Some businesses see a rise in sales

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The busiest time of the year is over, leaving store owners time to figure out whether the shopping season was up, down or the same as last year.

Several owners said business in Oberlin stayed even with what it was last year, although a few said it was up some.

Kurt Vollertsen, owner of Ward Drug Store, said the most popular items at his store were burners that burn scented oil. He shoppers were women. said they sold out of those.

were some Santa items that were popular.

20 Pages, 2 Sections

up, but thought the store did better than they evenings like they were last year. did last year.

slow start, he said, and then about two or two night, the night after Thanksgiving. There and a half weeks into the season, things really started picking up. Mr. Vollertsen said the majority of his

unusual that sold, said Mr. Vollertsen. There mas. Neither was very successful, he said. it. There were some shoppers and some sales, He said he hasn't yet tallied everything but it didn't seem like people were out in the and shirts sold well. So did muffler scarves.

The whole Christmas period got off to a things were pretty decent, like opening were a lot of people in town for the light parade, despite a light rain, he said.

The store stayed open Sunday afternoons them as they always are. She said the store ice cube snowmen, charm jewelry, red hat

This year, she said, the holiday sweaters

Mrs. Metcalf said the store stayed open He said there were a few evenings where late and on weekends as a service to their customers, although they were so-so.

At Oberlin Mercantile, owner Gary Anderson said they sold out of the Western Cattle Trail books. He said it was popular Down the street at the Dresser, manager because part of the story took place in Karen Metcalf said Saturdays were good for Decatur County. Other hot items included

Except for the day that was really cold, Thursday, Dec. 23, the store had really good business, said Mr. Anderson. Even business in the evenings was good, but he said it helped with the LandMark Inn next door having dinners.

Mr. Anderson said he thought it was more women shopping this year except on Christ-

mas Eve, when there were more men. He said he thought business was pretty dead, even with what it was last year.

At the Rocking R, owner Karen Cham-(See BUSINESS on Page 10A)

Council says yes to increase in tax

The Oberlin City Council agreed this month to raise the "bed tax" on cent to raise more money for Convention and Visitors Bureau pro-

rent rooms in Oberlin. The money sends the money back to the city. and the bureau gets it. At the meeting on Thursday, Dec. 16, members of the bureau said that the increase tising for Oberlin. would mean someone staying in a \$45 double-bed room for a night would pay around 45 cents more per The tax isn't paid by people who

live here, members stressed, but those who are visiting.

Glenva Nichols, Chamber of Commerce manager, told the counhotel rooms from 2 percent to 3 per- cil she checked with other towns around the area and they are already Some of the recent projects of the

The tax is paid by visitors who bureau are signs on the highways directing people downtown, attendis sent to the state and then the state ing the Kansas Sampler Festival each year, going to trade shows, making "table tents" for restaurants listing area events, and doing adver-

In the future, the group plans to put up a Last Indian Raid sign on U.S. 36 to show people where the monument and museum are. The proposed cost is between \$1,750 and \$2,000.

The group also plans to put up a With the decline in travel and loss kiosk with maps and information at of a hotel, the bed tax money has the monument to describe the event. dropped in recent years, according The cost would be around \$700. The to the information presented by bu- council agreed to the 1 percent tax reau members at the council meet-increase, which will go into effect 61 days after two publications.

City will pay half of lights for library

The Oberlin City Council agreed though one was sent out. Thursday to pay half the cost to put lights above the old skylight at the \$1,975 from Hansen to move the city library if the board would pay the other half.

The council discussed the possinew year, when the 2005 budget will bility last month. Jim Wasson, a start. member of the library board, said at that meeting that the board wanted to put in the lighting to make it look like there is still a skylight after a new metal roof is built.

The lights can be installed when the new roof is installed

The council received one bid from Hansen's Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning for a new air conditioning unit at the library and another bid to move the existing unit.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the city will probably get more bids from other businesses in town, since they got a call from one that in. said they didn't get a bid letter, al-

The council did accept the bid of unit. The council wanted to decide on purchasing a new one until the

Drive hits goal

Two large donations Monday to the annual food drive at Stanley Hardware pushed the total number

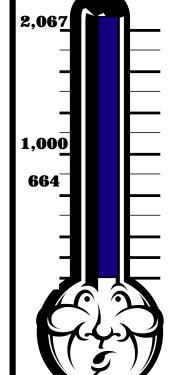
of items over the goal of 2,000. At the beginning of the day, the store had a little over 1,800 items, then a church donation came in and next an Oberlin man brought a load

It was the church's month to give to the food bank, owner Joe Stanley said, so they decided to bring the food to the drive.

Then an Oberlin man brought in 14 sacks full of food including spaghetti, cereal, pancake mix, baby food, macaroni and cheese and other items.

The clerks at the store said they would try to get the items counted and put in the window by afternoon.

There are still three more days until the food drive ends and the new year begins. Anyone wanting to donate can drop their items at the hardware store.



Other than that, there wasn't anything real and also evenings the week before Christ- had a good season and they are happy with items and Kansas food products.

Copy Here. Copy Here. Copy Here. Copy Here. Copy Here. — Herald staff photo by somebody

COPY HERE. Copy Here.

The Dresser to be featured in magazine

The Dresser will be featured in and take care of a family. American Profile, the news maganext several months.

view Karen Metcalf, Judy Ost- a lot of nice people. meyer and Judy Shirley, who all work at the co-operative women's

Mrs. Attoun said American Pro*file* is the fastest growing news magazine with a circulation of 6.5 million. She said she came up with the idea to do a story on the Dresses, and then pitched it to the magazine. She said she has written 40 stories for the magazine so far.

She also writes for several women's magazines. Freelancing, she said, allows here to work, travel

Mrs. Attoun started her journalzine inserted into The Oberlin Herius ism career at the Joplin Globe and it up. ald each week, sometime in the wrote there for 10 years before becoming a freelancer.

through Marci Penner who is the organizer of the Kansas Explorer

store, said she got a call from the writer about six weeks before the interview. Mrs. Attoun had heard about the store and was interested only interesting place in Oberlin. She said the writer said she was

going to pitch the story to several ing, but jewelry, hose, purses, hats, places, but American Profile picked scarves, gloves and other items

The Dresser started in October 1993, said Mrs. Metcalf, with 65 clothes six to nine months ahead of Before Christmas, Marti Attoun, With a love of traveling, she original owners. They all helped the season. The group is ordering a freelance writer from Missourii said, this has worked for her. She buy it and since then the partnership items for fall now. made her way to Oberlin to inter- said she has had the chance to meet has grown. Each year, she said, they go to

Metcalf said the women thought the people also come here. Dresser would compliment that Mrs. Metcalf said they don't Mrs. Metcalf, manager of the store and others on Main Street. order clothes all the time, just for One tenent of the ownership setup the seasons, and then if they get was that it would allow women to low on an item. be part of a business.

The store carries not just cloth- board that runs the Dresser.

women might like.

Mrs. Metcalf said they order

When the Dresser opened, there market four times in Kansas City She heard about the Dresser was another clothing store in town, and Kearney, Neb., to pick items Aten's Department Store. Mrs. for each season. She said sales

As the manager, Mrs. Metcalf

The department store, said Mrs. said, she takes care of the day-toin doing a story. Mrs. Metcalf said Metcal, closed in 1998. Since then, day details with the help of she told her the Dresser wasn't the the Dresser has been the main pro- Amanda Grafel, but the store revider for women's clothing here. ally is a partnership. There is a

Woman retires from museum staff

By MARY LOU OLSON

Myrna Jones, who is retiring as assistant curator at the Decatur County Last Indian Raid Museum in Oberlin, will be honored with an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. on Thursday at the museum.

A native of Clayton, she began working at the museum's Seeds of Creation Gift Shop through the Green Thumb program more than eight years ago. Fonda Farr was curator at the time, and after the resignation of Cyndy Dolan, Ms. Jones became assistant curator.

Two of the major accomplishments during that time, she said, have been moving the Paul's Oil building from the intersection of U.S. 36 and 83 to the museum, and the old Bohemian Hall from rural Jennings. Ms. Jones completed two photo scrapbooks of the hall, beginning in 1912, and videos of the move are also available at the museum.

She has also spent many hours helping with preparations for moving St. Mark's Lutheran Church from Norcatur. The foundation has been completed and plans are to move the building in the spring.

"One of my dreams," she said, "has been to have an old-fashioned church service and sing-along after

This could include music on the

pump organ, which was donated by the late Idella Frickey.'

reading and cataloging the 33 newspapers published in Decatur County beginning in 1874 through 1993.

especially guiding tours for clubs, organizations, school children and out-of-town visitors, which often included helping with family gene-

teers," she said, "and at the present time, more are needed to update all of the cemeteries in the county.

with all of the past and present staff, as well as the board of directors. I'm leaving the office in good hands, as Sharleen Wurm, ... is so capable and the board has been so willing in any activity we've had. Maralyn Courange also does a wonderful job of operating the gift shop."

Ms. Jones and her family, along with her mother, Ethel Ellis, moved to Oberlin in 1990. Except for 10 years in Liberal and four in Durango, Colo., she has lived in Decatur County.

Ms. Jones spent many hours

She said she has enjoyed it all – "We appreciate all of the volun-

"It has been a privilege to work

Her six children include Stacey

and Brian Hileman and Haylee, Oberlin; Sharla Ritter, Seth and the church remodeling is completed. Josh, who recently moved to Ober-

(See WOMAN on Page 10A)



COPY HERE. Copy Here. — Herald staff photo by somebody

10A THE OBERLIN HERALD Wednesday, December 29, 2004

Moran tours service

By KATHRYN BURKE

Congressman Jerry Moran checked out Goodland's National Weather Service office on a tour of the area on Wednesday, Dec. 15.

Dave Floyd, warning coordination meteorologist for the office, said Rep. Moran, a Hays Republican, spent 35 minutes on his first tour of the Goodland office.

"He said it was long overdue," Mr. Floyd said. "He just wanted to know what we did here."

Scott Mentzer, meteorologist in charge, gave the congressman and Staff Director Tyler Wegmeyer a briefing on the office. Mr. Floyd said both visitors had a lot of ques-

"He was generally interested," he said, "in what was going on out

Mr. Floyd said Rep. Moran was up-to-date on drought conditions in northwestern Kansas. The congressman even recognized a map of the drought, Mr. Floyd said, and noted he had one in his Washington

 $\hbox{``He seemed very upon issues like'}$ the drought," he said.

After the question-and-answer session, Mr. Floyd said, he took the visitors on a tour of the operations area. He said Rep. Moran's schedule was tight, but he got to spend 10 minutes showing him how forecasts are made in Goodland.

"I think we let him know the challenges we face," he said, "and that our No. 1 mission is severe weather.'

Mr. Floyd said Rep. Moran asked meteorologists here how forecasting has been improved in the past 20 years. Twenty years ago, he said, forecasting was fairly accurate for one to two days out, but today they can go to four or five days.

"Ilethim know," he said, "that the technology and understanding of the science are getting better."

The congressman sits on the House Committee on Agriculture, and Mr. Floyd said, he had a keen interest in the weather and economy of western Kansas.

"Overall, it was a very cordial and upbeat visit," Mr. Floyd said. "We were pleased he took time out his schedule to visit."

"In a state like ours," said a press release from the congressman's office, "with constantly changing weather, the work of these folks (at the weather service) helps to save lives."

While in town, Rep. Moran visited the Sigco Sun Products sunflower processing plant with Michael Bretz, crop production manager, who explained the sunflower processing operation.

He visited Western Plains Energy, an ethanol plant in Campus, east of Oakley, also.

Weather changes drastically

The saying goes "If you don't like the weather in Kansas, wait a day or two and it will change."

That was certainly true last week as temperatures dropped below 10 degrees on Thursday, but then climbed up to over 50 degrees two days later in time for Christmas.

And the temperatures were by no means record setting.

Meteorologist Logan Johnson with the National Weather Service in Goodland said the area high for the last 10 days in December was 72 degrees on Dec. 24, 1964. The record low, he said, was -27 degrees, which was set on Dec. 22-23 in 1989.

The fair weather that Oberlin had on Christmas is expected to continue throughout the week and into the new year. Temperatures are expected to drop Sunday with a small chance of snow.

Mr. Johnson said the forecast for this week is looking to be pretty warm and dry.

He said people should expect highs between 50 and 60 degrees pretty much every day this week. There is a slight chance on rain Wednesday night and Thursday, but he said it was a very slight chance.

Reading to the kids



COPY HERE. — Herald staff photo by somebody

* Business here same as last year

(Continued from Page 1A) bers said she sold quite a few wolf seemed people bought a little bit of statues and three saddles.

down this year, although for the year husbands, he said. she will finish about the same.

people did their shopping this year on the Internet and through mail or-

Mrs. Chambers said she did have a lot of last-minute shoppers.

On U.S. 36 at Dale's Fish 'N' Fun, Christmas.

co-owner Bob Woolsey said it everything. There were a lot of She said December sales were women who were shopping for their

Mr. Woolsey said he didn't think She said she thought a lot of sales were up, but that it was pretty flat with what it was last year.

He said there weren't really any last-minute shoppers. Instead, shoppers pretty much started around Thanksgiving and stayed even to

Woman retires from museum

(Continued from Page 1A) lin from Jennings, where she still at the United Church and is a volunowns and operates a beauty shop and also assists Mary Long at Shear Creations in Oberlin; Sherry and Doug Strayer, who have three grown children; Shanna and Ronnie Reily and ways for museum fund raisers," she three children, Paris, Texas; Shayne said, "as well as the publicity we Anderson, Jennings; and Scott Anderson, Selden.

Ms. Jones said she plans to stay in Oberlin, where she will be helping will be made by the board after the

She enjoys bowling, is an organist teer pianist each week at Cedar Living Center.

'My thanks goes to the many volunteers who have helped in so many have received from the local newspaper."

A replacement for her position out part time at Pauls Funeral Home. first of the year, she said.

Samway 5 x 15 ad is in GDN (color) oh/adv