

## 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.

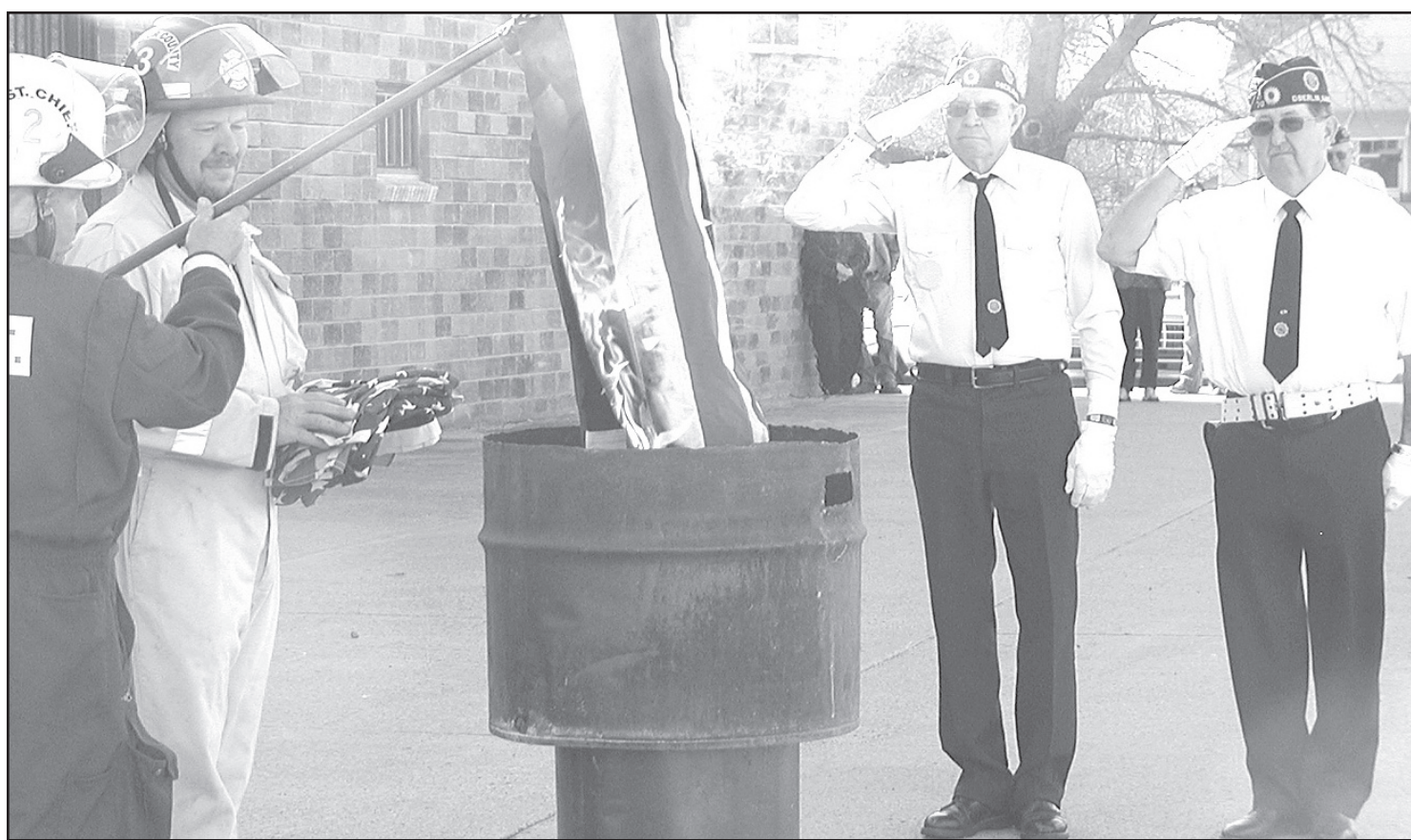
Those on the tour milled around through the aisles, some mentioning that they didn't know the store offered athletic shoes.

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