

Theater offering ticket books

Just in time for Christmas, the Sunflower Cinema board is offering sponsorship booklets which will get the holder into three movies a month all through the coming year.

The booklets cost \$150 for three movies a month, said Duane Dorshorst, a theater board member. The actual value is \$180, or \$5 per pass. For 3D movies, he added, the ticket holder will have to pay the extra \$1 to get in.

The booklets, he said, can be bought at the theater when it's open on weekends or at the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce office during the week.

The new theater opened to a packed house Friday, Nov. 29, with Disney's Digital 3D "A Christmas Carol."

Over the last weekend, the theater showed "2012" to just over 100 people at three shows on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Depending on the movie shown, said Mr. Dorshorst, that's not necessarily more people than in the old theater.

The new Sunflower Cinema can show regular movies or the new

3D movies. The closest 3D theater, other than this one, is in Oakley, he said.

Tickets cost \$5 for a regular movie and \$6 for 3D. The theater board plans to have movies at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday.

The theater will be closed on Friday, Dec. 25, for Christmas, and Friday, Jan. 1, for New Year's Day, but will be open on Saturday and Sunday those weekends.

This weekend, the theater plans to show "New Moon" and then it will have "Blind Side" the weekend of Friday, Dec. 18.

There are two free matinees planned in December. The first one will be at 2 p.m. Saturday with "Monsters vs. Aliens," sponsored by Fredrickson Dental.

The next one will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19 with "Ice Age 3" in 3D, sponsored by Eagle Communications.

While the movies are free those days, the concession stand is not, Mr. Dorshorst said.

Serviceman will never forget World War II

By MARYLOU OLSON
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Though it was 68 years on Monday since the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, Oberlin's Calvin Ufford, a Navy veteran, is one of many who will never forget the war that followed that fateful day.

Mr. Ufford, now 83, said he lived with his parents, Herbert and Bertha Ufford, and sister Shirley on their farm southwest of Oberlin. He was 15.

Since they only had a battery radio and didn't listen to it that much, he didn't know about the bombing until he got to high school the next day. He said President Franklin D. Roosevelt's declaration of war was heard throughout the school on the intercom.

"Everyone became very excited over the news and wanted to do what they could to help with the war effort," he said.

He was a freshman at the time and didn't graduate until 1944. He said

he enlisted in March 1944, then reported for duty in Kansas City after graduation in May. He was among

10,000 recruits sent by train to Camp Wallace, Texas, for boot camp. A classmate, Reed Macy, was also in the group. Three other classmates, Willard Stapleton, Willard Thiesen and George Parker Nellans, also joined the Navy after graduation, Mr. Ufford said.

"It was interesting that I chose the Navy," he said, "since I couldn't even swim, but I was sure of one thing — I didn't want to have anything to do with fox holes. Everyone wanted to be a fighter pilot, but I knew that was out of the question for me since I had a hearing problem."

When they arrived at Camp Wallace, they had their first taste of food in the mess hall. This included dried eggs, which he said he never learned to like. One of the first things he remembers is when they "buzzed off" all of his hair.

(See VETERAN on Page 12A)



C. Ufford



INSIDE STANLEY HARDWARE, Collin Mumm and Riley Ketterl waited with kindergarten teacher Diana Steinmetz to put their food items inside the front display window for the store's annual food drive.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Food drive over a quarter of way to goal

The annual food drive at Stanley Hardware is already over a quarter of the way to its goal with 571 items in the south window.

The goal is 2,000 nonperishable food items, cleaning supplies or toiletries by the New

Year, said owner Joe Stanley.

The drive started after Thanksgiving with several hundred items already in the window.

It has a little over three weeks left to get 1,429 items needed to hit the goal.

Anyone who wants to donate to the drive can bring items to the store. At the end of the drive, the food will be taken to the Decatur County Food Pantry in the basement of the United Church.

City decides on lower bid for mixers after company appeals

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
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The Oberlin City Council reconsidered a motion to accept a higher bid for solar-powered mixers at the wastewater treatment plant and then voted to go with the low bid at its meeting Thursday.

The low bidder, Pond Solutions, filed an appeal after the council decided to go with a higher bid for the solar-powered mixers last month.

The city received three bids, from

Pond Solutions of Bismarck, N.D. for \$121,400, APAC-Kansas of Hutchinson for \$137,590 and SolarBee, Dickinson, N.D., for \$178,906.

The bid from APAC-Kansas included using the equipment from Pond Solutions. After some discussion, the engineer recommended the bid from SolarBee, even though it was \$57,506 more.

At the meeting Thursday, John Tillman and Wayne Ruzicka with Pond Solutions talked to the council about their appeal.

While there was some question whether the solar-powered cleaners from Pond Solutions had brushless electric motors as specified for the bids, both men assured the council that the equipment is brushless.

Mr. Tillman said they were surprised to not be awarded the project when the bid was \$57,000 lower.

Mr. Ruzicka said Pond Solutions is the lowest bidder, most responsive and the most responsible. The company, he said, does projects all over the country. When a

bidder doesn't supply the performance bond as requested, they said, the engineer should put the bid in the trash. He said the bid from the other company didn't include this.

The bond isn't required with the bid, just with the final contracts, Engineer Chris Miller noted.

The council was working off the recommendation of the engineers and the city staff, said Mayor Joe Stanley, when it decided to take the SolarBee bid.

Pond Solutions does have a brushless

motor, said Mr. Ruzicka. He said they have had the motor for three years or more, although the competition doesn't necessarily know that. It's an industrial-grade motor, he added.

The brushless motor, said Mr. Miller, was a concern. A brush-type motor needs more maintenance. Mr. Miller said he's never seen an installation of this from Pond Solutions.

Councilman Bill Riedel said he doesn't (See COUNCIL on Page 12A)

Angel Tree has more kids in need

"Ornaments" for at least 25 needy children joined others on the Oberlin Jaycees' Angel Tree last week, just in time for people to get them presents for Christmas.

Abby Hissong, who is organizing the Angel Tree with Britton and Amber Scott, said application forms filled out by parents and guardians were due Friday, so the last ornaments should be on the tree on Monday.

As of Thursday, parents of more

than 65 kids had filled out the form for them to take part in the Angel Tree program, she said.

The child's name doesn't appear on the red form that hangs on the tree. Instead, each child is represented by a number. The red piece of paper on the tree gives that number, the child's age, gender and what they want or need.

Last year, Mrs. Hissong said, 60 children participated in the Angel Tree. Already this year, that

number has been passed.

Anyone who wants to shop for a child — or several — can pick the red forms off the tree, inside Rocking R.

The wrapped presents are due back to Rocking R by next Wednesday. Parents can pick up the gifts at the store on Monday or Tuesday, Dec. 21 and 22.

Kids will also receive a movie pass to the new Sunflower Cinema and a bag of fruit.

Voters have a few days to mail ballots

Voters in Oberlin and Norcatu have just a few days left to return mail ballots for two special city elections.

All ballots have to be back into the Decatur County Clerk's office by noon on Tuesday. So far, the office has around 250 ballots from voters in Norcatu and Oberlin, said County Clerk Colleen Geihlsler, who also is the county election officer. The office mailed out 1,301 ballots to registered voters in the two towns at the beginning of the month. In Oberlin, voters will decide

Newspaper on hold for vote

The Oberlin Herald will be a day late next week so we can get results of the Oberlin and Norcatu city elections in the paper.

The newspaper will be avail-

able at newsstands next Wednesday instead of Tuesday and arrive a day later in the mail most places.

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" (See VOTERS on Page 12A)

Mailing his list



KINDERGARTNERS Tod Mastin and Haylee Schurr put letters to Santa Claus in the large mailbox downtown on Friday during a class visit. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

*Council votes to accept bid

(Continued from Page 1A) want to end up with something like they did with the treatment plant itself. (The new lagoons have produced an offensive odor much of the time since built, especially in the winter.) He said that he doesn't want to see the city buy something and then in a year find out that it'll need to spend more money to see it done right.

With the performance specifications, said Mr. Tillman, Pond Solutions has to make the system work. That's part of the performance bond, which he said would be good for two years.

The council has a choice, said Mayor Stanley. It can choose to stay with the prior decision, in which case the appeal will go to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Or the council can change the decision and go with Pond Solutions, in which case SolarBee will probably appeal. The state may make a decision either way.

The council could also decide not to take any grant money and buy what the city wants, he added, but it will cost twice as much.

Mr. Ruzicka said he and the man from SolarBee used to work together. He brought that up many times during the discussion.

Councilwoman Marcia Lohofener said she didn't like the feeling of Oberlin being caught between the two companies.

Councilman Rob McFee said when he made the motion to accept the higher bid he said it was because of the claims about a brushless and nonbrushless motor.

He made a motion to reconsider the bids. With the recommendation of the engineer changing to go with the lower bid, the council approved the one from Pond Solutions.

During the meeting, the men said that Pond Solutions has been bought by Aeromiz Systems, but said that didn't change the bid or the equipment they will use.

*Voters have time to mail ballots

(Continued from Page 1A) 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 ordi-

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

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

City donates to theater

The Oberlin City Council agreed to resume a monthly donation to help with the Sunflower Cinema's electric bill, but decided to wait to make a decision about a donation to the Last Indian Raid Museum until talking to someone with the board.

In the past, the city has given the theater a \$100 monthly allowance for its utility bill.

Board member Duane Dorshorst said the group appreciates the help from the city. With the new building and adding an extra show, he said, he foresees the board going over that \$100-a-month allowance.

In the past, said Mayor Joe Stanley, the council has given the museum a \$3,500-a-year allowance for utilities. The museum has a balance

due on its account of \$5,396.

Has the museum board been notified of the balance? asked Councilwoman Marcia Lohofener. Mayor Stanley said he thought it had been. The bill is for water, sewer and electric service, he said.

The donation to the museum, said Councilwoman Rhonda May, has been talked about in the past. The council set it at a certain amount but it looks like the museum board thinks the donation should just be what their bill is.

Mrs. Lohofener said she thought it would be a good idea for them to have someone with the museum come talk to the council before a decision is made.

*Veteran remembers World War II

(Continued from Page 1A) "We wore our white navy hats, but in spite of that, we still got sunburned between the hat and our shirt collars while marching in the hot sun."

After completing eight weeks of boot camp, he was sent to Beloit, Wis., where he trained as a diesel mechanic on Fairbanks-Morse engines and also learned about high-pressure steam engines.

From there, he was sent to Little Creek, Va., where about 65 men, including officers, boarded the LSM 5, a landing ship medium. Mr. Ufford said he was a diesel mechanic. Their first assignment was to take supplies to Okinawa, as well as to the big Navy ships in the area.

They also went to Guadalcanal and Tinian. One of their biggest assignments was to patrol the sea for enemy vessels.

"We were sitting on the beach at Tinian, where the B-29 had taken off to drop the atom bomb, when word was received that the war was over," he recalled. "We had a big celebration, with the crew using fire hoses to strike the guys on the other three ships in port."

His crew stayed there until they took a load of fuel oil to Jinsen, Korea. He remembers seeing "SI" Shaw, also from Oberlin, on a stop in Saipan, a neighboring island to Tinian.

Mr. Ufford said he returned to the states on the USS Hermitage and

remembers the thrill when their ship went under the Golden Gate bridge. They spent several days in the San Francisco area before leaving by train for Norman, Okla., where he was discharged with the rank of Motor Machinist Mate 3rd Class (MOMM3/class).

"There was never a thought of ever going anywhere but back to Oberlin" he said, "and a buddy and I often talked about that."

When he got home, he said, he knew he didn't want to farm, but he didn't have a job. One day when he was at the courthouse, he said that Rex Diehl and Bill DeKnight invited him into the Soil Conservation Service office and told him he needed to go to work there, which

he did.

"I began working there and continued in that position until retiring in 1981," he said. "He married JoAnn Lincoln on Oct. 28, 1949. Their son Richard and his wife Wendy live in Havre, Mont., while daughter Janie and husband Rob Rutherford are in Topeka. In all, the Uffords have five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

"JoAnn and I have had many wonderful years since my retirement, working on old tractors and taking short trips," Mr. Ufford said.

Though World War II veterans have been called "The Greatest Generation" in a book by Tom Brokaw, he said that after so many years, he sometimes feels like they are the "Forgotten Breed" since so many have died.

"Serving in the U.S. Navy was the greatest adventure of my life," he said. "I didn't get hurt and I saw a lot of country."

City works on evaluation form

The Oberlin City Council discussed the evaluation for Administrator Austin Gilley behind closed doors Thursday night.

The council met in a closed session first for an hour and then for an additional 30 minutes to work on the evaluation. The session included the mayor and council. City Attorney Steve Hirsch had left the meeting early and Mr. Gilley was at a Kansas Association of City Managers conference.

There was no action taken after

the sessions"

Prior to going into closed session, the council briefly discussed the "tool," or form, they would use to evaluate Mr. Gilley.

Mayor Joe Stanley and Councilwoman Rhonda May had taken a couple of different evaluations for other towns and worked on a format. Mr. Gilley also had submitted an evaluation form that he preferred.

The council looked at both tools. Some of the questions were the same, some were different.

After making some changes, including taking out some of the questions and adding others, the council went into closed session to discuss the evaluation.

Some of the topics on the evaluation include preparing short-range as well as long-range planning, the annual budget, supervising, directing and assigning duties, to name a few.

The council has not yet adopted an evaluation form.

Council plans special meeting

The Oberlin City Council plans to hold a special meeting Thursday to continue a discussion on the form it will use for the city administrator's

evaluation.

The meeting will be open to the public. Mayor Joe Stanley said he might be calling other council mem-

bers to see if they want to put any other items on the agenda.

The meeting will be held upstairs at 7 p.m. at The Gateway.

Winter storm forecast; school closed

With the threat of eight to 12 inches of snow Tuesday, the superintendent cancelled school for the day after the grade school concert Monday.

Superintendent Duane Dorshorst said he was on the phone on and off all day Monday with meteorologists with the National Weather Service in Goodland. The forecast shows

eight to 12 inches of snow, wind and very cold temperatures.

The storm is predicted to get worse as the day goes on, which could have caused a problem with getting kids back home. Every student, even if they live in the country, has to have someone to stay with in home. Without canceling school it could have meant having kids stuck

in town.

Although Mr. Dorshorst didn't cancel school for today, yet, if the storm goes as predicted people will most likely still be digging out, so Donuts for Dads at the grade school has been postponed until 8 a.m. Thursday.

Sports Reporter wanted

Sports enthusiasts, this is your chance to tell the whole town about the Oberlin Red Devils' activities on the field, the court and the road.

The Oberlin Herald is looking for a part-time sports reporter, so give us a call at 785-475-2206 for all the details. EOE m/f/h



THE OBERLIN HERALD

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VOTE NO

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Paid for by Chuck and Diane Frickey

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