



AT THE HIGH SCHOOL last Wednesday, Stuart Euhus (above) cooked pancakes for the Kyle Glodt and Chanelle Scott fund raiser held by the Financial Thrivent for Lutherans. Cassidy Shields, Nolan Henningson and Carissa Wentz (below) signed posters for both youths, who were injured in accidents. — Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Pancakes offer help to injured

A pancake feed to help two Oberlin families with medical expenses raised \$6,500 last Wednesday before a donation of \$1,000 from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Norma Unger, who helped, said they haven't taken the expenses for the pancake and sausage supper out of the \$6,500 yet. After that's done, she said, the profit will go to the families of Chanelle Scott and Kyle Glodt, both injured in recent accidents.

At the benefit, people could give to one of the families or to both. The money from Thrivent, said Mrs. Unger, will be split between the two. Gifts designated for one family will go to them.

This was probably the biggest fund raiser for the Lutheran organization in recent years, she said. They had a good turnout, serving around 350 people. Mrs. Unger said there were a lot of kids at the function and some probably gave their own money, as there were a lot of \$1 bills in the basket. That



isn't typical, she said. Although the workers were able to make 24 pancakes at a time, she added, they were never able to get

ahead because of the steady line of people. The workers made 45 pounds of sausages and opened their seventh 10-pound bag of pan-

cake mix before it was over. "People came out," said Mrs. Unger, "and they were real generous."

Bowling alley suit dismissed

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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A lawsuit filed by the owners of the fire-damaged Oberlin bowling alley against their insurance company, a unit of Lloyd's of London, has been dismissed after an out-of-court settlement and can't be filed again.

The suit filed by owners Ken Morgan and Maurice Zodrow, through their corporation, Zodrow and Morgan Inc., in October 2006 was dismissed "with prejudice" in February.

At first the suit was filed in Decatur County District Court, but it was moved to federal court based on the "diversity of citizenship" of the parties. Lloyd's and the defendant underwriters are based in England.

Mr. Zodrow said the case has been settled and can't be filed again. He said he wasn't very happy about the outcome, but there isn't a lot he can do about it.

Although the owners did get a settlement, he said, it wasn't enough to rebuild the bowling alley, bar and eating area. Mr. Zodrow said he isn't allowed to disclose how much they got. He did say the burned-out building is for sale.

The owners filed the suit when they didn't get a payment from the insurance company although they had a policy which insured the

building for a maximum of \$200,000 and the contents for \$100,000.

The original petition states that the cost to replace the building is more than \$250,000 and the personal property more than \$125,000.

The suit against Heritage Managing Agency Ltd., underwriters with Lloyd's, sought \$300,000.

Lloyd's is known for working with movie stars and the like to insure things, like an actress's legs, which might seem odd to some. The company, a loose alliance of partnerships, works through an insurance broker to write policies. The company's website states that they are "trusted to insure the world's toughest risks."

The bowling alley and bar were destroyed by a fire in the middle of the night May 30, 2005. A deputy state fire marshal investigated the ruins along with Undersheriff Randy McHugh. Cash boxes had been emptied and evidence indicated accelerants had been used to start the fire.

At the time, the fire marshal said the fire was caused by arson. Sheriff Ken Badsky said Monday there had been no charges filed "yet" in the case.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch said the statute of the limitations gives the state up to five years to file charges.

Council gets options, ideas on water plant

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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The Oberlin City Council has five options to choose from for a water treatment plant designed to meet strict new federal standards and possibly allow the city to use wells that are now kept shut off because of contamination.

At a meeting last Thursday, the council received information from Chris Miller, an engineer with Miller and Associates, which is designing the plant, about the choices the city has. The council didn't make any decisions, but members took the information to look over and come up with questions. Mr. Miller said he would probably come back for the first meeting in May.

The council has been in this spot

once before. The group voted to go with the coagulation filtration with pressure filters for the water treatment plant in 2006, but the pilot test shows the plant will need to be two times larger and cost more.

The city had even given Mr. Miller the go ahead to run the test using that method, but that plan didn't work out as expected.

Mr. Miller said Thursday the test showed that for the coagulation filtration with pressure filters to work, the city would need a plant two times bigger than planned. The plant was going to cost around \$2 million, Mr. Miller said, but that could double.

He said he decided to re-evaluate all of the options, including looking at new technology. Mr. Miller said

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'No room at inn' could be a problem for Oberlin alumni

With motels full and one possibly closing before the end of May, the Area Chamber of Commerce is asking people to open their homes for Memorial Day and alumni weekend guests.

Kermit and Shirley Stein said they received papers Friday to sell the Oberlin Inn, which they own and operate. The closing isn't until next week, Mrs. Stein said.

She said they have all of the 16 rooms booked for Memorial Day weekend and four for Decatur Community High School graduation. Mrs. Stein said she has called everyone with reservations for the holiday and alumni weekend except one.

The motel has four rooms booked for graduation, she said, but have made reservations at the Frontier Motel for those people. She said she hasn't been able to get in touch with the people who have the four rooms for graduation on Sunday, May 20. The Frontier, on U.S. 36, said an employee, is also full for the holiday

weekend. All 29 rooms are reserved and have been for months now.

Gary Anderson, owner of the LandMark Inn on Penn Avenue, said his seven rooms are booked for Friday through Sunday that week. Mr. Anderson said those rooms probably have been on hold since last fall.

Marilyn Horn, president of the Oberlin-Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce, said the Chamber wants to help people who still need a place to stay for Memorial Day and Decatur Community High alumni activities. Mrs. Horn asks anyone willing to open their home up to others over that weekend to call the office at (785) 475-3441. The same goes for anyone still looking for a place to stay, she said.

This is similar to what the Chamber has done in the past for the opening weekend of pheasant season, she said. The idea is to connect the people who are willing to open their homes with those who need a place

Council OKs repaving part of U.S. 36

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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The Oberlin City Council decided to go ahead with a project to repave U.S. 36 from Fairway Drive to Penn Avenue this summer and fall, even though the city may have to pay up to \$70,000 for the project.

The council talked about the project at a meeting last Thursday at The Gateway. The council agreed to go ahead even though the city might have to pay some for the project, noting that the state will pay \$1.4 million.

Jerol DeBoer with Penco Engineering of Plainville said the state

Department of Transportation received three bids for the project, from Venture Corp. of Hays for \$1,197,385, Sporer Land Development of Oakley \$1,399,624 and Dobson Brothers Construction Co. of Lincoln, Neb. for \$1,447,192.

The department allocated \$1.4 million for the project under the geometric improvement program. Through the city limits, the road is considered a "city connecting link" by the state, a city street that carries state high traffic. That means the city is responsible for engineering costs and any overruns.

With inspection costs, said Mr.

DeBoer, and taking the lowest bid, it could leave the city to pay a balance of \$70,000. The state will inspect the project, he said, but the department charges 15 percent of the project.

That's up to \$179,607 for inspection costs, said Mr. DeBoer, whose firm designed the job for the city. The design cost \$93,156, and with the state inspection fee, that would leave the city a little over \$70,000 to pay.

Mr. DeBoer said he thought the state's inspection cost was a little high, since at Penco they charge \$1,000 a day. With the project tak-

ing 110 days, that would cost \$110,000. Part of the inspection cost depends on whether the inspector works a lot of weekends, he said.

Chriss McDiffit, district engineer with the Kansas Department of Transportation in Norton, said, though, that the inspection costs won't cost any more than 15 percent, but it could be less. The state will charge for actual time and the related costs for the inspection, he said.

Any changes to the project have to come through the council, said Mr. DeBoer. (See U.S. 36 on Page 5A)