



Angel Tree sponsors need kids

Program provides gifts for kids for Christmas

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

'Tis the season for giving, which means it is time for the annual Angel Tree, which is set up by the Oberlin Jaycees to give Christmas to kids who otherwise might not have much.

Normally by Thanksgiving, the Angel Tree, in the Fredrickson Insurance Agency office on Main Street, has around 25 kids' names on it. As of Friday, though, there was just one name on the tree and paperwork for 12 more to go up.

Abby Hissong, who coordinates the tree for the Jaycees, said it used to be that the Oberlin office of the state Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services would let people know about the Angel Tree and hand out forms. The office here was closed this year in a reorganization.

Mrs. Hissong said she has called the service in Norton several times this year and hasn't seen anything come out about the Angel Tree.

Without the office here, said Mrs. Hissong, she has had to get the word out other ways this year.

The Angel Tree is designed for kids up to age 17 in families who need some extra help at the holidays. A parent or someone who knows the family fills out a form. The form has the name of the child, age, sex and sizes of clothes, plus any extra items needed or special requests. That information is put on another form, with the exception of the name, then the sheet without the child's name

is hung on the tree. Those interested in helping come in and get a sheet off the tree and go shop for the child.

The presents are then wrapped and returned to the insurance agency for parents to either pick up or for delivery.

Mrs. Hissong said anyone who knows a family with needy kids can sign the kids up whether it be grandparents, other relatives, teachers or even youngsters in their church. Forms are available at Farmers Bank and Trust, First National Bank, Dollar General, Raye's Grocery and Fredrickson Insurance office. She said people can call her at 475-3883 and she will send forms out.

Oberlin, she said, is a wonderful community full of people who want to help provide for kids.

Mrs. Hissong said to get the word out about the Angel Tree, she sent forms to families who used it last year. She said she wasn't trying to offend anyone, but wanted to let families know that it was happening again.

Even though she hasn't had very many names come in, she has a list of people who want to buy things for the kids. Most like to buy between Thanksgiving and the second weekend in December. That way they can hit sales and get more for their money.

Last year, she said, they had 53 kids. People in the community were generous. Each of the kids received (See ANGELS on Page 8A)

Santa listens to wants

SANTA CLAUS stayed busy Friday night, seeing kids of all ages on the first floor of the Decatur County Courthouse. Santa arrived in town at the end of the Parade of Lights. Before he reached the courthouse, a line stretched down the west hallway. Andrew Wade (above) was one of the first to sit on Santa's lap to ask for a new toy. Trooper Jerry Stritt (left) also sat on the old boy's lap, which got a laugh from everyone, including his daughter Rachel. Santa will be back in town to see kids at 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 20.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Health nurse giving flu shots to high-risk people

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The Decatur County Health Department has received over 300 doses of flu vaccine and has about 120 doses left for high-risk patients.

Months ago when the news broke that half of the U.S. supply had been contaminated, County Health Nurse Marilyn Gamblin wondered whether the county would get any and if they did, how much. She had ordered through Chiron, the firm with the spoiled vaccine.

Ms. Gamblin said she went out looking for vaccine. The McCook Health Department shared some. Then, she said, Hays Medical Center had some left, and she bought it and went to pick it up. The depart-

ment also got some from Rawlins County. The state is still supposed to be sending some here, Ms. Gamblin said, but the county hasn't gotten any definite dates yet.

She said without knowing how many people still want the shot, she doesn't want to buy a whole lot and get stuck with it.

The county received the vaccine around Nov. 10. Since then, she said, some of the high-risk people have received the shots. Right now, she said, she is targeting people over 65 years old and then after that those who are younger who have chronic health conditions.

(When the county got some vaccine (See SHOTS on Page 8A)

Oberlin man elected in Smith County

After practicing here for 11 years, Oberlin lawyer Allen Shelton decided to run a write-in campaign for Smith County attorney since there was no one on the ballot.

Mr. Shelton said he started campaigning for the job about a month before the general election, running ads in both the *Lebanon Times* and *Smith County Pioneer*. Smith Center is about 95 miles east of Oberlin on U.S. 36.

Mr. Shelton said he had been talking to Jim Fetters, who was the Smith County attorney for 30 years. He said they were classmates at both Fort Hays State University and Washburn University law school.

Mr. Fetters had decided to retire, and there wasn't anyone in Smith County interested in running for the job. The election was getting closer, Mr. Shelton said, and still there weren't any candidates.

He said he talked to his classmate and asked about the job. He found

out that the position does offer health insurance and it is a good plan. Mr. Shelton said the health insurance is probably one of the biggest reasons he decided to run.

He was elected with around 380 votes on a write in campaign. There were no other candidates.

Mr. Shelton said he has never lived in Smith County, but his wife, Marla, is from there. Her parents and brother still live on a farm in the county.

County attorneys in Kansas can have a private practice, he said. You just can't live on what a county attorney makes, said Mr. Shelton.

He said he plans to move his practice to Smith County and buy Mr. Fetters' building.

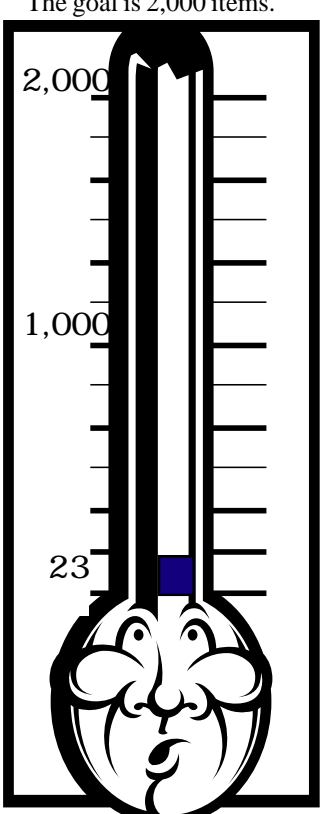
In Oberlin, he leases the office space from Lee and Jane Giffman. He said they have been good landlords. He and his wife work in the office together except on Tuesdays (See MAN on Page 8A)

Drive starts

The annual food drive at Stanley Hardware started Friday.

Items are displayed in the window of the store on Main Street. Anyone wanting to bring in items can do so during store hours.

The goal is 2,000 items.



First snow storm of winter closes schools, ices over roads

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The first snow storm of the year shut both the Oberlin and Jennings School districts down Monday, leaving roads slick but causing no accidents reported in Decatur County.

Although there wasn't a lot of snow, the storm left highways iced over and the National Weather Service suggested that no one travel on the roads. The Kansas Highway patrol reported more than a dozen wrecks on I-70, but no serious injuries in this area.

The snow started to fall early Sun-

day morning. Snow had been forecast several times before but except for a light dusting the area hadn't seen any of the white stuff.

That changed this weekend and people waking up to get ready for church were met with cars, sidewalks and roads covered in white powder.

The snow continued to fall most of the day Sunday, although for a short time in the afternoon it turned into sleet.

In all, a little under three inches of snow fell Sunday and Monday morning. Precipitation from the

storm was .39 of an inch. The total for the week was .53 of an inch.

Around 5:30 a.m. Monday morning, school Superintendent Kelly Glodt and Transportation Director Brian Simonson started discussing whether to hold school or call it off. Mr. Glodt said they were undecided, though they knew the roads were slick.

He said they checked the forecasts and started to call other schools in the area to see what they were going to do. Other schools were leaning toward a two-hour-late start, he said. (See STORM on Page 8A)

Instant winners collect cash

Four instant winners of the Christmas on Us promotion found their ticket numbers in ads last week and received \$50 in scrip from *The Oberlin Herald*.

Two of the winning tickets were picked up at Raye's Grocery and two came from Ward Drug Store.

To get the tickets, the winners had to have spent at least \$10 in each of the stores.

The first to come in and claim their \$50 were Steve and Linda Smith. They got their ticket from Raye's, who arrived about ?? p.m. ??day.

"We were so excited we couldn't

wait until tomorrow," said Mrs. Smith.

The Smiths split the money. Mr. Smith said he was going to use his half on gasoline and Mrs. Smith said she was going to shop, but wasn't sure where.

Max Carman got his ticket at Raye's, too. He said he wanted to use it to purchase a jacket.

Richard Anderson got his ticket at Ward Drug and didn't know how he was going to spend the \$50.

Sarah Fredrickson got her ticket from Ward, also. She said she was going to buy groceries with it.

In this week's issue, there are six

ticket numbers for six more people to be instant winners. A total of 10 "instant" prizes will be given out in the next two weeks.

Winners have until 5 p.m. Friday to bring their ticket to the Herald office and claim the money. Numbers are in smaller type in Christmas on Us ads in the special C section of the paper today.

The drawing for the Christmas on Us grand prize will be held on Saturday, Dec. 18. At that time \$1,500 will be given away for first place and \$500 for second place. Any instant prizes not yet claimed will be given away at that time.

* Shots arrive here

(Continued from Page 1A)
cine, those with the highest risk were called in. The clinic gave out coupons to get the shots, said Ms. Gamblin. After those were done, then another list from the clinic came out and those shots were done. She said they then started going to people who had called to get a shot. She said she isn't sure how many still want or need shots. Ms. Gamblin said the shots cost \$17. If the patient has Medicare, it will pay for them. Medicaid should cover the shot, she said, but the department doesn't bill health insurance companies.

Every county in Kansas, she said, got a little vaccine from what she has heard. She said she didn't think every county had received enough vaccine. The state is still looking for some. Ms. Gamblin said it helped that some of the colleges and universities sent the vaccine they received back so it could be used for high-risk patients. Flu season, she said, usually runs from December to March. She encourages people who are 65 years or older to get the shots. If people are interested, they should call ahead to see if it is a good day to come in. The health department phone number is 475-8118.

* Man wins spot

(Continued from Page 1A) and Fridays, when Sarah Carter works at the front desk. Mr. Shelton said the county attorney job starts at noon on either Jan. 10 or 11, so he will need to be in Smith County by then. The family's house is for sale and his wife and the two kids at home, Colby, 16, and Miranda, 10, will join Mr. Shelton when it is sold. Mr. Shelton said he will continue to handle most of his cases here when he moves, although he did need to withdraw from a few. To be fair to his clients, he said, he will absorb the additional mileage and travel time. He said much of the work anymore is done with e-mail and phone. Someday, he thinks a lot of it will be done with video conferencing, although he isn't sure when. Mr. Shelton is originally from Hill City, where he was born and reared and later practiced law. He lived there for 25 years.

* Storm keeps kids at home

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Mr. Glodt said they decided to do that here, meaning school would start at 10:20 a.m. The two-hour delay gave them time, if the weather got worse, to get another forecast and cancel classes. Mr. Glodt said he went out to drive the county roads and highways while Mr. Simonsson fielded phone calls. The roads were drifting, said Mr. Glodt. They got an updated forecast which said that there was a chance of the snow lingering throughout the day, which would only make the roads worse. Travel wasn't advised because of the ice under the snow. Other schools which had been on a two-hour delay were canceling classes. Mr. Glodt said they decided there wasn't any point and they canceled school for the day. By Monday night, the main highways seemed mostly dry, although the streets in town were still iced over.

Internet tonight!
475-2206!



IN THE PARADE OF LIGHTS Friday night, Kelsey Padgett (above) rode in a float with the banner "Jesus is the Reason for the Season." A large inflatable Santa sat on a flatbed trailer (below) for the evening. — Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Lights parade on Main

The rain was steady Friday night, but that didn't stop people from lining Main Street to watch entries go by in all kinds of vehicles decorated with holiday lights. It was the annual Parade of Lights, and that meant it was the first night stores would be open late downtown. Santa also made an appearance. The crowd started to show up around 6 p.m., and with 30 minutes to kill before the parade, many bopped in and out of stores trying to keep warm and looking for Christmas presents. There were 24 parade entries, said Glenva Nichols, Chamber of Commerce manager, but several of the entries had more than one piece. With Joe Stanley, owner of Stanley Hardware, announcing, the parade kicked off. Many stood under the canopies to keep dry, but a few brave souls went out to the street to see better and pick up candy thrown out from those on the floats. Mrs. Nichols said Decatur Co-op took first place, winning \$50 in Santa Bucks, with entries of trucks, sprayers and other heavy equip-



ment. "They were very impressive," she said. The Antique Guild took second place for their float built on a flatbed, winning \$30, and Dan Mayberry and Zach Lahe on their motorcycles took third, winning \$20.

Expo helps students get jobs in their field

Business and industry representatives converged on the Northwest Kansas Technical College campus in Goodland last week to help the college find jobs for students during the annual Tech Expo. The college had a luncheon for employers Wednesday, and State Rep. Jim Morrison spoke after the meal. Demonstrations were held around the campus Thursday, and the industry representatives met with students and faculty both days. Representatives from businesses interested in hiring tech college graduates attend the expo each year, said Patti Purvis, the college's publicity officer, and meet with students and with the instructors. It's part scouting potential employees, she said, and part helping the college to ensure that its graduates are learning what they really need to get and hold a job. There were 144 planning to attend the luncheon, she said, which is about the same as previous years. At the luncheon, Rep. Morrison praised the college's role in economic development. When people

are considering an area to live, he said, they look at the medical, health care and education systems. If those aren't good, people go elsewhere. The college will experience growth, Rep. Morrison, a Colby Republican, said, because it provides hands-on training. Not many schools provide that, he said, and having that format will help the college grow. "How do you teach cosmetology on the Internet?" he asked. "How do you teach auto mechanics on the Internet?" Everything the college does can't be taught on-line, he said; it requires hands-on training. Economic development needs this college, Rep. Morrison said, adding that putting money into education is a good investment. Not only is this the best technical college in the state, said College President Ken Clouse, but no community can work without the technical experts to make things run. Present for the luncheon were State Sen. Ruth Clark and Rep. Ralph Ostmeier, who will replace Mrs. Clark in the Senate in January.

VIOXX
Heart Attack, Stroke, Blood Clots?
LARRY WALL
800-475-4140

* Angels wanted to buy gifts for youngsters

(Continued from Page 1A)
gifts and donations allowed them to buy \$5 gift certificates for each to either Pizza Hut or A&W. Each older child also got a free pass to Sunflower Cinema. Those who were too young for the movies got a Beanie Baby. They would like to do the movie passes again this year, she said, and also give out books. She said donations are welcome. Mrs. Hissong said many families in Oberlin buy for the Angel Tree as a family project. Last year, she was told that one father asked his kids not to get him anything, but instead take

their money and get a name off the tree and buy something for a child. Forms for the tree need to be turned in by Friday to give those who shop a chance. Mrs. Hissong said anyone with questions can call her. She said she can't thank those in the community who support this project enough. There are so many people who go unnoticed, she said. This is a need that needs to be met. She said she wants to make sure that the project continues. Anyone who knows a family that could use this extra help is urged to fill out a form.

Farm Bureau board gets new member

The Kansas Farm Bureau board has a fresh new member from northwestern Kansas, as Goodland's Linda Franklin was elected to a two-year term earlier this month. "I'm excited to serve," Mrs. Franklin said. "I'm proud to represent this area." Mrs. Franklin said she is a long-time member of the Farm Bureau, keeping active in programs and serving on committees. She said she has not been in a board meeting before, but she will go through courses to see how it works. She will serve from Goodland, she said, and attend meetings at headquarters in Manhattan. One of only 10 board members from around the state, she said, she will have a chance to bring up issues affecting this area. Mrs. Franklin said she was elected at the Farm Bureau's annual meeting. She is excited about work-

ing for the group, which focuses on education and keeping government aware of farming issues. "I think it's a very worthwhile organization," she said. She said she has no plans for any big changes in the organization, but she will try to make it better. "My intent," she said, "is to make it a stronger organization, a stronger voice." Mrs. Franklin lives 10 miles south of Goodland, where she and her husband Gerald farm irrigated and dryland crops. She said they have lived there for 23 years, growing wheat, corn, sunflowers, soybeans and milo. She said one of the great things about the Farm Bureau is that it works through grassroots support, and she welcomes questions and comments. "That's one of the great things about this organization," she said. "I'm here to serve."

Families to be honored

Funeral homes in McCook, Indianola, Benkelman and Stratton, Neb., will join Community HealthCare and Hospice in McCook to sponsor a Service of Remembrance in December for families to honor those who died this past year. The service will be at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 12, at the McCook

Christian Church, 507 West B Street. Families whom the funeral homes and hospice have served this past year are invited. Anyone who would like to be included should call Carpenter Breland Funeral Home at (308) 345-3838 by Monday.

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