



CAROLYN BURTIS (above) touched the woodwork around her bathroom mirror as she gave a small pre-tour of her home which is on the Decatur Professional Women's Holiday Home Tour Sunday. A handmade nativity scene (below) sits in one of the Burtis rooms.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Homes on tour Sunday

Four Oberlin homes, decorated to the eaves for the holidays, will open Sunday afternoon for the Decatur Professional Women's annual Holiday Homes Tour.

Each year, the club asks three or four area families to open their homes for the tour. The group charges \$12 for tickets, which cover the tour and a soup-and-dessert supper following it. Money raised during the tour is used in May for scholarships for graduating seniors from Decatur Community High School and older women who are going back to college.

The group tries to give three to four scholarships each year. On the tour, people have the chance to see different styles of



decorating, learn the history of each home and sometimes its owners and see Christmas decorations.

This year, the four homes are those of Jerry and Melissa Chambers at 809 W. Columbia, LaVern and Carolyn Burtis at 301 W. Adams, Tom and Barbara Mullen at 512 N. Penn and Bill and Connie Riedel at 211 N. Rodehaver.

The afternoon will include the

Christmas Tree Tour at the Last Indian Raid Museum.

The tour starts at 2 p.m. at the United Church, 109 N. Griffith. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time at the Dresser or at the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce office.

Following the tour, everyone is invited back to the church for supper.

Telethon gives funds to groups

Nineteen county organizations will receive money from the 2008 Seeds of Hope Telethon.

Committee members met last month and read letters from the groups asking for money from the annual telethon, then voted on the groups. Seventeen were chosen to get a full share of the money raised, with two organizations receiving half a share each.

The groups include Oberlin Teens for Christ, the Decatur County Museum, the City of Jennings, City of Norcat, Kansas for Life, Oberlin Area Concert Band, Oberlin Lions Club, Salvation Army, Relay for Life, the Decatur County Ministerial Association, Tripple Creek Riders, Decatur Professional Women,

Oberlin Girl Scouts, Creative Movements Gymnastics, Awana's Club, Golden Age Center and the Decatur County Fair board.

The Decatur County Summer Recreation Program and FROGS summer day camp will split one share, with each receiving half of what the other groups get.

Last year, the telethon was able to give \$650 each to 18 organizations in the county.

Each recipient is responsible for providing one person to be interviewed during the telethon, one person to answer the phones for an hour and something for the snack bar.

The groups asked for the money to help pay for things like a new roof

on the Norcat City Building, renovating the Jennings Community Building, sheet music, gymnastics equipment and training, to help with scholarships for students and even to help build a new senior center in Oberlin.

The telethon is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 2, at The Gateway.

Anyone who wants to perform during the telethon should call Kimberly Davis or Kristi Smith at 475-3510. People who want to donate an item for the auction or volunteer during the event can contact any of the committee members: Jack Benton, Bill Duncan, Regina Stanley, Brenda Ulery, Peg Smith, Miss Smith, Mrs. Davis and Tim Davis.

Two men win scrip money instantly

Two more instant winners claimed \$50 in scrip money last week during the Oberlin Merchants Christmas on Us promotion.

Dave Schissler brought in ticket No. 596121, which he got at Ward Drug Store. Mr. Schissler said he would probably spend the money on Christmas.

Frank McEvoy brought in ticket No. 821055, which he got at Ampride. He said he might spend the money on gas or groceries.

Tickets in the ads that went unclaimed included No. 140060 from Ultimate Fertilizer, 263527 from the American Legion, 611643 from R&M Service Center and 250836 from Raye's Grocery.

The week before, Jerry Miller and Elaine Bryan brought in winning tickets.

That leaves six instant prizes up for grabs and two more weeks to win.

Numbers of the tickets are printed in ads that run in the Christmas on Us section each week. New ticket numbers are picked each week and winners have until 5 p.m. on Friday to claim their prizes. The scrip money can be spent at participating businesses only.

Any instant prizes that aren't claimed by Saturday, Dec. 15, will be given away before the big drawing at the gazebo in Centennial Park.

On Saturday, Dec. 15, the first and grand prizes of \$500 and \$1,500 in scrip money will be given away. The winner has to be present to win and has to show the winning ticket.

In case of bad weather, an alternate location will be announced later. Anyone 18 and older can collect the tickets at sponsoring businesses. For every \$10 spent at a participating store, a shopper will get one ticket.

People can also pick up one ticket a week at the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce office or at the newspaper without making a purchase, so no purchase is necessary to win. Shoppers can only receive 250 tickets for any one transaction.

All winners of the "Christmas on Us" promotion agree to be interviewed by *The Herald* and have their picture taken, and winners of major prizes must provide their tax information.

Employees of *The Oberlin Her-*

ald and their immediate families are not eligible to win. Employees of sponsors aren't allowed to get tickets at their place of business.

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

All of the money has to be spent at sponsoring businesses, including Addleman Drug Store, Stanley Hardware, Ward Drug Store, Land-Mark Inn, the Sons of the American Legion (tickets available at the American Legion Hall), Southwest Implement Inc., The Carpet Center, D&M Sinclair and A&W, Dale's Fish 'N' Fun, Rocking R, Ray Jewelry, the Bank, Raye's Grocery, R&M Service Center, Culligan Water Conditioning Co., Prairie Petals, the Dresser, Stellar Sales, Decatur Co-op Association, Ultimate Fertilizer and Home Planning Center.

Director to buy new tires

The Decatur County commissioners authorized the emergency preparedness director to buy four tires for the 2000 Ford Expedition she drives.

Director Patti Skubal said the vehicle, used for four years as a first response vehicle by the ambulance director, really needed tires. Mrs. Skubal said she talked to both Tim Stallman, road and bridge supervisor, and Gaylen Huntley, noxious weed director, about the tires.

She said she also checked at Ron's Tires and Oberlin Tire for prices. The difference between the 4-ply and 10-ply would be \$40. Mrs. Skubal didn't actually have prices for the tires.

Make sure, said Commissioner Ralph Unger, that those prices include all costs, including the tire being mounted, balanced and disposal of the old one.

How about the alignment? asked Commissioner Stan McEvoy.

Mrs. Skubal said it seems OK, and the tires are wearing pretty evenly.

The commissioners approved the purchase. Mrs. Skubal said she would get written bids from both dealers first and see what is included in the prices.

Mrs. Skubal said she has been attending Homeland Security Regional Council meetings, but was told that she needs to be appointed by the commissioners.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch said the commissioners could appoint her to this position. Mr. Hirsch said he is frustrated with the group. He said, for instance, that members told him they couldn't have a meeting in Hoxie because there are no

County Roundup

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Gave the OK for the emergency preparedness director to buy four new tires for the Ford Expedition she drives. Story at left.

- Approved a policy stating that employees will not be paid or receive compensatory time off to serve on boards, even if appointed by the commissioners. Story to come.

good restaurants or motels. That isn't true, said Mr. Hirsch.

Can Decatur County have two representatives on the group? asked Commissioner Stan McEvoy. No, said Mr. Hirsch, only one. Mrs. Skubal can attend all of the meetings without being appointed, he said, but it falls under the open meeting rules. He said he thinks the advice she got is so she can vote by proxy.

The commissioners appointed Mrs. Skubal to the council effective at the end of the year, when Mr. Hirsch's term is up.

Mr. Unger thanked Mr. Hirsch for his service, adding that he wished he would continue to serve and maybe the county could get two positions on the council.

Mrs. Skubal said she has emergency shelter contracts for Jennings and Norcat. Part of the contract says that the shelter managers have to complete Red Cross training.

Mr. Unger said he thinks shelter managers have to have that training if the county wants to get any help with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Mrs. Skubal said they had the training at the ambulance barn in Oberlin, and neither shelter manager showed up. County Health Direc-

tor Marilyn Gamblin was here from Oberlin, she said. In Jennings, the manager is Sue Long and in Norcat, Chris Dempewolf. Mrs. Skubal said one of them said that they have someone else in the county who has that training already. Mr. Unger said he thought the only way that would work is if that person took over as the shelter manager.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Agreed to sign the paperwork to declare a grass fire three months ago as a local disaster so Mrs. Skubal can use it as training.

- Heard that Mrs. Skubal is getting a new weather radar receiver to replace the old system. The new one from the National Weather Service should be here soon.

- Heard that the director used the rest of the 2006 Homeland Security money to buy a camera system for the jail so that all of the cameras in the jail can be seen on one monitor, instead of each one having a screen; gear bags, warning posts, turbo flares for the emergency trailer, a digital camera for her office and a Stryker evacuation chair for the ambulance.

Chief asks people to claim bikes

The Oberlin Police Department has about half a dozen bikes officers have picked up around town, some up to a year ago.

Police Chief Wade Lockhart said the officers find bikes that have

been abandoned in town. Some are kid's bikes, but most are 24 to 26 inches tall.

Anyone who is missing a bike can come look at the ones in the police office on West Commercial,

he said.

Chief Lockhart said he would like people to claim the bikes, or he will have to find something else to do with them.

Newspaper wants children's letters to Santa

Each year, *The Oberlin Herald* collects letters kids write to Santa Claus and print a special edition with all of those letters, plus art work drawn by elementary students.

Again this year, the staff is looking

forward to printing the kids' letters. Although many area students write those letters in school, any child who didn't have a chance in class can send a letter into *The Herald* at 170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan.,

67749, drop it in the Santa mailbox in front of Stanley Hardware or drop it by the newspaper office.

Letters have to be at the newspaper by Friday.

DEVENY

It is the Season to Save BIG Money...

<p>2008 Dodge Ram 1500 Quad Cab & Mega Cab 4x4's</p> <p>Have a \$5,000 Rebate or 0% for 60 Months!</p> <p>Just Received a Brand New... Plus FREE Lifetime Powertrain Warranty</p>	
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