

## A WILDCAT

West Franklin play has final curtain call tonight. See Page 3.



## SENIOR DAY

Braves take on Bethany, set to showcase seniors. See Page 7.

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### FRIDAY EDITION

#### BUSINESS

## Retailers ready for holiday shopping, gloomy forecast

By LINDA BROWN  
Herald Staff

Local businesses say they are ready for what may shape up to be a lackluster holiday sales season.

Owners and managers say they have eliminated excess inventory and are running closer-to-the-bone

business models to adapt.

This comes as the National Retailers Federation predicts sales will fall 1 percent to just more than \$400 billion this holiday season.

That's not quite as bitter as last year's 3.4 percent drop, but it's a far cry from the 3.39 percent growth retailers

had enjoyed over the last decade.

Even with preparations in place, local businesses, however, say they face other challenges during the holidays, too. Those challenges go beyond the expectation that customers will

See SHOPPING, Page 11



Photo by Elliot J. Sutherland/The Ottawa Herald

Lloyd Myers, employee at Orscheln Farm and Home in Ottawa, stocks the shelves of the toy aisle Tuesday afternoon at Orscheln Farm and Home, 2008 S. Princeton St., Ottawa. The store orders toys months in advance to keep up with holiday demand, Manager Norm Roberts said.

#### CRIME

## Woman, cops warn of Ottawa purse snatcher

Purses reported stolen from downtown businesses, hospital

By COURTNEY SERVAES  
Herald Staff Writer

Terri Sutton doesn't want it to happen to anyone else.

That's why Sutton, who runs the cafe inside Market Antiques, 503 N. Main St., phoned area businesses, warning them about a purse snatcher.

Sutton's purse, with money, identification and personal effects, was stolen from the business Wednesday — during regular business hours.

"Whoever did it, either watched or they knew about it," she said.

Sutton said the theft was reported to the Ottawa Police Department, where similar thefts recently have been reported.

Lt. Adam Weingartner, with the Ottawa Police Department, said a purse also was stolen from Ransom Memorial Hospital earlier this week, and a wallet

"It's the same M.O."

— Lt. Adam Weingartner, Ottawa Police Department

was taken from Turner Flowers, 231 S. Main St., Monday.

"It's the same M.O.," Weingartner said about the thefts. "We are waiting for surveillance video from Ransom Memorial Hospital to try and identify a suspect."

Weingartner said the police department issued an e-mail alert about the thefts to Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce members.

Weingartner hopes the e-mail will keep people alert about the possibility of thefts.

See PURSES, Page 12

#### CAUTION URGED

## 'Tis the season ... for car-deer wrecks

By VICKIE MOSS  
Herald Public Affairs Editor

They're out there. And for some drivers, they can cause a lot of damage.

Deer mating season has arrived, and with it comes the threat of deer/vehicle accidents.

November is the month with the highest number of deer-vehicle accidents in Kansas, the Kansas Department of Transportation

reports. Nov. 17 historically is the date deer/vehicle accidents peak in Kansas, KDOT officials report.

Locally, such crashes began to occur with some frequency in October. Since Oct. 1, more than eight deer-vehicle accidents have been reported to the Franklin County Sheriff's Department, records show.

See DEER, Page 11

# COMBINED CLASSES

SCHOOL CUTS COSTS WITH OLD TACTIC



Photo by Elliot J. Sutherland/The Ottawa Herald

First-grader Alison Brown, left, and second-grader Linda Lattimer read a book together Thursday afternoon at Greeley Elementary School, 101 Mary St., Greeley. The elementary school combines first and second grades, third and fourth grades and fifth and sixth grades.

## TEACHING EFFICIENCY TO GREELEY PUPILS

By RACHEL HAWKINS  
Herald Staff Writer

GREELEY — Alan Quaintance is the principal of Greeley Elementary School, 101 S. Mary St. in Greeley.

He's also the physical education teacher, the bus driver and teaches the fifth and sixth grade science and math classes.

Greeley is a kindergarten-through-sixth-grade building with combination classes. First and second grades are together in one class, third and fourth are together and fifth and sixth are together. Kindergarten has its own classroom.

"Everyone just kind of pitches in," Quaintance said. "The para-[professionals] are great. The custodian is great. The teachers are great."

See SCHOOL, Page 12



Alan Quaintance, principal at Greeley Elementary School, makes his way to the pre-school rooms through a cramped hallway at the school. The rooms also are accessible from exterior doors.



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