

# Spook parade to be changed to cut chaos

By STEPHANIE DeCAMP  
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The Halloween "Spook Parade" will see a couple of changes this year, largely to avoid the sugar-fueled chaos and costumed delirium business people say haunted downtown last year.

"We're trying to get a little more organized," said Oberlin Business Alliance member Kurt Vollertsen at the group's regular meeting Oct. 3 at the LandMark Inn. "We're trying to make it so it's not so chaotic, so that there will actually be a parade and not just a bunch of kids running around everywhere."

The parade will begin at 4 p.m. on Halloween afternoon, Wednesday, Oct. 31. The plan is to have the kids start after school and go to the Good Samaritan Center as usual to parade for the residents. There they will have a costume contest, and the winner will lead the parade with a big ribbon.

Once they leave Good Sam, the alliance plans to split the kids into groups to march down Main Street. Instead of handing out candy at their doors, businesses are encouraged to bring candy to the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce office beforehand, or if they prefer, the Chamber will be going door to door to pick up candy on Thursday and Friday. The Chamber will then put the candy in individual bags to be handed out at the end of the parade, by a fire truck parked at the south end of Main.

Flyers will be going home with all grade-school kids, so parents will know how the event will work this year, and the group Paint Oberlin Patriotic had offered to organize the kids and hand out candy.

Coming up next is the alliance's Business-to-Business Tour, start-

ing at 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 11. This will also be when the Maverick 4-H Club will be decorating the canopies downtown. On the tour, business owners and employees can look at what others have to offer for the holidays. Mr. Vollertsen said it's open to the public as well, so people can get a sneak peak at all of the holiday specials and products that merchants will have.

Friday, Nov. 23, the day after Thanksgiving, marks official opening of the Christmas season and annual Parade of Lights. The parade will start at 6 p.m., and people are encouraged to stay afterward to begin their Christmas shopping. Shoppers' specials will be announced during the parade, said Mr. Vollertsen, and the alliance plans a turkey scavenger hunt in the stores.

If you find one of the paper turkeys, you can bring it to *The Oberlin Herald* office and redeem it for \$25 in scrip money, which can only be spent at businesses belonging to the alliance. Santa Claus will make an appearance at the parade and will come back on Dec. 15, when Sunflower Cinema plans a free movie day.

The theme of the parade has yet to be picked; as usual, the Alliance will choose from suggestions from the grade school. The class that comes up with the winning theme will get a prize or party of some sort.

Mr. Vollertsen reminded everyone that Wednesday, Dec. 12, will be ladies' shopping night downtown, and Friday, Dec. 21, will be the men's "End of the World" shopping night. The Alliance has named it that because the ancient Mayan calendar ends that day, which many now call, jokingly, the end of the world.

## Go Red Devils!



LITTLE GIRLS who had attended a cheerleading camp earlier this fall got a chance to show off what they learned during the Oberlin-Oakley football game on Friday. — Herald photo by Sarah Fredrickson

## School numbers up by seven students

The Oberlin School District is up seven students over last year's enrollment after the state's official count day at the end of September.

Superintendent Duane Dorshorst told the Oberlin School Board at a meeting last Monday that the county put the district at 359 actual students. That count is seven higher than the previous year.

At the meeting of the Oberlin School Board on Monday, Oct. 8, Mr. Dorshorst told the board that

the district's full-time equivalency count is 343, up 7.9 from the previous year. The full-time equivalency count includes any weighted numbers or half counts for students in preschool.

That leaves the unaudited budget authority at \$2,821,154, said Mr. Dorshorst.

The superintendent has been saying since enrollment time that it looked like the district's count was going to be up this year.

During the meeting, Josh Williby, who teaches industrial arts, asked for permission to buy an additional table saw. With the number of kids in the classes, he said, he would like to have two kinds of blades for projects. The board approved the purchase, said Mr. Dorshorst, which costs about \$3,500.

In other business, the members: Accepted a \$50 check from the Phil Law memorial which is to be used in the music department.

Discussed and approved a survey that will be handed out next week during parent-teacher conferences.

Read for the first time an update on policies mainly dealing with drug-free schools.

Toured the high school and junior high buildings and looked at the old basketball backboards in the junior high gym and the new ones in the high school.



WORKING IN HER FRONT YARD was Helen Gee, who won the "patriotic painting" award for the best-decorated home. — Herald staff photo by Stephanie DeCAMP

## Patriotic winners named

The group Paint Oberlin Patriotic has declared the winners of its patriotic decoration contest's three categories: public, business and home.

Marcia Lohofener, who presented the awards, said it was difficult to choose among all of the people who had participated.

"They were all so good," she said Friday, driving from winner to winner to present them with fresh, crisp \$100 bills. "It was wonderful to see how many people stepped up to the plate to participate. I've never seen so many flags waving in Oberlin."

The winners were the Last Indian Raid Museum, for the public entity category; J.W. Smith and Sons Knife Shop, for business; and Helen Gee, for best home decoration.

Deb Smith, co-owner of J.W. Smith and Sons, said that her daughter, Kasee was responsible for the

win. "She did this whole window painting herself," she said, pointing out where Kasee had painted on the outside of the glass and the inside, creating a large American flag with the silhouettes of Marines raising the flag at Iwo Jima.

"I used a chalk paint that people normally put on cars for homecoming and stuff," Kasee said. "I put a big flag on the inside to work off of, and had a picture of the soldiers from the Internet."

Winner Helen Gee said that she was happy to win, but found it funny how easily she gets carried away with her decorations.

"It started out just with a few, and then I thought, why not some posters?" she said. "Then, before you know it, I was pulling out my red, white and blue handkerchiefs and everything. I think it was such

a wonderful contest."

And speaking of posters, the group also put on a patriotic poster contest for the grade school, the winners of which were announced Monday. They are kindergartner Brayden Torrence, second-grader Gracie Tate, fourth-grader Calista Isbell, kindergartner Emily Willis, second-grader Dawson Farr and kindergartner Weston Barnes.

The \$300 in cash was donated by the Bargain Box Plus. Owner Marilou Long said she has donated a total of \$3,000 to the Decatur County Rural Fire Department this year, as well as \$4,000 to the Up in Smoke Barbecue Contest, which benefited the fire department.

Participants have been asked to keep their decorations up through Veteran's Day, Sunday, Nov. 11.

## Pigskin contest had wrong games

Oops. We goofed. The Pigskin Pick'em games in last week's paper were this week's games.

Usually, we don't do the list in advance, but because the sports reporter was going to be out of town, she got everything ready in

advance. Then, the lists got mixed up and the wrong one went on last week's Pigskin Pick'em ad.

So we are throwing that week out and running the contest a week longer. This week, we'll try again with the same set of games, which are supposed to be played this Friday

and Saturday. We're sorry to cause confusion for our fans.

Anyone who turned in their entry sheet last week will automatically be entered in this week's contest, unless you want to submit a new set of picks.

**Oberlin Arts and Humanities will attend SW Nebraska Community Theatre Association's Presentation of**

# "Send Me No Flowers"

**Sunday, October 21, 2:00 p.m.**  
Leaving the Oberlin Gateway Civic Center at 1 p.m.



This is an Oberlin Arts & Humanities Season

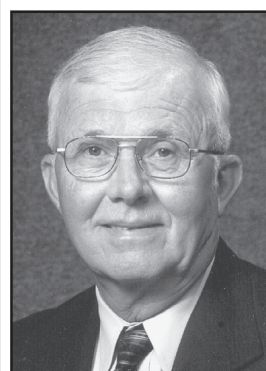
Ticket event or \$12 per ticket. All attendees must order their ticket in advance by calling Ella Betts (785) 475-3557 or Mary Henzel (785) 470-0218. Ticket reservations must be made by Wednesday, October 17th. Some transportation will be available with reservation. Car pooling is encouraged.



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**Endorsements:**

- Kansans for Life (voted for HCR 5007)
- National Rifle Association & Kansas Rifle Association
- National Federation of Independent Businesses
- Kansas Hospital Association
- Kansas Medical Society
- Kansas Chamber of Commerce
- Kansas Livestock Association
- Kansas Farm Bureau
- Kansas Contractors Association
- Senator Moran
- Senator Roberts
- Congressman Huelskamp

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