

# The Jefferson Herald

Eighty-sixth Year

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## Now it's computerized weed spray

One more example of the computer revolution could be seen along Greene county roadsides last week.

The computerized weed spraying operation of Bode Sprayer Service brought greater efficiency and safer application of the chemicals to the job, according to county weed commissioner Lee Johnson of Dana. Rich Welter, operator of the sprayer service, uses a computer mounted in his boom truck cab. The computer, a basic Raven model converted for road ditch spraying, controls each of the three sections of the long spray boom electronically. It handles both monitoring and control of the rate of application of the chemicals.

The computer adjusts the rate of flow of the chemical to the speed of truck, which varies normally from five to 15 miles per hour as it moves up and down the county roads. It also counts the number of acres sprayed by the length of the boom, computing how much spray is applied per acre. The firm's contract with the county calls for application of 20 gallons per acre; the day Welter was interviewed the computer showed the application rate to be 20.4, very close to the contract amount.

The operation can be switched over to manual control when necessary if a large thistle or brush patch is encountered in a road ditch.

Cost of the chemical, applied, is \$31.46 per 100 gallons. That is about \$8 per 100 gallons less than last year's contract, Johnson said. He explained that the chemical market is down because of lower petroleum costs and the PIK program.

Greene county this year sprayed all roads in the south half of the county and also all roads that are wider than standard. Bode Sprayer Service started in the county on Saturday, June 4, and finished in about a week. Total mileage is about 550 miles, doing both sides of the roads.

The firm also has contracts this year in Cerro Gordo, Hancock and Clay counties.

Bode Sprayer used a seven-man crew on the job in Greene county.

Johnson and Greene county engineer Ron Betterton had high praise for the Bode Sprayer firm operation. They also described the safety precautions taken to insure correct application of the chemicals.

All mixtures are done in the country, not in town, Johnson said. Another truck is used in the mixing. The county uses "light" application procedures for its road ditch chemicals, which consist of 2,4D for broadleaf weeds and 2,4D-P for brush. Two pounds of acid are used per gallon for each chemical, and those concentrations are not great enough to hurt anything outside the right-of-way, Johnson



### Push-button controls

Rich Welter of Bode Sprayer Service demonstrates the cab-mounted computer that monitors and controls weed spray application for his firm. This is the fourth year of com-

puterized spray operations for Bode Sprayer Service. The truck's spray boom also operates electronically rather than hydraulically.

said

Spraying is not conducted if wind speed is greater than 10 mph, Johnson added, and the sprayer is sometimes shut off at wind speeds of less than that.

depending on drift and gusting.

In addition, a low-drift wetting additive provides more safety, and the spray booms are run only 18 inches off the ground. The

booms are shut off within 100 feet of a residence

Total cost of the 70,000 gallons of chemicals applied this year is about \$22,000.



### Learning experience

Kevin Danner, feed department manager for West Central Co-op, explains mill operations to Takami Takanohashi and

Katsumi Taguchi. Takanohashi and Taguchi were members of a group of Japanese feed mill operators recently touring Iowa.

## Japanese feed millers visit Ralston; hope to improve their own mills

On Wednesday, June 15, West Central Cooperative's Ralston operation was visited by 13 managers and assistant managers of Japanese feed mills. The Japanese millers were participants in a U.S. Feed Manufacturing Technology short course, arranged in cooperation with Kansas State University, the Iowa Corn Promotion Board and the U.S. Feed Grains Council.

Program coordinator, Seiji Terada of the U.S. Feed Grains Council Tokyo office, explained, "The Japanese feed milling industry has grown very rapidly. We have built very difficult, highly automated mills which are usually overstaffed and awkward. We are not able to change feed formulas easily, our rations are often without correct nutrients, and we are having

palatability problems."

The team members took very precise notes during their Ralston visit, and were keenly interested in the manufacture of pelleted feeds. West Central feed mill superintendent Bill Gregory remarked, "I've never answered so many questions about a feed pellet before." When asked if the Japanese were also comparing milling techniques in other parts of the world, coordinator Terada quickly replied, "Absolutely not, the U.S. is best and this is where we come to find out."

The Japanese milling industry represents a vital market for U.S. corn production. In 1972, U.S. corn imports to Japan were approximately 134 million bushels. By 1982, that figure had grown to roughly 431 million bushels. During the same time, the U.S. share of the Japanese

corn market has grown from 56 percent to 81 percent.

The Japanese team members were scheduled to spend 16 days in the U.S., of which three were spent in Iowa. Their Iowa tour included observations at Boone Valley Co-op in Eagle Grove, a hog farrow to finish operation near Renwick, Farmegg Products in Humboldt, West Central Cooperative, and the Ray Collins farm near Scranton. Their hosts while in Iowa was Lucy Norton, program coordinator for the Iowa Corn Promotion Board.

Also joining the group during the West Central visit were Greene County Corn Grower Assn. members James O. Andrew, Richard Burnell, Roger Custer, Steve Hauptert and Bill Sutton.

## City lets sanitary sewer contracts

The Jefferson city council at its regular Tuesday evening meeting let contracts for the East Lincolnway sanitary sewer project.

There was only one bidder for Section I, and that was Greene County Redi-Mix Inc. of Jefferson in the amount of \$107,016.31. Section I includes

### School board hears report on athletics

The Jefferson Community School board of education heard a report from athletic director Bob Thompson at the regular monthly board meeting Tuesday evening at the south grade school.

Thompson discussed the athletic program for grades seven through twelve. He expressed his conviction that athletics "help students deal with competition, learn to work in a real team situation, develop self-confidence and self-discipline," and that "participation in athletics encourages students to stay in school."

Only 3 1/2 percent of the students who drop out of school are or have been involved in athletics in Jefferson, Thompson said. He also discussed the funding of the programs, and future goals and needs of the athletic program.

The board visited the middle school building to see the current stage of renovation of the building. Superintendent Bob Schmidt discussed the project and also the summer repair which will be done on the other buildings.

The board reviewed and revised various board policies. Marcia Ostlund was appointed by the board to be the board's representative to the county compensation board.

Transportation director Stewart French discussed proposed bus route revision. The board meets regularly the second Tuesday of every month at 8 p.m. at the south grade building.

everything except sidewalk and concrete replacement and rock and gravel for roadways and driveways; that work is included in Section II.

Tri-County Cash Lumber Mart of Jefferson was low bidder for Section II in the amount of \$13,294. The other bidder for Section II was Greene County Redi-Mix in the amount of \$14,328.

The council awarded Section I to Greene County Redi-Mix and Section II to Tri-County Cash Lumber Mart. The total cost of the two sections is \$120,310.31, compared to the engineer's estimate of \$102,082.

The council voted to proceed with the project, with the balance of the cost above the engineer's estimate to be paid by general obligation bonds. Consulting engineer John Milligan of MHF Engineering recommended proceeding with the work. He said that the contractors will be encouraged to keep costs as low as possible.

There were no written or oral objections to the project in the public hearing that immediately preceded the opening of the bids.

There were also no objections at the other public hearing held Tuesday evening, that one concerning amending of the 1982-83 city budget. The council approved the budget amendment as published. It dealt with an increase in spending of \$239,711, of which \$234,517 is for the Greene County Sheltered Workshop building purchase and renovation project and the remaining money to allow the city to spend some donated funds. The Workshop project is financed mostly through a federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

The amendment does not increase property taxes. Milligan and city administrator Dick Crayne reported on scheduling of the northwest storm sewer project, made possible by the receipt by the city of a \$350,000 CDBG grant, announced last week. Engineering for the project will take three months, and construction another eight months. Work cannot start until Crayne attends a state

administrative CDBG grant workshop July 13, so it is not known at present whether any ground can be turned yet this year. The project involved the area north of the Chicago and Northwestern rail line and west of Highway 4.

The council reviewed a proposed subscriber opinion poll from Heritage Cablevision regarding placement of a "basic" cable channel into the new five-channel tier offered by the firm in Jefferson. As drafted by Heritage, the survey requests subscribers to list which four channels—ESPN (channel 4), USA Network (channel 10), WGN (channel 9) or WTBS (formerly channel 3)—are watched, from most often to least often, in their homes.

The council recommended that CNN (channel 6) and CBN (channel 7) be included in the survey as well, and suggested that the wording ask subscribers which channel they would prefer for moving into the tier, rather than which one is watched most often or least often.

The council also expressed a desire to see the survey results, and wanted some assurance from Heritage that it will make the change indicated by the survey results. The council's desires will be forwarded to Heritage.

The council placed on third reading and adopted a change in zoning from R-3 (multiple family dwelling) to R-2 (two family dwelling) for Brown's First Addition, a subdivision located on the north S-curve on West Lincolnway. The first and second readings had been made in November 1979, and city officials did not know why the third reading and adoption did not take place at that time.

The council held up on approval of the final plat of the subdivision pending receipt of documentation required by city ordinance. Developer of the project is Dr. Terry Brown.

Administrator Crayne reported to the council that maintenance of the tree-planting area west of the wastewater treatment plant has become difficult because of

## One hundred compete in corn throw

Dan Johnson of Elgin, IL, won the grand championship trophy for the longest throw in the 1983 International Ear Corn Throwing contest Saturday at the Bell Tower Festival. Johnson won the men's age 19 and over class with a toss of 167'11" and then won the throw-off among division winners with a throw of 183'10". That was a new record for the championship division.

Taking home the women's championship trophy was Rochelle Consier of Churdan who won with a toss of 96'4" in the women's throw-off competition, but first won in her class division, women 13 to 18, with a throw of 98 feet.

Approximately 100 persons participated in the contest which drew a large crowd of spectators to the south side of the square. Governor Terry Branstad, while not winning the celebrity class of the event, did have a very respectable toss, according to Phil Kennedy, chairman of the competition.

The overall long distance records set in 1982 by Kevin Campbell and Susie Kundrat of Jefferson were not broken.

Other division winners were as follows: men's celebrity, Gene Blanshan of Scranton, 147'11"; women's celebrity, Karen Johnson of Jefferson, 88'7"; women's 13-18 class, Rochelle Consier of Churdan, 96'; women's 19 and up class, Sue Downey of Cedar Rapids, 96'7"; men's 13-18 class, John Copeland of Jefferson, 153'11"; men's 19 and up class, Johnson, 167'11"; international class—men's, Jaedim Jahim of Malaysia, 132'7"; international class—women's, Jacqueline Nedel of Brazil, 38 feet; and championship class, Johnson and Consier.

## Ron Toliver named to conservation board

The Greene county board of supervisors at its regular meeting Monday, June 6, appointed Ron Toliver to finish out the unexpired term on the Greene county conservation board of Dick Seaman, who has resigned. Both men are from Churdan. The term runs until Dec. 31, 1987.

### REUNITED

Robert "Pat" Patterson, of Spencer, was recently reunited with a brother and a nephew that he hadn't known he had. Pat had been adopted shortly after he was born, and grew up largely in orphanages. The family was reunited through the efforts of Linda Druke, a member of the genealogical society. - The Spencer Daily Reporter.

## School reunion panel seeks housing room

The housing committee for the October 1983 Jefferson Ten-Year All-School Reunion is seeking homes in which out-of-town visitors can stay during the Reunion weekend Oct. 7 and 8. If you are interested in the project, please contact David or Pat Luther at 386-4529 or 386-3146.

## Tug of war slated for county fair

Pete Andrusyk of the Jefferson fire department has announced the Tug of War competition cancelled because of rain last Saturday will be held instead during the Greene County Fair. Any teams interested in entering the contest are asked to contact him.

## Senior lifesaving class to be offered

The Greene county chapter of American Red Cross will offer a senior lifesaving class in swimming beginning Sunday, July 3, and running for two weeks.

Participants must be at least 15 years of age. Interested persons are asked to call (515) 386-2166.

## Panora takes most prizes in water fights

Entries from the Panora fire department nearly made a clean sweep of the Bell Tower Festival water fights held Saturday afternoon on East Lincolnway. Only a third place finish in the men's competition by the Jefferson fire department saved the group from the south from taking all the prizes.

Seven different towns were represented in the competition according to Pete Andrusyk, chairman of the event. In the men's division there were 32 different water fights, and in the women's division there were 16. Trophies were presented to first, second and third place finishers and plaques were awarded to each of the four members of the two winning teams.

Andrusyk labeled the competition as really successful with many spectators watching. Most of the women's teams are made up of firemen's wives, he explained.

In the men's division, the winners were: first, Panora; second, Panora, and third, Jefferson. In women's competition, it was first, Panora, second, Panora, and third, Panora.

## Bell Tower Festival wrapup—page 4



### Creative costumes encouraged

Charlie Chaplin, Eddie Arcaro and Floozie Whosis (perhaps better known locally as Louise Harris, Chris Johnson and Shirley Thoreson) look through a costume box in

preparation for the Community Players' annual gala, "Backstage at the Theatre," to be held Friday evening, June 24.

## "Backstage at the Theatre" to end Community Players' season

"Backstage at the Theatre" is the theme of a gala evening being planned for Friday, June 24, by Community Players of Greene County as the finale for the group's 1982-83 season. The event will be held at the Jefferson Elks Lodge and open to the public.

"We've had a very busy year producing two full-length plays and a musical and we wanted to close out the season with a fun event that many people could enjoy," said Jacque Andrew, president of the group.

One highlight of the evening's festivities will be a costume dance with live music provided by "Sound Variation" set for 9

p.m. Costumes are encouraged although not required for those attending. Prizes will be awarded for "best costumes."

"We hope that people will get into the spirit of the event and have fun coming up with imaginative costumes," Andrew said. "This is an evening for everyone regardless of any previous experience with Community Players."

Decorations and displays will be used in the hall which will lend a "backstage" atmosphere and acquaint those attending with the "behind the scenes" production work involved in creating live theatre.

Preceding the costume dance will be the organization's annual meeting. Members and friends are invited to attend the social hour at 7 p.m. and the annual meeting at 8 p.m.

"Several long-time workers and supporters of the Community Players will be honored at the annual meeting and new board members will be elected," Andrew said.

Hors d'oeuvres will be served throughout the evening. There is no charge to attend the annual meeting and tickets for the costume dance will be available at the door.