

Early arbors

The City of Oil City and the Oil City Shade Tree Commission began their Arbor Day observances early this year when the fifth grade class at the Oil City Middle School planted a sugar maple in Hasson Park on Wednesday afternoon.

The weather was warm and sunny as the students gathered to plant the sapling, have lunch and learn about trees.

Foresters with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) showed up to teach students about the life cycle of trees, as well as the importance of fire prevention and how they fight wildfires.

After the lesson, workers with the city's public works department planted the sugar maple in a hole they had dug near the playground.

After the workers set the tree in the ground, the fifth graders filed helped finish the job by each shoveling a scoop of dirt into the hole.

The new tree, under the right conditions, could live 200 to 300 years.

The Shade Tree Commission and the city will plant a second tree in Hasson Park on Friday, which is Arbor Day.

— Kara O'Neil



Fifth grader Jordy Fulmer, right, helps classmate Jacob Murray, whose arm is in a sling, shovel dirt during a tree planting in Hasson Park on Wednesday. Both boys attend school at Oil City Middle School.