

Schools have four 'excellent' test scores

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

Oberlin students racked up four "Standard of Excellence" scores on state tests they took last year.

At a board meeting last Monday night, Principals Duane Dorshorst and Charles Haag went over the scores and told the board about the four high scores.

At the grade school, Mr. Dorshorst said, last year's fourth grade class won a Standard of Excellence in math. At the high school, the rating was earned by last year's 10th graders for math and the 11th graders for

reading and social studies.

Mr. Dorshorst said people can check the scores by going to www.ksde.org, clicking on building report cards and picking Decatur County out of the state list.

Last year at the grade school, he said, tests were given for fourth grade math, fifth grade reading, fourth grade science and sixth grade social studies.

On the math test, 37.5 percent of the students earned an exemplary, 8.3 percent scored as advanced, 37.5 percent proficient, 18.8 percent basic and no one scored unsat-

isfactory.

On the reading test, 9.1 percent scored exemplary, 42.4 percent advanced, 15.2 percent proficient, 24.2 percent basic and 9.1 percent unsatisfactory.

On the science test, 10.3 percent scored exemplary, 37.9 percent advanced, 24.1 percent proficient, 24.1 percent basic and 3.4 percent unsatisfactory.

On the social studies test, 5.6 percent were exemplary, 33.3 percent advanced, 27.8 percent proficient, 30.6 percent basic and 2.8 percent unsatisfactory.

At the junior high level, last year's seventh graders took the math test. On the test, 16.7 percent scored exemplary, 13.9 percent advanced, 38.9 percent proficient, 25 percent basic and 5.8 percent unsatisfactory.

Mr. Haag said the students cut the percentage scoring unsatisfactory from 23.8 percent last year to 5.8 percent this year.

Eighth graders took the reading test, said Mr. Haag, and showed improvement in every area, lowering the percentage scoring unsatisfactory and increasing the percentage at exemplary.

They also took the social studies test, with 85 percent receiving a proficient rating or above. No students scored unsatisfactory, said Mr. Haag. The students missed the Standard of Excellence rating by 4.5 percent in exemplary.

At the high school, the 10th graders won the Standard of Excellence for the math test. On the test, 38.5 percent scored exemplary, 15.4 advanced, 11.5 percent proficient, 28.9 percent basic and 7.7 percent unsatisfactory.

Last year's 11th graders received a Standard of Excellence (See STUDENTS on Page 8A)

Playbill set for theater

Donation buys popcorn maker

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

The Sunflower Cinema is up and running, with a box office hit lineup for December and a new popcorn machine.

Jennifer Auxier, secretary and treasurer of the theater board, said that in December they will have "Brother Bear," "Elf," "Cat in the Hat" and "Haunted Mansion."

The movies are shown by a volunteer crew at 7 p.m. Saturday nights and 2 p.m. Sundays. In addition, on Saturday, Dec. 13 and 20, the theater will have movies at 2 p.m. to help promote Christmas shopping for downtown businesses.

Ms. Auxier said during the matinees those two weekends, the high school band will be gift wrapping in the lobby as a fund-raiser. The students will wrap gifts before, during and after the movie.

The weekend after Thanksgiving, she said, the theater will be closed, but then it will be back to business as usual.

Ms. Auxier said the theater has a new popcorn machine which pops the corn evenly and makes the treat better tasting. The machine that had been in the theater was originally purchased in 1977.

The theater received \$800 from the Bargain Box before it closed in 2002, she said. When the theater didn't reopen for a year the money was given back to the Bargain Box. (See THEATER on Page 8A)

Business celebrates landmark

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

An Oberlin company which brings a lot of out-of-state business to town will celebrate paying off its mortgage with an open house from 4:30 to 6 p.m. today.

John Mondero, part owner of Cabinetland, said that in October the company made the final payment on its building to the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp. He said Connie Grafel, the corporation's marketing director, suggested the open house and spearheaded the project.

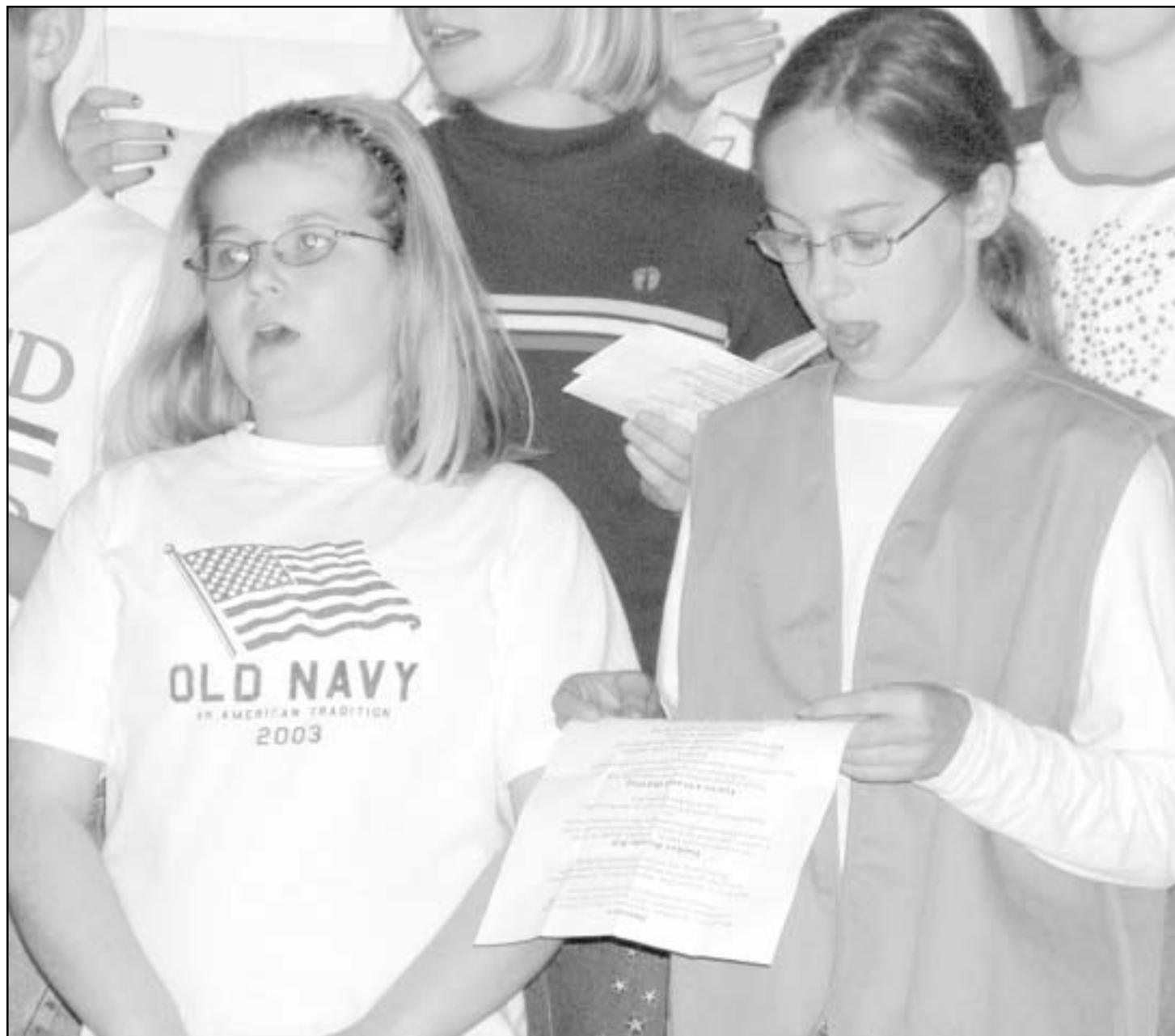
Mr. Mondero said the event will be held in the shop so people can see what goes on there and what the firm builds. Everyone is welcome to come have cookies and refreshments, he said.

Cabinetland, a division of Buffalo Commons Co. Inc., was started around 20 years ago, said Mr. Mondero, by Lee Gilliam and his father. They sold the business to another company and then Buffalo Commons purchased it about 10 years ago.

Today, the business has seven full-time employees and one part-timer. They work Monday through Thursday with 10-hour days, making cabinets and counter tops for commercial buildings and homes.

Most of the work is done for multi-unit buildings like condos and ski lodges, said Mr. Mondero. A lot of that is in Colorado on the Front Range and into the mountain resort areas, but anyone can come in and have work done.

(See CABINET on Page 8A)



AT THE SCHOOL PROGRAM last Tuesday, Jessica Fredrickson and Tiffany Anderson (above) sang patriotic songs with their class while members of the audience joined

in. Veteran Joe Green (bottom) waited for his grandson to eat lunch at the grade school.

—Herald staff photos by Kimberly Brandt



Grade school kids honor and say thanks to area veterans

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

Students at Oberlin Elementary School celebrated Veterans Day by saying thanks to veterans and their families during a program last Tuesday morning.

The program kicked off with four students acting out a skit called "Veterans Day Play," written by Maggi Call.

In the skit, the students talked about the fact that a veteran is a who, not a what. One of the students looked up the word in the dictionary to find a definition that included a person who has served in the armed forces, a person who has served during war time, or a person who has died for their country.

The students agreed that a person didn't have to die for their country to be a veteran. The veteran could be either a man or a woman. They decided that a veteran is anyone who has served in the armed forces, regardless of whether it was during war or peacetime.

The students agreed that Veterans Day would be a good time to honor and thank veterans for what they have done for the country.

After the skit, the sixth grade

shared a slide show they put together on the computer. It included pictures of relatives of the students and of teachers who are veterans.

Teacher Jim Buchholz said although all the pictures were of men, they are grateful to women veterans as well.

The last slide said "Veterans, thank you for your time, your service, your sacrifice. We are proud of you!"

The students, along with many veterans and family members in the audience, sang choruses from "America" and "America, the Beautiful."

Mr. Buchholz said that Capt. Russel Baker, who has been keeping in touch with the current third-graders for the last three years, sent out a model of an F/A-18 Hornet fighter-bomber and a National Defense Medal which was awarded for service in the war on terrorism. The items are in the trophy case next to the front door.

After the program, several of the family members and veterans stayed to eat lunch with their sons, daughters and grandchildren.

Oberlin coach honored at Hall of Fame banquet



G. Matson

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

Time was when Gordon "Buzz" Matson pushed his wrestlers to be the best, and they were — the best in the state year after year.

Now he pushes a few cows, grows a little wheat on his farm outside of town, and has more time for his fly fishing and hunting, but the retired principal of Decatur Community High School has a lot of treasured memories from his years as the Red Devil wrestling coach.

Mr. Matson was honored Nov. 9 by the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and Museum with the Lifetime Service to Wrestling Award. The presentation was made to him and six other area coaches at the City Limits Convention Center in Colby.

Mr. Matson coached the Oberlin wrestling team for 11 years. His teams had a dual record of 72-17-1, won state championships in 1971, 1975, 1976 and 1977, and took the state runner-up trophy in

1972 and third in 1973, 1974 and 1978, which accounted for eight of his 11 years. He coached 68 state qualifiers, 31 state placers and 22 state champions.

Wrestling for Mr. Matson started long before 1968. He said when he was young, he went to a country school in northeast Iowa. He asked his dad if he could go to school in town, and Mr. Matson started to wrestle in the sixth or seventh grade.

He said he played football, too, clear

through college, but wrestling was his favorite.

His first medal for wrestling, he said, was a second place in junior high. He said he was in the same weight class as a future National Collegiate Athletic Association championship wrestler. He said you either survived and found out you were a decent wrestler, or you didn't.

Mr. Matson said later his family moved to Casper, Wyo., where he continued his (See COACH on Page 8A)

Tour offers insights

Businesses get to see each other

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

Around 30 retail workers and shop owners had the chance to see what Oberlin businesses have for Christmas during the annual Chamber of Commerce Business-to-Business tour Sunday night.

Fourteen businesses signed up for the tour, some downtown, one on the highway and another on the north end of Penn Avenue.

The first stop was Dale's Fish 'N' Fun on U.S. 36, where shoppers can find everything a hunter or fisherman needs to put under the Christmas tree on Dec. 25. There is a complete supply of camouflage clothes, including shirts, pants and hats. The store even has camo outfits for babies.

Dale's also carries all kinds of sporting goods, including golf, soccer, football and baseball equipment and more.

The prospective shoppers looked around the store at the merchandise. One woman, looking over the selection, said that she had never been there before.

Next was the newest store in town, Just on Time, which opened Monday on the north end of Penn Avenue in the old Gambles building. It had been occupied by JR's Used Cars, which moved to a location on U.S. 36. The store carries all kinds of antiques, with an emphasis on old toy trains, and also has a watch repair shop in the back.

Karen Spahr, who does the watch repair and owns the store with Bob Spahr, said they also plan on having a machine shop in the back.

Ms. Spahr said she has been collecting things for years, and then the couple bought more items to sell in the store.

Down the street at Raye's Grocery, the tour heard that the store offers gift baskets, fruit, veggies, meat and cheese trays, breads from the bakery, holiday T-shirts, gift certificates, turkeys and hams for holidays and has doing a special on stainless steel flatware.

The store just got its Christmas trees, which are in the warehouse.

At Home Planning Center, the basement was full of craft items from wooden shelves to pumpkins and baby blankets.

Dana Marintzer said the tour helps other business people know what the stores carry, both to shop for themselves and so they know where to send people to find things. She said she has had shoppers find things on the tour that they want to be held so they can come back and buy them. Just then, Judy Scott asked about a piece she wanted to be held.

Next door at *The Oberlin Herald*, Publisher Cynthia Haynes gave a tour of the office and showed what happens with the paper before it (See TOUR on Page 8A)