

Happy New Year!

THE OBERLIN HERALD

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City seats up for vote

Anyone interested in running for Oberlin City Council has until noon on Tuesday, Jan. 25, to turn in their forms.

Interim City Administrator Karen Larson told the council members at their meeting Thursday, Dec. 16, that she has the forms if anyone wants to file for office. Candidates, she said, can choose to circulate a petition and get 25 signatures or they can pay a \$5 filing fee.

There are three spots on the upcoming April ballot, currently held by Mayor Joe Stanley and members Ray Ward and Rhonda May.

Mrs. Larson said none of them has said if they plan to run for re-election.

Anyone who is interested in running should contact Mrs. Larson at the city office or go to the county clerk's office in the courthouse.

Mrs. Larson said Greg Lohoefer, with the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp., contacted her to see if the bowling alley could get a utility credit like the theater gets. The theater gets \$100 a month, she said.

Mr. Lohoefer requested the same amount for the alley, although they would probably appreciate (See COUNCIL on Page 12)

Oberlin girl hurt in wreck

A 16-year-old Oberlin girl was badly hurt last Wednesday night between Colby and her hometown, apparently while heading home.

Friends in Oberlin said she had to be flown to a Denver hospital with multiple fractures.

Serena Stacy was taken to Citizens Medical Center in Colby after the wreck, which happened about 10:45 p.m., the Kansas Highway Patrol reported.

Officials at Swedish Medical Center in Denver confirmed Thursday that she had been admitted there. Her mother, Lisa Paulson,

was with her at the hospital, where she had surgery last week.

Stacy played Dorothy in the Decatur Community High School production of "The Wizard of Oz" in November.

Troopers reported that Stacy was eastbound on U.S. 83 about four miles southwest of Selden in Sheridan County. Her vehicle drifted off the north shoulder into the ditch and rolled, coming to rest on its wheels facing southwest.

The patrol said she was not wearing her seat belt.

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Food drive soars past store's goals

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone who donated 2,368 food or supply items to the 12th annual Stanley Hardware food drive.

The collection for the Decatur County Food Pantry met and exceeded its goal just days before Christmas.

Each year the goal is set at 2,000 items, with food trickling in from after Thanksgiving until the end of the year.

Last week, the count of nonperishable food items, cleaning supplies and personal hygiene items was 1,130.

Then the youth of Oberlin stepped in and helped the drive go over and

beyond its goal.

Members of the Teens for Christ collected food from front porches on Dec. 19. That plus what the schools had brought in from their own food drives was taken to the store.

By Thursday night, when stores were open late for a special Men's Shopping Night, the goal was reached and passed. By Monday night, the banner at Stanley's proudly proclaimed that the community had gathered 2,368 items for those needing a little help.

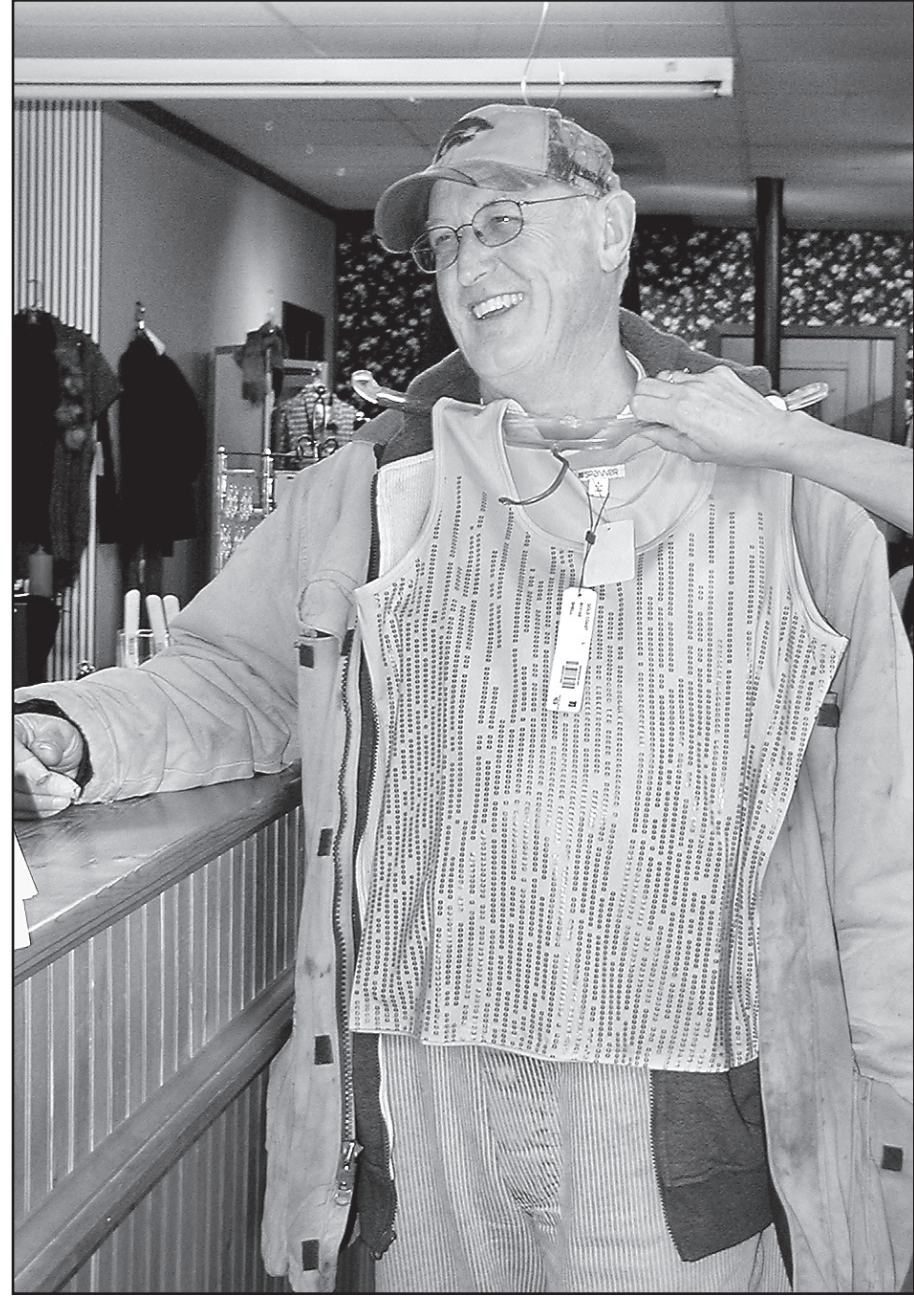
After the first of the year, the donated items will be taken to the pantry in the basement of the United Church.



Men get night to find her gift

BUYING PRESENTS during Men's Shopping Night on Thursday, Preston Pratt (above) got a 115-piece tool set from Joe Stanley at Stanley Hardware while Kenny Carter of Jennings (below) checked out storage containers at the store. Over at the Dresser, Ken Shobe (right) wasn't buying the fancy top for wife Janice despite Peggy Pratt's salesmanship. Most merchants said the evening, sponsored by the Oberlin Business Alliance, was a success.

— Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes



Late news brought year's stories to a climax

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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As 2010 winds down, it's time to take a look at the headlines from the past year.

Over the past 52 weeks, we've had thousands of headlines in *The Oberlin Herald*. While there's been news from the past 365 days, probably the two biggest stories took place in the last month.

The stories of the 12 buck deer allegedly poached in Decatur County and 1,200 dogs being euthanized at a local kennel both made national headlines as they hit the news wire — and the Internet — shortly after being published.

Each month there were stories that some might remember in the new year.

In January:

• Decatur County farmers were still harvesting corn because of snow storms in late 2009. While farmers started the fall harvest at the normal time, rain and snow kept them out of the fields much of the fall and early winter.

• Final figures show the county received 28.55 inches of moisture in 2009, compared to 23.23 inches in 2008 and the 22.57 inches which is normal of the area.

• The Oberlin City Council approved transfer of \$140,000 from the electric fund to operate The Gateway.

In February:

• Col. Delbert Townsend, a 1938 Decatur Commu-

nity High School graduate, died in Maryland. Col. Townsend set up a scholarship program for Oberlin graduates to attend Kansas State University, and for years was host to students for a tour of Washington.

• Under protest, the City Council approved a consent order with the state Department of Health and Environment to build a water treatment plant by the beginning of 2013.

The project is needed to lower the amounts of arsenic and uranium in the city's drinking water. With the consent order, the state can fine the city up for \$5,000 a day if the plant is not done.

• Dave Nichols, a former hospital employee, was sentenced to nine months in prison, which was suspended to 18 months on probation, for stealing \$37,766 from Decatur Health Systems. Mr. Nichols won't serve time unless he were to violate conditions of his probation.

Prior to sentencing negotiations were made for Mr. Nichols to pay \$36,811 to Great Western Insurance Co., which covered the hospital. He also had to pay the \$1,000 deductible to the hospital and an additional \$6,000 to the auditors for a total of \$43,811 in restitution.

Mr. Nichols was charged with writing checks out of the Wheat Ridge Terrace account for his personal benefit.

In March:

• The "2009" fall harvest finally came to an end after five months.

• The council hired JL Construction to put in a (See LATE on Page 12)



ENJOYING A SNOW in February, Madison and Landen MacFee took a break from shoveling to horse around.

— Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

