

## Smaller plant could save city money

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

The Oberlin City Council received an alternative price for a rebuilt waste water treatment plant at its meeting Thursday night if the city wants to go to a 300,000-gallon-a-day system instead of 450,000 gallons a day.

For a 450,000-gallon-a-day plant, the price tag is \$3.3 million, and for the smaller plant it is \$3.015 million, a 10 percent decrease. Member said that the savings might

not be enough to justify the smaller size.

The council had asked Thaniel Monaco, the city's engineer with Miller and Associates, to check into the price of the smaller plant.

He said the average monthly user rate for a state revolving fund loan would be about \$31 on the smaller plant.

On the bigger plant, the average rate would be \$26 a month for a U.S. Department of Agriculture loan and \$33.91 for the state

revolving loan. That doesn't include any grants the city might be able to get.

Mr. Monaco said he talked with representatives from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and let them know that there is a public meeting scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Thursday night which is needed for the state money. Mr. Monaco said he let them know that the city is interested in a Community Development Block Grant, which could cause a delay. He said

the representative understood.

Mr. Monaco said he thought the state would look favorably on the city for trying for the block grant.

He said he still thinks the city needs to say in writing what they plan on doing and send it to the department. The project, said Mr. Monaco, needs to keep going while the city looks into a grant.

He said the agencies don't want to grant money to people who aren't going to do

anything.

Mr. Monaco said another thing that will look good for the city is that it already has the land and will have the design finished.

If the city wants to look at the grant, he said, a survey will have to be done to see if Oberlin is eligible.

City Administrator Gary Shike said he knows that people don't always enjoy giving personal information, but sewer users (See SEWER on Page 6A)

## Holiday spirit in the air

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

The Christmas spirit sure seems to be in the air, especially at Fredrickson Insurance, where the Oberlin Jaycees Angel Tree is located this year.

It's the season for lights, Santa, snow and presents, but for those taking part in the Angel Tree, it isn't about receiving gifts but giving them to kids who need a few things to get them through the year.

This year there are 46 children in the county who could use a little extra Christmas.

Abby Hissong, who works at the agency and with the tree for the Jaycees, said these extras are things like shirts, jeans, shoes, gloves, coats and boots.

As of Thursday, Mrs. Hissong said she had five angels left on the tree, representing five kids who still need a sponsor.

The names of the kids belonging to 19 families in Oberlin were sent to her by the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services or given to her by someone in the community.

There is a line on each angel tag for sizes of everything from socks to shirts, she said.

The names are confidential, so that the shopper will never know who they are buying for, but the kids range up to age 18.

This year all the angels live in Oberlin.

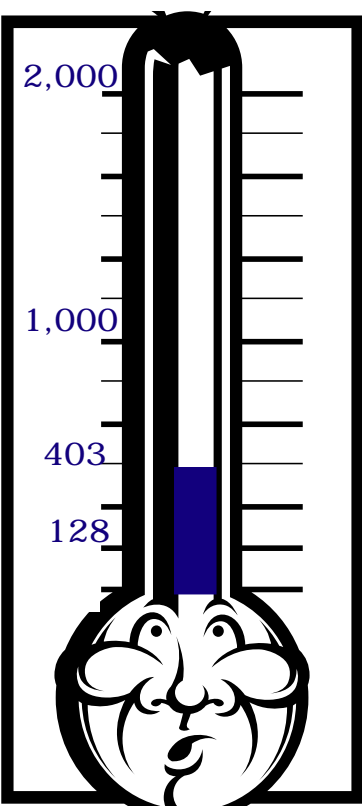
Mrs. Hissong said she put sheets on bulletin boards around town for angel listings. In some cases in the past, the parents didn't even know that their kids were signed up as angels.

On the angel tag, she said, there is a line for special requests. Sometimes those are a toy the kid really wants and other times it is a heavy winter jacket. It just depends. This year, said Mrs. Hissong, there were a lot of requests for coats and gloves.

Each year, area clubs donate money to the Angel Tree. She said this is used to even things out. The money is also used in case one of the angels isn't picked from the tree.

Mrs. Hissong said if there is (See ANGELS on Page 8A)

## Food drive increases



Stanley Hardware's annual food drive is about a quarter of the way to the goal of 2,000 items.

With 403 items in the window, the drive still needs almost 1,600 more.



AT THE STATE SCHOOL RODEO last year, Chance Harman won a belt buckle for the highest year-around average in saddle bronc riding.

— Photo by David Jennings

## High school student dreams of becoming professional cowboy

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

Sports have always been a part of Chance Harman's life and so have horses, which is one reason why last year he decided to combine the two and start rodeoing.

Since then, he's been winning belt buckles, a saddle and other items at the state finals.

Now, he's looking forward to joining the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association when he turns 18.

Chance said he started riding himself when he was 4 or 5. His mother, Renee Harman, said Chance has been on horses since he was a baby. His father, Ron Harman, taught him how to ride and he has helped work the farm on horseback ever since.

He broke his horse, Sorrelly, which he has had for four years.

Mrs. Harman said Chance used

to help people break their horses and move cattle for other people and the family on horseback. He doesn't have time to do those things much anymore, though.

Chance is a senior at Decatur Community High School. He plays football, wrestles and has to study. On top of that, in the fall and spring, he is gone every weekend to ride in rodeos.

A friend, Logan Glaze, started riding in high school rodeos last year. He said Logan got him interested in the sport.

Although last year was his first in rodeo competition, Chance did pretty well, going to state finals in Topeka where he won a saddle and belt buckle for the highest year-around average in saddle bronc riding. He also came home with a belt buckle for taking second in the three-day average for



ON A MUDDY DAY at a rodeo in Emporia, Chance Harman decided to compete in bull riding.

— Photo by Kent Kerschner

the state competition.

Chance said he won a knife for winning one round of saddle bronc riding.

Chance started with saddle

bronc competition and bull riding. He said a friend of the family who shoes horses had a saddle he could use.

(See COWBOY on Page 8A)

## Winner coming up soon

### Big drawing is next Saturday

Soon, one lucky Oberlin shopper will be \$1,500 richer.

That's right. There are only 10 more days to collect little red tickets for *The Oberlin Herald's* annual Christmas on Us giveaway.

At 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 20, Oberlin merchants will be giving away the \$1,500 grand prize and \$500 to the second place winner.

On Friday, Dec. 19, at the close of business, all of the tickets will be picked up from sponsors.

So far, the contest has given out four "instant" prizes of \$50 to winners who found their ticket numbers in the ads in the Christmas on Us section of the newspaper each week.

There are six of those left to give; those that aren't given away will be drawn on Saturday, Dec. 20.

There are two ways to get the red tickets. The first is to shop in Oberlin at participating businesses. For every \$10 spent, the shopper will get one ticket, up to 250 per transaction.

The second is to visit the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce office or *The Herald* and receive one free ticket each week.

Tickets and winners have to be present at the drawing to claim prizes, which will be paid in scrip money.

All winners have to 18 years or older to win. Employees of *The Oberlin Herald* are not eligible to win. Employees of sponsoring business (See DRAWING on Page 8A)

## Alliance to hold market

It may be winter, but that hasn't stopped the Oberlin Business Alliance from organizing a farmer's market for Saturday in the building owned by Marty Munson to the north of Stanley Hardware.

There are already some vendors set up with crafts, breads, cheese and blarney stones. People can sign up to sell anything, including garden produce, canned goods, jellies, and crafts. The farmers market will run from 9 a.m. to noon.

Alliance President Laurie Wasson, owner of Prairie Petals, said she had approached some of the school organizations to sell things or provide lunch, but with that being such a busy weekend at the school, she got a negative response.

The Decatur Area Theater Association will perform at 1 p.m. in the same building. Dennis Richards said each member in the group will perform something separately.

Stores on Main will be open, with only 11 shopping days left until Christmas.

At 4 p.m., the alliance will do its annual drawing. The boxes put out at businesses around town will be picked up at 5 p.m. Friday.

The alliance will give away \$500, \$250, \$100 and \$50 in Santa Bucks. The winner does not need to be present to win, but does need to be over 18 years old.

On Saturday, the Sunflower Cinema will open at 2 p.m. for an extra showing of "Brother Bear." During the matinee, the high school band will use the lobby for a gift-wrapping fund-raiser.

On Sunday, Santa will be in the courthouse from 1 to 2 p.m.