

City Council OKs Christmas bonuses for all its employees

The Oberlin City Council will give the city's full-time employees \$250 each and the part-time employees \$100 each in Santa Bucks as a Christmas bonus.

City Administrator Gary Shike talked with the council about the Santa Bucks the city gives the employees at the meeting on Thursday, Nov. 6. He said last year, the city spent around \$6,500 to give \$250 for full-time employees and \$100 for part-time workers.

He said those amounts were higher than what the city had given in the past. Mr. Shike told the council they needed to act at that meeting so the Santa Bucks could be included with the checks at the end of the month.

Mayor Ken Shobe asked if taxes had to be withheld out of the Santa Bucks. Councilman Joe Stanley said he thought it was a good idea.

The council approved the bonuses.

Jack Benton, with the Sappa Park Restoration Committee, said he had received information back which he requested from the Kansas State Historical Society on moving the bathrooms at the shelter house. The society approved the move.

He said the society sent out a covenant that says they have the right to come here for the next 10 years to inspect the shelter house whenever they want. Mr. Benton said he didn't think that was a problem.

An application for a matching grant for \$8,000 has been sent to the U.S. Department of Interior, Mr. Benton said.

He added that the committee is working on getting blueprints on the restrooms and they will discuss those at the next meeting.

Commission joins economic committee

The Decatur County commissioners agreed last Tuesday to work with Oberlin officials and the Decatur-Oberlin Area Economic Development Corp. on a steering committee for tourism to help boost economic development.

Councilman Jay Anderson approached the commissioners about the committee and they appointed Commissioner Doyle Brown to represent them. Dr. Anderson said he had talked with the council and still needed to talk with Marketing Director Connie Grafel from the development group.

The commissioners received a letter from Norton County Commissioner John Miller, who asked for a letter of support as he seeks a seat on the Kansas Association of Counties

board. Commissioner Patricia Glenn signed the letter.

Commissioner Ralph Unger asked for a letter for his position on the Kansas Workers Risk Cooperative for Counties board.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Looked over a request from Eskew Engines to have their wrecker designated as an emergency vehicle with red lights and a siren. The request was denied. The county doesn't designate private vehicles as emergency vehicles.

- Received a letter from Randy Hrabe from the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission requesting a report on the landfill. It was given to Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman.

Police seek man in sexual assault case

A 23-year-old Norton woman reported that she was sexually assaulted in her home by an unknown man on Tuesday morning.

Norton Police said they received a call from the woman, who said she had been raped around 6 a.m. The woman said she was alone when the man walked into her home, officials said.

The description she gave to the police was of a white man, about 50 years old, who had dark hair with gray hair extending towards the ears and a full white beard of medium length. He was described as 5-foot, 9-inches to 5-foot, 10-inches tall with a medium build and large stomach.

The assailant was wearing large wire-framed glasses, a red baseball cap, a green flannel shirt and brown leather jacket, dark colored jeans with a large silver belt buckle and black shoes.

A Kansas Bureau of Investigation artist completed a composite sketch



Sexual assault suspect

of the assailant.

The Norton Police Department is asking for help from anyone who might have seen this man or has any information on the incident. Contact the department at (785) 877-5010.



AT THE CIRCUS THURSDAY, Zac Corbett and Ky'Lee Kolar (above) had the chance to ride ponies before the show started. Sage Lohoefer (below) played on a giant fake blow-up tiger. — Herald staff photos by Kimberly Brandt

Circus shows off for town

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

Adults took a step back into their childhood Thursday night, watching little dogs jump through a hoop, an elephant stand on a pedestal, a woman fly in circles at the end of a rope and a grown man perform as a clown.

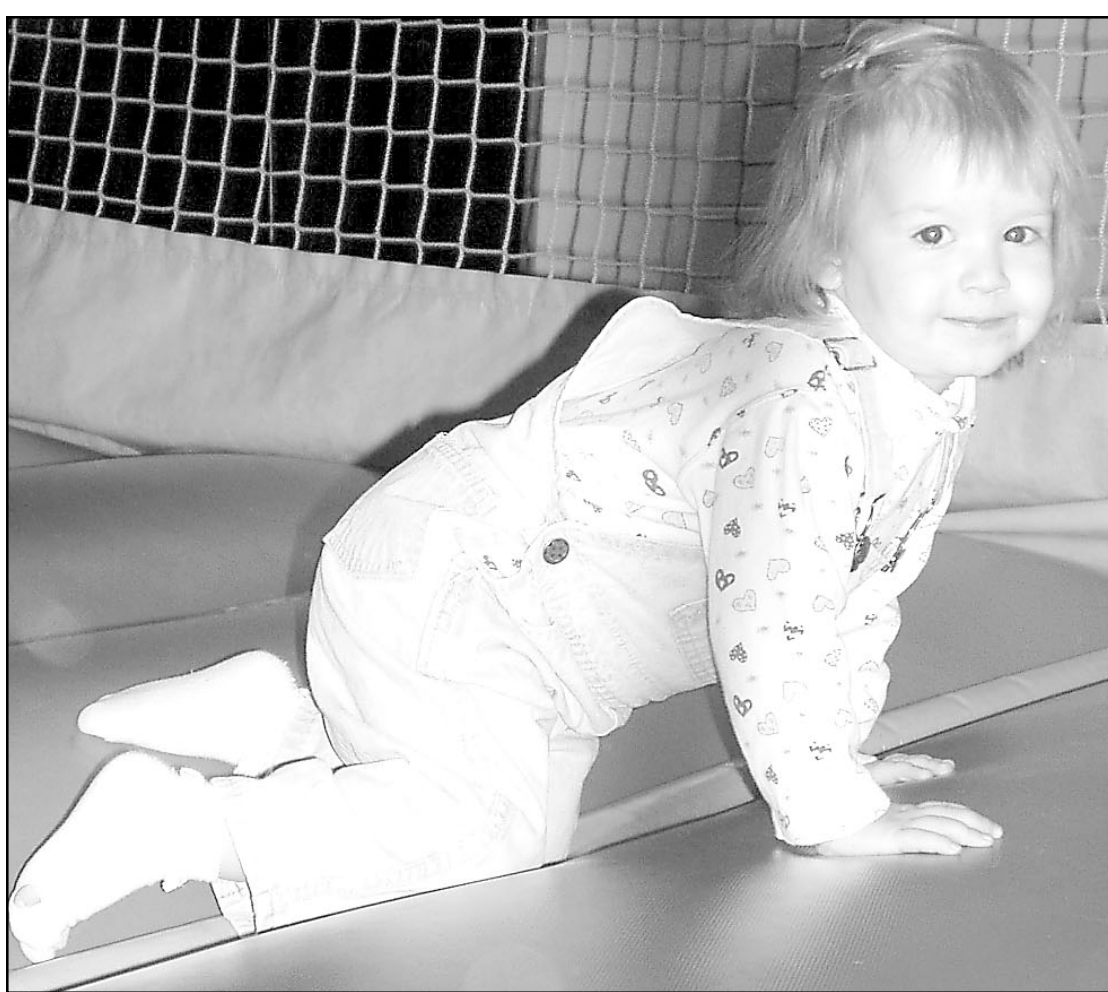
The Bailey Bros. Circus was in town for two performances at The Gateway on Thursday, bringing in crowds of 100 or more each time.

Men and women walked around selling everything from soda to water, cotton candy, popcorn, hot dogs, light sticks and halos before the big show started.

Young kids rode the three ponies in the center ring while others jumped on a large inflatable bouncing tiger.

Two real tigers were not far from the fake one, pacing in their cages and waiting for things to get started.

The show kicked off as the lights were turned down a little. Performers showed off their skills, including a clown who walked on a very bouncy tight-rope. The audience gasped as he almost fell off, but realizing it was all an act, laughed as he jumped from one side of his bottom to the



other over the rope.

Possibly the biggest ohs and ahs came when the big door on the north side of the arena opened and in walked Baby Ruth, a 9,700-pound elephant. Baby Ruth and her trainer, Jimmy Silverlake, entered the ring. She showed her skills at getting all four feet on a large metal pedestal, sitting on it and then putting one foot on a smaller metal pedestal and rotating in a circle.

The last act of the evening was the tiger show. The woman trainer entered the large metal cage, locked the door and picked up a whip and a very long pointer as the men near the tiger cages started to release them one at a time.

Each cat had its own seat. The large animals showed how they could all four lie in a row, and growl, and one jumped through a flaming hoop.

At one point, the trainer was on her knees pleading with a cat to do its trick, when the one behind her jumped off his seat and seemed about to lunge. People in the audience speculated about whether this was part of the show or if the big cat wanted to play.

After the performance, kids carrying balloons and toys stayed around to get autographs on circus coloring books.

School lunches cheaper to fix this year

The Oberlin School Board learned that costs per plate for school lunches have dropped this year.

At the high school, the lunches cost \$2.63 and cost \$2.09 this year, said Superintendent Kelly

Glodt. At the grade school, the lunches cost \$3.13 last year and cost \$2.63 this year.

Mr. Glodt said salaries are included in the per-plate cost, and the cooks at Oberlin Elementary School

who have been in the district longer are making more, which is why the lunches cost more there. Other things that factor into the cost are the number of days served, price of the food bought, fringe benefits and equipment purchases.

Mr. Glodt told the board that the auditors from Mapes and Miller have been in the district for almost two weeks going over the books and bills.

In other business, the board:

- Decided to change the Monday, Dec. 8, meeting from 7:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

- Named board members Delayne May and Jeannie Martin to serve on the calendar committee.

- Heard that board members Monte Moore and Mrs. Martin may attend a seminar on negotiations sponsored by the Kansas Association of School Boards.

- Talked briefly about the district having to subsidize the high school yearbook for \$11,000 this year. Board members suggested checking into a different company, or possibly using some money from the activity fund.

Most offices, businesses to close for Thanksgiving

If you want to eat out on Thanksgiving Day in Oberlin, plan to attend the community dinner at noon at St. John's Lutheran Church, 510 N. Wilson. Nearly everything in town will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 27.

Businesses planning to close include Raye's Grocery, the Frontier Restaurant, Mean Gene's, the Red Crown Lounge, the LandMark Inn, the Re-Load, A & W Restaurant, Pizza Hut and the Meadowlark Grill.

Other closings include all county, city, state and federal offices and the post office, all banks and financial

institutions, the schools and the Oberlin City Library, which will close at 3 p.m. next Wednesday.

County and city offices and the schools will remain closed on Friday, Nov. 28, but regular hours will resume at the library.

OPEN THANKSGIVING DAY

Businesses which will remain open on Thanksgiving Day include Crossroads Express, from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Ampride, from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Dollar General, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and D & M Sinclair.

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