



ON THE STAGE in Denver, Rod Mathill played his guitar (above) and sang while Tim Davis played the bass behind him. The two men are members of an Oberlin band called Not by

Sight. Marcella Mathill (below) sorted through clothes. Kristi Smith (bottom) stacked dry goods to give away. — Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Workers help feed homeless

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Men and women stood in line outside the small building as volunteers set up tables, moved food from inside out and tested sound equipment.

The line grew as men and women waited in the chilly Denver air for the food line to open.

One man, middle aged, with brown hair that needed a cut, was looking for a new winter coat. The man wore a long, dark green jacket with a tear up the back that he said let a cold wind go up his spine.

He wanted a coat that would keep him warm for the next few months. He dug through the coats and found a short red one with a blue fleece lining. The sleeves were a little short, but he said it would do. He also found a long black wool coat. It looked like something a businessman would wear on a blustery day. He tucked both inside a black trash bag, along with a used pair of jeans that were two sizes too big. He said he owned a belt, so the pants would work.

A woman with dark black hair and a dark complexion helped put out dry goods for the homeless and those who were having a rough time making ends meet.

Occasionally, she would come across an item that she would tuck into a canvass tote bag because she, too, lived on the streets.

The woman wore a name tag like the other volunteers, but instead of getting in line for hot food, she served others first.

Around 11:30 a.m., David Clifton, who started Jesus to the World in downtown Denver 16 years ago, got up on the stage, prayed and welcomed everyone to the mission's Thanksgiving Outreach. In the crowd of volunteers were around 40 from northwest Kansas.

The group, from Oberlin, Colby, Hoxie, Morland and Hays, traveled to Denver with their congregation, the Living Word Fellowship of



Hoxie, to help set up tables, play worship music, organize dry food products, give away clothes, serve

and minister. Early Saturday, Nov. 12, the group left by van to make it to Denver by 10 a.m. Volunteers from Oberlin included Rod, Marcella, Jessica and Nick Mathill, Kristi Smith, Timothy S. and Kimberly Davis and Schuyler Huellet.

Members of the church have been serving at the Denver mission every three to four months since Pastor Dan Rohm was hired three years ago. Pastor Rohm said he found out about Jesus to the World through one of his board members, Brian Elliot of Hoxie, who had a video tape from the ministry.

It is important to take part in this kind of ministry, Pastor Rohm said. Christians need to express their love and concern for the needy.

Todd Dewey, associate pastor and manager of Jesus to the World, said around 900 people were fed during the Thanksgiving Outreach, with around 2,500 meals dished up. Many came first thing and had lunch and then came back for the second, he said. They rested in the afternoon or stayed around and listened to the bands play, and then came back to

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Board looks at the future of district

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Looking toward the future of the Oberlin School District, the high school principal crunched numbers of kids and rooms to see if all classes could be consolidated into one building.

That couldn't happen, Principal Charles Haag told the Oberlin School Board last Monday night, without new construction or fewer classes.

Unless they go for efficiency instead of effectiveness, he said, the district will either never be in one building or it won't happen for many years.

Mr. Haag said he projected the enrollment and looked at how many extra rooms they would need at the high school to handle elementary classes. If the grade school went to one section of every class, he said, that is seven rooms minimum. That doesn't include two for special education and one for supplementary federal programs, and it assumes all the students would share a library, art room, gym cafeteria, restrooms and other common rooms.

There are 28 classrooms at the high school, said Mr. Haag, and of

those, there is one room upstairs that isn't used.

Mr. Haag said after looking at numbers through 2010, with only losing kids to graduation and not getting any more in, he doesn't see a way to move to one building unless a lot of sections are cut or the district builds on to the high school.

If there is one section of everything at the grade school and one section in seventh and eighth grade, too, he said, then maybe it could happen.

He said he hopes the district doesn't go to efficiency instead of providing an effective education for the kids.

Principal Duane Dorshorst said next year they will probably only have one section of first grade since there is a small kindergarten class this year. This year, there is only one section of sixth grade, he said, so there might be some teachers moving around.

He said he doesn't see the district in one building without some construction at the high school to make room for the grade school.

The board didn't make any decisions about the future of the district.

Light parade to open season

Vehicles of all shapes and sizes covered in bright colored lights will kick off Oberlin's holiday season Friday night with the Oberlin Business Alliance's annual Parade of Lights on Main Street.

The parade starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Decatur Co-op and will head up the street to the Good Samaritan Center. As of Monday, the alliance had 20 entries.

In the past, people have entered motorcycles, golf carts, trucks and even farm equipment decked in Christmas lights.

Anyone who wants to enter a float can call the Chamber of Commerce office at 475-3441 or Gary Walter at 475-3817 weekdays before 5 p.m.

Entries also will be taken Friday night.

The theme of this year's parade, chosen by second graders at Oberlin Elementary School, is "Santa's Light Express," and Don and Lois Fredrickson will be the parade marshals.

Rumor has it that Santa Claus will show up at the end of the parade and then meet with kids in the foyer of the courthouse after the parade. Stores will stay open until 8 p.m.

Before the big parade, the Oberlin Lions Club will have a soup supper to raise money for their scholarship program. It starts at 5 p.m. at the Golden Age Center.

The Last Indian Rain Museum will be open from 7 to 8 p.m. on Friday for the Christmas tree tour.

Ron Temple's Gospel Singers will perform at the museum and there will be refreshments.

Starting at 9 a.m. Saturday, the Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission will sponsor its 20th Holiday Arts and Crafts Show at The Gateway.

The show will have more than 80 booths, featuring everything from handmade candles to ornaments and more for sale. Lunch will be served and babysitting is available.

Turkey to be served for areawide dinner

Turkeys are roasting and pies baking as members of St. John's Lutheran Church gear up for the annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday.

The dinner will be served at noon in the basement of the church. Everyone is invited. There is no charge, but an offering will be taken. Before the meal, there will be a worship service at 10:30 a.m.

Any money left from donations will go to the Decatur County Food Pantry. Thrivent Financial will match that amount up to \$500.

The meal will be prepared by St. John's members and volunteers.

Salads and pies are still needed. Anyone who wants to volunteer to make one should call Peggy Groneweg at 475-1066.

Anyone who plans to attend should make a reservation by Tuesday by calling the same number. Meals will be packed for take-out or they can be delivered to those who cannot attend.

The county transportation bus will pick up people who need a ride.

The church and the PRIDE organization started the meal in the mid-1980s. The church took over the project later, and volunteers do the planning and preparation.

Electric user rates expected to increase

Electric rates will most likely go up, but the Oberlin City Council hasn't decided how much, when or what part of the fees will change.

At its meeting Thursday night, the council heard a report on electric service and costs. Gary Shike said the Kansas Municipal Energy Agency did a report on the electric service and the conclusion was that the city is \$140,000 short in the elec-

tric fund.

The city is breaking even on the price of acquiring the electricity, said Mr. Shike, but is no longer bringing in enough money to cover the transfers that are taken out of the account. Out of the revenue from the electrical service, the city transfers money to the funds for the library, The Gateway and special equipment.

The city has used the electric fund to help subsidize the other funds for years, Mr. Shike said.

The council agreed not to make any decisions until they can all read the whole report from the agency, which had just come in.

The council raised electric rates one penny per kilowatt hour this summer because they knew that the fund was going to be short. Mr.

Shike said the council decided to increase the rate to protect the fund until the study came back.

There will be some kind of increase, he said, but no one knows for sure what. They could increase the charge per kilowatt hour used, the meter charge or other rates.

Basically, this is happening, he said, because it costs more to buy power.

Stores to be closed

Most Oberlin businesses will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, so if you want to eat a meal away from home, you might want to join others for the community Thanksgiving Day dinner at noon at St. John's Lutheran Church.

Crossroads Express and Ampride will be open. Pizza Hut, Frontier Restaurant, Keeno's

Roadhouse, LandMark Inn, A & W Restaurant, the ReLoad and D & M Service plan to be closed, along with most stores and offices.

Raye's Grocery will be closed, as will *The Oberlin Herald*. Most, but not all, businesses will reopen on Friday.

* Workers serve at mission in Colorado

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eat dinner. The volunteers served hot food for six hours.

The outreach closed the block of Bannock Street from 11:30 a.m. to around 6 p.m. Long tables were set end to end in the middle of the street. At one end of the block was a stage where bands played praise and worship music.

One of the bands, Not by Sight, was from Oberlin. The group includes Mr. Davis, Rod and Nick Mathill, Barry Mayfield and Janelle and Vyril Sowers. They had come the farthest, since most of the other bands were from Colorado.

At the opposite end of the street were more tables set up end to end to form two large squares. One held dry food and the other clothes. Mr. Dewey said all of the food and clothes were donated by volunteers and food banks.

Within the first hour, all of the dry food had been selected and packed away in plastic bags.

Throughout the day, volunteers helped people go through the piles of clothes, looking for heavy coats, pants, sweaters and other things that

would fit.

Many found clothes for their kids; others, blankets and things that would fit them, mostly warm items for the winter.

Jesus to the World is open on a smaller scale six days a week for hot meals. Mr. Dewey said they serve around 100 to 150 people a day, with most eating two to three helpings.

Meals are served from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and on Sunday they have church in the small building at 10:30 a.m.

The church service, he said, is open to everyone.

Mr. Dewey said anyone can sign up to volunteer at Jesus to the World, as long as they are a Christian and belong to a church.

Pastor Rohm said he welcomes anyone who is interested in these outreaches to call him at (785) 675-3004 or e-mail rohm-family@ruraltel.net.

"Jesus came to set the captive free and proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord," said Pastor Rohm. "My heart is that His mission will always be our mission and why we go to Denver."

Eight applications in for director spot

Eight people have applied for the emergency management director's job with Decatur County, but the commissioners decided Tuesday, Nov. 8, they will hold off on making any decisions until they can draw up a job description.

Director Bert Cool announced at the end of October that he would be stepping down, although he will continue to work in dispatch.

The commissioners have discussed sharing a director with Sheridan County. The person hired would need an office in both courthouses and have a rotation for where

to work.

The job is part-time, and both counties have an opening.

There was no decision that sharing a director was the answer, but other counties have joined to hire one director. The state is encouraging a regional approach with extra money.

Commissioners decided to work on a job description before they interview any candidates. The three decided to go to the Sheridan County commissioners' meeting to discuss sharing a director, but a meeting hasn't been scheduled yet.

County purchases more chemicals

The Decatur County commissioners agreed Tuesday, Nov. 1, to have the noxious weed department buy another barrel of the herbicide Tordon to end the year.

Director Gaylen Huntley said they could make it through to the end of the year, but he might need just one more barrel.

Mr. Huntley said they are going to have to start doing something else with spraying in pastures. It has been hard on the trucks, even the new one the department bought.

Should they go to air spraying? asked Commissioner Doyle Brown.

Mr. Huntley said he has limited what the department does. For instance, he said, they don't do anything over 20 acres. Still, he said, the department sprays a lot of pasture.

It is hard on the trucks to just go check a pasture out, he said.

The group didn't make any decisions.

Mr. Huntley said he wants two big snow blowers to help move snow around the county buildings this winter. Now, he said, snowplows leave a little on the ground, so they

City wants roof bid

The Oberlin City Council asked the city administrator on Thursday to get another bid for a roof on the mechanical building at the swimming pool.

Administrator Gary Shike received two bids for a new roof, from Sappa Valley Construction for \$1,932 and from Bob Castle for \$3,840.

Mr. Shike said Kansas Department of Health and Environment required them to add a chlorine room to the house for well No. 10. Mr. Castle worked on the new well house and gave the city two bids for a new roof. Both included finishing the building. The first one was for a weather craft membrane roof at \$6,658, with \$4,069 of the bid being for the roof. With a metal roof, the bid to complete the building was \$4,869.



AT FREDRICKSON INSURANCE AGENCY, Abby Hissong placed a child's wish list on the Oberlin Jaycee's Angel Tree. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Wish lists decorate Angel Tree

Today is the last day to nominate kids for the Oberlin Jaycees' Angel Tree at Fredrickson Insurance.

As of Monday, 37 had been nominated for the tree and gifts for some have already been picked up by shoppers. There are still 20 left on the tree.

Anyone who wants to turn in a form nominating a child can give it to Abby Hissong at the insurance of-

rice. All presents need to be turned into the office by Saturday, Dec. 17.

Parents or guardians are asked to pick up the gifts on Monday, Dec. 19, or Tuesday, Dec. 20. If a family is unable to pick up the gifts, they will be delivered.

Anyone with questions can call Mrs. Hissong at 475-2696.

Board discusses closing policy

Superintendent Kelly Glodt asked if the Oberlin School District has a policy on how to handle classes when teams qualify for state competition.

When the volleyball team went to state, said Superintendent Kelly Glodt, the students already had the day off because of parent/teacher conferences, so they could choose to go to the games. He said the teachers who wanted to go or needed to

be there met with parents the night before.

If school isn't already closed that day, he asked, what is the policy? he asked. Is it uniform, or is it based on each activity, he said.

Board President Dewayne Jackson said each year in contract negotiations, the district and teachers agree on the number of student contact days. If school is called off each time a team goes to state, he said,

then student contact days might be an issue. On the other hand, he said, we want to support the kids.

A lot of teachers are gone when teams go to state, said board member Chris Bailey. So are kids, said member Barb Olson.

When the time comes and a team goes to state, said Mr. Glodt, he can just call each board member and get a consensus. The board didn't make any decisions.

District to get land from Jennings

With the closing of the Jennings School next year, the Oberlin School District should get land north of K-383, including the town of Dresden.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt told the school board last Monday that they had the right to accept or decline a petition to the state which

showed what land the district would get.

If the petition is accepted, he said, that means the board is saying OK to the plan. Oberlin, Hoxie and Norton School Districts will all get land with the closing.

Since Oberlin doesn't get any land in Jennings, he said, the district

probably wouldn't get any of the school equipment or buildings.

If there is money left, he said, it would be divided up among the districts proportionate to the land each is receiving. Oberlin will get slightly more land than Hoxie, he said.

The board approved the petition.

Recycling trailer stays full

In the last four months, Decatur County has delivered over 20,000 pounds of material to the center in Colby to be recycled, commissioners learned Tuesday, Nov. 8.

Jack Benton and County Clerk Marilyn Horn reported on the recycling effort. Mrs. Horn said the group in Colby told her most counties don't start out as strong as Decatur has.

Mr. Benton said the Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling Organization received a grant for \$93,600 to be used in Colby, Gove County, St. Francis, Bird City, Atwood and Oakley. If there is money left, Decatur County might get a baler and front end loader.

The group discussed opening a building in Oberlin, he said, and then they could move the trailer to Dresden, Jennings and Norcatur at different times. The trailer could be brought to Oberlin full and the material taken to Colby.

If a parking garage could be built for the vehicles in the old county shop, said Mrs. Horn, then it could become the recycling building.

Mr. Benton said the group in Colby is willing to work with the county to get the baler and other items.

Mrs. Horn said she went on a tour of recycling centers in the area. She said it made her realize that a building is needed for the winter months.

The old shop, said Mr. Benton, has the big door which would allow all types of vehicles to bring in recycling materials.

The regional group is looking into shredding important documents, which is being done in cities, said Mr. Benton. It would require a special mobile shredding machine.

There is a plastic shredder in Victoria that will take all kinds of plastics, said Mrs. Horn. In Colby, they can only handle a certain grade of plastic. Commissioner Ralph Unger asked about computer recycling. Mr. Benton said the biggest thing is there isn't a site yet to take them. It is expensive to take parts out of electronic devices to make it pay to recycle them, he said.

Bake sale to be today

When purchasing last-minute items for Thanksgiving dinner, don't forget to stop by the bake sale in front of Raye's Grocery today to pick up sweet bread, a pie or cake.

Money raised at the bake sale which starts at 3:30 p.m. will help pay for cornea transplant surgery for Timothy S. Davis. The bake sale is just a start of efforts to help raise the \$30,000 he needs to help restore his sight.

A group of women have joined forces to sell their favorite items at the bake sale, including sugar-free items.

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