

Workers fight Decatur County fire



THE SEVEN WEST ROAD off of U.S. 36 (above) was the eastern border of the main fire. Rawlins County firefighter Steve Chessmore (right) was treated for heat exhaustion after he collapsed on the eastern border. The car that started the blaze (below right) was completely gutted. Fire Chief Bill Cathcart (below) manned a hose in the center of the fire.

— Herald staff photos by Stephanie DeCamp



Others ban flames

By KEVIN BOTTRELL
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Responding to the fire danger created by lack of rain, record high temperatures and high wind, the city of Goodland joined Colorado and several northwest Kansas counties, including Decatur County, in banning fireworks for the upcoming Fourth of July. The vote was unanimous.

Just last week, the commission had voted to allow fireworks sales within city limits for the first time in years, but this week the commissioners felt the fire danger was too high.

Goodland, however, decided to allow the professional fireworks display on the Fourth of July to proceed. Fire Chief Brian James said he was comfortable with allowing the display to go forward. Both the city and rural fire departments will be on hand.

Cheyenne County also instituted a burn and fireworks ban last week, while allowing the cities of St. Francis and Bird City to decide their own policies within their city limits. The St. Francis City Council originally voted to allow fireworks, while still advising parents to exercise caution when allowing kids to light them off. On Wednesday, however, Mayor Scott Shultz issued a proclamation banning all personal fireworks. A decision on the professional fireworks display had not

been made. Bird City opted to ban controlled burns and fireworks.

Thomas County has banned controlled burns at least until Friday. Emergency Management Director Susan McMahan asked for the ban last week, and the county commissioners approved it. Neither the county nor any of its municipalities have so far banned fireworks.

Norton County has had a burn ban in place since June 11. Several cities in the county voted Monday to institute fireworks bans. The professional fireworks display is still scheduled for the Fourth of July.

Wallace County has a burn ban in place, but has opted not to include fireworks. County Commissioner Adam Smith said in the *Western Times* that a fireworks ban is "virtually impossible to enforce properly." He urged people to read and abide by firework safety labels, to make sure no combustible materials are nearby, and that there is an adequate supply of water on hand.

All of these counties have had their share of small field fires. A fire destroyed a barn in western Sherman County on Saturday. Hot spots continued to flare up in a nearby field. An overheated transformer sparked a fire in Thomas County on Monday. The fire burned about 150 acres of pasture. In Wallace County, a fire destroyed hay stacks at a dairy. Embers from the bales started a fire in a nearby field.

Public Notices

County bans fireworks

PUBLIC NOTICE
(Published in The Oberlin Herald,
Wednesday, June 28, 2012)1t

ORDER

AN ORDER PROHIBITING THE SALE AND DISCHARGE OF FIREWORKS IN DECATUR COUNTY

WHEREAS there has been a prolonged period of no rain in the county of Decatur; and

WHEREAS during the upcoming period of time, the sale of fireworks will commence in the area; and

WHEREAS the discharge of fireworks could very easily cause a fire or conflagration within the County of Decatur;

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DECATUR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

Section One. Pursuant to the powers granted to Chairperson of Boards of County Commissioners under KSA 48-932 I do hereby declare that a state of emergency exists or is imminent and that the sale and discharge of fireworks within the County of Decatur is hereby prohibited.

Section Two. This order shall be and remain in effect for 7 days following my approval at which time the full Board of County Commissioners may choose to either extend or dissolve this order.

Section Three. Pursuant to KSA 48-939 a violation of this order is a class A misdemeanor punishable by up to 1 year in jail and/or a fine of up to \$2,500.

IT IS SO ORDERED

DATED 6-27-2012
Stanley A. McEvoy, Chairman
Board of Commissioners
Decatur County, Kansas
Attest: Colleen Geihlsler

County resolution

PUBLIC NOTICE
(Published in The Oberlin Herald,
Thursday, June 28, 2012)1t

RESOLUTION # 2012- 26

WHEREAS there has been a prolonged period of no rain in the county of Decatur; and

WHEREAS during the upcoming period of time, the sale of fireworks will commence in the area; and

WHEREAS the discharge of fireworks could very easily cause a fire or conflagration within the County of Decatur; and

WHEREAS the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners has entered his disaster declaration banning the sale and discharge of fireworks in the County of Decatur;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF DECATUR COUNTY, KANSAS;

Section One. Pursuant to the powers granted to cities under KSA 48-932 we do hereby consent to the Chairman of the Board of Commissioner's order and declaration that an emergency exists or is imminent and that the sale and discharge of fireworks within the County of Decatur is hereby prohibited.

Section Two. The Chairman's order shall be and remain in effect until dissolved by the governing body.

Section Three. Pursuant to KSA 48-939 a violation of this order is a class A misdemeanor punishable by up to 1 year in jail and/or a fine of up to \$2,500.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS on this 27th day of June, 2012.

Stanley A. McEvoy, Chairman
Ralph Unger, Member
Gene Gallentine, Member

Attest: Colleen Geihlsler, County Clerk

City bans fireworks

PUBLIC NOTICE
(Published in The Oberlin Herald,
Wednesday, June 28, 2012)1t

ORDER

AN ORDER PROHIBITING THE DISCHARGE OF FIREWORKS IN THE CITY OF OBERLIN.

WHEREAS there has been a prolonged period of no rain in the City of Oberlin; and,

WHEREAS during the upcoming period of

time, the sale of fireworks will commence in the area; and,

WHEREAS the discharge of fireworks could very easily cause a fire or conflagration within the City of Oberlin,

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF OBERLIN, KANSAS:

Section One. Pursuant to the powers granted to Mayors under KSA 48-932, I do hereby declare that a state of emergency exists or is imminent and that the discharge of fireworks within the City of Oberlin is hereby prohibited.

Section Two. This order shall be and remain in effect for 7 days following my approval at which time the City Council may choose to either extend or dissolve this order.

Section Three. Pursuant to KSA 48-939, a violation of this order is a class A misdemeanor punishable by up to 1 year in jail and/or a fine of up to \$2,500.

IT IS SO ORDERED
DATED 6-27-2012
William Riedel, Mayor
City of Oberlin

Attest: Karen Larson,
City Clerk,
City of Oberlin

To our firemen and volunteers, we are truly grateful for the many hours of service you have provided for us.

THE RE-LOAD
133 N. PENN AVE. OBERLIN KAN.
(785) 475-2421



No one can hold a flame to you, especially when it comes to putting them out. Thanks for all your hard work and many hours of service.

Raye's Affiliated
Grocery Inc.
119 W. Commercial (785) 475- 2952



We want all of our volunteers to know how grateful we are that they are here to serve our community.

Thank you.

DECATUR COUNTY TITLE & ABSTRACT CO.
VICKIE BAILEY
(785) 475-2381

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
You deserve five stars!

To all of our firemen, Emergency Medical Service crew members, volunteers and farmers. We applaud your superb actions and are so grateful for your many acts of courage and service these last few days. We are proud to have such fine men and women living in and serving our community.

THE OBERLIN HERALD
170 S. Penn Ave in Downtown Oberlin
(785) 475-2206

A big thank you to all of our firemen, emergency medical service people and volunteers for your continued and dedicated service!

Custom Trophy and Engraving

122 S. Penn — Oberlin — 785-475-2877
Chris Koerperich has served with the EMS for the last 12 years.

You are incredible! Our firefighters, EMS and volunteers are outstanding. We applaud your efforts to keep us safe and out of danger.

Stanley Do it Best
Hardware

149 S. Penn — Oberlin — 785-475-2331