



## 125th year begins with big new sign

**TO KICK OFF** the newspaper's 125th year, *The Oberlin Herald* got a new sign last week. The 19-foot sign (above), modeled roughly after one that graced the office in the 1950s (right), was built by Mike Boyson of Hot Brush in Bird City. Thursday, Boyson mounted the sign above the downtown canopy with help from (from left) Evan Barnum of Nor' West Newspapers, from Colby; Lacy Haynes of Oberlin, home on Christmas break from the University of Kansas; and Publisher Steve Haynes (far right). Society Editor Mary Lou Olson said the '50s version was cut from wood to exactly duplicate the Herald logo. The new sign is a photographic reproduction of the logo on an aluminum panel.

— Herald photo by Kimberly Brandt



## Business gets grant to give farmers help with their finances

An Oberlin business received a \$50,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency to hold information classes to help farmers in western Kansas, Oklahoma and Nebraska and eastern Colorado.

Owner Greg Lohofener said he applied for the grant for Market Data Inc. in June. He said he has never applied for a government grant for the business.

The grant is designed, he said, so he can show farmers what they can do with existing crop insurance products, the new farm bill and marketing strategies. Basically, he'll be helping farmers plan better risk management in their crop operations.

The classes will help farmers figure out what insurance levels they should have with the new farm bill's price protection, when to sell the crops and what techniques to use.

There will be 25 meetings in the four states. The first will be at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 15, at The Gateway. There are meetings scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 22, at the Buffalo Inn in Goodland and Wednesday, Jan. 29, at the Community Building in McCook.

Mr. Lohofener said he has submitted his curriculum for the classes and it is in the process of final approval. Everything has to be approved in Topeka and in Washington, he said.

Although it was only announced recently, he said he received word that it had been tentatively approved in late July. Then on Sept. 27, he received official word and signed the contract. He then developed the curriculum.

Mr. Lohofener said with his background in marketing, financial consulting and farming, he thought he could do some good.

## Lights and fencing sought for race track

Plans to work on the race track at the fairgrounds are underway, with Jack Metcalf going to look and possibly purchase lights for either the track or the pits.

Mr. Metcalf talked briefly with county commissioners at their meeting Tuesday, Dec. 17. He said he was planning on going to Jennings that day to look at the lights the school is selling and pick them up. Mr. Metcalf said he wasn't sure if the lights would work for the track, but if they wouldn't work there, he could use them for the pit area.

The group also has been looking at fence prices, he said. There is quite a stretch between what is ac-

ceptable and what is attractive.

Mr. Metcalf said Lee Scott is getting a schematic of the fairgrounds together so they can start to get bids for the fence.

The idea is to put up the fence on the outside of the track as a security fence and also around the fairgrounds. The security fence has to be 10 feet away from the debris fence, he said. It may be close to city property.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said the fence would benefit the track, the fair board, amusement authority, landowners and maybe even the city.

Mr. Metcalf said they still need to know if the county is going to help finish the track.

The fair board has not had a quorum at the last couple of meetings, he said, so he has been unable to meet with them. He said the promoters, who have not been named yet, will need to meet with them. They already have about seven races set for the next season, he said, and some things need to be worked out.

## Readers will get 53 papers

Everyone loves a freebie, and *Oberlin Herald* subscribers are going to get one in 2003.

Instead of 52 issues of *The Herald*, subscribers will get 53.

Because New Year's Day and Dec. 31, 2003, both land on Wednesday, the day the paper is published, there will be 53 issues of *The Herald* this year.

The 365 days in a year divided by seven days a week come out to 52.1428571348 weeks (that's as far as our calculator goes), on average.

In a leap year, everyone gets an extra (drum roll, please) .14 of a week.

All those tenths of weeks add up to an extra issue now and then.

The now is 2003; the last was 1997.

We're all hoping that 2003 is a little quieter than 1997, when readers got 53 issues which had stories about murder, mayhem, snow and water problems.

In 1997, the year started out with a young man stealing a truck and threatening to kill himself.

March brought a major fire which destroyed a day-care center, and Dr. Wendy Vogel from Saskatchewan promised to move to Oberlin.

In April, two young men beat a deputy and escaped the Decatur County jail. They were soon caught and sent on to prison.

Southwestern Bell changed the

area code from 913 to 785 and harvests were good to bumper.

In July, residents enjoyed the second Sunrayce.

In August, Oberlin had its first murder in recent memory and the grade school roof caught fire but the building was saved.

An early snowfall hit the area the week before Halloween, closing roads, causing one death and problems for trick-or-treaters.

And Kansas and Nebraska started fighting over water in the Republican River.

Let's hope that 2003 is less exciting. And if excitement must come, maybe it will hold off until the next 53-edition year, 2014.

## Council cuts raises for all city employees

The Oberlin City Council decided not to follow the city administrator's recommendation about raises this year, giving a baseline raise of 1 percent instead of the 3 percent in the budget.

Administrator Gary Shike's recommendation was to do a 3 percent raise across the board, which was what had been budgeted, and then give an additional 1 percent to some employees for merit. The council decided to cut

spending and give a baseline raise of 1 percent, with a few employees getting a 3 percent merit raise.

Out of the 20 city employees, six received the larger raise.

In other business, the council:

- Decided to hold an end-of-the-year meeting Friday at The Gateway.
- Signed a stop-work order on the water project to allow J Corp to take a holiday break from Dec. 23 to Jan. 2.

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- ALL CHRISTMAS RELATED gifts 50% Off
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*- from Sharon, Rusty and the staff.*

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**IT WAS OFFICIAL** when Joe Stanley changed the sign last Tuesday indicating that the annual food drive had exceeded its goal of 2000 items more than a week early. The store continued piling up groceries this week.

— Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

## Food drive hits goal a week early

A week before the deadline, Stanley Hardware hit the goal of 2,000 food items for its fourth annual food drive.

Owner Joe Stanley said Tuesday he flipped the sign over to 2,000 items. By Monday at closing the

store had 2,178 items in the south window.

That didn't mean they were going to stop collecting. Mr. Stanley said they would keep the drive going this week and planned to take the items to the Decatur County Food Bank at

the United Church Thursday or Friday.

Mr. Stanley said the food drive seems to be a good thing and something that is needed. To those who gave to the drive, he said, "Thanks a lot."

## Council holds final session to pay city's bills

The Oberlin City Council held a five-minute end-of-the-year session on Friday to pay bills and approve a vacation carryover.

Only three councilmen — Ken Shobe, Jay Anderson and Jerry Fidele — were available for the two-

days-after-Christmas meeting, said City Administrator Gary Shike.

Councilmen approved the end-of-the-year bills and a request by City Foreman Dan Castle to carry over up to seven days of vacation into 2003.

Mr. Castle said his work on Oberlin's water project has not allowed him to take time off. The councilmen agreed the request was reasonable and OK'ed it.

The next council meeting will be 6:30 p.m. Thursday at The Gateway.

### Best Buys in Used Equipment

- TRACTORS**
- 2-2002 Case IH STX 275 1000 hrs.
  - 2002 Case IH MXC 220 MFD 675 hrs.
  - 2001 Case IH STX 325 950 hrs.
  - 2000 Case IH MX 220 MFD 1100 hrs.
  - 1999 Case IH MX 2401 2100 hrs.
  - 1997 Case IH 9330 4WD 3820 hrs.
  - 1995 Case IH 7250 MFD 6300 hrs.
  - 1994 Case IH 7240 MFD 4840 hrs.
  - 1992 Case IH 7120 MFD 6545 hrs.
  - 1989 Case IH 7140 MFD 1900 hrs.
  - 1987 Stieger Cougar 1000 7200 hrs.
  - 1974 Case 1370 2WD 6950 hrs.
  - IHC 806 2WD Gas

- COMBINES & EQUIPMENT**
- 2002 Case IH 2388 415E 350S
  - 2002 Case IH 2388 370E 295S
  - 2001 Case IH 2366 920E 800S
  - 2-2002 Case IH 2212 Cornheads
  - 2-2002 Case IH 2208 Cornheads
  - 2001 Case IH 2388 710E 540S
  - 1999 JD 925 Platform
  - 1999 Case IH 1020 25' Flex
  - 1998 JD 1293 Cornhead
  - 1998 JD 9610 combine 1050E 875S
  - 1995 JD 930 Platform
  - 1988 Case IH 1680 3216 hrs.
  - 1981 IHC 1480 4990 hrs.
  - 1978 IHC 1460 3000 hrs.
  - 3-JD 9300 Hoe Drills
  - JD 1508 Bat Wing Mower
  - 2-Case IH 1083 Cornheads
  - 1988 Case IH 1020 25' Flex
  - IHC 140 Plow 4 Bottom Rollover
  - 2-JD 8300 Drills
  - 1985 JD 644 Cornhead

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