

# Telethon staff gearing up for auction, action

The annual Seeds of Hope Telethon is just around the corner, and organizers are starting to get ready.

This year's telethon, Oberlin's version of a community fund drive, will be from 1 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1, at The Gateway.

The telethon will include an auction aired on local access channel 7 on the Oberlin cable system, with over 100 items for sale.

Each item will be announced and shown at the first of the hour and then volunteers will be taking bids from the audience and over the phone.

The telethon will feature a chili cookoff again this year. Anyone interested in getting out the spices and cooking up a batch needs to have a full Crockpot at The Gateway by 5 p.m. for judging at 5:30 p.m. that Saturday. The chili will then be sold for dinner.

Throughout the day, there will be a fund-raising walk-a-thon on the track about the arena. Anyone interested in walking can get a sign-up sheet at the Hirsch and Pratt law office on Main Street.

There will be local talent shown off throughout the day. People interested in performing should call Anita Hirsch at 475-2296 or 475-2358.

New to the telethon this year will be a live

auction at 6 p.m. at The Gateway. Those who come to eat will also have a chance to buy.

In the past, the telethon has raised over \$10,000 for local groups. This year the organizers are shooting for as much or more.

The recipients to this year's profits will be the Decatur County Stand Against Violence, Decatur County Museum, Czech Museum in Jennings, Decatur County Area

Chamber of Commerce, the Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission, the Forget-Me-Nots and Doorway Ministries, Jennings City Library, Decatur County Ministerial Association, Decatur County Fair Board, Decatur County Relay for Life, Sunflower Cinema, Oberlin Lions Club, Oberlin Teens for Christ, Oberlin Boy Scouts, Oberlin Swim Club and the Decatur Area Theater Association.

## Santa bucks get spent

### Chamber office sells \$12,000 to businesses, city

In the last month, at least \$7,090 has come back to Oberlin businesses in the form of Santa Bucks, issued by merchants and spendable only at participating businesses.

At the Oberlin Business Alliance meeting last Wednesday, Chamber of Commerce Manager Glenva Nichols said there is still \$4,580 to be used.

Normally, the Chamber sells around \$15,000 worth of Santa Bucks, she said, but this year they sold around \$12,000.

The economy hasn't been great and some who have bought them in the past didn't buy them this year, she said, while others spent less than normal. Businesses and the city often use the bucks for year-end bonuses.

President Laurie Wasson, owner of Prairie Petals, said she thought it was good that \$12,000 was being spent in town.

The small group of nine members came up with two new ideas for next year's holiday season.

One was live mannequins like The Dresser had. Each store could have one. Another was bringing back the window display competition.

Mrs. Wasson said when they were putting up the greenery downtown, she noticed that some of it wasn't in very good condition.

She said she thought it was time to replace some of it and look at Stanley Hardware or Duckwall's to see if they can buy it there.

Other decorations that may need some replacing are the nativity lights in Centennial Park.

She said there was some trouble with all of the lights being on all of the time.

Someone suggested using rope lights, which are enclosed in plastic tubing, to line the figures to keep from bulbs being pulled out or coming loose.

The board had been expecting a visit from City Councilman Jay Anderson, who has been working on getting college students from Kansas State University here this summer to make an audio tape of the historical sites in the county.

Mr. Anderson did not attend the meeting because he was ill.

The board said they didn't know enough about the project to talk about it.

Some did know that Mr. Anderson had tried to contact the museum to let the students work there to get history. Mrs. Wasson had a copy of the letter from the museum board, which some members read after the meeting.

In other business, board members:

- Decided to table planning the Fifth Wednesday celebration for Jan. 29.

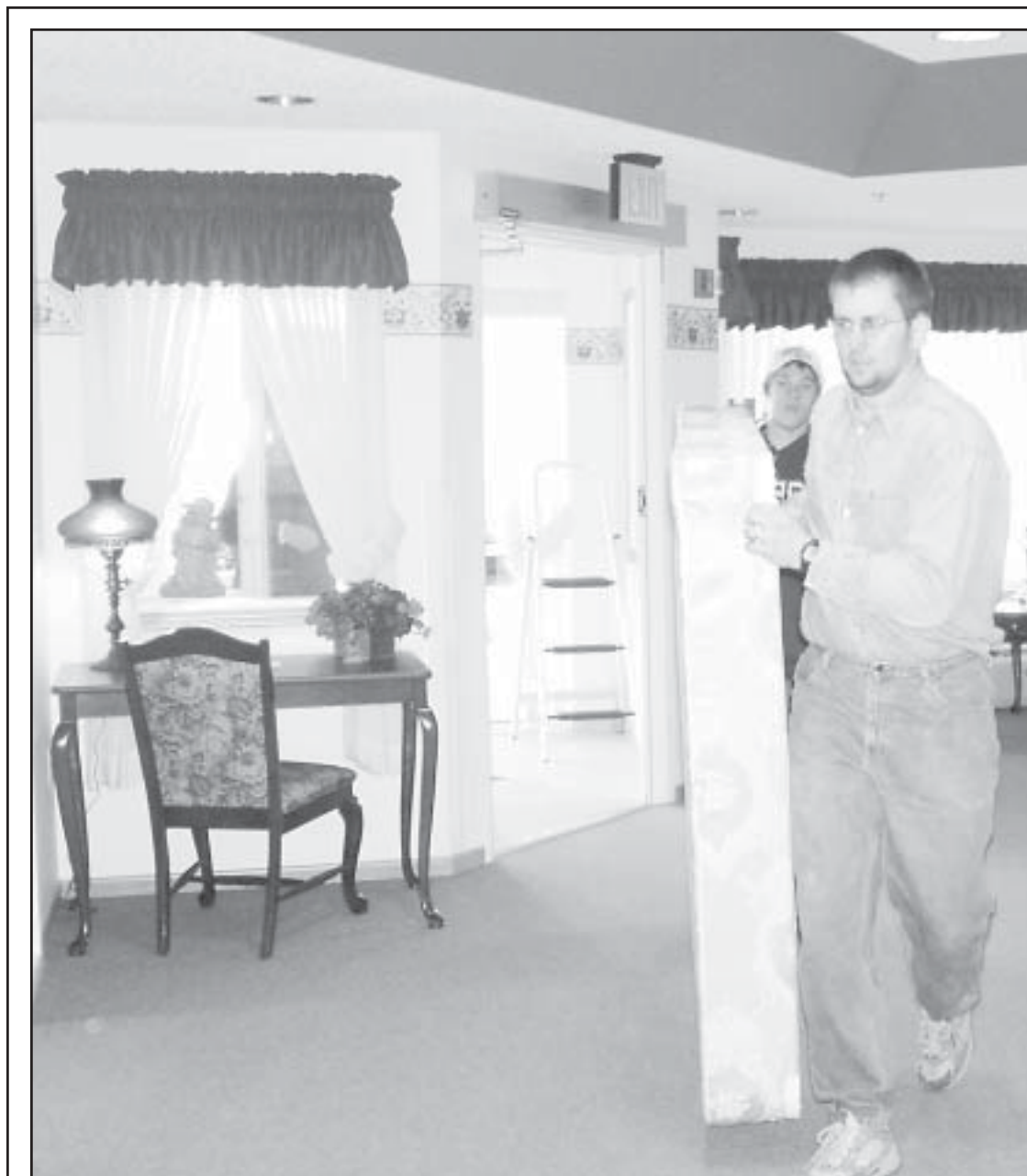
- Talked about getting welcome banners to use when people come into town, either generic ones or ones with the city's name.

- Decided to wait to name quarterly event chairpersons until the next meeting.

## Banks, some offices to close

All banks and financial institutions and state and federal offices, including the post office, will be closed on Monday for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Most other Oberlin businesses,



**MOVING PART OF A BED**, FFA Sponsor Nathan Copeland (in front) and Logan Glaze helped a Norcatuar woman move into Wheat Ridge Terrace on Saturday.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Brandt

## FFA helps older folks move to senior apartments in Oberlin

Members of the Decatur Community High School FFA had an early start Saturday morning, heading over to Norcatuar at 8:30 a.m. to help a woman move to Wheat Ridge Terrace senior apartments in Oberlin.

Marcia Lohofener, manager at Wheat Ridge, said this is the second move the group has done. The project was suggested last May, she said, and the club agreed this year to do the project.

The FFA only helps move people who live within Decatur County, she said, adding that it is a good marketing point for the apartments. People often are worried about how they are going to get moved in and some don't have family in the area to help. The group is only responsible for the items the person wants to move to the Terrace, she said, not all the items in the house.

FFA Director Nathan Copeland said it is good public service project for the students. The community backs the school and the students and they, in return, need to get involved.

The first move the students did was for Myrtle Waldo, who moved from Oberlin. The one Saturday was for Merle Shirley.

Mrs. Lohofener said the first one, the kids did just for community service. On the second one, the apartments will make a donation to the group. Every other one will be for free and the other will draw a donation for the work.

The money the FFA is earning will be used to take annual trips, said Mr. Copeland. In past years, students have gone to Denver for the National Western Stock Show, to Kansas City and to the FFA National Conference. The money will help get the students to these places.

The organization has 21 members this year, he said. Saturday morning, Logan Glaze, Kary Miller and Caleb Peters were the three members who volunteered to help.

Mr. Copeland said the group appreciates the opportunity to help the community and help out some of the elderly population.

## Group plans for Ralph Moody Days

The Oberlin Convention and Visitors Bureau, with the help of students from Oberlin Elementary School, will be celebrating Ralph Moody Days in March.

Mr. Moody has written several historical novels, including two about this area.

His books, often called the "Little Britches" series, tell the story of his life, from when he was young and living in Colorado up until he is a man.

The "Dry Divide" and "Horse of a Different Color" tell about when he lived in the Cedar Bluffs area.

Gary Anderson, a member of the

bureau board, said they bought 70 of the "Dry Divide" books and gave them to the school. The fifth and sixth graders are reading the books and will be doing presentations based on them for the weekend of March 15 and 16.

Mr. Anderson said he hopes businesses will stay open later in the evening for Ralph Moody Days. In the tentative celebration plans are a dance and possible tours of the sites Mr. Moody writes about in his books.

Mr. Moody was born on Dec. 16, 1898 in East Rochester, N.H. When he was 8, the family moved to Colorado, living near Littleton.

At the age of 12, Mr. Moody had to become the man of the house

when his father was killed in a horse-automobile accident.

In 1919, Mr. Moody got off the train in McCook. He had just turned 20 and had nothing to his name. According to the book, "Dry Divide," in three months he had eight teams of horses and rigs. He lived in the Cedar Bluffs area.

When Mr. Moody was older, he moved to Kansas City, Mo. While he and his wife Edna lived in Kansas City, they had three children. The family then moved to California.

At the age of 83, Mr. Moody returned to New England and he died on June 28, 1982.

The Oberlin City Library carries the series.

## Commissioners use state schedule for liquor licenses

Decatur County commissioners agreed last week to use the same fee schedule as the state for temporary liquor licenses.

The state charges \$25 for one day, \$50 for two days and \$75 for three days.

The commissioners, although they don't remember approving any temporary licenses in the past, decided they needed to set a fee schedule. It costs \$100 for a one-year license.

The commissioners found out that an emergency preparedness grant from the Kansas Department of Transportation couldn't be used to buy the pump and motor unit for the hydraulic extraction tool for a fire truck in Jennings.

The money has to be used by the end of January, so the commissioners decided they would discuss what it could be used for at their next meeting.

In other business, commissioners:

- Heard that Health Administrator Marilyn Gamblin had received a 95 percent compliance rating for immunization of the county's 2-year-olds.

- Held a five-minute closed session with Ms. Gamblin for non-elected personnel. There was no action.

- Joined Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas of Hays for another year. The agency helps people with disabilities.

- Heard that Brandon Mann from the Kansas Counties Association Multi-lined Pool will be here at the

## County Roundup

At their meeting Tuesday morning, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Talked with City Administrator Gary Shike about having a joint meeting between the county commissioners and city councils in the county. Nothing has been set yet. Story below.
- Set a fee schedule for temporary liquor licenses. Story on left.

beginning of February to look at some county buildings.

- Signed four change orders for the 2002 tax roll. Two were for Rusty Addleman, one that was added and another that was abated; one for the City of Oberlin which was abated; and one for Bruce and Marianne Larue was added.

Properties added were because they didn't show up on the tax roll and others are abated if something is sold and still shows up on the rolls.

- Heard that the ambulance department did 313 calls this last year compared to 216 the year before. The department has collected \$31,974, which is a little over \$11,000 more than collected the year before. The department is still receiving payments, said Director Patrick Pomeroy.

## Cities, county planning to hold a joint meeting

City Administrator Gary Shike asked Decatur County commissioners last week if they would set up a joint meeting, and they said they'd be glad to meet with all the county's cities.

Mr. Shike stopped at the commissioners meeting Tuesday morning. He said the City Council has mentioned that they wanted to have a joint meeting in the past but nothing has been organized.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said the commissioners used to meet with the all the city councils in the county once a quarter, but the meetings lost attendance and then just stopped.

Mr. Shike said the city could host the meeting at The Gateway. Mr. Unger said the county could hold it in the courthouse and invite the other cities.

Everything is tighter this year because of the state budget, said Mr. Shike, but that is just one topic that could be discussed.

Mr. Unger suggested holding the

meeting as soon as next week's commission meeting. If that doesn't work, he said, he preferred an evening meeting to an early morning. Mr. Shike said most of the council members wouldn't be able to meet during the day because of their jobs.

Commissioner Pat Glenn asked who would make up the agenda. Mr. Unger suggested that any of the groups could put something on the agenda. He said it should be out early enough so everyone involved will be prepared to discuss all the topics.

Mr. Unger asked if it should just be the county and Oberlin. Mr. Shike said inviting everyone would be fine. He said he would talk with the council about finding a time that would be good for them to meet.



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