

*Vaccines provided for a price

(Continued from Page 1A) when they cough or sneeze to help prevent spreading the flu or a cold.

The department doesn't just give flu vaccines, said Ms. Gamblin; it also gives a wide range of other vaccines.

The department is also giving shingles vaccines. Shingles, said Ms. Gamblin, is caused by the same virus that causes the chicken pox.

The shingles virus runs on a nerve line. It starts out as water blisters on the skin.

Although the blisters go away, she said, the neurological pain can last a long time after the skin sores dry up.

People who have shingles can have pain for up to a year after the blisters, she said. Anyone who has had the chicken pox can contract the shingles, she added, although the vaccine is targeted at people 60 and older.

The vaccine costs \$162, said Ms. Gamblin. People can come in and pay cash or have a doctor prescribe the vaccine. That way the medicine has to come through a drug store, which can bill the patient's insurance.

The health department will then charge a \$10 administration fee.

For younger people, she said, the department administers the human papillomavirus vaccine. The drug is licensed for girls 9 to 26 years-old.

There is no treatment for the human papillomavirus, which can lead to cervical cancer in women, she said. The idea is to give the vaccine to girls before they become sexually active. This is a relatively new drug, she said, but the department has been selling the vaccine for eight to nine months.

The vaccine costs \$130 a dose,

with three doses needed. Some insurance companies will pay for the shots, and anyone under 18 can qualify for help paying for the vaccine through the children's program. Those over that age can apply for help through Merck, the company that puts out the vaccine.

Besides vaccinations, the agency also does a variety of other public health jobs, including:

- Family planning services, which includes providing pap smears, breast examines and birth control options. Fees are on a sliding scale based on income.

- Early detection tests, which includes pap smears and mammograms for women 50 and over who don't have any insurance and meet income guidelines.

- Foot-care by appointment. Ms. Gamblin said they soak the people's feet, trim the toe nails, get rid of calluses and put on some lotion for \$12.

- Child-care licensing for day care centers in the county.

- Bioterrorism planning.

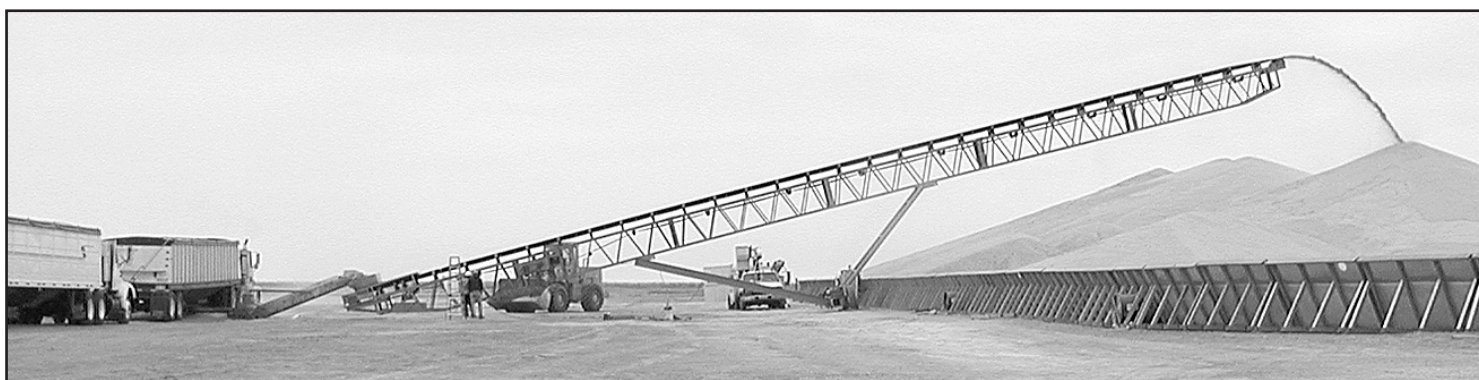
- Women, Infant and Children, a federal program focuses on nutrition for pregnant women, infants and kids under 5.

- Blood draws twice a year.

- Water-well testing through the Northwest Kansas Local Environmental Protection Group. The agency tests private wells for bacteria, nitrates and other contamination.

- Care assessment through the Area Agency on Aging for anyone in a nursing home.

- Physicals for kindergarten and Head Start screening. The physicals are done at the school for free during the scheduled screening.



AT HANSEN MUELLER'S new facility at the east edge of town Friday, trucks waited in line while corn was dumped into a large bunker (above). Another farm truck (below) entered from U.S. 36. — Herald staff photo by Kim Davis

*Rain stops trucks

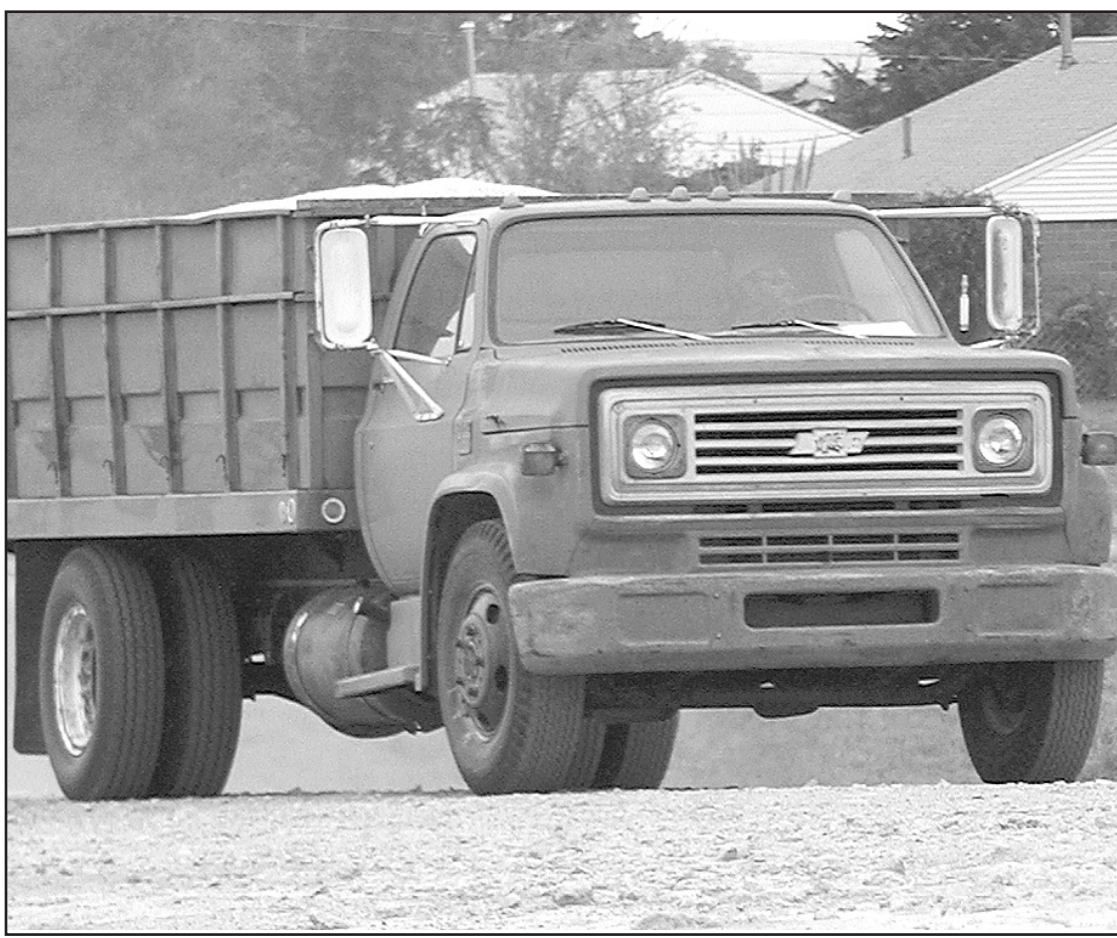
(Continued from Page 1A) both Oberlin and Jennings, they have corn on the ground.

He said the co-op is getting rail cars in to help ship grain out of those locations, which will help get the corn and milo off the ground quicker.

"There is a lot of grain," he said. "This is a good problem to have."

Hopefully, farmers can get the fall crops out of the field in a reasonable time, he said. There is always some anxiety with harvesting and trying to get the grain from the field to a covered spot.

"But when people think about the production this year and the price," said Mr. Juenemann, "it is hard not to be thankful."



*County accepts bids on two trucks

(Continued from Page 1A) • Stellar Sales of Oberlin for a 2007 Expedition for \$24,485.

• Taylor Motors of Colby for a 2007 Tahoe for \$28,700, a TrailBlazer for \$19,400, a 2006 TrailBlazer for \$16,300, a 2004 Durango for \$15,600, a 2006 Jeep Cherokee for \$19,318 and a 2006 Jeep Cherokee for \$16,605.

None of the bids included trading

in the 2002 Ford Expedition that is used as the first response vehicle now. The commissioners talked about keeping the vehicle, with 125,000 miles on it, as a trip vehicle for the county.

Both Stellar Sales and Baird Motor were called about trading in the older truck, but the commissioners decided to keep it.

The commissioners approved the

purchase of the 2007 Expedition from Stellar Sales for \$24,485.

The commissioners discussed an emergency management vehicle for Director Patti Skubal. She said she would like to have one with four-wheel drive. The commissioners approved the purchase of the 2006 TrailBlazer from Taylor for \$16,300 contingent on the authorization of \$13,000 from the Homeland Security

Department. The rest would come from the emergency management budget.

Ms. Skubal said she had been told the county could use \$13,000 left over in the Homeland Security grant for a vehicle. The commissioners said they want something in writing saying the county can use the money that way.

Former Goodland man killed in Texas by police

A former Goodland man who had allegedly threatened to harm himself over the last several months was shot and killed by Whitehouse, Texas, police last Tuesday when he opened fire in front of his house.

Thomas Edward Topliff, 42, was pronounced dead at 6:58 p.m. by Smith County Justice of the Peace James Meredith. Justice Meredith said Mr. Topliff appeared to have a bullet wound to his upper chest and one to his wrist.

Mr. Topliff was the son of Dean and Myrna Topliff of Goodland.

Police Chief Rick Waller said two officers went to the 200 block of Parkdale Street shortly before 7 p.m. last Tuesday after Patty Topliff said she was worried because her husband was talking about killing himself.

"The officers pulled up to the home and the subject came out of the house with a shotgun and began firing at them," Chief Waller said, "and they returned fire.

"They didn't have a choice."

The town police car had small holes in the side where the shotgun blast hit it, the chief said, adding that the Texas Rangers are investigating the shooting.

Patty Topliff said people should know her husband was "a good person" who just wasn't thinking straight. He had been under a lot of stress at work lately — he was an account representative for Baker Supply in Tyler, Texas — and wasn't in the best financial situation. Tuesday night, she said, he just didn't know how to handle his problems anymore, and started talking about suicide.

"He was not thinking right," Mrs. Topliff said as she walked a reporter through the last moments of her husband's life. "I called the police

to see if they could get him to stop ... stop from doing anything."

It wasn't the first time her husband had talked about killing himself.

"He just wanted to leave, and I wouldn't let him leave in the truck," she said. "I told him he wouldn't be fair if he got out there and caused an accident and hurt somebody that was innocent."

When he pulled out the shotgun, she said, she decided to call the police. Mrs. Topliff said she fled to the home of a neighbor, Elsie Graham, across the street, where she watched things unfold.

She said her husband walked out the front door and started firing at the police as they pulled up.

"He had the gun up..." she said. "I knew what would happen.

"I don't know whose gun I heard; I just heard several shots," said Patty Topliff, starting to cry. "He was a great man; we were best friends."

She said the couple had been married for five years and he had a son, Dylan, of Austin, Texas.

Mr. Topliff attended Goodland High School and joined the Army. When he returned from the service, he attended Northwest Kansas Technical College and Colby Community College, earning a degree in telecommunications technology.

Funeral services were Saturday at the Goodland First United Methodist Church, with burial in the Goodland Cemetery.

*Furnaces heat up in homes

(Continued from Page 1A) around 68 degrees, which is the most efficient and is less expensive than a warmer setting.

Although chilly weather has arrived, he said, people still have time to take other measures to help save money this winter.

Mr. Helm said home owners should caulk around windows to help keep cold air from getting into the house. Air leaking into the house isn't good whether you are running the furnace to heat the house or the air conditioner to cool it, he said.

Plastic sheeting can be put over the interior of windows, he said, and this can help keep the wind from coming in, especially with older windows.

Natural gas prices are still high compared to five years ago, so anything that can be done to help negate those costs will help out with the bill. Of course, said Mr. Helm, the bills are completely weather dependent. With a colder winter, the bills also will probably be higher.

Compared to this time last year, he said, the prices are comparable.

Council plans to make move on borrowing

The Oberlin City Council will hold a needed public hearing Thursday, then decide whether to borrow more than \$4 million from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to build a water treatment plant.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the application is for \$4,218,200 from the state agency's revolving loan fund.

The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the room downstairs at The Gateway. It will not be aired on Oberlin cable access channel 7.

Fidele Electric, Woodcrafting & Building Supplies

will be having a clearance sale starting Monday, October 15. Greg will be closing down the retail part of his business at the end of 2007.

Fidele Electric & Woodcrafting will be offering the same quality of business but working out of his home for service, repair needs and remodeling.

If you have any questions, feel free to call Greg at 785-475-3024.

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