



AT THE NEW Golden Age Center, Mary Ann Amack (above left) and Helen Gee prepared to serve lunch at the meal site. Julie Gallentine (below) assisted in the kitchen on Monday. — Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Icy roads keep kids at home

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

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Rain turned to snow Thursday night and Friday morning, leaving the roads icy and limited visibility.

With the winter weather Friday morning, Oberlin School District officials canceled the half day of school scheduled for that day. The grade and high schools were only going to be open until 11:30 a.m. Friday to give students and staff time to get to Hays for the state volleyball tournament.

At 5:20 a.m., said Superintendent Duane Dorshorst, officials were trying to decide what to do about the school day. He said they discussed starting two hours late, but with the early dismissal, it didn't make sense. Students and staff would have been in the buildings for only about an hour.

Buses were sent out to start picking up students for the regular start at 8:20 a.m., but were called back because it was too icy, the superintendent said.

School was canceled around 6:45 a.m., said Mr. Dorshorst.

The snow stopped after 9:15 a.m. and the sun started to peak out from behind the clouds.

The Lady Red Devil volleyball team left for Hays, followed after noon by a bus with the cheerleaders and DCHS Singers.

With school canceled and a slick Main Street, the Oberlin Business Alliance's annual Spook Parade planned for 11:45 a.m. was postponed until after school Monday, along with the Trick or Trunk event.

The Kansas Department of Transportation (See SCHOOL on Page 10A)

Information needed to put on Angel Tree

Forms are available at the grocery store and banks for parents who want to have their kids on the Oberlin Jaycees Angel Tree this holiday season.

Abby Hissong, a member of the group, said things will change a little with the Angel Tree this year. In the past, she said, the tree has been in the window of her office at Fredrickson Insurance Agency. This year, the tree will be at Rocking R.

Another change, she said, is that Amber and Britton Scott, both Jaycees, will help with the program. The couple will then run it next year.

The program is set up to allow parents who might need a little help around Christmas time get it anonymously.

The parents fill out a general form on their child, including their name, age, gender, clothing size and what they might want or need for Christmas.

That child is then assigned a number and the information is transferred to a sheet of paper that hangs on the Angel Tree. People who want to shop for a child pick those forms up at Rocking R, buy gifts, wrap them and return them, said Mrs. Hissong.

Mrs. Hissong and Mr. and Mrs. Scott are the only ones who actually know the names. The shoppers never know who the kids are, she said.

The forms for parents to fill out will be sent to Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

The department will send them out to people in Decatur County on their list. Mrs. Hissong added that the people here never know who is on the list.

People can also pick the forms up at Raye's Grocery Store or at Oberlin banks.

The forms can be turned back into Fredrickson Insurance to Mrs. Hissong.

It's a good idea to get the forms filled out and sent back soon. Mrs. Hissong said lots of people like to shop early, but can't unless the forms are returned.

Again this year, the Angel Tree recipients will also get a bag of fruit purchased through the FFA chapter at Decatur Community High School. The FFA members will bag the fruit as a community service project.

The kids will also get movie passes.

Mrs. Hissong said the Scotts are excited about helping with the Angel Tree this year and taking on the project next year. She added that Karen Chambers, owner of Rocking R, was more than happy to have the tree in her store.

Kids' forms should be up on the tree around the second week in November, she said. Presents need to be turned back into the Rocking R by Wednesday, Dec. 16. Parents can then pick up the gifts at the store on Monday, Dec. 21, or Tuesday, Dec. 22.

Mrs. Hissong said the group won't be delivering the gifts.

Banquet planned before bird season

The Sunflower Chapter of Pheasants Forever plans to hold its annual banquet the evening before pheasant season starts here.

The dinner is planned for Friday, Nov. 13, at The Gateway, at the intersection of U.S. 36 and U.S. 83 in Oberlin.

Doors open at 5 p.m., said Rick Doeden, who is helping organize the dinner, with the meal served around 6:45 p.m. The dinner will cost \$25 a person, which can be paid at the door.

Attendees can also pay the \$30 Pheasants Forever membership fee at the door.

The membership fee includes a one-year subscription to the *Pheasants Forever Journal of Upland Conservation*. Kids 16 and under who attend the banquet will get a free membership to the ringneck group.

Mr. Doeden said The Gateway

staff will make and serve prime rib this year.

Items included in the auction are the print of the year, eight other prints, a mystery gun and other outdoor items.

There will also be a four-gun raffle, he said, with the top gun in that package being a Benelli Montefeltro 12-gauge semi automatic shotgun.

The organization, he said, helps provide habitat for game birds, including giving over \$4,000 to habitat and walk-in hunting programs last year.

The Oberlin chapter leases the former lake bottom at Sappa Park, where they have planted trees, corn, pumpkins, habitat for the animals and are working on putting in a wetlands.

The banquet isn't limited to members or Pheasants Forever or hunters, he said. It's open to everyone.

Seniors move to center

Construction at the new community center downtown is moving along, with the Golden Age Center moving into its third of the building and plans for the new movie theater to open by the end of the month.

Greg Lohofener, who has spearheaded the project for the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp., said if the equipment, including the screen, sound system and projector, arrive, the Sunflower Cinema board would like to show a movie on the holiday shopping opening weekend, right after Thanksgiving.

The senior center moved into its part of the building, on the south side last week. The meal site and other activities are going on in the new building already.

Mr. Lohofener said the next section to be finished will be the theater, in the middle. He said he thinks the painting, concession counter, ceiling tiles and sink should all be done in a couple of weeks. The seats for the theater are in and a group of students from the high school volunteered to install them.

After the theater is done, the corporation will focus on the final third of the building, on the north end, which will house a bowling alley and youth recreation area.

Mr. Lohofener said they are still taking donations for that area, since they are around \$160,000 short of what they need to finish it. Of that, \$110,000 is for the bowling alley and \$50,000 for the recreation



area. Anyone who wants to make a donation can call Mr. Lohofener at 475-3322 or Connie Grafel, marketing director for the corporation, at 475-2901.

Registration needed to vote in December

There's still time to register to vote in upcoming special elections in Oberlin and Norcatour.

Both cities will have a special election by mail ballot, but if you're not registered to vote by Monday, Nov. 30, you won't get a ballot.

In Oberlin, registered voters will decide whether to approve or not approve an ordinance which would prohibit the city from spending "any federal, state, city or private funds for the purpose of studying, planning or building a new runway or acquiring additional land at the

Norcatour mayor resigns

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

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The Norcatour City Council's president was sworn in as mayor last month, leaving a spot on the council open.

Mayor Von Johnson, who was voted into office in April

and sworn in as mayor in May, resigned the position at the end of September. At the Monday, Oct. 19 meeting, council President Carl Lyon was sworn in as mayor.

Mr. Johnson was asked to re-

(See MAYOR on Page 10A)

Oberlin Airport. Nothing herein shall prohibit the maintenance and improvement required by the Federal Aviation Administration to

maintain the existing runway."

In Norcatour, registered voters will decide whether the city's secretary and treasurer have to live inside the city limits.

Both issues will be determined by the Tuesday, Dec. 15, mail election after voters signed petitions to send the questions to a vote.

County Clerk Colleen Geihlsler, who serves at the county election officer, said ballots will be sent out Tuesday, Dec. 1, to those registered to vote in Oberlin and Norcatour.

(See VOTERS on Page 10A)



Spooks parade arrives

DRESSED AS PIRATES, Jean and Byron Hale (above) walked with their daughter Cheyanna during the Oberlin Business Alliance's annual Spook Parade downtown on Monday afternoon. Cowen Anderson (right), son of Clay and Jennie Anderson, dressed as a pumpkin, rode in a red wagon. The parade was postponed since there was no school on Friday.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



*School closed for weather

(Continued from Page 1A) portation had closed roads west into Colorado starting at 8:30 p.m. Thursday because of the winter weather. Those included I-70 from Colby west to Denver, U.S. 36 from St. Francis west to Colorado, K-27 from Goodland north to the Nebraska line and U.S. 40 from Sharon Springs to Colorado.

Around 9:42 a.m. Friday, I-70 from Goodland west to Colorado opened back up. By 10:25 a.m., all of the roads in Kansas were open.

After lunch, U.S. 83 was pretty much dry, as was U.S. 36 in the Oberlin area.

The county roads were wet and

muddy, with around 1.2 inches of moisture, including rain which fell prior to the snow.

The county crew, said Supervisor Tim Stallman, went out to blade the roads, but decided not to clear the snow. It was melting fast, he said, and with traffic the roads became too slushy and muddy. Blading the roads would have taken off too much gravel and just made a bigger mess, he said.

Mr. Stallman said they saw heavier snow in the west quarter of the county, with six to seven inches on the ground, and around three inches in the rest of the county.

Personalized plates may need to change

People in Decatur County and around the state with personalized license plates might have to change them at the beginning of November.

The state is changing its process with personalized plates, said County Treasurer Jean Hale. Instead of a plate being unique in one county, there can only be one in the state. For example, there will only be one personalized plate that has K-State on it.

People with personalized plates should have received a letter saying

whether there plate was rejected or accepted.

If more than one person in the state had the same plate, Mrs. Hale said, it went to the person who had it first. That person will get to keep the plate.

In the past, people with personalized plates received two, one for the front and one for the back of the vehicle. They will now get only one.

Changes to the plates can be done through the treasurer's office, she said.

Parade needs entries

It's time to start thinking about an entry for the annual holiday Parade of Lights in downtown Oberlin.

Just three weeks remain until the parade, held the Friday after Thanksgiving.

The parade, sponsored by the Oberlin Business Alliance, will start at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 27, with staging starting at 6 p.m. The

staging area hadn't been set up as of Monday afternoon.

The group hasn't yet decided on a theme for the parade, but plans to do that during its monthly meeting today at the LandMark Inn.

Anyone who wants to enter a float can call the Chamber office at 475-3441 or Gary Walter at The Bank at 475-3817.

*Mayor asked to resign in petition

(Continued from Page 1A) sign the post in an unofficial petition he said was started when some people, a group he thought included Mr. Lyon, Doug Dempewolf and Wava Reames, all council members, and City Clerk Chris Dempewolf, "got some people worked up over misinformed information." He added that he believed John New and Bee Nelson, who both live in Norcat, helped carry the petition.

Mr. Johnson said he received 50 votes in the April election. He said he ran for the office with the main goal of keeping Norcat from being a ghost town, adding that he wanted to try to do some things like apply for grants for the city.

One of the issues prior to the peti-

tion asking for his resignation, said Mr. Johnson, was that it had been brought up that under state law, both the clerk and treasurer have to live inside city limits. Neither Clerk Chris Dempewolf or Treasurer Deb Marshall lives inside city limits, he said.

Mr. Johnson said he had two new people to appoint to those positions, but the council didn't approve them.

The council wanted to exempt the city from that state law, which can be done by charter ordinance, he said. If the charter ordinance had been passed, and after a 60-day waiting period, then people from outside the city limits could be appointed.

While Mr. Johnson said he did

sign the charter ordinance as the council wanted, a petition was started to send the ordinance to an election. That election is coming up in December.

The petition, signed by 39 people, asking Mr. Johnson to resign as mayor, is a separate document, he said. The mayor said that petition was delivered to his house, not at a council meeting.

With Mr. Lyon being sworn in as mayor, that leaves an opening on

the council. Mayor Lyon said he has asked some people to serve, but they weren't interested. As the mayor, he said, he can appoint someone or they can wait until the next election.

Mrs. Dempewolf said the petition asked Mayor Johnson to resign within 48 hours. She said it was never turned into the council or the city office.

Mrs. Dempewolf said only that "a member of the community" carried the petition.

*Voters need to register

(Continued from Page 1A) Those ballots have to be returned to the clerk's office on the second floor of the courthouse by noon election day, Tuesday, Dec. 15. The ballots can either be mailed or delivered in person. The ballot envelopes will have return postage on them.

Ms. Geihlsler said both cities had

the choice on whether to open polling places or to do a mail election. The mail election is a little cheaper, she said.

The last mail election here was in 2005 in Oberlin, said Ms. Geihlsler, when voters decided that liquor could be sold on Sunday inside the city limits.




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