

# A last look at baby Jesus



**LITTLE JOSH JUENEMANN** took a last look at the nativity set at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Oberlin after Mass on Sunday. Soon the baby Jesus and the rest of the statues will be packed away for another year. This year's set

included Timmy the Mouse, who was part of a story Father Mark Berland read to the children of the parish in place of a sermon on Christmas Eve.

— Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes.

# Chamber sets annual banquet for next week

The Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual banquet next week.

The dinner is set for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14, on the west side of the new Golden Age Center.

Anyone interested in attending should call the Chamber office at 475-3441 or stop by. Tickets are \$20 per person.

On the menu are roast beef, baked potatoes, corn, salad, dinner rolls and something sweet.

During the evening, Chamber members will elect three people to serve on the board. Directors going off the board are David Olson, a retired teacher; Amanda Grafel of the Dresser; and Cindy Shirley, who

is a substitute teacher. The other members are former Mayor Ken Shobe; Deanna Castle, former city clerk; Robert Groneweg, R&M Service Center; Amanda Anderson, an Oberlin housewife; Martin Burton, branch manager of First National Bank; and Cricket Ketterl, who teaches at the grade school.

Speaking at the dinner will be Dave Buchholz, president of David & Associates, a marketing firm out of Hastings, Neb. The company says it serves clients in agribusiness, health care, telecommunications, financial manufacturing, tourism, economic development, professional services and retail.

# Marketing expert to hold seminars on Friday, Jan. 15

Oberlin business people will have a chance to take part in a marketing seminar on Friday, Jan. 15.

The keynote speaker for the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce banquet Thursday, Jan. 14, a Nebraska marketing expert, will offer two marketing sessions the next day.

Dave Buchholz is president of David & Associates, a marketing communications firm in Hastings, Neb. The company, said Mr. Buchholz, serves regional, national and international clients in agribusiness, healthcare, telecommunications, financial, manufacturing, tourism and economic development, professional services and retail.

Mr. Buchholz won the 2002 National Agri-Marketing Association award for professional excellence in public relations. The firm has also won several regional and national awards for strategic and creative work.

Connie Grafel, marketing director for the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp., said Mr. Buchholz will give two seminars, the first from 7:30 to 9 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 15, and the second one from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. that afternoon.

During the first session, coffee and rolls will be available while sandwiches will be served during the second.

Each seminar will cost \$10 for Chamber members and \$15 for others.

Anyone can enroll by calling Ms. Grafel at 475-2901 or the Chamber at 475-3441.

Mr. Buchholz is from a smaller town, said Ms. Grafel, so he can relate to issues here.

The seminar is being sponsored by the Chamber, Economic Development Corp. and the Oberlin Business Alliance.

# County discusses storms, crops, roads

The Decatur County commissioners talked last Tuesday about the storm over Christmas and how many fall crops are still in the field.

Eighty to 90 percent of the roads blew clean, said Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman, but some had drifts three to five feet deep. The crew went out on Saturday, Dec. 26, to clean roads for about six hours, he said.

The crew needs to make special allowances for the roads to fields where fall crops haven't been harvested yet, said Commissioner Gene Gallentine.

Mr. Stallman said they also look for fields with cattle so they can open the roads to them, since farmers need to get to them with feed and water.

Normally, said Mr. Gallentine, there are no crops still in the fields

## County roundup

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Talked briefly about the storm over Christmas and the number of farmers who still have fall crops in

the field. Story on Page 1.

- Signed a tax exemption application and mailed it to the state for the new Golden Age Center. Story on Page 5.

this time of year, but it's been a different year.

In the Norcat and Jennings areas, said Mr. Gallentine, there are probably 5,000 to 6,000 acres of fall crops in the field. Commissioner Ralph Unger said he wasn't sure where some of the numbers he's hearing came from, but he'd been told that 95 percent of the crops in Decatur County had been harvested.

Commissioner Stan McEvoy asked if half had been harvested. Mr. Unger said he thought 50 percent or better had been, but not 95 percent.

"It's been a strange year," he said.

It has been a different year since planting time, said Mr. Gallentine.

With the storm over Christmas, said Mr. Stallman, it seems the snow

was heavier in the Norcat area and the central and southern parts of the county.

Mr. Gallentine said he thought they had eight to 10 inches near his home in rural Clayton while Mr. Unger said he had four to six inches at his place west of town. Mr. Unger added that it was hard to tell, since the snow blew around so much.

There are a few drifts, said Mr. Stallman, that will be around for a while.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Gave the OK to pay a Creative Dimensions bill for \$1,497 for bathroom stalls for the new Golden Age Center.

- Approved paying \$649 to Jacque Boultinghouse, emergency preparedness director, for mileage and expenses for the year.

# No-till conference planned in Salina

The 14th annual No-till on the Plains Winter Conference is planned for Tuesday and Thursday, Jan. 26 and 27, at the Bicentennial Center in Salina.

The conference has evolved into the most respected "continuous no-till" conference and trade show of its type in North America, said executive director Brian Lindley.

Farmers may take advantage of an early registration discount of \$150 (\$200 after Jan. 15) to reserve a place, he said.

This year several "producer speakers" — farmers each in a different stage of continuous no-till with a variety of unique conditions — will offer presentations, Lindley

said. Several national and international no-tillage experts will engage the crowd.

The speaking lineup features Nigel Wilhelm, from Australia; Ademir Calegari, with João Carlos de Moraes Sá (JUCA) from Brazil; Lyle Frees, Dietrich Kastens, Charles Rice, Alan Schlegel, Josh Lloyd and Gail Fuller from Kansas; Dwayne Beck and Jim Millar from South Dakota; Dave Brandt, Ohio; Ray Ward, Mark Watson, Jeff Wesels, Dan Gillespie and Paul Jasa from Nebraska; Neonila Martyniuk from Ukraine; Moe Russell, Iowa; and Bruce Vincent, Montana.

Farmers will have an opportunity to ask questions, share trade secrets

and talks with other attendees, participants and presenters, Lindley said.

Courses are available for all experience levels, he said. Topics include Producers' Real Life Experiences, Fertility and Soil Health, Cover Crops and Alternative Crops, Grazing Systems/Livestock, Water Management and Utilizing No-till Under Irrigation, How to Apply New Technologies, Rainfall Simulator and Soil Demonstrations, Managing Residue, plus many more.

"If you are a producer looking for an agronomic advantage and a way to improve your management, then this conference is the place to be," Lindley said.

Along with the conference, No-till on the Plains is offering the Agriculture's Innovation Minds Symposium on Thursday, Jan. 28, at the center. The symposium is held in conjunction with the conference but is a separate meeting.

The theme of this year's meeting will focus on cover crops and will feature Mr. Calegari.

Several experienced farmers will talk about what has been tried and what is working.

For information or to register, contact the office at (888) 330-5142 or visit the website at [www.notill.org](http://www.notill.org).



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# Give blood at Gateway

The American Red Cross is holding a blood drive at The Gateway today.

Walk-ins are welcome, so stop by

the arena from noon to 6 p.m.

For questions or to make an appointment, call the Red Cross at (800) 448-3543.

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