



Sunny Saturday brings out town

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY in the neighborhood when a neighbor helps a neighbor. Doug Horn (above) pulled dandelions in a neighbor's yard on East Ash Street. Aladdin tulips (below left) took in the sun on Saturday on North Penn Avenue; the high was 78. Two brothers played in their yard (below right) on the same afternoon. Zane Schneider, 3, (left) and Casey Peters, 5, are the sons of Ashley Farr and Tobey Peters.

— Herald staff photos by Dayna Mannebach



Commissioners hear health update

By DAYNA MANNEBACH
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Decatur County commissioners heard from Health Administrator Kasey May last Tuesday that the Kansas Department of Health and Environment has added Connecticut to its quarantine travel list.

Anyone who traveled there on or after last Monday, April 6, or to any state or county on the list, is required to self-quarantine for 14 days, she said.

Judge Jay Tate was present for the opening of the meeting.

Mrs. May said the county Health Department may be eligible for a Covid-19 supplemental funding grant. A dispersment has been sent, she

said, and the county is supposed to be getting \$13,027.

County Clerk Nora Urban said, she received word the day before that the county transportation-bus grant had been approved from the Kansas Department of Transportation.

As for the old bus, she said, that is up to the department. Since it was bought with grant money, she said, it's state property. They can take it back or release it to the county.

Earlier, Ernie Sheets, road and bridge supervisor, asked the commissioners if they still wanted to do the annual free dump week, which usually coincides with Oberlin's front-curb pickup program.

Commissioner Stan McEvoy said

the free dump week shouldn't be a problem with social distancing.

"We usually coordinate with the city," he added.

Commissioner Karen Larson said it's usually the first week of May.

"I think people have had time to clean out their homes (by then)," she added.

Mr. Sheets said he plans to put an ad in the paper advertising from Monday to Saturday, April 27 to May 2, and coordinate with city foreman David Sporn.

The supervisor also asked if during the summer time, they had high-school students pick up trash at the landfill.

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Sale of out-of-state turkey licenses halted

By DAYNA MANNEBACH
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Turkey hunting starts today for firearms hunters, but without the usual influx of out-of-state hunters, as the state has cut off sales of non-resident permits to cut down on the possibility of hunters bringing the corona virus into the state.

Gov. Laura Kelly issued an executive order stopping the sale of turkey hunting permits to non-residents on Thursday, said Daniel Howard, the state game warden based in Oberlin.

Officials said an increase in sales showed too many people might show up to hunt.

Around 2,300 non-residents who purchased permits already can still use them, he said. If they are unable

to come and hunt, however, they can request a refund.

"Last I heard, approximately 500 have already requested a refund," Mr. Howard added.

The youth and disabled turkey season opened April 1, and archery season opened since April 6. The regular firearms hunting season opens today and runs through May 31.

Hunters coming from a state or area listed as requiring a quarantine by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment will have to self-quarantine here for 14 days prior to hunting in Kansas, he said.

This applies to anyone staying in Kansas and coming from a quarantine state, he added.

"As a couple examples," Mr.

Howard said, "it would apply to a Nebraska resident who traveled to Colorado in the last 14 days but not to a Colorado resident who has been in Nebraska for over 14 days."

"We recommend that anybody coming from a quarantined state who wishes to hunt in Kansas (and already has a permit) make contact with the local health department in the county where they wish to hunt."

Anyone with questions should call the wildlife department, he said.

As far as Kansas residents, he added, nothing has changed. Mr. Howard said turkey hunting is mostly done alone or in groups less than 10.

In past press conferences, he said, the Kansas governor has encouraged

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City Council to hold video meeting

The Oberlin City Council plans to meet mostly by video conference at 5 p.m. Thursday and will discuss several items from the administrator's report:

- These include ways to get fiber internet installed in town, the 2019 Community Development Block grant and approval of an environmental study for the 2020 Community Development Block grant to continue water-main replacement.
- The council will hear about progress on the Oberlin Municipal Airport project to build a new apron and taxiway to allow space for parking

aircraft and more hangars.

The council will hear from development director Jonathan Herald of the Western Kansas Children's Advocacy Center from Scott City.

The city says there are two ways to join the meeting:

- Go to the Oberlin Kansas Facebook page, and click on the link

there.

- Call (866) 970-7872, then enter when prompted the participant number, 218751.

The next council meeting is set for 5 p.m. Thursday, May 7, at the upstairs meeting room at The Gateway. It, too, should include a video connection.

Remember to follow recycling rules

Earth Day is next Wednesday, and what better way to show you love the world you live in than by correctly recycling materials from your household.

"It's one of those things you can do and keep your social distance," said Gaylen Huntley, Decatur County noxious weed-control director, who supervises the county recycling center. "The center is always open. We don't recycle metal, however; throw that in the dumpsters."

Decatur, Cheyenne and Rawlins counties have

recycling centers participating in the Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling Organization. People are asked to sort their materials to reduce labor and provide a safer work environment for recycling employees:

- The center takes two common types of plastics, No. 1 and No. 2. (The number is found inside a recycling triangle symbol on the bottom of the container.)
- Plastic containers such as soda bottles, peanut butter containers, salad-dressing bottles and

other food containers are marked with a 1 in the chasing-arrow sign.

Only green and clear containers are accepted. Rinse the containers and remove lids, which mostly cannot be recycled here.

There are two types of No. 2 plastic — colored and natural. Milk jugs are natural. Butter tubs and detergent bottles are marked with a 2 in the chasing-arrow symbol. Flatten if possible. Motor-oil containers and others that contained petroleum

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Girl sews masks for health-care workers



SEVENTH GRADER Michaela Wasson has been doing her part during the corona-virus pandemic, sewing cotton masks for health-care workers.

— Photo by Kelly Wasson

By BRENDA BRETH
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In between schoolwork at Decatur Community Junior High and chores, seventh grader Michaela Wasson is doing her part during the corona-virus pandemic, making cotton masks for health-care workers.

It's not a school project. In fact, Michaela's family and consumer science teacher, Linda Glaze, said that her class hasn't started its sewing unit yet this quarter. Making masks is just something Michaela wanted to do.

"My mom saw on social media," said Michaela, "that hospitals were asking seamstresses to make cotton masks for staff and for nurses to wear over their N95 masks to make them last longer, as there is a shortage of N95 masks."

"Medical workers are having to reuse their safety equipment during this pandemic."

The cotton masks are washable. The seventh grader said she had

an Oberlin connection at a Topeka hospital who was asking 4-H members if they could sew masks to keep their health-care workers safe.

Michaela uses scrap cotton fabric cut in 6x9-inch squares with a third layer of t-shirt material as an extra filter.

She said she has used four different patterns: one from a relative who is a seamstress and the rest from Pinterest.

One type uses elastic around the ears, and another one uses ponytail holders, which Michaela said is "good if you need to run to the grocery store or anywhere."

She has also made masks with pockets to insert a filter or an N95 mask. The seventh grader said the most comfortable masks are those with sewn ties made of fabric.

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Easter vigil Mass



FATHER CARLOS RUIZ SANTOS said the Easter Vigil Mass at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Oberlin on Saturday. Five worshipers joined the pastor to help with the service. The church had 173 candles lit, one for each family in the three parishes of Oberlin, Selden and Leoville. Father Carlos said an Easter Mass with four parishioners helping plus those on line.

— Herald staff photo by Pat Dorshorst

