

Elevators full to brim with crops

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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Timely rains and ideal weather over the last year led to bumper crops in both summer and fall, filling elevators to the brim and keeping workers busy storing grain on the ground.

Fall harvest in Decatur County is pretty much over, elevator operators say, although there are a handful of farmers still picking corn and cutting milo and sunflowers.

With the amount of grain in the fields this fall, most elevators in the county have had to store some of the crops on the ground.

Dalene Horton, grain merchandiser at the Decatur Co-op office in Oberlin, said the firm brought in 1,720,000 bushels of corn and 880,000 bushels of milo at all of its six locations combined. They also took in sunflowers, she said, adding that she didn't have a number on that crop. A lot of people, she said, sold the sunflowers right away and the crops were shipped out.

With a large summer wheat crop, she said, the co-op tried to order trains in every week to move those crops out of the elevator and get ready for the fall harvest, but the rail shipments fell behind. When fall harvest started, she said, they didn't have as much room in the elevators as they wanted, with some bins still full of wheat.

The co-op started to store grain on the ground, she said. In order to get the corn and milo off the ground, said Ms. Horton, they take a loader and scoop it back into a truck and then unload the grain into an elevator. They then would load the rail cars from the elevator.

The grain on the ground, she added, is the last to get shipped out because there has to be room made in the elevator to get it onto a truck or train to ship.

There are three to four people in the Danbury area still harvesting, said Ms. Horton, and a few people trickling into other elevators, too.

Ms. Horton said this harvest was so much better than previous years it's overwhelmed the firm's storage capacity.

At Hansen-Mueller Grain in Oberlin, Janice O'Hare said they still have a few farmers bringing in

Train to move grain

The Decatur Co-op plans to get a train in sometime this week to finish up all of the grain cars it ordered for October.

Dalene Horton, grain merchandiser at the Oberlin elevator, said it isn't uncommon for the railroads to get behind during wheat harvest and catch up as late as February or March.

With such a large wheat harvest this year, she said, the co-op tried to get trains in every week with about 26 cars each time. That didn't happen, and shipments got behind before fall harvest hit.

With the train this week, when it arrives, though, the co-op will have received all of the cars ordered through the end of October. That still puts the railroad several weeks behind, she said.

A week or so later, Ms. Horton added, cars ordered for November should start arriving.

She said the co-op constantly watches the market to decide when and where to ship, and they have to order rail cars a month in advance.

The co-op uses the rails to ship wheat and some corn out of six elevators. Other elevators in the county, including D&S Grain, Norcat Grain and Hansen Mueller, don't use the railroad to ship grain anymore.

A call was placed to the line serving Oberlin, the Nebraska, Kansas & Colorado Railway, but no one called back.

grain. At the two locations, Oberlin and Cedar Bluffs, they have around 1,750,000 bushels of milo and corn total, which includes two bunkers in (See GRAIN on Page 10A)

Church planning Thanksgiving feed

Turkey, ham, potatoes, dressing, gravy, salads and pies are all on the menu again this year for the annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner at St. John's Lutheran Church.

The community dinner started in the mid-1980s with the Oberlin PRIDE organization and the church, said Teresa Diederich. Although PRIDE no longer exists, volunteers at St. John's have kept the dinner going.

The meal is held Thanksgiving Day in the basement of the church, 510 N. Wilson.

Marvin May, who is heading the dinner up this year, said someone

asked him more than a year ago if he had ever been in charge of the dinner, and he admitted he hadn't. This will be his second year in the spotlight.

The dinner, which starts at noon on Thanksgiving, is open to anyone who wants to come, he said. There is no charge, said Mr. May, although they ask for a donation to pay the expenses. Any money left after that is donated to the Decatur County Food Pantry.

Last year, said Mr. May, they served 124 people and he has been told to anticipate at least 10 more (See DINNER on Page 10A)

Businesses show merchants around

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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Around 25 people took the opportunity to see what stores in Oberlin have to offer for Christmas on Sunday, zipping around the town on the annual Business-to-Business tour.

Some stores already had Christmas decorations up while others offered light figures and other items to decorate a home or business.

The tour, sponsored by the Oberlin Business Alliance, started at the Chamber of Commerce office in the Business Entrepreneurial Enhancement Center before heading up to Dale's Fish 'N' Fun on U.S. 36, where people looked at tennis shoes, clothing and some hunting

supplies.

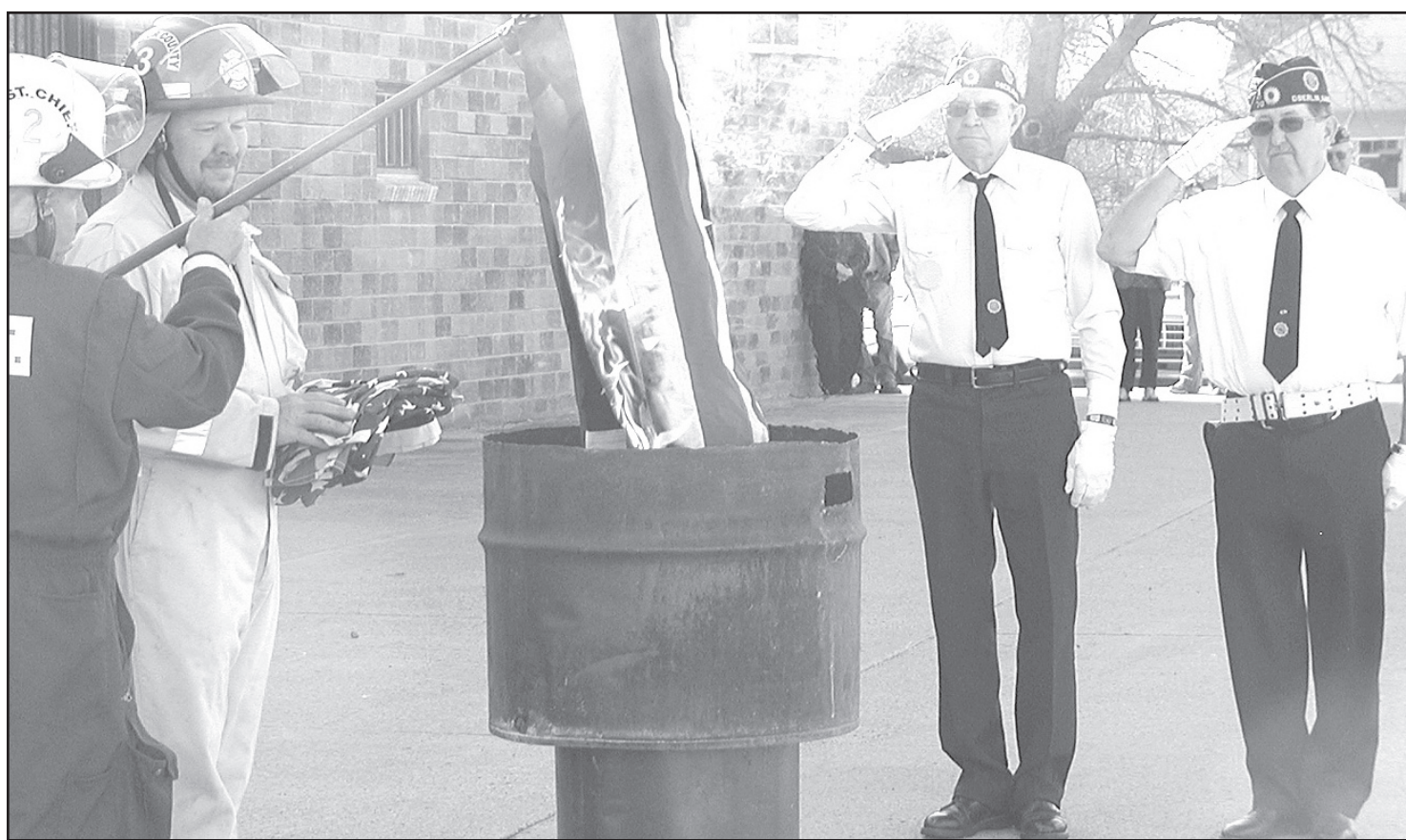
Those on the tour milled around through the aisles, some mentioning that they didn't know the store offered athletic shoes.

Down the road, the crew, split into six or seven vehicles, stopped at the Ampride convenience store.

Manager Marvin Slabaugh said they have coffee cups for sale for \$5. Each comes with five free refills.

The store also offers Daylight Donuts on Tuesday through Saturday, he said, but you need to get there early if you want any. Ampride sells pop, cappuccino, sandwiches and the new energy drinks, along with gift items, he said.

(See STORE on Page 10A)



ON VETERANS' DAY in Oberlin, American Legion members retired several American flags. Sid Metcalf and Vernon Diederich (above) salute the first flag burned in a large barrel by volunteer firemen — and Legion members — Jerry Stein and Larry Ayers. Walt Pennell (below) held a flag during the ceremony. — Herald staff photos by Kim Davis

Old flags honored at service

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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The sun shined brightly on the honor guard, dressed in navy blue pants, white button-up shirts, ties, hats and white gloves, as they gathered just south of the Oberlin American Legion just before 3 p.m. on Sunday, talking a little as they prepared.

It was Veterans' Day, and the red, white and blue flag Walt Pennell carried seemed to fly just a little higher.

The men got into position as the ceremony to retire a full box of worn and tattered American flags began.

Vernon Diederich and Sid Metcalf walked to the post first vice commander, second vice commander and commander to assure them that the flags had been inspected and were ready to be honorably retired.

Col. Gary Allen (Ret.), filling in as the commander, read the opening lines of the ceremony: "Comrades, we have presented here these flags of our country, which have been inspected and condemned as unserviceable. They have reached their present state in proper service of tribute, memory and love."

"A flag may be a flimsy bit of printed gauze or a beautiful banner of finest silk. Its intrinsic value may be trifling or great, but its real value is beyond price, for it is a precious symbol of all that we and our comrades have worked for and lived for and died for — a free nation of free men and women, true to the faith of the past, devoted to the ideals and practice of Justice, Freedom and Democracy."

"Let these faded flags of our (See FLAGS on Page 10A)



Elementary students honor veterans

Students at the Oberlin Elementary School honored area veterans Monday afternoon with special events for Veterans Day.

The sixth graders said they wanted their program to not only honor veterans but teach their fellow students a little bit more about the special day.

The holiday, said Kyle Breth, is to honor all servicemen and women who served in any branch of the military. The celebration, said Konner Fortin, used to be called Armistice Day.

In 1921, said Kyle, the remains of an unknown soldier were buried at Arlington National Cemetery at what is now called the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

In 1954, said Mr. Fortin, the name of the holiday was changed from Armistice Day to Veterans' Day to include all the nation's wars.

The sixth graders told about how to fold an American flag and the meaning behind each fold. Two sets of two students stood,

(See KIDS on Page 10A)



SIXTH GRADERS Konner Fortin and Hannah May demonstrated the right way to fold a flag at the Oberlin Elementary School Veterans Day program Monday afternoon.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis



AT KFNF RADIO last week, Adam Kadavy talked on the air. He and Sheriff Ken Badsy, a part-time sports announcer, recently won the Media of the Year award from

the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association for their live broadcasts of the Decatur Community High sports.
— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Announcers honored for sports coverage

Two sports announcers with KFNF Radio of Oberlin received the Media of the Year award from the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association for their work last year and this.

Adam Kadavy, morning show host, sports director and account executive with KFNF, and Ken Badsy, Decatur County sheriff and part-time sports announcer, heard recently that they won the award for their live broadcasts.

Coaches across the state picked

both Mr. Kadavy and Mr. Badsy for the award. This is the first time for either to receive this honor.

Mr. Kadavy, who works full-time at the station west of town, said he has been doing the live broadcasts since he was hired three years ago.

Originally from Belleville, Mr. Kadavy went to Colby Community College, where he received an associate's degree in applied science.

With the job, he said, he travels

to broadcast football, volleyball and wrestling. He said he has known about the award since July, adding that he was honored that he was chosen. He said he didn't know they were being considered for the award, so it came as a surprise.

Mr. Badsy said he has done live sports broadcasts for the last seven years, working with Stan McEvoy, Marvin Matchett, Dustin Armbruster, Chris Almack and now Mr. Kadavy.

Mr. Badsy said he used to coach wrestling and he wanted to stay active in the sport. Announcing it on live radio has helped him do that. He said he didn't know they had been nominated by the wrestling coaches, but was happy when he found out the two had been selected for the award.

The two men each received a plaque. The awards were handed out at the coaches annual convention in Salina.

*Store owners show off wares at tour

(Continued from Page 1A)

The store, he said, also has a drawing every two weeks for \$20 in gas. If someone stops and buys gas, they need to go inside and sign the receipt to enter in the drawing.

Across the street, the group stopped at Crossroads Express, where they looked at the gift ideas, everything from stuffed animals to DVDs and books.

Downtown, the tour stopped at Raye's Grocery, then headed on foot. Julie McChesney said Raye's is offering gift certificates this year for either \$15 or \$25. They also have nut, fruit and other gift trays.

At Ward Drug Store, the front of the store featured all sizes and kinds of snowmen for sale, from big ones that stand up to little ones that hang on a tree.

Owner Kurt Vollertsen said they now offer a digital photo processing and printing kiosk. People can print pictures or make them into Christmas cards, post cards and other things, he said.

The digital pictures can either be brought in on disk or sent from a home computer. People can send photos from out of town to the store for printing, and someone here can pick them up, said co-owner Becky Vollertsen.

At the Dresser, Manager Karen Metcalf said they have some University of Kansas purses and other items but sold the Kansas State University items. The store also has a new line of purses.

Down the street at Ray Jewelry, the group listened to the several clocks on the wall that play music at certain times. Owner Vicky Ray said she is getting more in.

Next door at the Home Planning Center, people milled around downstairs looking at the handmade items

and collectibles. Others stayed upstairs, checking out the different tools and things to decorate with.

Back down the street at Addleman Drug Store, owner Rusty Addleman said they have instant snow this year. It comes in little packets and people can buy a shovel full or a bucket full. The instant snow is white and actually feels wet and cold to touch, he said.

The store also has a wide variety of Christmas cards on display.

Back down the street at Cabin Antiques, the sign in the window which says, "Free Coffee Tomorrow" came true, as the owners had coffee and cookies for those on the tour.

The store, which has a main floor, upstairs and downstairs, sells antiques, from furniture to door knobs to dishes and much more.

Next door at Stanley Hardware, owner Joe Stanley showed a new computer program where someone can take a picture of the room they want to paint and bring it in. The picture is put on the computer and then the customer can select the wall color, so the customer can see what the room will look like in that color.

At Oberlin Mercantile, people looked at greeting cards, ornaments, collectibles and all kinds of mixes.

Finally, at the Last Indian Raid Museum "Seeds of Creation" gift shop, people looked at history books, books by area authors, and consignment items from local crafters.

At the end of the tour, many of the people headed to the American Legion Hall for a fund-raising pancake and sausage feed. Legion officials said it was the best crowd they'd had in a long time for the event.

*Grain fills bins

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Oberlin and one in Cedar Bluffs.

In Traer, Dan Grafel, co-owner of D&S Grain and Cattle Co., said the average yield in the area was 95 bushels per acre for dryland corn, which is really good.

There have been years that were better, but in those years there weren't as many acres that did this well.

There were a lot of good crops this year, he said.

There is still some corn to be picked north of Traer in Nebraska,

said Mr. Grafel, and east toward Danbury, but right around Traer people are done.

Clint Johnson, manger of Norca-tur Grain, said they also have a few people still harvesting. The elevator brought in 400,000 bushels of corn and 170,000 bushels of milo, which filled the elevator, and they are storing grain on the ground.

Mr. Johnson said it seems everyone is happy with the way harvest turned out. One guy in the Norca-tur area is still cutting, he said, but everyone else is finished.

*Flags retired on Veterans Day

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country be retired and destroyed with respectful and honorable rites and their places be taken by bright new flags of the same size and kind, and let no grave of our soldier, sailor or airman dead be unhonored and unmarked. Sergeant-at-arms, assemble the color guard, escort the detail bearing the flags and destroy the flags by burning."

After a prayer by the chaplain, the men walked toward a large metal barrel where two volunteer firemen, Jerry Stein and Larry Ayers, both

Legion members themselves, had started a blaze. Each flag was placed in the fire separately on a long metal pole while the Legionnaires stood at attention.

Col. Allen said the idea of the flag retirement ceremony for Veterans' Day came up at a Sons of the Legion and Auxiliary meeting about a month ago. He said they had several flags that needed to be retired.

Normally, he said, they will perform the ceremony as needed, waiting until they have around 20 flags to retire. The Legion, he said, can

perform the ceremony as requested by other organizations, too.

Col. Allen said the ceremony, from the national American Legion handbook, is the best way to retire the flag with honor. People can bring in old, worn flags any time, he said, adding that a worn-out flag should never be thrown in the trash.

Normally, he said, the commander or vice commander at the Legion post looks at the flags to verify that they need to be retired. Col. Allen said usually it is easy to tell, since the flags are shredded or faded.

People normally don't get rid of a flag until it is past due, he added, and they haven't ever had to return one. Col. Allen said since it was Veterans' Day, the post decided to do the ceremony as a way to recognize the holiday. There wasn't anything else planned in town, he said, and they had enough flags stored up.

*Kids honor military personnel

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each with a flag. Members of the class each talked about a fold as the two sets did as they were told. The first fold is a symbol of life, the student said, as the teams brought the striped half up over the blue field.

The second fold stands for belief in eternal life, the student said, and the kids folded the flags in half again.

The third is in "honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks, who gave a portion of life for the defense of our country to attain a peace throughout the world," said Chris Anderson.

The fourth is for "our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God; it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in times of war for His divine guidance," said Nick Ashley.

The fifth is a tribute to the country, said Ashley Witt, as Commodore Stephen Decatur said, "Our country; in dealing with other countries may she always be right; but still our country, right or wrong."

The sixth fold, said the student, is where our hearts lie.

The seventh is a tribute to the Armed Forces, said Jamie Soderlund; it is the Armed Forces that

protect the country and the flag against all enemies.

At the end, the students noted, only a piece of blue is left, and that is to be tucked inside.

The flag then takes on the appearance of a three-cornered hat, said Emma Borton. That reminds people of the first soldiers who served under Gen. George Washington, said Brittany Urban.

After the recitation of the poem "Freedom is Not Free," the audience watched a slide show with pictures of students' relatives who serve in the military and of other veterans in the county.

*Dinner set for Thanksgiving

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this year. He said the volunteers will cook eight turkeys, six hams and 50 pounds of potatoes, plus dressing and gravy.

Actually, said Mr. May, Raye's Grocery will cook the turkeys and debone them. They will then give the broth to Peggy Groneweg, who will make the gravy and dressing.

Volunteers from around town bring in homemade pies and salads,

said Mr. May. The hams are pre-cooked and 50 pounds of potatoes is nothing, he said, adding that he used to be in the military.

Actually, he said, they need people to volunteer to bring the pies and salads. Anyone who wants to bring something in should call either him at 475-2443 or Teresa Diederich at 475-3525.

Mr. May said people who want to come eat can make reservations by calling him or Mrs. Diederich,

although they take walk-ins and will serve food until people stop coming, which in the past has been around 1:30 p.m.

They will also deliver food to people who can't get out. Terry Keahey will be in charge of the delivering, Mr. May said. Anyone who needs a ride can call, and they will send someone to pick people up and take them to the church.

St. John's will have a worship service at 10:30 a.m.

Telethon request letters due today

Today is the deadline to apply for money from the 2008 Seeds of Hope Telethon.

A month ago, letters went out to clubs and organizations around the county asking if they wanted to apply for money raised during the event.

Those organizations were asked to mail in a letter stating what the group does and what they would

use the money for. Those letters had to be mailed to Seeds of Hope Telethon, Box 305 Oberlin, Kan. 67749.

Members of the telethon organization will vote on the letters and notify recipients by early December.

Groups chosen to receive money will need to provide one person to answer the phones for an hour during the event, one person to be

interviewed about the group and possibly a treat for the snack bar.

The telethon is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 2, at The Gateway. Anyone interested in volunteering at the telethon or who wants to donate an item for the auction can contact one of the committee members: Jack Benton, Bill Duncan, Regina Stanley, Brenda Ulery, Peg Smith, Kristi Smith or Kimberly Davis.

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Featuring 80 Booths

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This event sponsored by the Oberlin Arts & Humanities Commission