

Jennings hopes contracts save school

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The Jennings School Board has decided to enter into cooperative agreements with nearby school districts to educate students in seventh through 12th grades, but keep its elementary school going for now.

Board member Vickie Bailey said Monday that Superintendent Emery Hart has talked with the superintendents in Hoxie and Oberlin, but the board hopes to enter into agreements with other neighboring districts as well.

The Oberlin School Board was scheduled to talk about the proposed agreement at a

meeting Monday night.

The reason to hook up with more than one school district is so that the kids will have a choice where they want to go, said Mrs. Bailey.

The Jennings District is between several other districts. She said the board wanted the kids to be eligible to play sports.

With the cooperative agreements, she said, the students will be able to play sports as soon as they transfer.

This year, said Mrs. Bailey, the board entered agreements with Oberlin for junior high kids to play sports here and with Hoxie

for high school students.

The new cooperative agreements will be different, though, because they are not just for sports. Students go to class at the other schools and Jennings will no longer have a high school.

Mrs. Bailey emphasized that the Jennings District needs parents to enroll their kids there and then choose a school where there is a cooperative agreement.

That way, the Jennings district will have money to keep the grade school open as long as possible.

The money received for kids who are part

of the cooperative agreements will help keep the grade school open, she said.

If the board is able to do cooperative agreements, she added, they will be able to keep the grade school open longer. She said without the agreements, Jennings probably isn't looking at more than a year left for the grade school.

The plan is similar to one adopted by the neighboring Lenora District, which sends all its high school students to Norton. Jennings had only 31 students this fall.

Mrs. Bailey said the board decided to go with cooperative agreements because that

is what parents who filled out surveys and returned them asked for.

She said the board tries to do what people want. The majority of the parents wanted to keep the grade school open, she said, and the kids are getting a good education.

Mrs. Bailey said the most important thing for parents to understand is that they need to enroll in Jennings first and then choose to send their students to another district with an agreement. That way, she said, the grade school will be protected.

If students enroll at Jennings, the district will get state aid for them.

Readers collect \$50 each

Big drawing will be Saturday

Ten readers have become \$50 richer the past few weeks, winning cash instantly with matching ticket numbers.

The last two winners came in last week to scoop up the last of 10 "instant winner" prizes in the annual Christmas on Us contest. The first to claim her prize was Opal Huntley, who came in Tuesday with a ticket from Dale's Fish 'N' Fun. She said she was going to buy groceries with the money.

Next was Marie Zimmerman, who came in last Wednesday with a ticket she got at Ward Drug Store. She said she was going to spend the money on gifts.

The first week produced four winners.

Steve and Linda Smith, who got their ticket at Raye's Grocery, said they were going to split the money, with Mr. Smith's half going to gasoline. Mrs. Smith wasn't sure where she was going to spend hers.

Max Carman also got a ticket at Raye's; he said he was going to buy a jacket.

Richard Anderson, who got his ticket at Ward Drug, wasn't sure how he was going to spend the \$50.

Sarah Fredrickson, who got her

(See DRAWING on Page 12A)

Angels deliver for kids

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Thanks to area families who were willing to give a little, 78 kids who might otherwise not have received anything at all will get winter coats, socks, pants, shirts, toys and other goodies for Christmas this year.

Abby Hissong, who organizes the Angel Tree for the Oberlin Jaycees, said all of the names have been given out. She delivered one kid's form after church on Sunday and talked to a woman Monday morning who said she was interested in shopping for someone.

She said it's possible a couple more names may come in through the mail this week. People sometimes miscalculate time for the forms to be received in the mail, said Mrs. Hissong. Anyone who wants to see if there are any names available can call her at Fredrickson Insurance, 475-3883.

She said she can give those who get names late a little extra time to shop. Last year, she said, they had 52 kids, so this year's tree attracted 26 more. Mrs. Hissong said they probably lost 10 percent of the people who were signed up last year, which means there are around 40 new kids this year.

She said she thought some are from families which are new to the area and others from families that just realized they needed the service. People have done a miraculous job helping these families by buying gifts for these kids, she said.

All of the gifts are due in the office by Friday, said Mrs. Hissong.

(See ANGEL on Page 12A)



OPENING THE DOOR FOR VISITORS, Marilyn Horn (above) helped shepherd women into Vince and Peggy Carswell's home at 805 E. Jackson on Sunday. Verna Mae

Anderson (below) admired a tree at Jennifer Auxier's home at 311 E. Ash during the Decatur Professional Women's Holiday Homes Tour. — Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes

Houses decked for tour

Greenery, nativity scenes, lights, Santas, snowmen and other Christmas trinkets were out in force Saturday for the annual Decatur Professional Women's holiday home tour.

The group holds the annual tour right before Christmas to give people a chance to see four homes around Oberlin and to raise money for its scholarship program.

Each year, the women select recent graduates and women returning to college and give them money to help them obtain a college education.

On Sunday, around 75 women helped that fund grow by purchasing tickets for \$12 each for the tour. That gave each person a look into the four area homes and a soup supper following at the United Church.

They included Anita Hirsch's house east of town, which was decorated with a tree in every room. The master bedroom featured a bottle of sparkling cider and two wine glasses on the bed. Next to it was a note confessing that they really don't live that way.

Peggy Carswell had a snowman collection in the foyer and



little carousels on the piano.

Judy Scott's home west of the cemetery was all red, white and blue in a patriotic theme.

At the old Victorian home of

Jennifer Auxier on East Ash, the tree was sprinkled with fake snow and there were candle arrangements. Ms. Auxier said she is still remodeling, and plans to re-do the

front porch.

After the tour, the women returned to the church, where they had cheesy potato or taco soup, tea, coffee or punch and dessert.

Salvation Army unit can help those with a need

Decatur County's Salvation Army chapter stands ready to help families in need during the holiday season with a turkey for dinner or other things.

The Salvation Army, a national religious group best known for its bell-ringing Santas at Christmas, says it is set up to help the whole person, including spiritual, physical and social needs.

Alvera Bruggeman, treasurer of

the Decatur County unit, said she has been involved with the Salvation Army for the last five or six years. Members of the Ministerial Association and Oberlin Police Department are all considered volunteers with the Salvation Army, she said.

This past year, she said, the organization has helped out a couple of families after they had fires at their homes.

She said people here can make donations to the Salvation Army and the money comes back here to help those who live in the county.

The organization can help with school supplies or equipment for kids for sports. Mrs. Bruggeman, who works at First National Bank, said they don't want to see poor kids get left out. They also can help buy food or gasoline for those in need.

People don't need to meet any

income qualifications to receive help from the Salvation Army, she said, but they can't abuse the service. Basically, they just need to come and ask, but there are some checks done on people who don't live here.

The Ministerial Association, police and sheriff's departments let the organization know when there is a family in need, she said.

(See ARMY on Page 12A)

Pantry needs edibles

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The Decatur County Food Pantry needs nonperishable foods and personal care items to help people over the holidays.

Each year about this time the pantry needs some extra help.

Melanie Anderson, who is in charge of the food pantry housed at the United Church in Oberlin, said they need all kinds of fruit except pears, pie filling, juices, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, soap and more. She said the food bank also is low on cereals, baking supplies and spices.

Normally, she said, the pantry starts to get low around July or August, then special collections start to fill up the shelves. Ms. Anderson said the school has a scrimmage where everyone has to bring in a can of food, each of the churches in town take a month in which they donate to the bank, clubs make donations and so do individuals. Collections have been slower than normal and this year too, seems to be down.

At this time of year, Stanley Hardware holds a food drive with the goal of bringing in 2,000 items. The drive is in its third week. With over two weeks left, over 500 items have been collected, which is slower than other years.

The United Church also has a fund for the pantry which is sometimes used to purchase items. She said right now, the pantry could use some frozen food donations.

Besides providing food and personal care items, the pantry gives out certificates good at the grocery. Only certain foods can be bought with certificates, including bread, eggs, milk and fresh items.

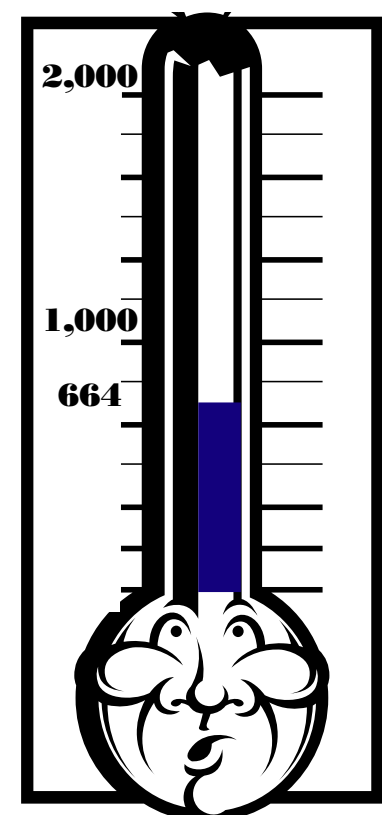
The certificates come from the Decatur County Ministerial Alliance, which helps maintain the food bank. Ms. Anderson said they have

(See PANTRY on Page 12A)

Store drive starts slow

With only 2 1/2 weeks left, the food drive at Stanley Hardware is only a quarter of the way to the goal of 2,000 items.

Nonperishable food and personal care items can be brought in during store hours. Everything collected will be given to the Decatur County food pantry.



* Army helps needy

(Continued from Page 1A)
 Anyone is who having a hard time can contact her, Mrs. Bruggeman said. The organization has helped with things like city utility bills in the past. She said the organization has also helped transients get from one place to another.
 The Salvation Army chapter here tries to see that the money it gives out is spent in town. For example, if someone needs school supplies, they ask them to buy them in town. Sometimes, Mrs. Bruggeman said, the person charges things and then the Salvation Army pays the bill.
 She said all donations made to the Salvation Army are tax deductible. Donations can be sent to Box 285, Oberlin, Kan. 67749. Checks should be made payable to the Salvation Army Oberlin and Decatur County Service Unit.

Colby may find water expensive

The Colby City Council approved contracts for more than \$500,000 for a water well and a water line into town at a meeting last week.
 Chris Miller with Miller and Associates of McCook, Neb., project engineer, said there were 18 bids for either the water well or construction of the roughly three-mile transmission main.
 The council approved the low bids on each project, from Woofter Pump and Well of Hoxie for the water well at \$272,000 and Midlands Contracting of Kearney, Neb., for the main at \$231,628.
 This project is needed in order to accommodate future growth while alleviating stress on the remaining wells after the city lost a well to contamination from the former Ace Services at Fourth and Convesse.
 Other bidders for the water well included Sargent Drill Co., Broken Bow, Neb., at \$299,582; Clark Well and Equipment Co, Great Bend, at \$311,848; Interstate Irrigation, Inc., Yuma, Colo., at \$321,200; Western Sprinklers, Inc., Colby, at \$334,296; and Layne Western, Kearney, Neb., at \$371,7233.
 Miller told the council it was the engineers' estimate that construction cost would be \$193,500 for the well, which was low; however, the transmission main bids came in lower than projected costs of \$376,605.
 Although the bids were opposite of the engineer's estimates, he said, the total project is still under estimates.
 Bidders for the transmission main, which when completed would connect the water well east of town into Colby, were Elk Creek Backhoe and Trenching, Arapahoe, Neb., at \$237,094; Staroska Group Unlimited, Grand Island, Neb., at \$237,860; Van Kirk Brothers Contracting, Sutton, Neb., at \$241,544; APAC-Kansas Inc., Hays, at \$259,078; Myers Construction Co., Broken Bow, at \$264,379; BSB Construction, Topeka, at \$288,925; Morris Plumbing Plus, St. Francis, at \$294,221; Deep Creek Construction, Lincoln, at \$297,335; Interstate Irrigation, Inc., Yuma, at \$299,748; Woofter Construction and Irrigation, Colby, \$306,262, and Western Sprinklers, Colby, at \$360,125.
 The council approved Mayor Warren Hixson's appointments: On the Thomas County Economic Development Alliance, the reappointment of Junelle Hills was approved with her term to expire in December 2007.
 The council also approved the route for the third annual Northwest Kansas Great Strides Walk from 8 a.m. until noon on May 21.

Police report several minor accidents

The Oberlin Police Department received these calls recently:
 • Sometime during the early morning hours of Thursday, Nov. 25, someone hit Elmer Zodrow's mailbox on West Commercial Avenue with a vehicle. There was damage to the box in the hit and run.
 • At 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 30, Gary Bartels, 56, was driving a 1999 Dodge pick-up west on Commercial Avenue when he slowed down to turn south into the parking lot at Dollar General. Jennifer Radovich, 28, was backing to the north in a 1985 BMW and ran into the truck. She received a ticket for improper backing. There was damage to both vehicles.
 • Received a report of a hit and run on Monday, Dec. 6, when someone ran into a 1977 Chevy pick-up belonging to Doyle Richardson parked on North Griffith. It happened between Nov. 27 and Dec. 5.

Chamber plans dinner with speaker on Jan. 20

The Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce is getting ready for its annual banquet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 20, at The Gateway. Guest speaker will be Eric Eicher from Colby, who will talk about Oz to Oz.
 Tickets will be \$14.
 The Chamber board met at the Rose Tea room for lunch on Thursday.
 The board will hold an assembly at Oberlin Grade School at 1:30 p.m.



AT STANLEY HARDWARE Monday morning, Caleb Bryan (above) set a can of food in the window while Kara Haselhorst and Donovan Inman waited their turn. Four kids, including Jean Soderlund (below right), walked with the Head Start class to Stanley Hardware store to donate to the food pantry.
 — Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

* Pantry needs donations

(Continued from Page 1A)
 been a big help over the years.
 If someone needs to use the food pantry, they should contact a pastor, she said. Before, the pantry could be used on demand, but they are now only open from 9 a.m. to noon on Mondays and Thursdays.
 Ms. Anderson said they have a form they ask people to fill out when they get food. The information is for the Ministerial Association.
 People are limited to using the pantry three times in a calendar year. Ms. Anderson said they try to give each family enough items to last a few weeks, going by family size.
 There are a lot of people with lower incomes, she said, and sometimes they just can't make ends meet. By the time they get their bills paid at the end of the month, they don't have enough money for food. There also are people in town who are in be-



tween jobs and just don't have the money for food. People become ill and need some help, she said, while others run out of benefits and need some extra help.
 Ms. Anderson said others have moved here with jobs promised to them and then the jobs don't work

* Drawing for cash 11 a.m. Saturday

(Continued from Page 1A)
 ticket at Wards, was going to buy groceries with the prize.
 The following week, Elaine Marcuson claimed her prize with a ticket she got at the LandMark Inn. She planned to spend it on groceries also.
 Elvin Beneda got his ticket at Addleman Drug Store and was going to spend it on gifts.
 Shirley Simpson won with a ticket from Stanley Hardware and planned to buy presents.
 Rosalie Bainter received her winner from R&M Service Center and planned to buy gifts.
 With all of the instant prizes now claimed, that just leaves the Grand Prize and First Prize winners, which will be drawn at 11 a.m. Saturday at the gazebo downtown. The first prize drawn will be for first place, with \$500 in scrip money to be given away.
 Then it will be time to draw for the grand prize of \$1,500 in scrip, which can be spent only at sponsoring Oberlin businesses.
 Ticket holders must be present to win and must be 18 or older. Employees of *The Oberlin Herald* are not eligible. Employees of sponsors



Mrs. Huntley Zimmerman cannot win with tickets they receive from their place of employment, but can collect tickets from other businesses.
 Sponsors include Addleman Drug Store, Ward Grocery, Stanley Hardware, Raye's Drug, Countryside Veterinary Clinic, Southwest Implement, R&M Service Center, Hansen's Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning, Ray Jewelry, Flowers By Lee, Dale's Fish 'n' Fun, Culligan Water Conditioning.
 Times Past Antiques, the Carpet Center, Prairie Petals, Home Planning Center, Oberlin Mercantile, Fidele Electric, Woodcrafting, Lumber and Hardware, Lifetime Eyecare, Cabin Antiques, Decatur County Implement, the Dresser, Rocking R and Fine Spirits Video.

* Angels on tree all find someone

(Continued from Page 1A)
 On Monday and Tuesday, parents will start picking them up. Gifts that aren't picked up will be delivered, she added.
 The group aims to provide each child 7 and older with a \$5 certificate to Sunflower Cinema. Those under 7 will get a book for the same value.
 Mrs. Hissong said it is great how the community has supported these families that need a little help.
 A lot of families have come in to get a name off the tree, she said, and they are shopping together for the kid.
 She said she was pleased with the quick response from the state De-

partment of Social and Rehabilitation Services after officials found out few were using the tree early in the season.
 Mrs. Hissong said anyone with gifts can bring them in during office hours. She said some have already come in.
 By Monday morning, said Mrs. Hissong, her office will be packed with presents. She said it was full last year with 52 gifts, this year there are 78 kids. She isn't sure where to put all the gifts.
 Anyone who wants to stop and look in her office or in the window is welcome to, she said; it's really heartwarming.

Little ad...big deal.
 Call 475-2206

out. All of these people can use the pantry.
 The pantry, she said, is for all of the people in Decatur County, not just in Oberlin. She said they allow people from Selden to use the pantry because their churches also donate.

Holiday EXTRAVAGANZA Sale

Make your holidays magical with these terrific vehicles!

1999 Toyota Tacoma • 4x4 • V-6, Auto • SR5, TRD Package <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">\$12,900</p>	1997 Dodge 3/4 Ton • 4x4, long box • Extended Cab • V-10, Automatic <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">\$8,995</p>	1992 Suburban • 3/4 Ton • 7.4L V-8 • Immaculate! <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">\$6,995</p>
1998 Ford Contour SE • Economical 4 cyl. • 4 Door, Auto. • Very Nice! <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">\$4,295</p>	1994 Buick Regal • 2 Door • 3.1L V-6 • All Power <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">\$3,900</p>	1992 Mazda Protege • 4 cyl., Auto • 4 Door • Runs & Drives Great! <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">\$1,995</p>

Choose from several more, new trades arriving!

2002 Honda Accord -----	Low miles, sunroof -----	\$13,900
2001 Toyota Camry -----	V-6, sunroof, extra nice -----	\$13,900
2001 Jeep Cherokee Limited -----	Heated leather, 4x4 -----	\$14,900
2001 Jeep Cherokee Sport -----	6 cyl., 4x4 -----	\$12,900
2001 Chevrolet 3500 -----	4x4 Dually with Duramax Diesel -----	\$19,995
2001 Ford F-250 -----	4x4 Ex-Cab with Power Stroke -----	\$21,995
2001 Chevrolet 2500 -----	4x4 Ex-Cab with 6.0L V-8 -----	\$20,900
2001 Lexus RX-300 -----	4x4 SUV, luxury & utility -----	\$28,900
2002 Dodge 1500 -----	4x4, 4-Door, V-8 Auto -----	\$17,900
2001 Lincoln Continental -----	Only 24,000 miles, like new -----	\$16,900
2002 Buick Century -----	V-6, 4 Door, loaded -----	\$8,900
1996 Ford Thunderbird -----	V-6, 2 Door, Sharp! -----	\$3,900
1996 Pontiac Bonneville -----	Supercharged V-6, every option -----	\$6,700

BUDKE MOTORS INC.

401 East B McCook, NE 345-5200

M-F 8 a.m.-6 p.m. **1-800-345-0031** Sat. 8 a.m.-3 p.m.