

# Administrator leaving Good Sam job



Joyce Ploussard

**By KIMBERLY BRANDT**  
 Joyce Ploussard started her career 24 years ago as the office manager at the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center. Now the administrator, she has decided to leave the job she loves and retire. Her last day will be Thursday, Jan. 8. Ms. Ploussard said one reason she made the decision is because she is 70, and she wants to spend more time with her two sisters. During her 24 years working for the Good Samaritan system, she has worked in several communities. Although she started here in her hometown in 1979 as office manager, she hasn't worked here the whole time. "After working in the office," said Ms.

Ploussard. "I found that I loved the residents and wanted to grow in the Good Samaritan Society." She said she decided to go back to school to become an administrator and took classes through Colby Community College and the University of Kansas. After completing the classes, her first job was as an administrator in the Good Samaritan Center in Ellsworth. From there, she went to Junction City, then Goodland. In 1997, she returned home as the administrator here. That was six years ago. Over the years, she said, the work has changed. She said she has had to learn how

to use computers and there are more state regulations now. Ms. Ploussard said one thing that hasn't changed over the years is her love for the elderly residents. Ms. Ploussard said arrangements have already been made to fill her position. Janice Shobe, also of Oberlin, who is currently the administrator at the center in Atwood, will become the administrator here as well. Mrs. Shobe is familiar with the center, as she was working here in 1997 when Ms. Ploussard returned. Randy Fitzgerald, regional director for Kansas and Colorado for the Good Samaritan Society, said they decided to have Mrs. Shobe lead both centers for two reasons.

The first, he said, is to give her the opportunity to grow as a professional. The second is the economy. Mr. Fitzgerald said they have had to find ways to be creative with a limited amount of dollars without affecting the quality of care and services. He said he is confident of the management at both facilities and believes this will be a successful structure. Mr. Fitzgerald said Ms. Ploussard's work as an administrator is about as good as it gets. She is compassionate, has a positive spirit and a willingness to help anyone. Personally, he said, he will miss working with her, but hopes she will enjoy the fruits of her labor in her retirement.

## Board discusses teachers without tenure protection

The Oberlin School board spent a total of 55 minutes behind closed doors last Monday afternoon to discuss nonelected personnel, although no decisions were made. The first closed session, which lasted 10 minutes, was to discuss non-tenured personnel at the high school. There was no action taken. There aren't any teachers at the grade school who do not have tenure. This closed session is something the board does yearly. Later in the evening, the board held a closed session for non-elected personnel for 30 minutes. They voted to extend it two times for 10 and five minutes. Under the Kansas Open Meetings Act, a closed session can be held for discussion of nonelected personnel. There are only six reasons that an open meeting can be closed. Those include personnel matters of non-elected personnel, consultation with an attorney for the body, discussion of employer/employee negotiations, matters adversely affecting an individual, such as a student, confidential financial data or trade secrets of private companies, or preliminary discussions related to the acquisition of real property.

Otherwise, all meetings must remain open to the public. At the board meeting Monday afternoon there were eight staff members from the district present, principals of both schools and Kimberly Brandt, managing editor of *The Oberlin Herald*. The principals were asked to stay during the second closed session, which lasted a total of 45 minutes. The law says that during a closed session, a board cannot take a vote, nor can the session be used as a means of closing the meeting to discuss other items which a school would rather not discuss in front of the public or reporters. Questions were raised by Ms. Brandt about the second closed session at the meeting Monday afternoon after things were overheard from the board room which did not pertain to personnel. These included things other superintendents in the area had said, negotiations, scenarios for budget cuts and the local option budget. The law includes penalties for not following the Open Meeting Law which can include fines of up to a \$500 for each violation. The fines are assessed to the individual, not the board or agency.

## Lighting up the reason



**ON THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**, altar server Bethany Weishapl lit the candles on the Advent wreath at Sacred Heart Catholic Church before the start of Mass. The wreath has one candle for each week of Advent, the season of penance and preparation for the celebration of Christ's birth. — Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

## Council to see permits

The Oberlin City Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in Morgan Theater at The Gateway. City Administrator Gary Shike said that the meeting room was changed because the rest of the building is booked. The meeting will not be on local access chan-

nel 7 because of the shift. Mr. Shike said the council will talk about renewing beer licenses. This is done each year so gas stations and the grocery can sell beer. There is a closed session scheduled for nonelected personnel. The rest of the meeting is open.

## Businesses give out \$900

The Oberlin Business Alliance gave away \$900 in Santa Bucks over the weekend in their annual Christmas promotion. Around 10 people showed up for the drawing Saturday afternoon. Alliance President Laurie Wasson, owner of Prairie Petals, said they had a grocery sack full of entries. People didn't have to be present to win the money. Christina Bryan, Oberlin, won

\$50, Walter Meitl of Oberlin \$100 and Ruby Cook of Clayton won \$250. The grand prize winner was Deb Klima of Oberlin, who took home \$500. All of the prizes given in Santa Bucks can be spent at alliance businesses. Mrs. Wasson said the organization holds the giveaway each year to help keep business in town.

## Telethon plans a fund raiser for season

The Seeds of Hope Telethon committee is well on the way in planning the annual fund raiser to be held at The Gateway on Saturday, Feb. 28. One part of the fund raising for the telethon is an annual soup supper before Christmas, with the organizations that will receive money from this year's telethon making the desserts. This year, the soup supper will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday at the building north of Stanley Hardware. The group will serve potato and vegetable-beef soup and white chili. There will be homemade rolls, crackers, water, tea, coffee and homemade desserts for a donation.

### Chamber to hold soup supper

The Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual soup supper from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Monday in the Munson building, north of Stanley Hardware. The group will serve taco and

potato soup and chili. Chamber Manager Glenva Nichols said there will also be desserts and drinks. She said the dinner will be for a donation, and the money will be used for projects the Chamber plans in the future.

The committee has also sent out letters asking people to donate items for the auction. Anyone who wants to donate will be recognized during the telethon, which is aired on local access channel 7 on the Oberlin

cable system. Donations may be sent to Seeds of Hope Telethon in care of Peg Smith, Box 305, Oberlin, Kan., 67749-0305. A committee member will pick up any donation as long as it

within 60 miles of Oberlin. All donations are tax deductible. This year the telethon will be giving to 16 organizations in Decatur County: The Decatur County Stand Against Violence, Approved Workmen Need Are Not Ashamed (AWANA), Kansans for Life, Frogs Camp, Triple Creek Riders, Decatur County Relay for Life, Decatur Area Theater Association, Oberlin Lions Club, Norcatar Pre-School, American Family Radio, Oberlin Girl Scouts, Norcatar City Library, Salvation Army, Decatur Area Chamber of Commerce, Jennings Community Hall and Jennings City Library.



Lynn and Roberta Johnson, Brokers for Johnson Realty, Inc., welcome David Juenemann to their area wide sales staff. Dave was raised in Decatur County and is a graduate of Decatur Community High school and Fort Hays State University. He and his wife, the former Joyce Fortin, have three sons, Chase, 18, Jesse, 16 and Lucas, 13. Call Dave at (785) 687-4845 to sell or buy land or to list a machinery auction. **CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE AT [www.johnson-real-estate.com](http://www.johnson-real-estate.com)**  
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Offices in the  
 Decatur County  
 Courthouse  
 and the Decatur County  
 Landfill

Will Close at 3 PM - Dec. 24, and  
 be closed Thursday and Friday,  
 December 25 and 26.

*Happy Holidays*

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**MONDAY  
 DECEMBER 22**

**is the last day you can pay first  
 half taxes without penalty.**

NOTE: All personal property taxes come due if first half is not paid by Dec. 22.

**Jean Hale  
 Decatur County  
 Treasurer**