

Surprising snowfall helps wheat crop

Moviegoers leaving Sunflower Cinema Saturday night seemed surprised to find a blanket of white covering the ground and their cars.

It was about 9 p.m., and the temperature had plunged to 11 degrees. The white stuff forecasters had said was on its way had arrived.

The snow continued to fall throughout the night, leaving lawns and streets covered. The National Weather Service reported that the area received .11 inches of moisture.

By Sunday afternoon, fields in the country looked like they barely had a dusting as the wind blew off much of the snow.

The wheat, however, which will be ready next summer, got its first drink of the winter.

Brian Olson, Kansas State University extension agronomist, said the wheat so far has had spotty emergence.

The moisture, although marginal, will help especially with the cool weather. The two combined may allow the wheat to extend its life until the area gets more moisture, he said. That's the main thing the area needs, he said, moisture.

Right now, the worst-case scenario is that if the area doesn't get the moisture and it gets bitterly cold, there won't be enough soil moisture to protect the wheat crowns, and the plants will succumb to winter kill.

Soil moisture, said Mr. Olson doesn't only help the wheat grow, but helps protect the plant.

It is important for the area to continue to get snow to help the crops that are planted, he said.

Farmers, he said, seem pretty depressed and are questioning whether they should replant the crop. The problem is that there is no moisture to replant it in. It would do more harm than good to tear up the crop and replant it now.

If the wheat doesn't start to come up in another month, he said, farmers will be losing serious yield potential. Right now, if it comes up, the crop has 85 to 90 percent potential.

By December, that percentage drops to 60.

Just under a month ago, he said, parts of Decatur County received a little rain. If farmers go out and check their fields, he said, they might find that wheat plants are coming up now. That small amount of water helped initiate germination, he said, but that will be spotty, too.

"It is important that we get the wheat up," said Mr. Olson, "but we don't have any control over the moisture."



PEEKING OUT FROM BEHIND A CURTAIN little Mattie Windholz of Benkelman, Neb., was enjoying a piece of cherry pie and chatting with folks in other booths at the Women's Fair at the Gateway on Saturday. Several

booths away, Joe Stanley (below right) gave drilling lessons to Nakita Bose, while her father Dave held onto the board.

—Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes

City applies for two loans to pay for plant

By **KIMBERLY BRANDT**

The Oberlin City Council decided to go ahead with the application process for both the state revolving loan fund and the U.S. Department of Agriculture loan for the upcoming sewer project at a regular meeting Thursday night.

At the last two meetings, the council has talked about the new sewage treatment plant, which will use a counter cyclical aeration process with ultraviolet disinfecting. The rebuilt plant will cost the city about \$3.3 million.

The project will mean an increase in sewer rates for users in Oberlin. For a U.S. Department of Agriculture loan, the estimate is that the average bill, now \$13.51, would nearly double to \$26. The department would require a rate of \$26 to be eligible for grant money.

With a state revolving loan, the average rate would go to \$33.91, nearly 2 1/2 times the current average. Thaniel Monaco with Miller and Associates, the engineering firm working on the plans, said the average monthly rate for commercial customers is \$19.40, and for "commercial companion" customers, it is \$94.68.

The commercial companion user needs more water, but much of it is used inside, so the city knows that all of the water will eventually go to the sewer plant. Examples he gave included the grocery store, bed and breakfast, the schools and the hospital. Places like the hospital and the school system have more than one

Rate figures were incorrect

In the Nov. 12 edition of *The Oberlin Herald*, a story on Oberlin city sewer rates said they would triple or quadruple over the current minimum price of \$9.15. However, the story was comparing the current minimum rate with the projected average rate, which is higher.

The average residential rate is estimated as \$26 for a loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture or \$33.91 for a state revolving loan fund. That is two to 2 1/2 times the current average rate of \$13.51, not four times. This was a reporter's error.

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meter; some that read outdoor water use and others that read indoor water use.

With the decision to start the app- (See RATES on Page 10A)

Santa, lights, crafts and soup will fill Oberlin's weekend

The holiday shopping season is here, with Santa planning a visit, the annual Parade of Lights and downtown businesses open until 8 p.m. Friday night.

It is the annual holiday opening weekend in Oberlin, with the parade, a soup supper, Santa Claus, the annual museum Christmas tree tour and, over the weekend, the annual craft fair.

From 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, the Oberlin Lions will have a soup supper in the empty store north of Stanley Hardware.

At 6:30 p.m., the Parade of Lights will start. So far there are around 23 entries, but the Oberlin Business

Alliance will take more up to the minute the floats start to roll down Main Street as long as the sponsor provides the announcer with a written description about what the people will see.

The parade will be staged in the Decatur Co-op parking lot at 6 p.m. and will travel north up Main Street and will then go past the Good Samaritan Center then turn left and go a block west and come down Cass Avenue.

Theme this year is "Holidays are Happy Times," with Doris Black as the grand marshal once more.

If you want to enter, call the (See OPENING on Page 10A)

Church to serve turkey at Thanksgiving feast

The meal is planned, the food has been purchased and the turkeys are thawing out.

It's time for the annual community Thanksgiving dinner at St. John's Lutheran Church at noon on Thursday.

In charge this year is Norman Wendelin, who has helped out with the meal for the last three years, but has never headed up the project.

He said they have already purchased the four turkeys, ham, potatoes for the mashed potatoes, and fixings for the dressing, gravy and corn. The menu also includes homemade rolls made by Jeanette Dieberich and pies and salads donated by volunteers.

Traditionally, he said, the dinner feeds anywhere from 100 to 120

people. The meal starts at noon and usually goes to about 1 p.m., he said.

There is no charge, but people can make a donation.

After the bills are paid, the remaining proceeds will be donated to the Decatur County Food Pantry.

Mr. Wendelin said they planned to roast the turkeys on Tuesday and get the bones out, peel the potatoes today and then cook everything else Thursday morning, including reheating the turkey.

The dinner is pretty casual, he said, and it isn't necessary to bring anything. He said a special thanks goes out to all those who have donated desserts and salads.

Mr. Wendelin said the dinner is a community service and outreach project the church does each year.

Women learn at retreat

Women from all over the area gathered Saturday afternoon to learn about home-based businesses, businesses for women and those operated by women, as well as other services offered in the county.

The "Ladies Day Out" was sponsored by the Washboard Beauty Salon all afternoon at The Gateway.

Jane Carlisle, owner of the shop, said they had attended a hair show and started talking about a lot of things in town that women don't know exist. She said they thought that they could help others learn about those things for women and home-based businesses.

There were 41 booths, ranging from jewelry, to hair care, to make-up to women's ministries. The booths were sponsored by businesses from Oberlin, Denver, Kansas City, Nebraska and the surrounding area.

She said she thought the show had been received well and felt that it was good to let women know what is being offered for



them. It wasn't really an event with a lot of sales, but was designed for women to get information.

Mrs. Carlisle said they had over

200 come through. The event included every age range, with the Girl Scouts selling lunch.

It also featured four speakers,

who covered topics including health care, domestic violence, financial information and religion.

Paper kicks off annual Christmas promotion

Boxes wrapped in Christmas paper have been set out on the counters in 26 Oberlin businesses, meaning that it is time for Christmas on Us, the annual holiday promotion which gives away \$2,500 to lucky shoppers.

The promotion, now in its sixth year, is sponsored by Oberlin merchants and *The Oberlin Herald*. Prizes are given in scrip dollars can only be spent at participating businesses.

Over the years, winners have paid

bills, redecorated rooms in their homes, bought groceries, and of course, Christmas presents.

"This is a great program, because it gives people a reason to shop at home," said *Herald* Publisher Steve Haynes. "People who collect tickets have a lot of fun, merchants get extra business, and there is some excitement about the holidays."

"A lot of people collect tickets year after year, and we always have a good crowd downtown for the big drawing."

This year, the program will give away a grand total of \$2,500. There will be 10 instant winners of \$50, a second prize winner of \$500 and the grand prize of \$1,500.

Each week until the grand prize drawing on Saturday, Dec. 20, or until they are all given out, whichever comes first, there will be ticket numbers printed in the ads on the Christmas on Us pages in *The Herald*. The ticket holder has to come in and claim their prize by 5 p.m. on Friday of that week.

Those ads are printed in Section C of this week's *Herald*.

If the instant prizes are not claimed by the time of the drawing, they will be given away that day.

Anyone 18 years or older can participate in the promotion as long as they aren't employees of *The Oberlin Herald*.

One ticket will be given away at participating businesses for every \$10 spent. People can also get one free ticket a week at the Decatur (See PAPER on Page 10A)