

# \* Shops open later

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Mr. Anderson said he sold a wide variety of items, with nothing in particular selling well.

Only one store owner said she had a particular item that sold better than others. Karen Chambers, owner of Rocking R, said the Montana Silver Cowboy Kicker Slippers went really well. She said she's been featuring the item in her store window. The slippers look like little cowboy boots, she said. They're something new and different, and several people said they had been looking for them.

Ms. Chambers said the weekend went really well, with lots of people looking and buying. She said she thought it was a little better than last year's opening weekend, with Saturday busier than Friday.

At the Home Planning Center, Dana Marintzer said she was busier Friday afternoon. There were a lot of people in town for the Parade of Lights on Friday night, she said, but not a lot of shoppers. The store is closed on Saturdays.

Mrs. Marintzer said she has sold more practical items this year, including tool and bit sets.

At Stanley Hardware, owner Joe Stanley said Friday was better this year than last, and so was Saturday.

The store had sales on specific items, he said, and those went really well. Mr. Stanley said he hasn't done that before.

Kurt Vollertsen, owner of Ward Drug Store, said it was an average Friday. Traffic was down, he said. The weather was nice and people are still getting their crops in.

Saturday was a little better, he said, adding that they got some shoppers from the craft show.

There weren't any items that sold any better than others, said Mr. Vollertsen.

Mr. Vollertsen added that he wasn't sure if fewer shoppers are a sign of the things to come or not.

At Prairie Petals, Laurie Wasson said she thought the opening weekend had gone well. Saturday was busier, she said, although the store had a steady number of people on Friday.

It seemed like there was someone in the store all the time, she said. In all, the opening weekend, said Mrs. Wasson, was good or better than last year, with a big variety of items selling.

## Lights, camera, action!



**OPENING NIGHT** for the new Sunflower Cinema brought out over 100 people (above), including volunteers like Linda Wade and Marilou Long (below right). Moviegoer Gannon Rush (below right) sat with his 3D glasses on top of his head as he waited for the film, Disney's Digital 3D "A Christmas Carol" to start. — Photo above by Jeanie Unger



— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



# \* Parade of Lights draws folks downtown

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lighted from the inside and others on foot or horseback.

There were floats, big trucks and business vehicles, all decorated with lights and colors.

The Decatur County Good Samaritan Center float had a generator, but it quit, said Mr. Walter. It would have been nice for the spotlight to have been on Mary and Joseph walking down Main Street; the entry still walked down Main Street; it just wasn't as bright as planned.

Judges picked three winners, with first place going to Hansen Mueller, second to the Bank and third to the

Decatur County employees, who featured Nora Urban singing "The Star Spangled Banner" to kick off the parade.

Mr. Walter said he thought the parade had gone well, and has heard good comments about it. It seems even though there were fewer entries this year, there were more lights on the floats that were entered.

With harvest still going, said Mr. Walter, some who would have had an entry are still out in the field working on their first priority.

Mr. Walter said they will shoot for the 12th Parade of Lights next year.



**TWO YOUNGSTERS** (above) enjoyed riding on a flat bed with Santa Claus during the annual Parade of Lights. — Herald photo by Kimberly Davis

# Oberlin school board takes look at new employee handbook

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 proposed 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 included 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:  
• Named members Doug Brown and Abby Hissong to sit on the cal-

endar committee for the 2010-2011 school year.

• Approved on second reading policies discussed during the October meeting.

• 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.

# Telethon distributes last money

The Oberlin Seeds of Hope Telethon group held its last meeting Tuesday to decide how to give away \$2,913 left in the group's fund.

The committee didn't hold a telethon this year because of complications with the local access cable channel and losing several volunteers who moved away.

The organization still had a little money and voted at a meeting last Tuesday to give \$250 to the Pioneer Club, an after-school program at the Oberlin United Methodist Church which draws around 50 kids in first through sixth grades.

The rest of the balance was split between the Sunflower Cinema board to be used to rent movies, buy supplies or however the board sees fit, and the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp. for the bowling alley at the new recreation center downtown.

Each of those organizations will get \$1,331.

Telethon committee members include Jack Benton, Bill Duncan, Brenda Ulery, Regina Stanley and Kimberly Davis.

# Auction to help area youths

The youth auction at the Pheasants Forever Banquet brought in close to \$2,000, with half of that to go to a youth activity.

Last year, the group used the money raised at the youth auction for a kids' trap shoot in the fall. Rick Doeden, a banquet organizer, said half the money raised at the youth auction on Friday, Nov. 13, went to the highest bidder while the other half goes to the chapter. The youth

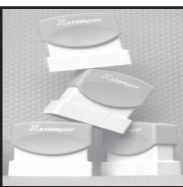
who was "auctioned off" won a gun, said Mr. Doeden.

Mr. Doeden said he didn't know the totals for the banquet itself yet, as they are waiting on some bills to come in.

The group doesn't have a set plan for the money, he said, although he thought some of it would be used for the wetlands project at Sappa Park.

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Paid for by Chuck and Diane Frickey