

Boys boarding home in the works

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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Kings Treatment Center plans to open a boys boarding home at the former 180 House on Elk Avenue in northwest Oberlin, just south of The Gateway.

Don Lund, director of program development for the company, said although the house has been on the market, they have decided not to sell it.

Instead they have re-evaluated the program and are going to open a boarding home

with house parents. Mr. Lund said programs like this have proven themselves to be successful. It would be more of a Boys Town model, where the parents actually live in the house, he said. The 180 House ran with hourly employees.

Mr. Lund said he's had experience working with foster care and family preservation and with the exploited and missing children's unit with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

He said he got tired of driving 400 to 500

miles and staying in hotels with his job, so he changed.

Mr. Lund said he knows what it takes to make a successful group home, and part of that starts with the house parents. This house would be a home to eight boys.

The project is in the initial stages. He has the numbers of a few maintenance guys in the area who could take a look at the house and make any needed repairs. The house mainly needs a little tender loving care, he said.

He has information on some couples who might be interested or might work as the house parents. The idea is to hire someone for a year and then re-evaluate and see how things are going.

"We want this done right," he said.

Also, to make this group boarding home successful, they need to work with the schools and law enforcement.

The home won't take sexual or violent offenders of any kind, he said. They want a fit for the home and community.

The home won't have kids who are just waiting to go to an adult facility, either.

The home could open in 90 days or sooner. Right now, he's just looking for the right people.

The boys will need community services and he wants them to be active in the community, including the churches.

There is a need for this kind of home he said.



DURING THE PARADE OF LIGHTS on Friday, Dan Lippelmann (above) drove a tractor and dressed as Santa for part of the Mini Sappa Antique Club float. On the St. John's/Faith Lutheran float (below), several adults and kids played

the bells, including Jeni Henningson, Peyton O'Toole, David Waterman, Dustin Nichols, Tyler Nichols, Ganon, Nolan and Robbie Henningson and Kem Bryan.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Lights decorate floats

Tiny lights, decorations and people rolled down Main Street during the Oberlin Business Alliance's Parade of Lights on Friday.

Sixteen entries joined the parade. Some had blow-up lighted decorations, others had fake candy canes or other candy decorations and some had lights and bundled-up people.

The theme for the parade was Candy Land Christmas, picked by the alliance members and suggested by Belinda Jones' fifth grade class.

Judges picked The Bank's float, decorated with tootsie rolls, chocolate kisses, candy canes and lol-



lipops, for first place. The Decatur Co-op's decorated

sprayer and giant lighted rolling Christmas tree were second and

Santa Claus arriving on the fire truck took third.

Instant winners claim three prizes

Three people claimed \$50 "instant winner" prizes this week in the Oberlin merchants' annual Christmas on Us promotion, but there are still 12 more chances to win.

Jennifer Jensen brought in ticket No. 873431 from Raye's Grocery. The number was printed in the Raye's ad.

"I wouldn't be surprised if it didn't go back to Raye's," she said.

Karen Anderson came in with ticket No. 891046 that she got from Raye's. She said she found the number in The Bank's ad. She didn't know what she was going to spend the money on.

Doris Fringer brought in the third ticket, No. 862016, which she got at R&M Service Center. She said she would probably use the money on

groceries.

Other ticket numbers printed in last week's paper included 871034 and 873307 from Raye's, 893029 from Stanley Hardware, 889078 from Ward Drug Store and 877076 from Ampride.

Numbers are printed in the Christmas on Us ads each week. Anyone who finds their ticket number in one of the ads should bring their half to the newspaper office before 5 p.m. Friday to claim their prize.

All prizes are given in scrip money. Prize money can be spent at sponsors only, including the Carpet Center, Home Planning Center, Decatur Co-op and Ampride, Dale's, Ultimate Fertilizer, Stanley, Ward, Lifetime Eye Care, Creative Collision, Raye's, The Bank and R&M.

For every \$10 shoppers spend at sponsoring businesses between today and Friday, Dec. 17, they

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Shoppers buy items at both shows

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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With the sun shining outside, lots of people headed inside to look at the homemade wares and items sold from the home during the annual Holiday Craft Show and new "Mall in the Hall" over the weekend.

The Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce put on the craft show again this year at The Gateway on Saturday.

On Friday and Saturday the Last Indian Raid Museum board tried something new, inviting people with home-based businesses in to sell their wares.

People milled around both places, many leaving with purchases.

Carla Bales of McCook, who was selling crafts with her husband

Floyd at The Gateway, said she thought things were going good so far on Saturday morning. She said the crowd had been good.

Mrs. Bales said they hadn't been to the show in Oberlin for years, although they had taken part in it before. She said they like to switch around and go to different shows.

Shortly after retirement, said Mrs. Bales, they did shows at malls, but now they aren't into doing the long days. Shows like this one are perfect for the couple, she said.

Kristin McHugh of Oberlin was busy in her booth, making items to sell, including handmade horse ornaments. She said the show was going well. There are lots of people, although there hadn't been

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Opportunities to give abundant this time of year

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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With Christmas just 24 days away, there's plenty of opportunities around the Oberlin area to give to those who could use a little help for the holidays.

Abby Hissong, who organizes the Oberlin Jaycees Angel Tree, said they have 47 kids signed up for the program so far. The deadline was the end of November to fill out the forms for children.

On Monday morning, several forms were waiting to be picked up on the tree at Rocking R in downtown Oberlin.

The presents need to be turned back into the store on Main Street by Wednesday, Dec. 15. Parents will pick up the gifts between 4:30 and 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 20.

Mrs. Hissong said they are also getting closer to being able to buy movie passes for each of the kids.

This year, the average age is probably 5. She's had more kids under the age of 3 this year than usual. A lot of parents have filled out the forms with basic needs like diapers

and wipes.

The Decatur County Food Pantry, said Melanie Anderson, who supervises the agency, is getting really low on items. The pantry can pretty much use anything right now, except maybe flour.

When people come in to use the pantry, they get to pick which items they want.

People can leave donations for the pantry from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The pantry is open for those needing some help during the same time on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Stanley Hardware just started its annual food drive for the pantry. People can donate to the drive by bringing food and other items to the store on Main Street, which displays them in the front window. At the end of the year, the items will be taken to the pantry.

Shayla Williby, who is a partner in the DreamMakers grant business downtown, said they still are collecting shoe boxes for orphans in Haiti. Mrs. Williby said she thinks

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Theater open a year and still looks new

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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It's been a year since the opening of the new Sunflower Cinema in downtown Oberlin, and while things aren't perfect, the theater still looks brand new and sometimes has crowds over the weekend.

Connie Grafel, marketing director for the Oberlin-Decatur Area Economic Development Corp., said the theater is close to breaking even. Some movies bring in more people than others. The development agency is having to use some of its money to pay a loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, she said, instead of paying it out of theater income. A few of the payments have been made with theater money, she said.

It costs so much to bring the movies here, said Ms. Grafel, that only profit actually comes from the

concession stands.

Duane Dorshorst, who serves on the theater board, said the first three months the theater was open, starting with opening night the Friday after Thanksgiving last year, it was busy pretty much no matter what the movie was. After that, it's depended on the movie. Some have done better than others bringing in the people.

There have been a couple week ends where there's been only 40 people, said Mr. Dorshorst. They kind of set a goal of trying to get 100 people in the seats each week. He said that's probably the break-even point, but a lot depends on the concessions.

Mr. Dorshorst said the theater tries to get movies as close to their release as possible. They don't get them the weekend they are

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ON SATURDAY, Dianne Bremer checked out one of the items for sale at the craft show at The Gateway.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

*Season offers chance to give

(Continued from Page 1A) they have received around 70 boxes full of Christmas presents so far. The Zanders' orphanage has around 19 kids, while the one up the road has around 100. Mrs. Williby and Kem Bryan, the other partner on the DreamMakers team, will be collecting boxes until the middle of December. Mrs. Williby said they were told recently by Nanette Zander, whose

family runs the school and orphanage, that they are setting up a clinic in Haiti. They are looking for items like antibiotic ointment, bandages, pain relief caplets, feminine hygiene items and other basics for the medicine cabinet. Those, too, can be dropped off at the DreamMakers office in the Business Enhancement Entrepreneurial Center Monday through Friday afternoons.

*Three win money with giveaway

(Continued from Page 1A) will receive one ticket. People also can get one ticket a week from the newspaper office or from the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce. No purchase is required to win any prize. Tickets are limited to 250 for any single purchase. The Grand Prize drawing is scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, at the gazebo in Centennial Park, unless the weather is bad.

Then it will be moved inside. Employees of any of the sponsoring businesses are not eligible to get tickets at the place of their employment. Employees of the newspaper and their immediate family aren't eligible to win any prize. Winners must be present and have the ticket with them at the time of the drawing. All winners agree to be photographed and interviewed by the newspaper.

*Theater needs more audience

(Continued from Page 1A) released, but usually two to three weeks after. The theater tries to get a good mix of kid and adult movies, too. So far, he said, the board has been fairly lucky with volunteers. A few groups have stepped up to help, but there are still times when the same people have to step up week after week. Mr. Dorshorst said the board can always use more people willing to help at the theater, whether it be selling tickets or working in the

concession stand. So far, he said people have been really respectful and taken good care of the theater. It still looks brand new, said Mr. Dorshorst, even after a year of movies. The theater has movies at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday each weekend. This weekend, the theater will show the action thriller "Unstoppable" and next weekend, the newest Harry Potter movie.

Beer tasting event set at The Gateway

The Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp. has teamed up with a Manhattan brewery to hold a fund raiser for the new bowling alley on Main Street. The corporation plans to hold a beer tasting from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Saturday at The Gateway. There will

be food, drinks and door prizes. Tall Grass Brewery will have five beer varieties to sample. The event will cost \$20 at the door. For questions, call Connie Grafel at 475-2901 or Sid Metcalf at 475-2251.

Community photo set for this Saturday

Area residents are invited to take part in a community photo Saturday at the new bowling alley on Main Street when an Oberlin woman receives the grant money she won. The Modern Woodmen of America will present Shayla Williby, a partner in the DreamMakers grant business, with a \$2,500 cash prize

and a \$2,500 donation for the cause she wrote about for the "Gatherings with Purpose" giveaway. Mrs. Williby wrote an essay nominating the bowling alley project and people voted online for it. The presentation will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at the bowling alley.

Potato bar planned to raise cash for alley

The Oberlin Royal Neighbors plan a "potato bar" feed this month to raise money for the new bowling alley.

The feed will start at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9, at the Golden Age Center. Donations will be taken. As of Monday afternoon, the bowling alley fund has \$133,780, \$16,220 short of the needed \$150,000.

Breakfast set for dads

Oberlin Elementary School students get to bring their dads to breakfast next Wednesday. The Support Our Schools group, run by volunteers, will again sponsor Donuts for Dads. Dads are invited to come have a donut with their student from 7:45 to 8:30 a.m. in the grade school gym.



AT THE GATEWAY on Saturday, Amanda Richards (above) worked on one of her clay sculptures during the craft show. Mary Ewing (below), who was also selling her wares, was busy on a hooked wool piece. — Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



*Shoppers buy crafts and more

(Continued from Page 1A) Abby Hissong, who was selling Uppercase Living at the "Mall in the Hall" at the Old Bohemian Hall at the museum, said she thought it had gone well. The museum people staff did a great job of pulling in a variety of vendors. She talked to a lot of people, booked some parties and was able to let people know what she was selling.

Jean Hale of Oberlin, who sells Scentsy, decorative warmers designed to melt scented wax with the heat of a light bulb instead of the traditional wick and flame, said the show was nice. She had both buyers and lookers during the two days. The "Mall in the Hall" was open Friday evening before and after the Parade of Lights and on Saturday morning. The craft show went all day Saturday.

Ambulance group gets grant money

The Decatur County Ambulance Department received word of a grant it will receive to buy four automatic external defibrillators for buildings in Oberlin and a new defibrillator for the department. The four external units will go

to The Gateway, the grade school, the Sunflower Cinema and the Golden Age Center. The application for the \$11,800 grant from Dane G. Hansen written by the DreamMakers, Shayla Williby and Kem Bryan.

Chamber office gets \$2,500 grant

The Decatur County Chamber of Commerce received a \$2,500 grant after a county farmer nominated the group for the America's Farmers Grow Communities campaign. Kem Bryan said chemical manufacturer Monsanto sent out postcards about the campaign, saying that farmers could nominate a non-profit organization to receive the money in their community. She

said the nomination can be done online. Mrs. Bryan said she filled out the needed information and received the award for the chamber. She said the company is doing a second round for the campaign if any other farmers are interested in naming a nonprofit here.

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