

Wetlands could happen for \$40,000

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
kldavis@nwkansas.com

Sappa Wetlands could become a reality with the help of \$40,000 a committee hopes to raise to move dirt and run a pipe from the creek on the west side of the park.

Carolyn Burtis, co-convenor of the Sappa Park committee, said she and Rick Pauls, with Pheasants Forever; City Administrator Gary Shike; and Mayor Joe Stanley met recently to talk about the idea.

The original plan, said Mrs. Burtis, was to dig out a pond, fill in the canal and take

out the concrete spill way. That way, she said, there would be room for the wetlands.

This plan now, said Mrs. Burtis, includes piping water from the creek channel on the west side and a sedimentation pond around the island in the middle of the old lake, which would produce a wetlands. Then they would pipe the water from the island to the front of the shelter house for a small recreational area.

The dirt taken out of the middle of the lake to put in a wetlands and the lake-type would be used to build a berm for walking trails,

she said, adding that all of the existing trails will still be used as well.

At the meeting, she said, Mr. Pauls said people have talked about having water back in the lake for 20 years, but talking doesn't get that done.

The lake, which was built in the 1930s used to be a place where people could fish, swim and boat, he said. The lake filled in with sediment in the late 1960s. The city has lost the water rights since the lake filled in.

If this project could get done, said Mrs. Burtis, that would be great. If the commu-

nity can raise the \$40,000, she added, then the work for the wetlands can get started.

The original plan for the wetlands had an estimated cost of around \$60,000.

Mrs. Burtis said they are just starting to raise the needed money now. She said she has looked for organizations that give money away and will apply for grants. Anyone who wants to donate to help get the wetlands built can take a check to the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce office, to Mrs. Burtis at Metcalf Real Estate or to Connie Grafel, city marketing

director, at The Gateway.

All checks should be made out to the Sappa Park Fund, she said.

Mrs. Burtis said the group wants to get a bid to trench a new water line to the shelter house area, since there is no drinking water there now.

The park committee, she said, planned to have a clean up day on Sunday to help get the area ready for Memorial Day and alumni weekend. The committee has purchased boxes that they will put up with maps of the park and trails for people to use.



HUGE HAIL STONES from the storm that produced a tornado east of Oberlin 65 years ago weighed a trifle more than half a pound. They were shown by David Herzog, son of Herald photographer Wayne Herzog, and Mrs. Herzog. What was

left of the Fred Euhus house with the granary at right is shown. The power of the tornado was demonstrated (far below) by the mangled iron and steel that had been a tractor on the James Beneda Sr. farm six miles north of town. —Herald file photos

Tornado memories relived

By **MARY LOU OLSON**

The tornado which struck Greensburg on Friday night brought back memories to many Oberlin area residents of the storm which struck east of Oberlin 65 years ago on April 29, 1942, long regarded as one of the largest ever to hit the state.

"The tornado is a memory I will never forget," said Joyce (Gardner) Martin. Ms. Martin said she was living with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Gardner; her brother, Kenneth; and an uncle, Arthur Gardner, on a farm southeast of Oberlin.

She said she remembers it was the birthday of a neighbor, Mrs. Jim Beneda. About 10 p.m., she said, her mother was standing at the kitchen door and her brother was studying American history when Mrs. Gardner heard a roar.

"Let's go to the north porch and run for the cellar," she told her son, Kenneth.

Ms. Martin said that her brother wanted to go and get the rest of the family, but his mother said, "No, we don't have time."

When they reached the porch, she said, Mrs. Gardner could see that the storm was going on north heading for the Dale Paddock place.

"My dad got up," Ms. Martin said, "but he wasn't excitable and said, 'OK, no bad storm,' then went back to bed."



Clyde Shaw, who lived a half mile south of the Gardners, rode his horse to check on his mother-in-law, Lizzie Armstrong. He said she told him that she saw lights go on at the Gardners, but never saw lights go back on at the Beneda place.

Mr. Shaw found Duane Harold trying to crawl to the Gardner place, Ms. Martin said. Her father and uncle loaded him up and took him to Benton Memorial Hospital, where he later died.

"My brother went to McClure Funeral Home," she said, "then helped Laurel Hayward bring in the injured, as well as bodies, from the tornado throughout the night."

"The next morning, Bruce Guinn, my uncle, my dad and others started walking up the creek turning over tree limbs and other debris to try to find the infant daughter of the Dale Paddocks, who was killed in the storm."

Duane Harold was finishing his

senior year and lived with the James Benedas and their dog, Queenie. Ms. Martin said Mr. Beneda brought the dog to their place after the storm and they put him in their barn. In spite of trying to feed her all kinds of food, she wouldn't eat, and when someone opened the barn door, she darted out and went straight home. The dog died two days later from

storm injuries, Ms. Martin said. Irel Lohoefer and others also remember the tornado well. Though the Lohoefer home escaped the path of the twister, she said, her family lost all of their outbuildings, plus 300 baby chickens.

"I just remember crying as I tried to pick up the glass from the broken (See TORNADO on Page 8A)



School board picks four men for interviews

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
kldavis@nwkansas.com

After an hour and two minutes behind closed doors, the Oberlin School Board chose four candidates to interview for the superintendent's job this week.

The interviews were scheduled to start on Tuesday with Chris Bignery of Courtland at 10 a.m. and John Brazell of Adams, Neb., at 1 p.m.

Today, the board will interview Dr. Patrick Cullen of North Platte, Neb., at 10 a.m. and Bradley Reed of Assaria at 1 p.m.

The board held most of the meeting in closed session on Thursday to discuss nonelected personnel, the applications for the job.

One of those applications came from Duane Dorshorst, Oberlin Elementary School principal, who did not get an interview. Mr. Dorshorst said Monday he has been an administrator here for 14 years and taught here before that for 10.

Mr. Dorshorst said he also applied for the spot five years ago before Superintendent Kelly Glodt was hired and wasn't selected for an interview then either.

"I'm disappointed not to get selected for an interview," said Mr. Dorshorst. "I'm disappointed that I

won't get a chance to share my vision and dreams for the district."

The interview process includes a community committee made up of teachers Brenda Breth, Sherri Ruf, Susan May, Carol Dixson, Carol Brown, Carol Wasson and Susan Nelson; district residents Abby Hissong, Ralph Unger and Colleen Rittmann; staff members Linda Weber, Melissa Lippelmann and Carla Depperschmidt; Ron Jansonius from the central office and students Rebecca Helm, Nathan Simonsson, Jared Marcuson, Haley Barrett, Kenzie Fisher, Kayla Zodrow, Rory Wendelin, Lacey Ream, Jessica Bremer and Heather Glodt.

The panel will ask questions at meetings at the high school both days. Those meetings are open to the public for those who want to listen, but the only ones allowed to ask questions of the candidates are those on the committee.

The open meetings were scheduled for 11:15 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. on Tuesday and today.

At 3 p.m. Thursday, the board will meet in closed session to discuss the interviews and candidates. They plan to name the new superintendent and offer a contract that day.

Final paperwork for hospital project signed at meeting

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
kldavis@nwkansas.com

Paperwork for the expansion project at the Decatur County Hospital continues to move right along as the commissioners signed papers needed for a U.S. Department of Agriculture loan at their meeting last Tuesday.

Dave Barber, a representative with the Rural Development administration from Hays, went over the letter of conditions with the commissioners, Hospital Administrator Lynn Doeden and Connie Grafel, hospital board president. He said the loan amount went up a little to \$650,000 to cover the cost of issuing bonds, but the hospital board still will put in \$150,000. That brings the total project to \$800,000, he said.

After this meeting, said Mr. Barber, the money will be obligated. The repayment will include an interest rate of 4.8 percent, said Mr. Barber, adding that the rate won't go any higher, but might go lower if interest drops.

The commissioners approved and agreed to sign the letter of condi-

County Roundup

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Learned that the Golden Age Center received a \$200 grant from the Community Fund through Midwest Energy which will be put aside for a new building. Story on Page 3A.

- Signed a letter of conditions for financing the expansion project at the Decatur County Hospital. Story at left.

- Spent 25 minutes behind closed doors discussing security measures, but didn't take any action. Story on Page 3A.

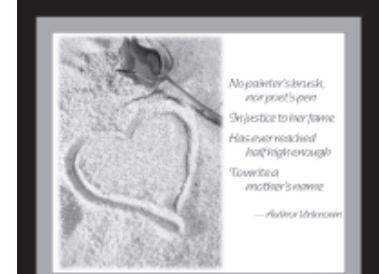
tions. Did you get a building permit from the city? asked County Attorney Steve Hirsch. No one said any- (See HOSPITAL on Page 8A)

Mother of the Year section found inside

Inside today's edition of *The Oberlin Herald* is a section honoring mothers in Decatur County just in time for Mother's Day on Sunday.

Kids at Oberlin Elementary School were asked by the Oberlin Business Alliance to write an essay about why their mom should be Mother of the Year. The essay was optional, and those turned in are printed in the section, including the one about the winning mom.

THE OBERLIN HERALD'S
Mother of the Year
A special tribute to Mothers by Oberlin Elementary students.



Students to show finery in promenade

By **KAITLYN GILLESPIE**
Decatur Dictator Staff

Dresses and tuxedos are ordered, tanning is done and hair appointments have been made.

It's time for the Decatur Community High School 2006-2007 prom on Saturday.

The Junior Class is working hard to give the seniors a night to remember. The public viewing of the prom

decorations will be from 6 to 7 p.m. Saturday at The Gateway. This year, the theme is "When the Sun Goes Down."

At 6:45 p.m., students dressed in their best will line up at the Sunflower Cinema to start heading south down Main Street at 7 p.m. for the traditional promenade.

Teacher Marlene Moxter, the junior class sponsor, said the prom-

enade started years ago, well before she started teaching here. Originally, the students would go in and out of the stores and then walk to the high school, she said. Now they walk down Main, then back, and drive to The Gateway. The promenade allows everyone to see the kids and enjoy the finery, said Ms. Moxter.

The students in the promenade are

led by a Prom Marshal.

This year, Kyle Glodt was chosen by the senior class for the position. He and his date will lead the 2007 promenade.

The prom banquet starts at 7:30 p.m. and goes until 8:45 p.m. From 9 p.m. to midnight is the dance. At midnight, a post-prom party sponsored by the Oberlin Rotary Club begins. That lasts until 4 a.m.