

Window of items will fill shelves at area food bank

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
c.haynes@nwkans.com
Visibility and countability have driven Stanley Hardware's annual food drive over the top again.

This is the eighth year for the program, which store owner Joe Stanley came up with in 1999 as a "Year 2000" promotion.

The goal has always been 2,000 items, he said, but every year people have donated more than that between Thanksgiving and New Year's.

Mr. Stanley said he thinks a big part of the drive's success is putting the food in his store window and adding the items up on a tote board with the display.

When someone brings in a donation, employees put them in the store's southernmost window and change the numbers on a big sign hung above to add the new donations to the total.

At Thanksgiving, the window is pretty bare and the board registers in the tens. Within a few weeks, though, the window starts to fill and the numbers climb into the hundreds and then thousands. The area behind the window soon becomes full of cases and boxes.

The store hangs on to the tote boxes used to ship merchandise from its wholesaler and uses them to round up many of the smaller, loose items. The totes will go back after the food and home products have been delivered to the Decatur County Food Pantry at the United Church sometime after Jan. 1.

This year, the food will probably get its ride to the church on Thursday, weather and volunteer labor permitting, Mr. Stanley said.

Over the nine years of the campaign, teen-agers have always helped to move the donations, Mr. Stanley said. In fact, he said, without that help he probably

couldn't do the drive every year because the almost 3,000 items last year weighed in at almost a ton and a half.

Mr. Stanley said that he has had the Decatur Community Junior High Student Council members, Catholic Youth Organization and Teens for Christ help out at various times.

"It doesn't take very long to deliver," he said, "but, it takes two days to box."

After the items are packed, Mr. Stanley and the volunteers load them into his pickup and a trailer.

After arriving at the church, the items are unloaded and taken down to the basement storage area. Church and food pantry volunteers put them away.

Mr. Stanley said he thought the project up because he thought the store needed something special for the millennium.

However, over the years the community has taken the project to heart, he noted, with the schools, hospital and church groups as well as individuals getting involved.

Many years, Oberlin Elementary children will bring cans of food to school and then walk them down to the store. The high school has had food drives and Teens for Christ picked up food people left on their front porch again this year, he said.

Decatur County Health Systems employees bring in the biggest single contribution, Mr. Stanley said, they brought more than 1,000 items.

Another big help is Raye's Grocery. The store will deliver items people order for the drive and frequently adds its own donations.

By 3 p.m. on Friday, the store had 2,637 items ready to go and Mr. Stanley was busy boxing stuff for delivery.



PACKING FOOD in a hardware tote to prepare it for moving to the Decatur County Food Pantry, Joe Stanley stowed one of thousands of items donated by the community to the charity.
— Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

The drive also brings in some cash, which can be used to purchase meat, milk and fresh produce, he said.

The food collected by the store drive makes up between 20 and 30 percent of what the pantry needs for the year, Mr. Stanley said, adding that pantry workers have told him that they usually start to run out around May.

Meanwhile, the store's display window holds everything from

toilet paper to soup.

The strangest item ever to come in was a tin of canned bacon, Mr. Stanley said. It was so old there was no scanner code on it.

"It looked like an old World War II ration," he said, adding that it probably had been processed sometime before the 1960s.

Most items are recently purchased, however, and everything that goes to the food bank needs to be in date.

No-till meeting at The Gateway to help farmers

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
c.haynes@nwkans.com

Farmers and ranchers can get a little continuing education from Kansas State University and the Northwest Kansas Crop Residue Alliance at the annual Cover Your Acres conference Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 22-23, at The Gateway.

Registration will be from 7:45 to 8:14 a.m. both days, with a welcome from 8:15 to 8:35 a.m. The first sessions will start at 8:35 a.m., with lunch from 12:40 to 1:40 p.m. The last session will end at 5:23 each day and there will be refreshments and a chance for attendees to mix and talk from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The conference will feature ideas on how to get the most crop with no or little tillage. Most of the sessions will be provided by the university but there will also be a farmer panel discussing the ins and outs of crop rotation, said Brian Olson, northwest Kansas agronomist for K-State Research and Extension.

Continuing-education credit will be available for those who need it for all the K-State programs, he said.

Farmers will be able to choose sessions provided by university and industry speakers and can attend sponsored displays in the exhibit hall.

The university and industry sessions will include general-interest topics, he said, like improving your success in no till; soil quality changes with no till; 10 crop sequences to transition to no till; the outlook for sorghum crops, for bioenergy, food and export; plant-stand management; growing crops for cellulosic ethanol, made from plant residue; avoiding strip-till mistakes; corn amylase, an output trait that pays a premium; and what wheat precision ag can do for you.

Water issues will include water rights and depleting water, the effect of residue on crop water budgets and improving capture and use of water.

Chemical issues will include phosphorus and rate in no till and strip-till, nitrogen recommendations for wheat and row crops, the state of fertilizer in 2008, spray application technology and managing acid-base balance, or pH, in no till.

Grain issues will include new corn seed traits for no till, grain marketing and revenue protection, comparing corn and grain sorghum performances and "no till wheat 101."

Other sessions will include John Deere technology improvement and growth, a session by the National Sunflower Association and the importance of long-term care in estate planning for family farms.

The farmer panel will discuss crop rotations.

The sessions will run concurrently, with up to five going on at one time, but many will be repeated the same day and the schedule will be the same both days so farmers have the chance to attend up to 18 different sessions.

The cost for one day is \$20 and for both \$38 if paid by Wednesday, Jan. 16. Thereafter, the cost will be \$40 and \$80.

A registration form can be found on the back page of this issue. Mail registration and check, payable to Kansas State University, to K-State Research and Extension, Northwest Area Office, Attn: Brian Olson, Box 786, Colby, Kan. 67701.

Mr. Olson said that the program will be held regardless of the weather. For information, call him at (785) 462-6281.

Students score at top in 11 areas

Principals told the Oberlin School Board last month that the district had received 11 Standard of Excellence awards based on scores from last year's state tests.

High School Principal Charlie Haag said he thought 11 was probably the best the district has ever done.

The students are tested in different areas in each grade. Some take math, reading, writing or science tests and some grades take more than one, he said.

Mr. Haag said students at the high school will have a chance to take the math and reading tests twice before they graduate, allowing the school to keep the highest score for each one.

At the grade school, said Principal Duane Dorshorst, the fifth graders made the Standard of Excellence in reading but not in writing. He said they had a new teacher for both subjects last year.

The score for fourth-grade math, said Mr. Dorshorst, was probably the lowest it has been, although the students still made the goal for Annual Yearly Progress under state rules and the federal No Child Left Behind Act. There was a student teacher in that class last year, he said, adding that he had never really thought about that before. He said he probably wouldn't take a student teacher again in the spring in a state-tested subject.

The future, said Mr. Dorshorst, isn't going to be about receiving the Standard of Excellence or the

Building of Excellence. It will be about making Adequate Yearly Progress.

Mr. Dorshorst said that the state has complicated formulas for both the Standard of Excellence and the Building of Excellence awards.

The Standard of Excellence award formula, he said, uses the total number of students doing exemplary work and the number on academic warning. The Building of Excellence uses how many classes there are in a building and whether they've reached the Standard of Excellence or not.

With small classes, said Mr. Dorshorst, just one child who scores lower can knock the whole class out of the Standard of Excellence recognition.

Mr. Dorshorst said that in reading, both the grade school and the junior high/high school received the Building of Excellence award because all of the grade school classes tested — the third, fourth, fifth and sixth grades, and the eighth and 11th in the high school reached the Standard of Excellence.

In math the third, fifth and 11th grades received Standard of Excellence and in writing the eighth and 11th grades received the award, he said.



Ad manager takes tumble

Dave Bergling, advertising manager for *The Oberlin Herald*, suffered head injuries in a fall early Saturday at his home.

According to his family, Mr. Bergling fell down a stairway at his home about 2 a.m. Relatives heard a noise and found him unconscious at the base of the steps. He was taken by Decatur County ambulance volunteers to the hospital here, then flown by helicopter to Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney, Neb.

His family said he had surgery Saturday afternoon and was responding well afterward. He will be hospitalized for a week or so.

Mail will reach him at the hospital, 10 E. 31st Street, Kearney, Neb., 68848.

Supplies headed for Haiti

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
kldavis@nwkans.com

With the spirit of giving in the air, students at Oberlin Elementary School gathered crayons, pencils, colored pencils, tablets and other school supplies to send with two Oberlin women to Haiti early in the new year.

Nanette Zander said she went to Haiti several years ago on a mission trip. She met a pastor, who told her how his church invited street children in for a meal and to clean their T-shirts. Lots of orphans live on the street, she said.

That was the start of thoughts about an orphanage in Haiti. Mrs. Zander said she kept in contact with a woman there who runs a Christian school. They added two rooms with bunk beds for 16 children at the school and started the orphanage, called the House of Hope.

Mrs. Zander said she started to talk to friends, family and others about supporting the children in

Haiti.

Her friend, Mary Ann Erickson, went to the Oberlin school to ask for used supplies. Principal Duane Dorshorst suggested becoming a sister school to the one in Haiti.

The students brought in supplies, some toys and even some cash.

The students made Christmas cards for the kids in Haiti, who speak French.

This has been a good project for the school, said Mr. Dorshorst. It was eye opening for the students and staff to see how children in Haiti live, he said.

Parents and students have been generous, said Mr. Dorshorst. All of the items will be packed up and taken to Haiti by the women, Pete Zander and Mrs. Zander's son, Dr.

Michael Bellamy.

Although the students here brought in three boxes of items, there are still some things the children need, Mrs. Erickson said, including socks, tennis shoes, bars of soap, deodorant, over-the-counter drugs such as Imodium and Tylenol, bandages, toothpaste and toothbrushes.

A box has been placed at *The Oberlin Herald* for anyone who wants to make a donation. The women will pick the items up on Thursday.

Dr. Bellamy will go Haiti in March, so donations will be collected in Oberlin through spring.

Mrs. Zander said two of the orphans still need a sponsor. That costs \$35 a month. Anyone interested can call her at 475-1110.



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