

Wheat harvest starts to flow in

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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A hot, breezy weekend got this year's wheat harvest going over the weekend. The first load of dry wheat was delivered to the Hansen Mueller elevator in Oberlin early Monday morning. Manager Janice O'Hare said Bruce Larue delivered the load to the elevator at 8:20 a.m. for Rich Shaw. He said the grain was harvested Sunday in a field west of town.

Mrs. O'Hare said the moisture content was 14 percent and the load weighed 60.4 pounds per bushel. She thought they might be back in that afternoon.

The elevator crew, she said, has been busy moving last year's corn crop to be shipped out. The elevators in Oberlin and Cedar Bluffs are empty and ready to take wheat.

At 10:10 a.m., Jeff Wahlmeier delivered the first load to the Decatur Co-op in Jennings. The crop, which belongs to Les

Vanover of Clayton, was also harvested on Sunday.

Kurt Anderson, general manager of the Decatur Co-op, said farmers around Lenora and Herndon have been harvesting for a week now.

Boxes for the annual Harvest Countdown contest were pulled off the shelves Monday morning. Staff at *The Oberlin Herald* are going through the entries to find the three closest ones to the actual time of the first

load delivered to a participating Decatur County elevator.

The winners will be announced in next week's paper.

The first-place winner will receive \$50 in scrip money, second will get \$35 and third \$15. The scrip is good at the sponsoring businesses only. Merchants are not required to give change.

Winners in the last five years and anyone who has delivered the first load of wheat in

that time are ineligible, as are their relatives. So are relatives of the person delivering the first load and employees of *The Herald* and their immediate families.

The contest is made possible by the sponsoring businesses including Fredrickson Insurance Agency, Stanley Hardware, Ward Drug Store, Decatur County Title and Abstract, Hansen Mueller and the Decatur Cooperative Association.

Pool project tax increase will go to a vote

By **STEPHANIE DeCAMP**
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The Oberlin City Council agreed Thursday to put a 1.5 percent sales tax to pay for a new swimming pool on the November ballot for voters to decide.

The move had been requested by the city's pool committee.

"Before we go any further," Mayor Bill Riedel said, "I think that we need to put this on the ballot, see if it passes and go from there."

Shayla Williby, a member of the pool committee, said that when viewed in light of a drop in the state sales tax coming in July 2013, the project, if approved, would cost just a penny on the dollar.

"The state of Kansas," she said, "as of July 1, 2013, is dropping the sales tax by .6 of a cent. The tax for the pool wouldn't take effect until March or April, creating a total sales tax (in Oberlin) of 8.8 percent. But when the state cuts take effect in

July, it would drop down to 8.2 percent."

The current sales tax rate in the city is 7.3 percent.

This basically means, she said, that because of the state cutting its tax rate, Oberlin could increase its rate for the new pool without people feeling much of a sting in their pocketbooks.

The committee plans a community meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, June 18, in City Park. Members will show everyone the building plans for the new pool and answer any questions regarding the project.

Pool committee members told the council they had approached several businesses about the project, to get a sense for how they felt about the proposed tax increase. Of particular concern was the opinion of Kirk Brown, owner of Raye's Grocery.

"He is in support of the project, and 100 percent in support of putting (See POOL on Page 5A)

Barbecue planned at Relay for Life

Everyone is invited to the barbecue to kick off this year's Relay for Life on Friday at The Gateway, a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society.

Cancer survivors and their caregivers are invited to eat at 5:30 p.m., and the barbecue opens to the public at 6 p.m. The meal, said organizer Norma Unger, will be served for a donation.

The beef for the meal was donated by May Family Farms and will be cooked by Dave Bergling and Robert Groneweg. Mrs. Unger said the menu also includes beans, chips, tea and lemonade.

The survivors will start walking at 7 p.m. in the arena at The Gateway. After their first lap, said Mrs. Unger, their families and caregivers will join in. After the first couple laps, members of all the teams entered

in the relay will join in.

Mrs. Unger said one member of each of the three teams will be on the track until midnight. The teams have raised pledges to back their walking performance.

The Oberlin Area Concert Band plans to play during the opening ceremonies.

Mrs. Unger said a luminary ceremony will start at 9:30 p.m. with 315 luminaries in honor or memory of loved ones to be lit. Anyone who wants to buy a luminary can still do so. She said the names won't show up in the book that night, but will be added to the slide show. Each luminary costs \$10.

To purchase one, call Ralph or Norma Unger at 475-2560 or Pat Fringer at 475-3184.

Mrs. Unger said anyone who wants to can come out and walk.

American Flag banner inside today's paper

Inside today's *Oberlin Herald* is an American Flag banner you can put up in your window. Many people like to display it between Flag Day, June 14, and the Fourth of July. The flag is provided by our sponsors, including Hansen Mueller, Hirsch and Mahoney, Johnson Realty, the Carpet Center, Raye's Grocery, Great Northwest Insurance

Agency, Decatur County Title and Abstract, United Northwest Federal Credit Union, The Bank, Creative Collision, the Decatur Cooperative Association, Crop Production Services, Creative Dimensions, Ward Drug Store, R&M Service Center, Home Planning Center, Fredrickson Insurance Agency, Ultimate Fertilizer and *The Herald*.

Kids nominate dads to win a \$50 prize

Members of the Oberlin Business Alliance asked the students at Oberlin Elementary School to nominate their dads as Father of the Year.

The winning letter is from Clayton Carter of Jennings.

She wrote:

I think my dad should be parent of the year because he is an awesome

dad. He works really hard to feed us and keep a roof over our head. He works at Farmer's Bank and Trust from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and helps my grandpa farm and chore when he gets home. When I feed my pigs and steers, he helps me. He also helps me with my homework. When he has time he will play basketball with me. He helps me practice for softball too. He makes it to almost every sports event I have.

(See DADS on Page 5A)



WATCH THIS: Snake Blocker (center), who gave a knife-fighting and self-defense demonstration Saturday, showed an Apache knife-fighting technique to Dustin Ustanik as Beau Downing, Oberlin's newest police officer, watched.

Tina Michel of Smith Center (below) held a painted skull she had for sale at this weekend's Sappa Creek Knife and Gun Show at The Gateway.

— Herald staff photos by Stephanie DeCamp

Show draws a crowd

By **STEPHANIE DeCAMP**
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Oberlin had its first knife and gun show this weekend, featuring a lot more than just guns.

Eighty-five tables held everything from knives and guns to paintings and candles at the Sappa Creek Knife and Gun Show. Food was provided by The Gateway staff and vendors came from Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado to set up and sell their wares.

The show was sponsored by J.W. and Deb Smith, owners of J.W. Smith and Sons Custom Knives. The couple moved to Oberlin about six months ago from Texas, where, they said, they promoted and produced gun and knife shows every weekend. They were looking for a small town to live in and found the property for their store on Penn Avenue online.

"It was meant to be," Deb Smith said.

When the couple asked around town to see if Oberlin had ever had its own gun show, "half said 'never' and the other half said 'not in 20 years,'" Deb said.

In Texas, she said, they had built a family out of all the vendors and promoters they worked with, and they're seeking to do the same here.

"We love it here," Deb said. "It never ceases to surprise me."

J.W. agreed.

"It's not easy," he said, talking about how you go about setting up a show. There are two sets of customers, he said, the vendors and the shoppers — and both must be kept happy.

More importantly, the Smiths said, are priorities: first is safety, then prosperity, then fun. Deb said with this first show, they'll be lucky to break even, but in the future they'd like to do two a year,



primarily to generate more money for Oberlin.

"Between hotels, restaurants and the show, a lot can be brought to the community," she said, "and we're here to stay."