



**CARRYING A TRADITION** at least 30 years strong, the Decatur County High School massed choir invited alumni to sing the Hallelujah Chorus with them for the last song of

the evening at their concert Thursday night.  
- Herald staff photo by Sue May

## \*Stores will close

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oke night from 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Owner Jerry Wescott would like to have reservations called to 693-3370 or 871-7863.  
The Eagle and Crossroads Express convenience stores will maintain their regular schedules both days.  
Dollar General will close at 8 p.m. New Year's Eve and be open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. New Year's Day.  
Sunflower Recreation will be open New Year's Eve and closed New Year's Day.

Oberlin Livestock will not have a sale on New Year's Eve. Their next auction will be Monday, Jan. 7.  
Decatur Co-op Association and Hansen Mueller Grain will both be closed New Year's Day.  
Trash pick up will be as usual Monday. The rest of the week, trash will be picked up a day late.  
At *The Oberlin Herald*, correspondents are encouraged to get their news in early, as once again the paper will go to press on Friday. The office will be open all day New Year's Eve but closed on New

## \*Cassidy prepared

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universities. Rep. Cassidy, who spent 20 years as principal of St. Francis High School, said he plans to spend the first two weeks of the session teaching committee members about school finance. He said he hopes to bring in superintendents and college presidents to talk to the committee.  
"The governor has requested we look at a two-year plan," he said. "This would be much better than

what we have now, with districts always waiting to hear what the Legislature decides. With a two-year plan, they'll know ahead of time what budget they can work with."  
Other than the chairmen, remaining committee assignments haven't been handed out. Rep. Cassidy said last year there were 22 people on the Education Committee and 14 on the budget committee.

## \*Snow starts the season

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this," he said, "this is the norm. We work a lot of crashes, and for every one there are probably two or three people that slide off the road that we have to get out of the ditch."  
Mr. Haas said that if you need to drive during storms this winter, to go slow and be prepared to brake, especially at intersections, where ice tends to accumulate more. Also, he said, it doesn't hurt to have everything you may need already in your car before you go out.

routes.  
Joe Finley, district maintenance engineer for the Kansas Department of Transportation in Norton, said that the whiteout conditions and high winds gave the department some trouble. The first road to close was I-70, at 3 p.m. The department closed the freeway at Goodland when Colorado closed it from Limon to Burlington. Eventually, it was closed as far east as Russell, which U.S. 36 was closed from the state line to Phillipsburg.  
The department tries to close the highways in a pre-ordered fashion, he explained, to account for how many drivers will have to pull over and get motel rooms for the night as well as road conditions. As the storm came in from the west and south, the highways were closing in front of it.

"When it comes around to winter-time," he said, "a lot of people like to carry gloves, blankets, footwear, an extra can of gas in an approved container, ice scraper, a cell phone if you've got one and a flashlight."  
Steve Christy, operations manager at Prairie Land Electric, said that only one power outage had been reported in Decatur County, about four miles south of the state line and five west of Lyle. While the power held up, he said, it still never hurts to be prepared for a storm like this.  
"It's useful if you have a generator and a double throw (switch)," he said, which will make the system safe for the workmen to repair the line. "Last night, it took our fellas quite a bit of time to travel any distance because they couldn't see anything. We can't move very fast in those situations. I had 20 guys out working from 4:30 p.m. until after midnight, but it wasn't in Decatur. Most of our trouble was in Norton, Phillips and Rooks counties."  
Mr. Stallman said that the county crew started clearing the roads around 6:30 a.m. on Thursday, doing the emergency routes to places like the hospital and fire station first. After that, he said, they got the county roads and then the township

"If we know the conditions are bad enough," Mr. Finley said, "the last thing we want to do is shut traffic where it will stack up. So we try to close it back so people can pull off and find a hotel when they need to... Ultimately, we closed most of the north routes in our district, too."  
Mr. Finley said that if you're planning on traveling for the holidays, to call the agency's hotline by dialing 511, or check the road-condition map at [www.511.ksdot.org](http://www.511.ksdot.org).  
"We encourage anyone traveling to look at the site for a future weather forecast," he said, "to be aware of what coming up. We're seeing early indications of a white Christmas, and while everyone else likes that, it means we need to work through the holiday. But our people are dedicated, so we'll be doing the best we can to be working and keep those roads open to the public."

## County pledges \$1,000 to seat belt program

County commissioners pledged \$1,000 to the new seatbelt safety program at Decatur Community High School last Tuesday after hearing from the Kansas Highway Patrol that the Oberlin School Board had accepted it.  
The program was brought to the commissioner by Trooper Tod Hileman of Hays at their Dec. 4 meeting. It is run by the kids, he said, and works on a system of rewarding those who wear seat belts as opposed to ticketing those who don't.  
Those rewards include prizes that kids really want, such as Kindle Fires and Visa gift cards. Mr. Hileman said, which was why he was seeking cash support.  
"Car wrecks are the No. 1 killer of teenagers," Trooper Hileman told the commissioners at that meeting. "If you look at this chart, in the last four years that the project has been going, it's cut the fatality rate (at various Kansas schools) in half."  
Commissioners called Mr. Hileman during the meeting last Tuesday, and he confirmed that the school board had accepted the program and that the kids seemed pretty excited about it. He said that teacher Wendy Scott would be in charge.

to the county clerk's office on the second floor of the courthouse.  
In other business, commissioners:  
• Heard that the \$1,000 left over from a risk avoidance grant to the Road and Bridge Department was used by Emergency Medical Services for a bumper guard for an ambulance and by the sheriff's office for a camera and monitoring system in the jail.  
• Heard that the county's bridge inspections went well. PenCo engineer Gerol DeBoers said that the only remaining bridges to be inspected were the most heavily used.  
"You've done a really good job keeping them up," he said. "The state is getting stricter and stricter with the regulations, and every year it seems they cut your funding."  
• Agreed to apply for a grant that will upgrade two monitor defibrillators, used to shock the heart of a cardiac arrest victim back into beating in an ambulance, for the ambulance department. There are different, outdated ones in each of the county's ambulances, Chris Koerperich, an emergency medical technician assisting in the application said, and they want to have the same equipment for them both. The grant requires a 20 percent match. Two of the machines, he said, will cost a total of \$52,393, which would be \$10,478 for the county.

# SAMWAY'S

# Pre-Inventory

# SALE

Wednesday, Dec. 26th 8:30-5:30  
Thursday, Dec. 27th 8:30-9:00  
Friday, Dec. 28th 8:30-5:30  
Saturday, Dec. 29th 9:00-5:00  
Monday, Dec. 31st 8:30-2:30

5  
DAYS  
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**STOREWIDE SALE with LARGE DISCOUNTS on our already LOW PRICES. In stock merchandise only.**

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**FREE DELIVERY**

<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">In Stock Vinyl <b>up to 40% off</b></p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Bedroom Furniture <b>20% off</b></p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">In Stock Carpet <b>up to 30% off</b></p>
<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Dining Room Furniture <b>20% off</b></p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Cedar Chests <b>20% off</b></p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Living Room Tables <b>20% off</b></p>
<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">La-Z-Boy® Recliners <b>15% off</b></p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Check out the Massage Chairs</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Glider Rockers <b>15% off</b></p>
<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Sleepers &amp; Sectionals <b>20% off</b></p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Mattress &amp; Box Springs <b>15% off</b></p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Sofas &amp; Loveseats <b>20% off</b></p>
<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Curios &amp; Desks <b>10% off</b></p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Lamps <b>20% off</b></p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Entertainment Centers <b>10% off</b></p>

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