

Treasure shopper



ON FRIDAY, Margie Johnson of Selden looked for treasures during the annual Border-to-Border Treasure Hunt along U.S. 36. People from all over, including Colorado, Missouri, Montana and Kansas, shopped in Oberlin during

the three-day event. Many had tables set up along the highway and at homes and businesses.

—Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Council mulls city's future

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**

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Members of the Oberlin City Council, city staff, the administrator and the press met in an informal setting Saturday to talk about what they foresee in the city's future, obstacles to accomplishing those items and just getting to know each other a little better.

The retreat, organized by Administrator Austin Gilley, brought the council members together in a comfortable setting where they could talk, not necessarily about city business, but a little bit about what they want for the city and how all of that will look.

At the helm of that discussion was Mike Conduff, president of the Elim Group, a consulting firm out of Texas that works mostly with public and nonprofit boards.

Mr. Conduff led the group in ground breakers and brainstorming sessions while also talking to them about what city government looks like and can look like. Those at the retreat included council members Rhonda May, Rob McFee, Marcia Lohoefer and Bill Riedel, City Clerk Karen Larson, Mr. Gilley, and Steve Haynes, publisher of *The Oberlin Herald* and Kimberly Davis, managing editor.

What council members do is so serious, said Mr. Conduff, so thanks for all of your willingness to serve. That word thanks probably isn't heard a lot when a person serves their community, he said, but it's at the local level that democracy really works.

Mr. Conduff said he encouraged everyone to think of the retreat like practice for the council. Think about behaviors, he said. Is there anything that can be improved slightly? Think about what each person wants the community to be.

"If you don't define yourself," he said, "others will define you for you."

The council needs to decide among itself, he said, how the group wants to be defined.

Mr. Conduff talked about the owners of the city, which the members said are the taxpayers, citizens, business owners, utility customers and visitors. Those owners also become customers, too, he said.

Council members should delegate the customer issues to the administration, while the ownership issues should go to the council, he said.

As part of the retreat, he had the members pretend they were on a "magic helicopter ride," taking them a year in the future, and then write down what they saw. Those ideas fell into the tickled pink category which included things like water and rest rooms at Sappa Park, a finished water treatment project, more people and others. He also had the members write down things in other towns that they are "green with envy" over, obstacles that could stand in the way of progress and things to be cautious about.

The citizens, he said, ask the council members to govern on their behalf. If the council can focus on the most important things most of

the time, said Mr. Conduff, then the members can try to get that down.

From a governance standpoint, he said, vote on an issue and then go to the next one. If someone disagrees with a decision or issue, don't "submarine" it, just vote and move on. There's always going to be another issue to look at, said Mr. Conduff; just keep looking towards the future.

Things people should never do in order to be a great council, he said, is injure the relationship between council members or with the administrator or staff. Get together, brainstorm and talk while following the law. The council could have an informal breakfast meeting and just talk, get to know one another, he said, just remember to invite the press.

Do councils usually work under a written code of conduct? asked Mr. Riedel. It's best to have it written down, said Mr. Conduff. The attorney or administrator could get some samples from other cities for the council to look at.

There has to be linkage with the administrator too, he said. It's important to make that person feel safe.

"I promise you a professional administrator will go in the direction that you want to go in," he said.

The council has to decide, said Mr. Conduff, how it wants to behave and then evaluate themselves.

"We aren't called to be perfect," he said, "We are called to be the best we should be."

Grads to play in disc golf tourney

Graduates from Decatur Community High School are getting ready for the first Sappa Valley disc golf tournament at Sappa Park on Saturday, Oct. 3.

Kyle Glodt, who helped build the nine-hole disc golf course at the park, said the grads would like to get the event going while they are living in the area, then later the park committee or another group could keep it going.

Mr. Glodt said they plan to have

three divisions: beginners, intermediate and advance, all open to all ages. Prizes will be given for first, second and third place in each division.

The beginner division will start at 3 p.m. for nine holes. Entry fee is \$7 in advance.

The intermediate division starts at 4 p.m. for 18 holes. The fee is \$10.

The advanced division starts at 5 p.m. for 18 holes, with a \$12 fee.

Anyone can come play, said Mr.

Glodt, even those who show up the day of the tournament, although they will pay an additional \$3 to the registration fee.

Players may register by calling Mr. Glodt at (605) 280-5157, Jobey Black at 475-7241 or Andrew Demepewolf at 470-1013.

Discs will be for sale at Sappa Park, said Mr. Glodt. He added that they are still looking for sponsors to help with the event.

Preliminary hearing continued in fraud

The preliminary hearing for a former Decatur Health Systems chief financial officer has been continued until the middle of October.

The hearing for Dave Nichols now is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14. Mr. Nichols faces 22 counts, all level 8 non-person felonies, for fraudulent checks out of the Wheat Ridge Terrace Apartments account. The amounts total \$37,766.01. Each check is listed in a separate count, including:

- May 28, 2008 for \$1,394.22.
- June 13 for \$2,299.97.
- July 18 for \$1,354.22.
- Aug. 1 for \$2,056.93.
- Sept. 11 for \$1,836.83.
- July 31 for \$2,347.79.
- Oct. 1 for \$1,988.45.
- Oct. 21 for \$2,253.01.
- Nov. 3 for \$1,965.65.

- Nov. 22 for \$2,148.
- Jan. 2, 2009 for \$819.13.
- Jan. 2 for \$2,203.54.
- Feb. 18 for \$2,433.88.
- Feb. 27 for \$781.02.
- March 16 for \$1,151.33.
- March 30 for \$1,937.34.
- May 1 for \$2,156.93.

- June 1 for \$786.70.
- June 2 for \$411.18.
- June 8 for \$1,978.54.
- June 11 for \$1,254.28.
- June 30 for \$1,852.07.

Penalties for each count can be seven to 23 months in a state prison and/or a fine up to \$100,000.

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Tie breaker determines contest winner

Five people guessed all seven games correctly in the second week of the Oberlin merchants' Pigskin Pick-em contest, so the tie breaker was used to determine the winners.

Ivis Hanson, Oberlin, came the closest to the correct score of the Smith Center-Norton game, where the Red Men of Smith Center hung onto their multi-year undefeated status by beating the Norton Blue Jays 20-14.

Mr. Hanson's guess was just 15 points off the total and he will win the \$15 first-place prize in scrip money, which can be spent at participating businesses.

Valisha Raile, Oberlin, came in just 17 points off the tiebreaker for second place and \$10 in scrip. Her husband, Travis Raile, took third with a perfect score and 22 points off the tiebreaker. He collects \$5 in scrip.

Also coming up with perfect scores were Norman Wendelin, Oberlin, and Cheri Kastens, Hern-don.

Three people, Gary Anderson and Kenny Gee, Oberlin, and Amanda Adams, Danbury, Neb., got six out of seven right.

Owen Wilson, Mabel Zimmer-

man and Jordan Davenport, Oberlin, guessed five out of seven correctly. Gary Waldo, Oberlin, came up with four out of seven.

The money won in the contest can be spent only at the sponsors: Ward Drug Store, the LandMark Inn, Fredrickson Insurance Agency, R&M Service Center, Farm Bureau Financial Services, D&M Sinclair and *The Oberlin Herald*.

Each week for the next 10 weeks, the official Pigskin Pickem entry blank with the football games for that week will be in the paper. Other entry blanks are available at sponsoring businesses. Only entries from the paper or from the sponsoring businesses are eligible to enter the contest. No copies will be accepted.

Other scores of this week's games were:

- Oberlin over Plainville, 30-0.
- Colby over Hoxie, 38-0.
- KU over Duke, 44-16.
- Virginia Tech over Nebraska, 16-15.
- Oakley over Rawlins County, 29-6.
- UCLA over K-State, 23-9.
- St. Francis over Goodland, 28-12.

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