,456.87</b>	Cash	625.00
		The Bank MM	67,004.55
		The Bank Ob. MM	79,224.12
		FNB/Good Sam Mem	478,360.33
		1st Natl Bank MM	326,669.42
		TBO Corp Plan	49,583.59
		FNB Wireless E911	10,016.01
		Farmers Bk & Tr.	668,812.83
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,311,456.87</b>

I, Jean Ann Hale, Treasurer of DECATUR County, Kansas, do solemnly swear that the above statement is complete, true and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief. SO HELP ME GOD.

Jean Ann Hale, County Treasurer  
I HEREBY CERTIFY, That the foregoing statement was subscribed and sworn to before me, and in my presence, by the above named, this 31st day of January, 2007. Marilyn Horn, County Clerk

# WINTER CLEARANCE

## DEVENY MID WINTER ATV & OFF ROAD BIKE CLOSEOUT SALE, Save Big On These Close-out & Pre owned Models

**2005 Honda TRX 350TE**  
Was \$2,995  
**Sale \$2,550**  
350cc, 4x2, Electric Shift

**2006 Honda TRX500FE**  
MSRP \$6,599  
**Sale \$5,995**  
500 cc, 4x4 Electric Shift

**2007 Can-Am Outlander 500**  
MSRP \$7,299  
**Sale \$6,590**  
500 cc, Fuel Injected, 4x4 Independent Suspension

**2007 Can-Am Outlander 650 Max**  
MSRP \$9,598  
**Sale \$8,650**  
650cc, 4x4, fuel Injection, 2 passenger Capacity

**2001 Yamaha Kodiak 400 4x4**  
Was \$3,495  
**Sale \$2,950**  
Automatic, New Tires, 400cc, In & Out 4 Wheel Drive

**2005 Yamaha Bruin 350**  
Was \$3,995  
**Sale \$3,400**  
350cc, 4x4, Automatic, Great Condition

**2004 Polararis Sportsman 500**  
Was \$4,995  
**Sale \$3,990**  
500 cc, Ind Suspension, 4x4

**2003 Suzuki Eiger 400**  
Was \$4,295  
**Sale \$3,750**  
400cc, 4x4, Absolutely Perfect, Only 950 miles

**2004 Yamaha 660 Grizzly**  
Was \$4,995  
**Sale \$3,950**  
660cc, 4x4 with Differential lock, Ind. suspension, New Tires, Winch

**2003 Honda TRX500 Rubican**  
Was \$4,995  
**Sale \$3,900**  
500cc, 4x4, automatic transmission, Snow Blade, New Tires

**2005 Yamaha YZ250f**  
Was \$3,995  
**Sale \$3,400**  
4 stroke, Great Condition

**2000 Yamaha TTR125**  
Was \$1,995  
**Sale \$1,100**  
4 Stroke, Electric start

**2006 Yamaha YZ85**  
Was \$1,995  
**Sale \$1,450**  
Two Stroke Racer

**2006 HONDA TRX350FE Ranchers**  
MSRP \$5,399  
**Sale \$4,600**  
Very few remaining, 4x4, Electric Shift

**2006 Honda TRX500Tm**  
MSRP \$5,399  
**Sale \$4,800**  
500 cc, 4x2, Manual Shift

**2006 Honda TRX250TE**  
MSRP \$3,799  
**Sale \$3,390**  
250 cc, Electric Shift

**2005 Yamaha CR85R**  
Was \$2,795  
**Sale \$2,090**  
2 stroke, has hardly ever been ridden

# DEVENY

HONDA ☆ YAMAHA ☆ CAN-AM  
CHRYSLER ☆ JEEP ☆ DODGE  
401 East B Street • McCook, NE 69001  
(308) 345-5200 • 1-800-345-0031  
[devenymotors@yahoo.com](mailto:devenymotors@yahoo.com)