

Happy Thanksgiving!

THE OBERLIN HERALD

\$1 (tax included; 73¢ delivered at home)

20 Pages, 3 Sections

Wednesday, November 25, 2009

131st Year, Number 47

Voter registration books still open

Voters will have a chance to decide about a proposed airport project in Oberlin and where the treasurer and clerk for the City of Norcatour can live, but not unless they are registered.

The last day to register to vote for the elections is Monday, said Decatur County Clerk Colleen Geihlsler. She said the clerk's office will stay open until 9 p.m. that night, giving people a little more time to stop by.

Those who want to register need to bring proof of identification, like a driver's license. People who have registered, but have moved since the election in November 2008, also need to visit the clerk's office by Monday or they won't be able to vote, she noted.

Both elections will be done through the mail, with ballots going out Tuesday. They have to be either mailed back to the clerk's

office or be brought in by noon on Tuesday, Dec. 15.

Both of the special elections are being held after residents of Oberlin and Norcatour signed petitions to send the decisions to a vote. In Oberlin, voters will decide whether or not to approve an ordinance to prohibit the city from spending any money on a new, longer runway at the municipal airport. The ordinance says that the city

would be prohibited 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 Oberlin Airport. Nothing herein shall prohibit the maintenance and improvements required by the Federal Aviation Administration to maintain the existing runway."

A yes vote will approve the ordinance,

while a no vote is to reject it and allow the runway project to proceed.

The vote in Norcatour will decide if the city clerk and treasurer have to live inside city limits. Neither of the officers does now. A yes vote will mean that the officers don't have to live inside city limits, while with a no vote means they have to live inside city limits.

Santa Claus plans to visit after parade

The man in red plans to make his way to town this Friday night to talk with all good little girls and boys for the kickoff to Oberlin's Christmas season.

The weekend will start with a soup supper hosted by the Aquarius Club in the west half of the new Golden Age Center. The supper, said Megan Carter, a club member, will go from 5 to 6:30 p.m. On the menu, she said, are chili and chicken-noodle soup, plus desserts.

The club, said Mrs. Carter, gives money for scholarships at the end of the year and to other community organizations.

The Oberlin Business Alliance's Parade of Lights, with the theme "Christmas Country Style," will start at 6:30 p.m. from the Decatur Co-op and travel north up Main Street.

The staging area is set starting at 6 p.m. in the parking lot of the Decatur Co-op.

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

Santa Claus will arrive during the Parade of Lights. Following the parade, he'll meet with kids and parents to hear what they would

like to find under the Christmas tree this year.

Santa will visit with kids on the west side of the Golden Age Center. The Oberlin Lions Club will provide a bag of goodies for the kids.

Following Santa's visit, the Sunflower Cinema will hold its grand opening at 7:30 p.m. with Disney's Digital 3D version of "A Christmas Carol."

The cinema board pre-sold 100 tickets for the evening.

Ticket holders will see the movie, get a soda or water, a medium popcorn and a treat bag. No tickets will be sold.

The movie will also show, with tickets sold at the door, at 7 p.m. Saturday and at 2 p.m. on Sunday for \$6.

On Saturday, the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce will sponsor the annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Show at The Gateway.

More than 50 vendors have reserved booth space in the arena for the day.

Admission is free for shoppers, and lunch will be sold during the show.

The booths will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Community dinner set for Thursday

It might be hard to believe, but Thanksgiving is here.

Again this year St. John's Lutheran Church will offer a community Thanksgiving dinner in the basement fellowship hall at 510 N. Wilson.

The meal starts at noon on Thanksgiving Day, complete with turkey, ham, dressing, gravy, mashed potatoes, corn and rolls. Volunteers will bring a variety of homemade salads and pies.

Anyone who wants to bring an item should call Teresa Diederich at 475-3525 or Marvin May at 475-2443.

The volunteers will cook three 25-pound turkeys and three spiral-sliced hams, said Mrs. Diederich. Cheryl Votapka will make the dress-

ing this year and also deliver the meals to anyone who can't make it to the church.

So far, said Mrs. Diederich, they have around 60 reservations including the volunteers who will stay and eat. In the past they have had double that many. People can still make a reservation or just show up to eat.

To order a meal or make a reservation, call either Mrs. Diederich or Mr. May.

A group of seniors from Decatur Community High School will help set up the tables with the place mats and other items before the meal.

The meal, said Mrs. Diederich, will be served for a donation. Money left after they pay the grocery bill will be donated to the Decatur County Food Pantry.

Annual food drive starts with 185 items

The annual food drive at Stanley Hardware already has nearly 200 items in the window on the south side of the store.

With the drive in its 11th year, said owner Joe Stanley, people anticipate the start each year. He said the store got its first nonperishable items two weeks ago, even though the drive doesn't actually start until after Thanksgiving.

Mr. Stanley said they held the first drive after Thanksgiving 1999. It was the store's Y2K promotion,

he said. The food, then as now, is given to the Decatur County Food Pantry.

Since then, the store has held the drive each year, with students from Decatur Community Junior High helping deliver the items to the pantry, in the basement of the United Church, after the New Year.

The goal each year has been 2,000 items, he said.

Although the pantry has seen heavy use this year, said Melanie (See FOOD on Page 6A)



OBERLIN SCHOOL NURSE Johanna Mason (above) concentrated as she listened to a boy's lungs on her trip to Haiti to visit the House of Hope Orphanage and School last March. Nanette Zander (below) handed out items during the trip. — Photos by Doug Mason

Couple helps in Haiti

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
quality-pro@webtv.net

When Nannette Zander went on a mission trip to Haiti, she had no idea how it would affect her life.

In 1994, Mrs. Zander, who now lives in Oberlin, was part of a mission team with the Christian Children's Concern Society, a group co-founded by Henry Euhus, father of Shirley Shields and Stuart Euhus of Oberlin.

During that trip, Mrs. Zander said, she saw hundreds of impoverished street children. The mission team fed these hungry kids and gave them each a clean T-shirt. That alone was a good thing, she said. There was something about those kids that kept tugging at her heart to do more.

"More" eventually became an orphanage called House of Hope and an all-consuming ambition to care for children in Haiti, the poorest nation in the western hemisphere.

With a donation from a single anonymous benefactor, the orphanage was organized in 2005 with 15 children. There also is a school which serves the residents and other children, hoping to give them all a better life.

"Education is the path out of poverty," Mrs. Zander said.

She said the goal of House of Hope is to take children without hope and help them become people



who love their Creator, love their neighbor and have the ability to earn a living and help break the cycle of poverty so rampant in Haiti. Sixty percent of the population live on less than a dollar a day.

House of Hope continues to expand. A grade level has been added

each year and the curriculum now includes kindergarten through fifth grade. About 100 children attend the school, which also serves as a church on Sunday for about 60 people.

Mrs. Zander said to her, House of Hope is the result of one miracle

after another, from the original donation to a \$3,000 memorial that helped build a bathroom and a dining room. The children used to sit on the floor to eat their meals.

She and her husband, Norbert "Pete" Zander, have lived near (See COUPLE on Page 6A)

*Couple operates home

(Continued from Page 1A)
Oberlin for almost three years. Mr. Zander grew up here and graduated from Decatur Community High School in 1959.

She said the people of Oberlin have been awesome in raising money to help the orphanage and school. Kayettes from Decatur Community High School help raise money, as did Oberlin's community Vacation Bible School.

Oberlin Elementary School has adopted House of Hope as a sister school and students exchange letters with the students there, who are all taught in English.

She said one 15-year-old girl had never been in school before. She has advanced to the fifth grade and wants to be a teacher.

Schools that go beyond the sixth grade are rare in Haiti, Mrs. Zander said, and are usually private. Tuition is more than most Haitians can afford.

Most recently, the House of Hope board prayed for a piece of land so the ministry could expand. In March, they were able to buy 1.6 acres about a 10-minute drive from the orphanage. This will allow the children from House of Hope to continue their education. Other expansion plans include starting a school and a church in the mountains around the orphanage.

Two times a year, Mrs. Zander and her husband fly to Haiti carrying as many school supplies and over-the-counter medicines as they can cram into their luggage. She

said they are each allowed to bring two 50-pound bags duty-free.

In March, Pastor Doug Mason of the Lund Covenant Church and his wife Johanna went with a mission team to House of Hope. Mrs. Mason, the school nurse in Oberlin, conducted checkups on the children in the orphanage. Pastor Mason delivered 30 Bibles printed in Haitian Creole. Other area people involved with House of Hope are board members Mary Ann Erickson of Oberlin and Corky Krizek of McCook.

Mrs. Zander's son, Dr. Mike Bellamy, an associate professor of chemistry at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, spends his winter breaks at the school.

"The kids we took in... would be dead if the school had not gotten them off the streets," he said. "We were it."

Dr. Bellamy said he saw the lack of safe drinking water as a key problem. He, along with four students, developed a prototype of a solar-powered water pasteurizer. He installed the low-tech device at House of Hope. The challenge, he said, was to find a technology that is a good fit for the culture and environment. Otherwise, he said, "It just gets chopped up for firewood."

The device is simple and easy to operate and repair. No electricity is required and turning the system on is simply a matter of opening the lid and making sure there is water

in the storage tank.

He said he hopes that the orphanage and school may eventually be able to sell excess drinking water to help pay teachers and provide better care for the children.

"I just feel like God has called me to do something," Dr. Bellamy said. "You don't miss out by giving time and money. In fact, you're gaining."

The philosophy at the orphanage is to hire local workers to do the building projects.

"Why take a job away from someone there?" Mrs. Zander said.

There is little electricity at the orphanage, she said. They have a generator, but with gasoline costing \$7 a gallon, it isn't used much.

Some of the needs includes a roof for the mountain school, an outhouse, windows and doors for the new school, benches for both schools, money to pay for labor and a well.

Mrs. Zander said it costs \$20 a month to sponsor a child for the school. She will provide each sponsor with the name, a family history and a picture of "their" child. The Zanders' will take pictures of the kids in Haiti during their January trip and get profile information on each one.

For information about House of Hope, check out the website at www.houseofhopehaiti.com.

Hanging the greens



ON A LADDER, Melvin Martin with the city crew, prepared to hang some greens below the canopies on Main Street in time for the holiday season.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Spook Parade could change

Oberlin Business Alliance members talked about changing its annual Spook Parade for next year at the November meeting.

At a meeting Nov. 4, Gary Anderson, owner of the LandMark Inn, said he had heard comments about the kids getting too much candy. Maybe the event could be changed to include a hot-dog feed instead, he said, with a costume contest or something else.

Much of the candy handed out is thrown away anyway, said Mr. Anderson. The businesses could pool the money they spend on candy and do something different for next year, he suggested.

Joe Stanley, owner of Stanley Hardware, said maybe they could have the event in the evening.

What Norton does is a huge success, said Kurt Vollertsen, owner of Ward Drug Store. They serve hot dogs and have more of a downtown event.

The kids could still go trick-or-treating at the Good Samaritan Center, said Mr. Anderson, and still parade Main Street, but then maybe emergency medics could hand something out and the businesses

could do something like serve hot dogs at the gazebo.

The group didn't make any decisions.

Connie Grafel, marketing director for the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp., asked if the alliance would write a letter supporting the Oberlin airport runway project. She said the development group plans to do some advertising, including table tents and other things to get information out prior to the Dec. 15 mail-ballot election.

A group opposed to the runway passed a petition to force an election on a proposed ordinance banning the city from spending any money on a new runway. Since then, several people have said they don't oppose a 5,500-foot runway, which would be the first phase of the city's airport plan, but the ordinance would ban that as well as a future 7,000-foot runway.

A letter of support is the least the group can do, said Gary Walter, with The Bank. Then if individuals want to help with advertising costs or something else, they can.

Former Councilman Jay Ander-

son, an airport supporter, handed out some information and a few industry magazines. He said that he would be helping get information out. One thing he said was that without an airport, the town soon wouldn't have any doctors.

The members also talked about advertising for the Christmas season.

In the past, the group has paid for the color on the Christmas on Us promotion in *The Oberlin Herald*, said Publisher Cynthia Haynes. That's \$200, she said, and with that, a calendar of holiday events goes into the paper as well.

The members approved spending the \$200 with the newspaper.

They had a bid from KFNF for \$500 which included a live remote the day of the soup lunch downtown. The group decided they could afford to do a \$200 package with the radio station.

Sharleen Wurm, director of the Last Indian Raid Museum, said the Christmas Tree Tour at the museum will be from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6. Following that, there will be a sing-along in the historic church on the museum grounds.

Employee handbook OK'd

The Oberlin School Board approved a new employee handbook on first reading during its November meeting.

The handbook for "classified" employees covers sick leave, personal leave, paid holidays, vacations and other issues. All of the leave and time-off items are now aligned so the handbook and the district's policy book say the same thing, Superintendent Duane Dorshorst said at the meeting Monday, Nov. 8.

The handbook also includes a statement that the board has the right to reassign or rearrange staff as needed, said Mr. Dorshorst.

If the handbook is approved, he said, it will then be updated and approved by the board each summer before school starts.

The board approved the handbook as proposed. Board members will vote again after a second reading at the December meeting.

Mr. Dorshorst said he read an article recently which predicted a \$150 decrease in the state's per-pupil spending for the year after a

new round of budget cuts. Nothing has been decided, he said.

The members talked about the upcoming Kansas Association of School Boards conference on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 5 and 6, in Olathe, directing member Dan Wasson how to vote on issues.

One of the votes at the meeting will be for a new president of the association. Fred Patton from Seaman and Mary Anne Trickle from Salina are running.

Member Monte Moore said he would be willing to leave that decision up to Mr. Wasson after he hears the candidates' speeches. The rest of the board agreed.

Some of the other votes include policies that will include districts being able to get "fair" money from the state for preschool programs, more flexibility on when a decision needs to be made on renewing contracts to allow for districts to know more about the budget beforehand, opposing changing the 10-mile rule for other districts to come in and get students without permission from the resident districts, and more.

In other business, the board:
• Moved the next meeting from 7:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 14, allowing members to attend the kindergarten through third grade winter concert.

Businesses close for holiday

Most Oberlin businesses will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, so if you want to eat a meal away from home, you might want to join others for the community Thanksgiving Day dinner at noon at St. John's Lutheran Church.

Crossroads Express and Ampride will be open. Pizza Hut, Frontier

Restaurant, LandMark Inn, A & W Restaurant, the ReLoad, Coffee, Tea and Me. and D & M Service plan to be closed, along with most stores and offices.

Raye's Grocery will be closed, as will *The Oberlin Herald*. Most, but not all, businesses will reopen on Friday.

*Food drive starts with almost 200 items

(Continued from Page 1A)
Anderson, who supervises the effort, the donations have been keeping up. It's been amazing, she said.

The pantry is out of sugar, however. Other items it could use include tuna, canned meat, pie filling, baking supplies including spices, deodorant, shampoo, conditioners,

razors, juice, cleaning supplies, dish soap, laundry soap and paper products.

As of Monday afternoon, the hardware store had 185 items.

Rawlins County Health Center
RAWLINS COUNTY HEALTH CENTER COMMUNITY CALENDAR
707 Grant Atwood, KS 67730 (785) 626-3211
Bringing Specialized Healthcare To Your Community
November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Dr. Rubinowitz Oncology Cardiac Rehab	3	4 Cardiac Rehab Ultrasounds Diabetic Clinic	5	6 MRI's Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	7
8	9 Cardiac Rehab	10	11 Dr. Frankum Surgery Bone Density Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	12	13 MRI's Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	14
15	16 Cardiac Rehab	17	18 Dr. Curtis Cardiology Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	19 Dr. Saba Orthopedics Dr. Reeves Podiatry	20 Dr. Reeves Podiatry MRI's Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	21
22	23 Cardiac Rehab	24 Dr. Miller Cardiology	25 Mammograms Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	26	27 MRI's	28
29	30 Cardiac Rehab	31				

TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH A VISITING PHYSICIAN, PLEASE CALL (785) 626-3211 Cheryl Banister, RN Specialty Clinic Director

Farmers Bank & Trust
Atwood/Brewster/Oberlin
Member FDIC

In times of economic uncertainty, make sure your financial future is safe, secure and sound. Put your money with people you know and trust. We're here for good — for the good of our community and the good of our customers. Put your trust in us.

Stop in today and take advantage of our

V.I.P. LOAN SPECIAL
6.00% APR*
(with VIP checking & automatic payments)

up to
7.00% APR*
(without VIP checking & automatic payments)

*Annual percentage rate With approved credit
Offer good until 12/18/09 Some restrictions apply