



Kids practice
MONDAY AFTER-NOON, Jordin Wasson (above) played her flute at band practice at Oberlin Elementary School. Matthew Helm (left) worked on a band crossword and Miki Dorshorst (below) warmed up.



Election turnout looks good

Over 700 mail ballots returned to office so far

Turnout for Oberlin's first mail ballot special election has been good so far, with over 700 ballots in as of Monday.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn, who serves as the county election officer, said they mailed out 1,049 ballots. Of those, more than 700 had been turned back in either through the mail or by voters hand delivering them.

Counting the vote on whether Oberlin stores can sell beer and liquor on Sundays wasn't to begin until Tuesday night, however, and results won't be available until next week's paper.

Mrs. Horn said a dozen or so people have told her that they like the mail ballot and being able to vote at their leisure.

This is the first time the county has held a mail ballot election. Mrs. Horn said under Kansas law, this kind of election can't be held for regular state or national voting, but it is OK for special elections.

Voters had just one question, whether stores should be able to sell beer and alcohol on Sundays. Sherry

Brown, owner of Fine Spirits, asked the Oberlin City Council to allow the sales, which it did. Pastor Steve Smith then hand carried a petition to put the question on the ballot. The petition was certified and the ballots were mailed out.

Although voters don't come to the polls for the mail ballot election, all of the ballots were due by noon on Tuesday.

County election workers will check the names on the envelopes against the election book. All of the envelopes then will be opened, said Mrs. Horn, and the ballots will be put in a ballot box.

When that is done, the ballots will be counted.

Mrs. Horn said the ballots are all put in a box so that voters are anonymous when counted.

Since the polls technically don't close until 7 p.m., she said, workers will hold one box with 25 ballots in it to count that evening. Ballots have to be in the office by noon.

Mrs. Horn said they have received a steady stream of ballots in the mail, including several on Monday.

Alliance donates to help build livestock facilities

The Oberlin Business Alliance agreed last Wednesday to give \$50 for new livestock facilities at the fairgrounds and urged members to give more.

Kelly Wasson, whose husband Michael, and Clay Anderson are helping raise money for the effort, asked if the organization would support the project. Mrs. Wasson said they have about \$30,000 in the fund so far.

The idea is to put a cover over the kids and animals at the arena during the fair. She said they want to start building the covered arena this summer.

They are asking farmers to donate a steer or some grain to the effort, and also are taking cash donations, she said.

So far, they have around 20 steers donated, Mrs. Wasson said. Decatur

County Feed Yard has donated space for the steers. After they are fed out, the group will sell them.

Mrs. Wasson said she wanted to know if any of the businesses or the alliance would like to buy a steer.

How much is the total project going to cost? asked Connie Grafel, marketing director for The Gateway and the Economic Development Corp.

Mrs. Wasson said she isn't sure, but they want to get it started.

The cattle buildings at the fairground, said Chamber Manager Glenva Nichols, were put in when she was in her second year of 4-H.

Each steer will probably cost around \$600 to \$650, said Mrs. Wasson. She said checks can be made out to the Decatur County Fair Foundation.

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Officials start to form emergency group

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Decatur County officials took the first step last week to form a local environment protection committee, but still need someone to step up and serve as chairman.

Thursday night, around 20 people met at The Gateway to hear a presentation by Toby Prine, northwest Kansas regional coordinator for Kansas Homeland Security, to help

get a committee started.

Mr. Prine said his background is in law enforcement, but now he works with an 18-county region in northwest Kansas, helping people who are going to respond to any kind of terrorist attack. The committees, said Mr. Prine, are required by the state in every county.

The committee will write a plan on how to respond to emergencies,

he said. The plan helps local emergency workers respond because they know some of the potentials. The plan could be used for a tornado or flood, an outbreak of hoof and mouth disease or any kind of emergency.

Basically, the committee needs to get established, said Mr. Prine, then write a plan. The plan needs to identify facilities, for instance, those that

have chemicals, and their transportation routes, procedures for immediate response, how to notify the community, name of response coordinators and a plan to hold exercises to test the plan. It also needs to include a way to evacuate people.

Once the plan is done, said Mr. Prine, they need to have exercises to see if all of the parts work. If a part

(See GROUP on Page 10A)

Veterans' section inside today's paper

Inside today's edition of *The Oberlin Herald* is the annual Veterans Day section.

This year, the staff decided to recognize men and women who served in the Korean War with stories and photos of those who chose to send in information or call the newspaper.

Remember on Veterans Day, Friday, to say thanks to all the men and women who have served this country with honor.

THE OBERLIN HERALD'S
Korean Veterans
A special salute to those who served our country during the Korean War

Schools to honor vets

Students and staff at Oberlin Elementary School will honor men and women who have served their country with a program for Veterans Day on Friday.

The program will start at 10 a.m. in the gym. The kids have invited all veterans in the county to attend.

In past years, the students have honored the men and women with songs, pictures and a special

thank you.

At the Jennings School, students will honor veterans with a program at 10 a.m. in the lunch room.

The kids 3 to 7 will have a procession with flags and sing three songs. The 3-year-olds will do a skit about how a flag is made and honor the veterans.

Both programs are open to the public.

Pheasants Forever banquet to be Friday

The Sunflower Chapter of Pheasants Forever will hold its banquet starting at 5:30 p.m. Friday at The Gateway.

Traditionally, the chapter has held the banquet Friday night, since bird season opens the next morning. The dinner provides a time for hunters and others, both local and visiting, to get together, eat and share stories.

Pheasants Forever is a conserva-

tion group which aims to improve habitat for upland birds and other wildlife. Most members are hunters who want to see their sport survive and grow.

The group works with farmers, state and federal wildlife officials and others to promote good pheasant habitat.

Tickets for the dinner, said Mike Ferguson, president of the chapter,

will cost \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids, which includes a prime rib dinner. They will be sold at the door.

After dinner, there will be a live auction done by Johnson Realty.

Mr. Ferguson said there will be door prizes and raffles for men, women and children.

The chapter decided to focus on the kids this year, he said, emphasizing the part of the Ringnecks orga-

nization for members 15 or younger. Dues of \$5 can be paid at the door, he said.

Currently there are only eight Ringnecks, but Mr. Ferguson said they want to get more kids involved in the chapter.

This year, they will have a mentoring program for young members, he said. At the banquet, they plan to have a piñata for the kids.

Christmas giveaway starts next week

The annual "Christmas on Us" contest sponsored by *The Oberlin Herald* kicks off next week, giving shoppers a chance to win \$2,500 in scrip money.

Sponsoring businesses will give away \$1,500 to the grand prize winner, \$500 to the second-place winner and \$50 to ten instant winners.

To play the game, all you have to do is collect tickets from participating businesses. Hold onto the tickets, and check the paper each week to see if one of your numbers shows up in the special ad section to win \$50 right away.

Next month, be sure to show up for the drawing on Saturday, Dec. 17, with your tickets.

Shoppers will get one ticket for each \$10 purchase at a sponsoring

business. If you buy \$100 worth of merchandise, that means 10 tickets. Anyone can get one ticket per week from the newspaper office or from the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce, so no purchase is necessary to win.

There is a limit of 250 tickets for any one purchase at any one sponsor.

Employees of *The Oberlin Herald* and their immediate family are not eligible to win.

Employees of sponsoring firms are not allowed to get tickets at their place of business, but can collect them elsewhere.

All of the prizes will be given in scrip, which can only be spent at sponsoring businesses.

Each week the tickets will be col-

lected from sponsoring businesses by 5 p.m. on Friday. Starting on Wednesday, Nov. 23, instant winning numbers will be printed in the paper. Numbers will be printed on Wednesday Nov. 30, Dec. 7 and Dec. 14, or until all 10 instant winners pick up their prizes.

Winners have until 5 p.m. Friday of that week to collect their prize. Any unclaimed \$50 instant winning money will be given during the grand prize drawing.

The last day to collect tickets is Friday, Dec. 16, because boxes will be picked up that day.

The drawing will be held on Saturday, Dec. 17, in downtown Oberlin. Winners must be present and must have their tickets with them. All winners agree to be photog-

tographed and interviewed for *The Oberlin Herald*.

All winners must be 18 years old or older.

The newspaper has organized the contests for the last eight years.

Sponsors include Ward Drug Store, Flowers by Lee, the Carpet Center, Shear Creations West and Day Spa, Rocking R, Ampride, R&M Service Center, Dale's Fish 'N' Fun, Raye's Grocery, Southwest Implement, the Dresser, Countryside Veterinary Clinic of Oberlin PA, Prairie Petals, Fidele Electric, Woodcrafting and Building Supplies, LandMark Inn, Stanley Hardware, Home Planning Center, Addleman Drug Store, Lifetime Eye Care and Culligan Water Conditioning Co.

* Group formed to write plan for emergencies

(Continued from Page 1A) doesn't work, then it needs to be corrected.

The committee needs to hold a "table top" exercise every year, which is where they sit down and go through the scenario, he said.

Those on the committee need to include, but aren't limited to, elected officials, law enforcement, civil defense, firefighters, emergency medical service, health/medicine, environment, hospital, transportation, media, community and industry. Normally, he said, there are about 20 people on the committee and it is made up of a cross section of people.

Money given to the county through an Emergency Preparedness grant can be used for this committee.

Mr. Prine said he encourages the county not to have the emergency preparedness manager as chairman of the committee. The emergency

manager is there for support and advisement, but not to be in charge, he said.

Are there grants available for an upgrade in the phone system with this? asked Tim Stallman, county road and bridge supervisor. Mr. Prine said he thought there were, depending on how the application is worded.

First the committee needs to get functioning, he said. Then once a year, the committee will talk about what they really need, and the grants are going to start coming by way of the regional office.

County Health Administrator Marilyn Gamblin said she did not want to serve as chairman, but would take the list of people back to her office and work on scheduling the next meeting. Mr. Prine suggested seeing if someone from a company that works with chemicals, like fertilizers, would be the chairman.



STEVE HIRSCH (left), training officer for the Sheridan County Fire Department, gave a safety presentation to the Norcatcur preschool class Wednesday. Paying close atten-

tion were Bryndon and Amy Wentz, Isaiah Hughes, Joslyn Smith and Ainsley Kier.

— Herald photo by Carolyn Plotts



RICHARD AND LINDA WEBER plan to open a coin-operated laundry in the old barber shop on the east side of Penn Avenue downtown. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Couple to open coin laundry here

A northwest Kansas couple has returned home and plan to open Cobblestone Laundromat in downtown Oberlin, hopefully in time for pheasant season.

Richard and Linda Weber are both originally from the area. Mrs. Weber graduated from Decatur Community High School in 1966 and Mr. Weber from Herndon High in 1963.

The couple moved to Wyoming in 1976. Before moving, they had the chance to buy an old laundry, but they passed on it. When they moved back here this year, Oberlin didn't have a coin laundry.

There is a need for a place to wash clothes, said Mr. Weber. He said they stepped into the building which used to house the chamber office and barber shop and decided they had the same opportunity they had 30 year ago.

The Webers said they are hoping to have six washers and six dryers that are coin-operated with quarters. They purchased the used equipment in McCook, and plan to replace it as needed.

Mrs. Weber said she hopes to have a grease washing machine and dryer, and also a set for quilts and other big items.

The couple has been doing repairs to the building, including flooring, plumbing and electrical work.

They plan to be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. to start and then see when

customers need them to be there. Hours might be different on weekends, they said, maybe earlier or later.

Mr. Weber said they haven't decided on the cost yet, because they want to see how the machines run. They will stay competitive with what other laundries offer.

The laundry won't have a bill machine, he said, so users need to have change. Besides the machines, the laundry will have a soap dispenser so people can buy laundry soap.

The Webers said they have never had a laundry before. Mr. Weber spent 18 years working for a school district in Wyoming and is now pretty much retired. Mrs. Weber worked at Hilltop National Bank in Casper, Wyo., a few years in a cafeteria and now is a cook at the hospital here.

In 1998, Mr. Weber said, he got involved in mission's work. He has been to Africa nine times and Jamaica, once.

Mrs. Weber accompanied him to Africa once.

The couple said they are going into the new business with a Christian attitude.

The Webers have two daughters. Brenda Eason lives in Wyoming and has two children, Megan and Devan. Their youngest daughter, Anita and her husband Spencer Kettler, of Oberlin, have two kids, Shawn Elizabeth and Ryan.

Kids learn fire safety with model house

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

It's never too soon to teach children about fire safety.

Steve Hirsch, training officer for the Sheridan County Fire Department, used a new training tool to educate preschoolers in Norcatcur about playing with matches and fire safety.

A grant from the U.S. Fire Administration enabled the department to purchase "Hazard House," he said. The "house" arrived in April

and has already been seen by hundreds of children in northwest Kansas.

"It's set up for children of all ages," Mr. Hirsch said. "Even the very youngest can understand the basics. It's good for old-timers, too."

The "house" unfolds to reveal "rooms" with various dangerous situations.

The children were able to identify someone sleeping in a chair with a

lighted cigarette. They also noted a roll of paper towels above a stove. One little boy spotted a match on the floor in the basement. Another scene illustrates how a child should check a door before opening it, to see if it is hot.

He had the children place "smoke detectors" in all the rooms. Then, using switches and buttons on the "house," Mr. Hirsch was able to set off "fires" in the house and trigger the alarms. He also instructed the

children to "Get Out and Stay Out" of their own house if it ever catches fire.

He said the "Hazard House" can be set up for other safety programs, including choking, poisoning, pool and playground, bicycle and lake.

The house is available for presentations throughout the region.

To schedule a safety program with the "Hazard House," call Mr. Hirsch at 785-475-2358.

County gives OK for parking lot work

The Decatur County Good Samaritan Center got the go ahead to work on the parking lot behind the building from Decatur County commissioners on Tuesday, Oct. 25.

Administrator Janice Shobe and Terry Black, environmental services specialist, presented a bid sheet for \$7,050 of work for the parking lot. The work included smoothing out the surface, sidewalks and curbs, and strengthening the retaining wall.

Mrs. Shobe said the retaining wall is crumbling. She said that Tim Stallman, county road and bridge supervisor, is going to smooth out the lot.

Mr. Black said he would like to move the entrance to the lot so there is less of a hill to climb. The spot for the entrance was prob-

ably temporary when the lot was put in, said Mr. Black.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch suggested using asphalt millings instead of paving the lot. Mrs. Shobe said they would get bids for millings.

The commissioners said the center could go ahead with the work, but suggested talking with the city if they are going to work on the sidewalk and curb.

Mrs. Shobe said the new windows are good and the installation was fine, but some of the caulking pulled away when the weather changed. Mr. Black fixed it.

The center has 42 residents, she said. They are working on converting a semi-private room into a suite, sort of a larger private room.

*Alliance donates to livestock project

(Continued from Page 1A)

Steve Haynes, publisher of *The Oberlin Herald*, said he thought the group should make a donation. Rusty Addleman, owner of Addleman Drug Store, said they could give \$100 to the Maverick 4-H Club, which helps put up garland for Christmas. Of that, \$50 would go to the 4-H group and \$50 to the project. The group approved the donation.

Cynthia Haynes, business manager of *The Herald*, suggested that people could pay the full price to join the alliance and Chamber and then take 10 percent of the dues and give it to the project.

Mrs. Nichols said she thought it would be a little difficult with the books.

Anyone who wants to donate can contact the Wassons at 475-3596 or Mr. Anderson at 322-5655.

Appraiser gets yes vote for used truck for office

Decatur County commissioners agreed last Tuesday to buy a 2004 Chevy Trail Blazer for the appraiser's office with the idea if there is an emergency, the local environment protection committee can use it.

Appraiser Alan Hale talked with commissioners months ago about getting a car for the office so they can go out and check properties. He said he got a bid for \$15,500 from Jr's Used Cars.

Since Mr. Hale had the car, the commissioners left the office to look

at it. It has six cylinders, a trailer package and around 28,000 miles on it.

The commissioners called Health Administrator Marilyn Gamblin, who said she had some money in her equipment fund she would be willing to put towards the purchase so the protection committee could use the truck.

The commissioners agreed to the purchase, with \$2,500 coming from Ms. Gamblin's department and the rest out of the special equipment reserve fund.

Business tour to be Sunday

Reservations for the annual Business to Business tour, sponsored by the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce, are due Thursday.

The tour will begin at 4 p.m. Sunday. Cost is \$6.50 per person, which

includes a soup-and-sandwich dinner at The Gateway after the tour.

Anyone who wants to make a reservation for the tour or have a business on it should call the Chamber office at 475-3441.

— NOTICE —

The Decatur County Courthouse and the Decatur County Landfill will be closed Friday, Nov. 11 to honor Veterans' Day



Region 8 Competition 2005

The Nebraska Pride Sweet Adelines Chorus
 Sunday, November 13, 2005
 2 p.m. at The Gateway

This is a season ticket event or \$10 for adults and \$5 for students in grades 1-12. For details, call Ella Betts at (785) 475-3557 or Mary Henzel, (785) 475-3329.

Sponsored by the Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission. This program is presented in part by the Kansas Arts Commission, a State agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a Federal agency. Oberlin Arts & Humanities Commission, Hansen Foundation.

