

## Getting crafty at The Gateway



**AT THE HOLIDAY Arts and Crafts Show on Saturday at The Gateway, Glema Macy of Lebanon, Neb., gave Doris Black some embroidery pointers. The annual show, spon-**

sored by the Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission, lasted all day.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

# Co-op manager plans to retire, marry, go home

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**

After 12 years as general manager of the Decatur Cooperative Association and 34 in the farming business, Karol Evans plans to retire this month, move to Nebraska and get married.

Mr. Evans, 62, came to the Decatur Co-op on Dec. 5, 1994, replacing John Juenemann as general manager. Before that, he said, he was manager of the Lenora Mercantile Co-op from 1981 to 1994.

In the early '80s, he said, he went to general manager's school after being recruited by Farmland Industries. Before becoming the general manager in Lenora, he was manager of an elevator in Nebraska.

Mr. Evans said his parents, who live in Madrid, Neb., are farmers, so he has been around the business his entire life.

As the general manager, he said, he oversees daily operations for the Co-op, which include working with a staff of 38 full- and part-time employees at seven locations.

Most of the years that he has worked at the Co-op have been profitable, said Mr. Evans, with the exception of the year that Farmland went under and they had to write off Decatur Co-op's ownership share in the supplier. Other than that, he said, the association made money every year.

Last year, he said, the co-op rebounded pretty strongly from the worst years of the drought, with net earnings of over \$940,000, but this year they took in half a wheat crop and half a fall crop, so who knows what will happen.

The biggest factor has been the drought, which forced the association to cut back expenses and payroll. Mr. Evans said the co-op is getting back to where it was, but this year it might be a struggle to make a profit.

Since he took over as general manager, he said, they have added elevators in Herndon and Ludell, built a fertilizer plant in the Lenora area and leased the fertilizer department in Colby with the co-op there.

Mr. Evans said when he reached age 62 and had 34 years of service in the retirement plan, he started to look at his options. He is a Vietnam veteran, serving in the Army for three years.

His plan, he said, was to retire at the end of December, and his last day at work will be Friday, Dec. 15. The next day, he plans to marry Kay Koertner, a special education teacher. The two will make their home in Hastings, Neb., where she lives and works.

The couple plans a honeymoon to Disney World in Florida and a cruise to the Bahamas.

Mr. Evans said he was born in Nebraska lived there until about 25 years ago, so moving back won't be a problem.

After retirement, he said, he isn't worried about getting bored.

"I'm not short on hobbies," he said, adding that those include fishing, hunting, bowling, golf and "just about everything else."

"I probably won't be retired long," he added.

Mr. Evans said he thinks he is going to miss working, and once he gets settled in Hastings, he said he might be looking for something. He said he has to decide what he wants to do.

Mr. Evans' spot at the Co-op will be filled by Doug Claussen, who is already working at the office in Oberlin.

He is coming into a good location, said Mr. Evans. Maybe the area will come out of the drought, and that will get the economy rolling again.



Karol Evans

## Winners get cash in Christmas contest

Two women claimed \$50 instant prizes last week after finding their ticket numbers in the "Christmas on Us" ads in *The Oberlin Herald*.

That's right, the Christmas season is here, which means Oberlin merchants' annual "Christmas on Us" promotion has kicked off.

Each week, up until 10 people win or the big drawing on Saturday, Dec. 16, people can look for their ticket numbers in the four pages of ads inserted into *The Herald* to see if they are instant winners.

The first to claim her prize was Evelyn Clapper with ticket No. 9037732, which she got at the Carpet Center. Ms. Clapper said she bought new carpet after the promotion started, netting her 250 tickets. She said she plans to use the prize, paid in scrip spendable only at sponsoring merchants, for Christmas presents.

The second to claim her prize was Sharon Wolfram with the ticket No. 590345 from Ward Drug Store. She said she plans to use the money to buy Christmas presents and will spend some at the Dresser.

Tickets that weren't claimed came from Ampride, Raye's Grocery, Rocking R and Stanley Hardware.

There are two weeks left for the contest. This week, there are six instant winner numbers in the ads.

By the end of the promotion *The Herald* and merchants will have given away \$2,500, including the \$1,500 grand prize and \$500 first prize.

People enter in the giveaway by shopping with participating sponsors, who will give them one free ticket for each \$10 they spend. You also can stop by the Chamber of Commerce or newspaper office to

get one free ticket each week. No purchase is necessary to win, but there is a limit of 250 tickets for any one transaction.

At the end of the promotion, if some of the instant money hasn't been claimed, it will be given away before the main prizes at the big drawing on Saturday, Dec. 16, at Centennial Park.

Following the giveaway will be a soup supper sponsored by the Oberlin Business Alliance at the former Flowers by Lee store on the east side of Main Street. At 2 p.m., the alliance will give away \$1,000 at the same place.

All winning tickets must be presented at the Christmas on Us drawing to claim a prize. Winners agree to have their pictures taken for the newspaper and be interviewed, and must provide tax information.

Employees of *The Oberlin Her-*

*ald* and their immediate family members aren't allowed to win. Employees of sponsors aren't allowed to get tickets at their place of business. Winners have to be 18 or older.

Remember, if a clerk forgets to give you a ticket, the shopper should remind them. If this happens, you are entitled to one extra ticket.

Sponsors of the promotion this year include Culligan Water Conditioning, the LandMark Inn, The Bank, R&M Service Center, Shear Creations West and Day Spa, Raye's Grocery, Ampride, Hansen's Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning, Southwest Implement, Dale's Fish 'N' Fun, Home Planning Center, the Carpet Center, the Dresser, Prairie Petals, Addleman Drug Store, Rocking R, Flowers by Lee, Stanley Hardware and Ward Drug Store.

## Oberlin theater to show 'R' rated movie

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**

The Sunflower Cinema board will try something new this weekend, showing an R-rated movie geared at an older generation.

Bev Reiter, a member of the theater board, said they plan to show "Flags of Our Fathers," about the Marines who helped raise the U.S. flag over Iwo Jima.

It'll be the first R-rated movie the theater has shown, she said, and the film is geared at an older crowd.

The movie, said Ms. Reiter, is more or less based on fact. It is about a man trying to get his father's story across. His father is one of the men

in the famous picture of the Marines raising the American flag over the Japanese-held island.

Ms. Reiter said the board doesn't actually pick the movies shown at the volunteer-run theater. They have a booking agent in Independence, who actually picks the movies. Ms. Reiter said she has e-mailed him and asked about movies, but the agent actually chooses the films that are shown here.

Ms. Reiter said "Flags of Our Fathers" has done well at a lot of the smaller towns. It will show at 7 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday.

The booking agent recently

booked a first-run movie for the cinema, a cartoon feature called "Flushed Away." Ms. Reiter said it was the first first-run movie the theater has had, which means the movie was just released. She said she was told that the movie needed to run for three nights for two weekends in a row.

Ms. Reiter said that is what they did, though the cinema usually has only two showings a week. She doesn't know if the theater will get any more first-run movies right away.

The board, she said, is trying to raise money for work needed on the

sound system. The Thrivent Financial for Lutherans held a pancake supper for the theater, but Ms. Reiter said she isn't sure how much was raised.

A year and half ago, she said, they worked on the sound system, but it is having problems again. The board has received complaints that the sound is fuzzy.

Ms. Reiter said the board is still looking for people to learn how to set up films and run the projector. They are pretty well set on the other volunteers, she said.

## Child advocate suggests mentoring program

The Oberlin School Board learned a little about the Big Brothers Big Sisters program in Norton County which promoters would like to start in Decatur County.

Mary Kay Woodyard, a representative from the organization, talked to the board at a meeting last Monday night. She said they have had the program in Norton for six years, but she is still surprised at how many kids are considered at risk of failure. About 200 children in Norton County qualify for the program, she said.

Children have to be between 5 and 17 years old to qualify, she said. Many have a single-parent home with little or no contact with the other parent. Each student, or "little," is paired with an adult, or "big," who spends time with them. Mrs. Woodyard said they re-

ceived a grant to help introduce the program into Decatur and Graham counties.

Although the program is affiliated with the Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters out of Wichita, she said, all of the money raised here stays here. Normally, said Mrs. Woodyard, the children are recommended for the program through the schools. Studies have shown that kids who have mentors are a lot less likely to do drugs or use alcohol.

"We pretty much want you to know that we are here," she said, "and we want to come into your community and set up bigs and littles."

The program has strict rules for background checks for bigs, which includes interviewing each one. She said they also interview the littles.

It is amazing how bigs come into

the program, she said; many just want to volunteer, while others join because someone talked to an organization they are in.

Mrs. Woodyard said she believes all kids need to have someone who is there just for them.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt asked if all of the volunteers are

matched one to one with a kid or are there lots of kids and one volunteer.

Mrs. Woodyard said the program is set up right now so that it is one on one. That extra attention is good for the children, she said.

She said she would come talk to any groups the board suggested about the program.

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