



**IN BLOWING SNOW ON MONDAY**, firefighters climbed a ladder to the second story (above) of Mildred Lippelmann's home to break out windows for ventilation. Fireman Rocky Diederich (below) got help to change his air tank after a stint inside. Fireman Patrick Pomeroy (bottom photo) held a hose while firefighters knocked down the flames inside.

— Herald staff photos by Steve Haynes and Kimberly Brandt

## Electrical fire ruins local home on a snowy day

**By KIMBERLY BRANDT**  
An electrical fire Monday afternoon ruined an Oberlin woman's home and most of her belongings. Firemen fought the flames as 40-mile-an-hour north winds whipped snow past the house a couple of blocks south of the hospital. Mildred Lippelmann said she learned about the fire at her home at 805 W. Chandler Avenue while working at the Oberlin Livestock Barn, where she works in the kitchen of the cafe. She said a woman came out of the office and said she had heard the county dispatcher say her house was on fire. Mrs. Lippelmann said she waited for the woman to smile, but she didn't. Someone gave her a ride to her house, where volunteers from the Oberlin City and Rural Fire Departments were busy fighting flames inside the walls. A volunteer from Jennings who was in the area stopped by and helped.

Mrs. Lippelmann got a ride back to the sale barn. She said she and her late husband, Gordon, moved into the home from the country in 1970 when he retired from farming. He died in 1979, and she has lived there alone since.

Monday, she said she hoped there wouldn't be a lot of damage because she had a lot of pretty things inside that she didn't want to lose.

Part of the house, said Mrs. Lippelmann, is 100 years old, adding that the old part was smoking the most.

Fire Chief Bill Cathcart said the call came in around 2 p.m. He said Leland Smith had been driving by and noticed the smoke coming out of the house.

Chief Cathcart said he was at his home a few blocks away, and was the first on the scene. He said heavy smoke was pouring from the house, and there were plenty of flames, but inside, it was mostly in the walls.

The chief said the fire stretched from floor to roof inside the walls.

Chief Cathcart said it looked like the fire started with an electrical problem in the walls. The flames then broke out onto the main floor and burned quite a bit, he said.

Firefighters went in with the hoses first and then started to work on some upstairs windows from the outside, breaking them out for ventilation. They laid out a 2 1/2-inch line to a hydrant more than a block to the east.

The house was full of smoke when he got there, said Chief Cathcart, but no one knows how long it had been burning by then.

There was a lot of damage, he said, but Mrs. Lippelmann should be able to salvage some of her things.

She had a lot of antiques, said Chief Cathcart, so he guessed damage would run in the \$100,000 range.

Around 5 p.m., the trucks returned to the station, where the firefighters warmed up and got themselves and the equipment cleaned up.



## Drawing winner will receive \$1,500 Saturday

One Oberlin shopper with the bright red ticket will become \$1,500 richer during the annual Christmas on Us drawing at 2 p.m. Saturday at Centennial Park.

Friday will be the last day to get tickets in the annual promotion put on by *The Oberlin Herald* and Oberlin merchants.

In addition to the grand prize, one shopper's ticket will be chosen to

receive the second prize of \$500.

All the prizes will be given in scrip which can only be used at participating sponsors in Oberlin.

For the last month, shoppers have been collecting one red ticket for each \$10 spent at sponsors.

At the close of business Friday, all tickets will be collected for the drawing on Saturday.

So far, *The Herald* has given away

\$300 in instant prizes, with six shoppers finding their ticket numbers in ads in the special Christmas on Us section in the paper each week.

Last week, Christina Bryan found ticket number 0081074 in an ad for R&M Service Center. She got the ticket from Ray Jewelry.

On Friday, Dianne Bremer brought in ticket 1142808. She found her number in the ad for the

Ward Drug Store.

Mrs. Bremer said she planned to donate her money to Dennis Brown and the Forget-Me-Nots and their projects.

That leaves four more winners possible. In this week's ads, there will be eight ticket numbers. The last four instant prizes will be given to the first four people to bring their ticket into the newspaper office.

## District may end up short on cash

**By KIMBERLY BRANDT**  
Oberlin School District officials have been working closely with auditors, both state and federal, to see if they have enough money make it to the end of the year, but it looks like it will be a close call.

Regardless of what happens this year, though, it looks like the district will have to cut up to nine teachers next year, or with a tax increase, only five.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt told the Oberlin School Board last Monday afternoon that it looks like the district will squeak by when looking at the numbers and figures from one auditor. If you look at the numbers the other comes up with, though, the district may fall short.

Mr. Glodt said it looks like the district will have to use its new reduction in force policy, laying off anywhere from five to nine teachers

### School roundup

At its meeting last Monday, the Oberlin School Board:

- Heard that the district needs to see if they have money to make it to the end of the year. Story to left.
- Spent 55 minutes behind closed doors to talking about personnel. Story on Page 3A.
- Talked about priorities for the district after hearing the board may have to cut nine teachers. Story to come.

depending on whether voters will allow an increase in property tax for the local option budget.

The board hasn't made any decision (See MONEY on Page 5A)

## City approves sewer plant plans

**By KIMBERLY BRANDT**  
The Oberlin City Council decided to send plans for a countercurrent aeration sewer plant to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment after a public meeting Thursday night at The Gateway.

Although the summary in the plans is for a 450,000-gallon-a-day plant, the council has not decided on the size of plant or where to borrow the money.

The public meeting, which was required for loan applications,

brought about eight people in, mostly city employees.

The council started the evening talking about the size of the plant. With the need for a water treatment facility on the horizon, Councilman Jay Anderson asked how much water would run through the sewer plant.

Thaniel Monaco, engineer with Miller and Associates, the McCook firm which is planning the plant, said it depends on what kind (See PLANS on Page 5A)

## Storms bring snow twice in last week

**By KIMBERLY BRANDT**  
Two small snowstorms in the last week may be a sign that the drought is breaking, and people, though cold, seemed happy with the moisture.

The snow last Tuesday and then again Monday during the day gave wheat fields a much-needed drink and gave students an unexpected day of vacation.

Students in Oberlin got to turn the alarm clock off and go back to bed after school was cancelled because

of the weather.

Snow started to fall around 12:30 a.m. Tuesday and continued into the early afternoon, dropping 2.4 inches by the time the storm was done.

School Superintendent Kelly Glodt said that Transportation Director Brian Simonsson was out in the wee hours of the morning to check the roads. Mr. Glodt said he was in Topeka with the two principals at a meeting. He said that Mr. Simonsson called him and they de- (See STORMS on Page 5A)

## Man shot while fleeing from police

### Oberlin resident dies in St. Francis

A 43-year-old Oberlin man died in St. Francis on Sunday night after a police officer's firearm discharged while he was wrestling with the man.

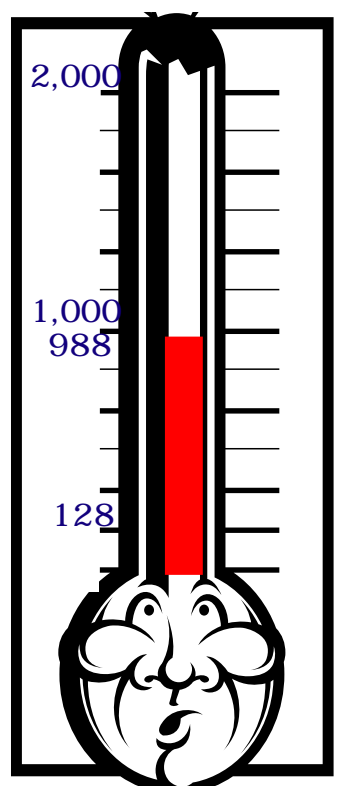
William Joseph Schwab died at the Cheyenne County Hospital from what preliminary reports called an accidental shooting.

On Monday, Cheyenne County Attorney Kevin Berens issued a statement. In it, the county attorney said there had been an undercover felony investigation on Mr. Schwab by the police department in St. Francis and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation.

He said Mr. Schwab attempted to avoid being arrested on Sunday and as he fled, a St. Francis officer tackled him. The officer's gun went off, striking Mr. Schwab.

The KBI was investigating. In Oberlin, Police Officer Troy Haas said the police department here has been looking into some allegations involving Mr. Schwab, but he couldn't say much else.

## Food drive is half way



The annual food drive at Stanley Hardware is just about halfway to the goal of 2,000 items.

The drive will end on New Year's Day.