

Feed yard marks 35 years of service with dinner, show

Around 152 customers celebrated the 35th anniversary of the Decatur County Feed Yard at a dinner and program at The Gateway on Friday night.

The feed yard was started in 1971 and has been growing, changing and improving ever since.

Owner Warren Weibert was host for the evening. Things kicked off with entertainer Red Steagall, who offered a prayer before the dinner line was started.

Mr. Steagall is a widely known western recording artist and radio personality.

Dinner included Sterling Silver prime rib, seasoned baby bakers, vegetable medley, dinner roll and dessert. The beef for the meal was provided by Cargill Meat Solutions, one of the yard's major customers. The other two sponsors for the evening were Micro Beef Technologies and Pfizer Animal Health.

Over dinner, many talked about their farms, businesses and homes, since there were people from all over at the celebration.

Cargill presented Mr. Weibert with a plaque for its Partners for Progress program for leadership and determination in the field. The Kansas Livestock Association also presented Mr. Weibert with an award for the 35 years of service the yard has provided.

Mr. Weibert said the operation received an award earlier in the day from Certified Angus Beef.

Pfizer Animal Health took a few minutes to hand out raffle items ranging from a ball cap to Denver Broncos tickets to a digital camera.

Before Mr. Steagall performed, there was an 18 minute video of history of Decatur Feed Yard from the last 35 years.

Before starting his performance, including cowboy poetry and singing, Mr. Steagall told a few jokes. He told the crowd that he believes we live in the best country, for the simple reason that we have the ability to own a piece of land.

About 40 people from the area who showed up for the Steagall show, which was open to the public.

Recent graduate joins teaching staff at the grade school

With a degree in elementary education from Kansas State University, Tim Thornton has joined the staff at Oberlin Elementary School for his first year of teaching.

Mr. Thornton heads up one of the fifth grade classes. He has 13 students in his home room and then 13 more who rotate into his class for social studies and English. So far, he said, things are going well and the kids are great.

Mr. Thornton said he grew up around education, since his dad was a superintendent and now is the director of the Northwest Kansas Education Service Center in Oakley. His mother also works at the center.

Before going to K-State, Mr. Thornton attended Colby Community College for two years, running

track, and received a mass communication degree.

He said no one event made him want to go into education; he just knew it was what he wanted to do.

Mr. Thornton said he likes western Kansas. In June, he came here to interview. He said he liked how the Oberlin School District uses technology in the classroom.

He said he really likes the town, the people and the administration here.

The school district, said Mr. Thornton, really left a good impression on him.

He moved here at the beginning of August and attends the United Church.

He said he raises and trains German Shorthair dogs and is an avid hunter and fisher.



T. Thornton

Businesses to close for holiday Monday

Most Oberlin businesses will be closed Monday for Labor Day, including federal, state, county and city offices, banks and financial institutions. Oberlin schools also will be closed.

Most offices and downtown business will be closed, though some restaurants and convenience stores will be open. There will be no sale at Oberlin Livestock Auction.

The Oberlin Herald will print a day late next week so our staff can have Monday off. Copies may be picked up on newsstands on Wednesday afternoon, with mail

delivery on Thursday in most areas.

The Herald office will be closed on Monday, but news and advertising may be placed in the slot on the front door or brought to the office by noon on Tuesday.

D&M Sinclair, A&W Restaurant, the Corner Cafe, Ampride, Crossroads Express and the Pizza Hut will be open on Monday. The LandMark Inn will be closed. The Frontier Restaurant was undecided.

Raye's Grocery will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday and Monday.



AT OBERLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL on Thursday, Haylee Hileman placed her hand (above) covered in blue paint inside a giant P as Principal Duane Dorshorst supervised. Mason Berry, Kole Breth and Kel Grafel (below) waited their turn.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Students sign with hands

Tiny hands dipped in red, blue, yellow or green paint put their marks on the wall north of Oberlin Elementary School on Thursday.

The hand prints of the 208 students stood as an agreement that the kids would try for excellence throughout the year.

Each year, the staff at the school paints the wall white and puts the word pride on it. Each letter stands for a different characteristic the staff challenges the kids to show throughout the year.

The P stands for politeness, R respect, I integrity, D discipline and E excellence.

The kids' pledge is a character development program, said Principal Duane Dorshorst. It reminds them that the five traits are characteristics to have. If the students have the first four, he said, then they will have an excellent life.



Mr. Dorshorst said this year, the staff also has challenged the kids to Dream Big. He said he told the students the motto for the year on the first day. They can't get anywhere if they don't Dream Big, he

told them. The faculty motto, said Mr. Dorshorst, is Big Dreams Start Here. Basically, he said, the students can dream as big as they want and

it is the teachers' job to get them there. The students' motto, he said, is painted over all of the doors in the school. That way the kids will be reminded of it all year long.

Hospital benefit raises almost \$15,000

The Decatur County Hospital benefit Aug. 19 at The Gateway raised \$14,924 before expenses from a golf tournament, dinner and a silent auction.

The tournament saw 109 golfers on 27 teams at the Oberlin Country Club first thing in the morning to start playing, with the last one finishing just before dinner.

Winners of the tournament were Kurt and Becky Vollertsen and Dick and Suzanne Ahlberg. Bringing up the rear was the First National Bank team made up of Marilyn and Barney Noone, Alvera Bruggemann and Anita Ketterl.

The prime rib dinner drew 184

guests with three people winning raffle items from the hospital. Mike McKenna won a Weber grill, Dave Olson, a two-ball putter and Linda Fitsimmons of Lebanon, Neb., a digital camera.

Hospital Administrator Lynn Doeden said the tournament went very well, other than it is very time

consuming. Nine hours of golf is a lot of golf; that was the big complaint. She said they haven't had their wrap-up meeting yet, so she doesn't know if anything will be changed. She said she thinks the hospital will receive close to their goal of \$10,000 after all of the bills are paid.

School needs volunteers for Body Walk

Volunteers are needed to help set up, take down and help kids tour the Body Walk, which is coming to Oberlin Elementary School on Wednesday, Sept. 20.

The 35-by-40-foot exhibit allows students to walk through and learn about the human body, learning how to eat smart, play hard and be

healthy, said Jo Mason, school nurse.

It was designed and created by the State Department of Education's nutrition services.

The kids will get a tour led by the Power Panther, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's food and nutrition mascot.

Mrs. Mason said she is looking for volunteers to help set up the Body Walk, take it down and then spend the day at the school helping with the tours.

Anyone who is interested should call her at 475-2122 or 475-2231.

The Body Walk was exhibited at the school a few years ago, she said,

and with the help of parents and others, each of the stations in the walk was manned.

Students enter a giant ear and walk into the brain. Then they go to the mouth, the esophagus, stomach, small intestine, heart, lungs, muscle, bone and skin stations.

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 it will be Saturday, September 9

Internet tonight! Call 475-2206!!