

Woman wins money

Football contest ended last week

Pigskin Pick-em has its queen: She was the first weekly winner, and in 12 weeks, she picked 101 of 132 games right to win first place for the season.

Connie Grafel will receive a trophy and \$50 for picking the most winners. Although Dave Bergling, ad manager, planned to present both to Ms. Grafel on Monday, the snow storm delayed the presentation.

Ms. Grafel spent the first three weeks of the competition in the winner's circle. She started with first place the first week and then worked her way to third place over the next two weeks. Six weeks into the competition, she won second place for her picks.

Although she didn't pick enough games to be in the money after that, she had enough to keep her close to those who did take first, second and third, which left her with the overall most picks.

In a close second to Ms. Grafel was Rodney Solko, who picked 96 games over the 12 weeks. Following him was his sister, Kimberly Solko, who picked 94.

This is the first year The Oberlin Herald and sponsoring Oberlin merchants offered the contest. Dave Bergling, advertising manager, said the paper will probably do it again next fall.

Sponsors for the Pigskin Pick-em were Custom Trophy, Home Planning Center, Ward Drug Store, Raye's Grocery, Fredrickson Insurance Agency, Farm Credit of Western Kansas, the LandMark Inn, R&M Service Center, Prairie Petals, Wagner Chevrolet and *The Oberlin Herald*.

Food drive begins

Stanley Hardware kicked off its annual food drive on Friday.

Owner Joe Stanley said the store started holding the food drives seven years ago to collect donations for the needy. It always starts the day after Thanksgiving and runs until Saturday, Dec. 31.

Each year, the goal is 2,000 items which are donated to the Decatur County Food Pantry and stored in the basement of the United Church.

Anyone can donate to the drive by bringing food items into the store during open hours. Mr. Stanley said that the food bank needs about everything. The food bank, he said, is as low as it has ever been, and usage is going up.

The food bank accepts canned and dry food, paper products and personal hygiene items.

Mr. Stanley said all of the items brought in will be put in the south window of the store for everyone to see.



IN THE COURTHOUSE Friday Teague Morford (above) sat on Santa's lap and chewed on his glove. R&M Service Center (below) entered a lighted angel in the parade on Main Street to kick off the holiday season.

Crowd out for parade

Men, women and children lined Main Street on Friday night, waiting for the Oberlin Business Alliance's annual Parade of Lights.

Although there was a briskness in the night sky, a heavy jacket or a blanket took the chill off.

That brought more people than normal onto the streets for the parade.

Gary Walter, with The Bank, who organized the parade, said there were a lot of comments about the number of people downtown. The weather was good and it was a good show, he said. There was also good participation from those in the parade.

The alliance ended up with 23 entries, ranging from farm equipment to a motorcycle to kids singing on a float to others playing instruments.

First place went to Charles Godwin with his 1955 Studebaker pickup that was filled up with presents and a Christmas tree, second went to the Decatur Antique Guild with Santa, his sleigh and reindeer and third was a tie by Kenny Gee and Don Hagan and Sons with the 2005 Peterbilt tractor and The Bank's lighthouse lighting the



way. Mr. Walter said he has heard a lot of good comments from people at the parade who plan to have a float next year.

After the parade kids and parents

flooded into the first floor of the Decatur County Courthouse to see Santa Claus. Little ones climbed up on Santa's lap to ask for special items. Mr. Claus told the kids that he would see what he could do, but

didn't make any promises.

The Oberlin Lions Club handed provided candy for Santa to hand out to each of the kids who sat on his lap. Jack Benton, with club, said they handed out around 80 bags of candy to kids.

Agency will wait to do checks

The U.S. Farm Service Agency wants farmers to know no checks will be issued until all payment limitation and eligibility determinations are done.

That means all the required forms must be complete and turned in to the county office, said Diane Barrett, county executive director

for the agency.

The county committee or the farmer may initiate payment limitation and payment eligibility determinations. If the farmer requests the determination, it may be filed anytime before the final date for submitting form CCC-502, Farm Operating Plan for Payment Eligibility

Review.

Federal law requires that all entities — individuals, partnerships, joint operations, corporations, trusts, and others, provide names, addresses and identification numbers of all members to the county committee.

For details, stop by the county office or call 475-3131.

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County gets OK on audit

Decatur County commissioners heard that the county didn't have any budget violations in 2005 during an audit presentation on Tuesday, Nov. 15.

Steve Zodrow, with Mapes and Miller, said the county is doing a good job with its books. For the most part, he said, the county levied just enough in 2005 to pay for everything.

As he went through the audit, Mr. Zodrow said that the county has avoided going into debt. For the most part, he said, the county has saved money to buy equipment.

The ambulance service is collecting more money for services than it has in the past, he said. He said he thought more customers would pay their bills if the department used a computer program, Quick Books. It would make billing smoother, said Mr. Zodrow.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said he agreed that the ambulance department needs to use the billing program.

Mr. Zodrow said one thing commissioners need to be careful about is that Treasurer Jean Hale gets part of her salary from the special auto fund. Only so much of her salary can come out of that item, he said, and the county is coming close to taking too much out for her salary.

The rest of the salary will have to be taken out of the general fund, he said, so the county doesn't fall into a violation.

The commissioners approved the audit and gave Mr. Zodrow the OK to file copies with the state.

Council to discuss rates

The Oberlin City Council will discuss electric rates at their meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at The Gateway.

The council discussed the rates at the last meeting in November, but didn't make any decisions, although in order to make any money on the service, the rates will have to be raised. City Administrator Gary Shike said he isn't sure if the council will make any decisions at the meeting about the rates.

There will also be a pay request for the new well No. 12.

The meeting will be held upstairs in The Gateway.

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