

Flu shots offered Tuesday

With flu season just about here, the Decatur County Health Department has two days set aside next week to give vaccine shots.

Health Administrator Marilyn Gamblin said she plans to give flu vaccine shots from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday and next Wednesday. The office will be closed for lunch those days from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

This is the vaccine for the regular seasonal flu, she said. At this point, the department doesn't have anything for the H1N1, or swine flu. That vaccine is due out next month.

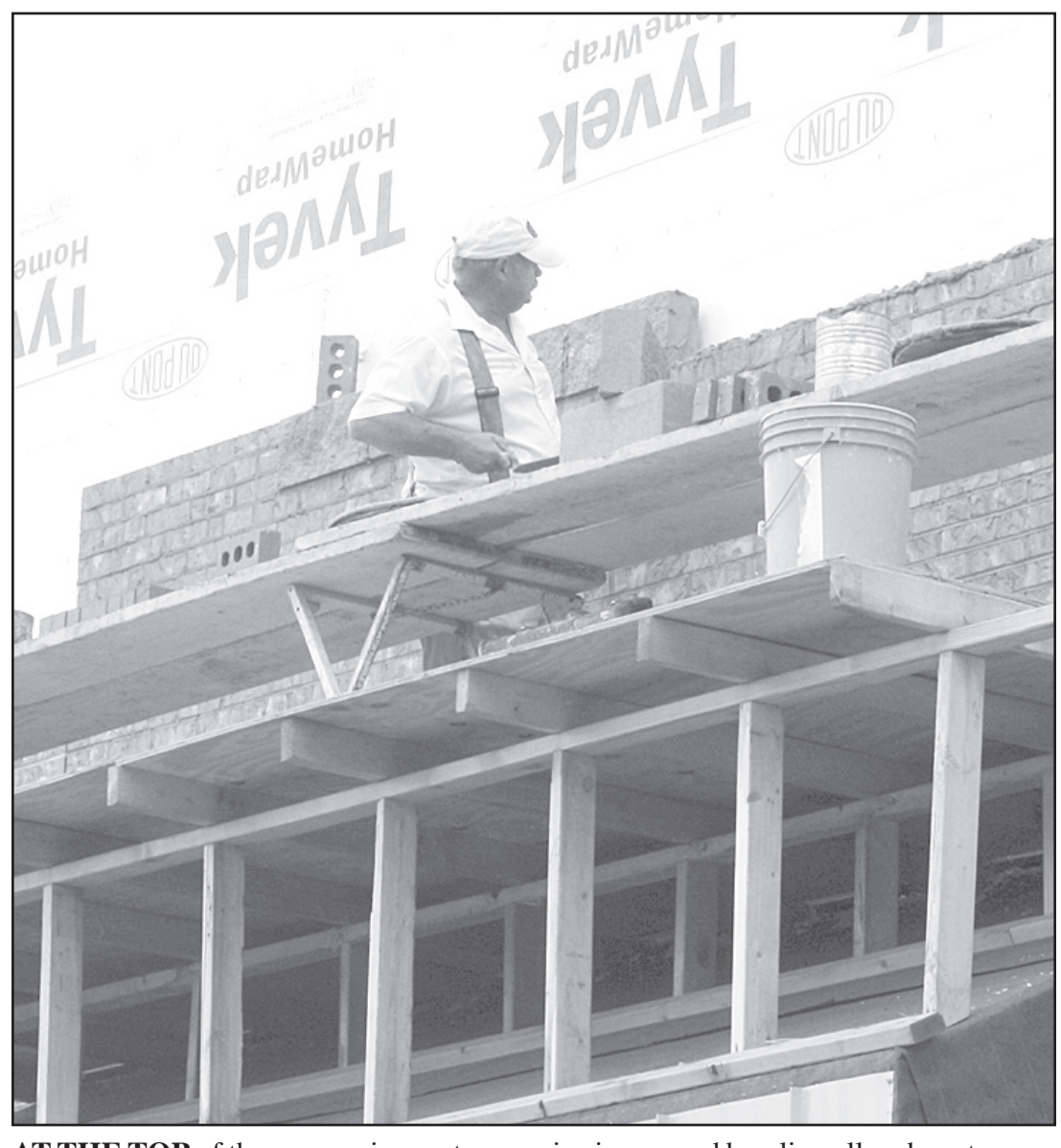
Flu season starts in December, normally running through March, said Ms. Gamblin. This year, health officials expect it to start earlier than normal because of the new strain's impact.

People over 50, children 6 months and up and people with chronic health conditions, including lung and heart disease, should get the seasonal flu vaccine. Basically, said Ms. Gamblin, everyone needs to get the vaccine.

If someone can't make it to the health department those two days, she said, they can call and make an appointment at 475-8118.

The shot costs \$25. The department will bill Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Medicare and Medicaid, Ms. Gamblin said.

Putting up bricks



AT THE TOP of the new senior center, movie cinema and bowling alley downtown, a mason worked last week to put brick on the front. The brick had been delivered about a week before.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Barbecue cook-off looking for grillers

There's still time to throw your spatula into the ring for the second annual Up in Smoke BBQ Cook-off Saturday at Sappa Park.

Contestants have a choice of making ribs, pork butt, beef brisket, beans or anything else under open class. All items have to be cooked on the grill. So far there are at least 10 teams signed up for the event and room for more, said organizer Judy Groneweg. They would still encourage more teams to sign up. Anyone can go online and get the rules at www.oberlinks.org.

The meat will be provided by Up in Smoke and can be picked up at 5:30 p.m. at the American Legion.

Anyone who wants to enter a team can pick up an entry form at R&M Service Center or get one online at www.oberlinks.com/cook.

Judging on the cooked items will start at 3 p.m. at Sappa Park. By

5:30 p.m., those items will be sold for dinner, said Mrs. Groneweg, and everyone is invited to eat at the park that night.

Dinner tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for kids 10 and under. Both tea and water will be provided. Bring your lawn chairs.

Throughout the afternoon and evening, there will be live entertainment at the park, said Mrs. Groneweg. The band Clueless will start things at 3 p.m., followed by the Citywide band at 4:30 p.m., the DCHS Singers at 5:15 p.m., the Capella Nova Brass quartet at 5:45 p.m., Craig Larson at 6 p.m. and Clueless again at 6:15 p.m.

Raffle tickets are also being sold for a chance to win a Traeger grill at one for \$2 or six for \$10. Tickets can be purchased during the barbecue or ahead of time at R&M or the American Legion.

Man wins contest with six correct

In the first week of the Oberlin merchants' Pigskin Pickem contest, Gary Anderson of Oberlin was the only one to believe that St. Francis High might lose.

Mr. Anderson got six out of seven games right, including the Indians'

28-20 loss to Phillipsburg.

Two other contestants got five out of seven right, but both thought that K-State would win. The University of Louisiana, Lafayette edged the Wildcats 17-15 on Saturday.

Both Cheri Kastens of Hernon and Owen Wilson of Oberlin guessed that Missouri would score 35 points over Bowling Green in the tie breaker. However, Mr. Wilson was closer to Bowling Green's score of 20, so he takes second and Ms. Kastens' third for the week.

Four other contestants guessed four out of seven games. Amanda Adams, Danbury, Neb., and Norm Wendlin, Ivis Hanson and Mabel Zimmerman of Oberlin were all close, but none of them believed K-State or St. Francis could lose.

Mr. Anderson will receive \$15 in scrip money, Mr. Wilson, \$10 and Ms. Kastens, \$5 for their picks. The money can be spent at the businesses which sponsor the contest: Ward Drug Store, the LandMark Inn, Fredrickson Insurance Agency, R&M Service Center, Farm Bureau Financial Services, D&M Sinclair and *The Oberlin Herald*.

Each week for the next 11 weeks, the official Pigskin Pickem entry blank with the football games for that week will be in the paper. Other entry blanks are available at sponsoring businesses. Only entries from the paper or from the sponsoring businesses are eligible.

Other scores of this week's games were:

- Kansas over the University of Texas, El Paso, 34-7.
- Norton over Oberlin, 33-0.
- Colby over Goodland, 12-8.
- Rawlins County over Hoxie, 60-0.
- Nebraska over Arkansas State, 38-9.

Businessman remembered by family and friends

By MARY LOU OLSON
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John Ready, who died last Monday at the Decatur County Hospital, was remembered as an old-fashioned businessman who focused on his customers.

"He was one of the last businessmen from another era, and will be missed by the business community," said Mayor Joe Stanley, co-owner of Stanley Hardware. "I first remember John Ready when he owned the Skogmos Clothing Store. He was always very polite; he knew everybody in town and made everybody feel welcome in his store.

Years later, when we bought the hardware store, we did business with John again. The Readys owned the building that houses Stanley Hardware. We rented the building for 10 years before finally buying. John would stop by from time to time and we would talk shop. He would say things like, 'You just need to take care of your customers,' or 'Sell them what they ask for.'

"I remember during one of our talks, he said, 'Retailing is not hard; just listen to your customers,' and my current employees have heard me say often, 'Take care of the customer first.'

"I enjoyed those talks and have missed them the last few years as John's health started to fail."

Mr. Ready and his wife, Muriel, enjoyed close friendships with Miles and Ila Ray, owners of Ray Jewelry, and Mike and Alice Shirley.

"John was always looking for an investment," Mrs. Ray recalled.

"One evening while playing bridge, skiing was mentioned. Miles, thinking he was safe, said, 'I'll go if you will, John,' not knowing that John had skied as a young man."

"That was the beginning of several ski trips to Colorado, and on the first trip, John invested in a condo at Dillon."

The three couples were members of the Ports-Of-Call Travel Club and made many trips together.

"One that stands out was attending the World's Fair in Vancouver, Canada," said Mrs. Ray. "A rule of the club was you put \$100 in each year, then it could be used for a trip. If you didn't use it, you lost it, and John never lost it even if he had to take a trip to Las Vegas at the last minute."

His daughter, Esther, said, "My father was a native of Tenney, Minn., was reared on a farm, rode his horse to country school, and despite his small stature, he excelled in sports earning him the nickname, 'Speedy Ready.' After completing high school, he attended Morris State College. He served in the medical corps in the U.S. Navy

for four years during World War II, then after his discharge attended St. Louis School of Mortuary Science and became a licensed embalmer and funeral director.

While working at the Beckwith Mortuary in Larned, he met Muriel Conard, a teacher. On their first date, he picked up her in the mortuary flower car and he always said that if she could take that first date in stride, she was the right woman for him. They were married on Dec. 24, 1949.

The couple had a strong drive to better their lives and they knew they couldn't unless they bought their own business. They looked around Kansas and Missouri and then found that Charlie Corcoran in Oberlin was looking for a partner who was also a mortician. They took the opportunity and moved to Oberlin in March 1956 to become partners in the Corcoran-Ready Funeral Home.

"At that time the ambulance service was part of the funeral home so for many years Daddy was 'on-call' 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Of course, there were no pagers or cell phones, so it was mandatory that someone know where he was at all times. The funeral home telephone was available at our home and the clothing store. Even where we sat in the United Methodist Church, a pew in the back close to a door, was

dictated by his need to leave at a minute's notice.

"It was not unusual for him to make ambulance runs to Denver, Kansas City or other places, and then come home to work with families or organize a funeral where he was up for 36 hours straight. He loved his work, though, and he touched many people's lives in those years," his daughter said.

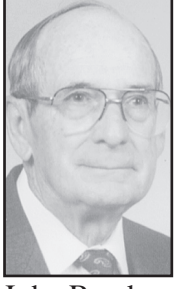
They opened the first coin-operated laundry Oberlin in 1959, operated Ready's Skogmos Clothing Store from 1962 to 1975 and invested in several downtown buildings.

Norma Richards said, "I started to work for John at Skogmos to help through Christmas and stayed until the store closed 12 years later.

"When I went to see about working, John said, 'Can you count change?'"

He gave me a bill and an amount to be taken, and after I counted out the change, he said, 'You're hired!'"

"They were great people to work for — and with. They came to our house a number of times for birthdays, etc., including our 25th anniversary. Often when we were open at the store at night, Esther and a couple of her friends played in the boxes in the back of the store. When they went to California one time, I had a new employee and boxes and boxes of freight for an upcoming



John Ready

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