Chamber banquet to feature barn program, election

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

Stories from the barn, pictures of barns in Decatur County and sirloin steak will all be offered at the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce annual banquet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17, at The Gateway.

Chamber manager Glenva Nichols has been working for months, finding older barns to photograph for display at the banquet. The pictures

of them tell a story of the old farm days.

The program, "Stories From the Barn" will be given by Joyce Thierer, who has a doctorate from Kansas State University in history. She is a member of the "Ride into History" historic performance touring troupe and also a teacher of history at Emporia State University.

have been on display in the chamber office. Humanities Council, a state agency which pro- ervations made.

and ideas that helped shape the lives and communities in Kansas.

Mrs. Nichols said one of the best parts about the talk Mrs. Thierer does is that she gets the audience involved.

Dinner will start at 6:30 p.m. for the banquet, with sirloin steak cooked by The Gateway staff. The program is sponsored by the Kansas Mrs. Nichols said so far there have been 11 res-

with four seats open on the board. Members going off are Mick Glaze, Dave Stapp and Peg Smith. Mrs. Nichols said another person resigned early in their term and still hasn't been replaced. Members who will stay on the board are Doug Brown, Judy Cathcart, Sara Seller and LaMoine Wolfram.

vacant seats are Carrie Morford, Marilyn Alliance.

Chamber elections will be held at the banquet, Noone, Clay Parker, Kelly Wasson, Derek Riner, Karla Jones and Sandra Herl.

Reservations for the banquet need to be sent or called into the chamber office by Monday. The number is 475-3441.

The banquet costs \$12.50 a person. Mrs. Nichols said this is also a good time to pay chamber dues for the year. Dues are \$125 for Candidates to choose from to fill the four the chamber and \$75 for the Oberlin Business

Businesses to offer snackfest

The Oberlin Business Alliance will host a "progressive snacks" event from 4:30 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 30, at downtown businesses.

Similar to a progressive dinner, where people go to different homes for each course, the businesses will each have different types of snacks for

The alliance decided on Monday to do the progressive snacks for their fifth Wednesday celebration this month. Everyone is welcome to come to town and get treats while looking around the

With Monday's lunch meeting being the first of the new year, alliance members selected new quarter committee chairs. For the first quarter, they suggested Karen Metcalf of the Dresser, who was not at the meeting; second quarter Clay Parker of Sappa Valley Saddle Shop, who also was not at the meeting, and Rusty Addleman of Addleman Drug; for the third quarter, Connie Grafel of The Gateway and Judy Cathcart of Sappa Valley Youth Ranch said they would do it; and for the fourth quarter, Gary Anderson of the LandMark Inn, Joe Stanley of Stanley Hardware and Gary Walter of The Bank, who was not at the meeting.

Members suggested Laurie Wasson of Prairie Petals to lead the group for the year but she was not there. Mr. Stanley said he would talk to her about it.

Alliance members looked over the past year and promotions they had done. Mr. Stanley asked members how they felt the holiday season and advertising had gone.

Mr. Addleman said the group keeps trying different things to get people into the stores, but the weekend openings and three nights the stores were open late didn't do anything. He said that his sales wouldn't have even paid for the electricity.

Mr. Stanley said maybe the three night openings weren't advertised the way they should have been.

Kurt Vollertsen of Ward Drug agreed, saying the evenings were slow. Sunday business was better than the nights, said Mr. Anderson.

The drawings were scattered well, said Mr. Stanley, and the crowds were good. There was a good mixture of drawings people had to be there for and not be present for. Mr. Anderson said that people asked him why registration wasn't held at the drawings that a person had to be present for.

Although they discussed what to do next year, no decisions were made.

The alliance agreed to talk about some kind of membership mixer and maybe doing something for the regional wrestling tournament in Febru-

In other business, members:

• Talked about the chamber banquet

at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17, at The

• Heard that they need to provide a mission statement and information about the group for the chamber web

site, which they have a link off of.



LOADING UP THE GROCERIES, Joe Stanley prepared to take this year's donations from Stanley Hardware to the food bank at the United Church. - Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

Food drive loads up a successful year

The drive started after Christmas and ended last Wednesday, when employees at the store boxed up the window. items and took them to the United Church for the food

that food drive numbers were down across the county and year.

Although the annual food drive at Stanley Hardware he wasn't shocked when in the first week his drive only got off to a slow start, 28 items more than the goal of 2,000 brought in 30 items. As always, these were placed in the were carted off to the Decatur County Food Pantry last front window. In the second week, 370 items were brought in and each week after that the numbers rose until last Wednesday, when 2,028 items adorned the display

Mr. Stanley said he wanted to thank each person who donated food or other nonperishable items for the drive. In the beginning, owner Joe Stanley said he had heard He said he looks forward to meeting the goal again next

Council wants to see effects of bank sale before making choice

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

The Oberlin City Council decided to postpone a decision on which banks to deposit city money into because of the recent announcement that The Bank is purchasing Gold Bank.

depositories for years. At the beginning of each year, the council has to decide which banks to use for this purpose.

Councilman Ken Shobe asked whether Gold Bank being sold would affect the deposits or the decision. He Economic Development Corp., the asked if the council should wait and see what happens, since the sale still has to go through regulatory approval.

He also wanted to know why the city uses two banks instead of just one or why the city uses those two banks. Mayor Gary Walter said he didn't think that the city had to use two banks, but it's done that way because there used to be only two banks in town.

decide the depository banks that night. City Attorney Steve Hirsch said that there are statutory requirements for the county on the matter but didn't know book. He reported later that although time for 2001 and 2000. the decision has to be made, the statutes don't give a time limit.

The Bank could know about the regulatory approval in 45 days, said Mayor Walter, a vice president for The Bank.

Mr. Hirsch said that the banks have to have a home office in Kansas and a branch in the county, but that is the only requirements for a depository.

next meeting and Councilman department in the new year. These in-Matchett asked City Administrator Gary Shike to check with the other

banks in town — there are four and will be three after the merger — and see if they may be interested in being a de-

As part of the new year, Mayor

Walter appointed four people to boards. Both of the banks have been used as On the Convention and Visitors Bureau, the council re-appointed Gary Anderson and Carolyn Burtis. They also appointed Kathy Almquist. All will serve a two year term. For the Oberlin-Decatur County

council appointed Ray Bryan to take the position of Duane Steele. His term is also until 2004. In other business, council members:

 Decided to change the second meeting of the month to Thursday, Jan. 24, because the normal day for the second meeting is the same night as the Cham-

ber of Commerce banquet.

• Heard Police Chief Wade Lockhart Councilman Marvin Matchett report that December had been a fairly wanted to know if the council had to calm month but the department collected \$1,234 in court fees. Chief Lockhart said he is working on the end of the year financial report. Councilman Matchett asked if he could also do about the city and checked the law amonth-to-month comparison on over-

> • Talked about contacting the legislators about re-districting, which Kansas will be facing soon. Councilman Matchett said northwest Kansas has the possibility of losing one of its represen-

> · Approved a resolution which says the audits will follow the generally accepted accounting procedures.

· Talked with City Foreman Dan The council decided to wait until the Castle, who has set up goals for each clude tree trimming, electrical distribution improvements, the water project, valve installations, fire hydrant replacements, removing bumps from the streets, possible street replacements. working on the waste plant, cleaning the generators, training the power plant operator and working on the looks of the parks, cemetery and The Gateway.

Six juveniles appear by phone in attack at ranch

various juvenile facilities throughout over the phone. the state.

a call that there had been an alleged gang rape at the ranch where six of the personal felony. boys ganged up on one juvenile. The young man who said he was attacked was taken to the hospital that night and detention center.

Casteal, 16, who is at WaKeeney; Greg each spend 653 months in prison, a little

Six juveniles involved in the alleged Robertson, 16, who is in Girard; Aaron over 54 years, and or pay a fine up to a right to a lawyer appointed to repregang rape at Sappa Valley Youth Ranch Rakoci, 16, at WaKeeney; Mark Swank \$300,000. made their first court appearance Mon- Jr., 16, at Girard; and Jesse Pollard, 17 day afternoon over the telephone from at WaKeeney, were read their charges

The charges are aggravated criminal On Dec. 14, Oberlin police received sodomy, a level two personal felony, and aggravated kidnapping, a level one

Judge John Bremer explained what the charges meant and told the boys if they were found guilty on the charge of the six other youth were taken to aggravated sodomy, that they could WaKeeney, where there is a juvenile each spend 493 months in prison, which is around 41 years, and pay a fine Monday, Jason Freeman, 15, who is up to \$300,000. If found guilty of agin at St. Francis Academy in Salina; Joe gravated kidnapping, the youths could

Each of the youths was told they had during the first appearance.

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press (CARE) van is still serving north- the van, call (888) 227-3695. west Kansas, according to Ron Straight of Havs.

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