

Party in the park



ABOUT 50 PEOPLE FROM NORCATUR and the surrounding area came Saturday evening to Eldon Auker Park in Norcatur for the town's first Party in the Park. Cooking hot dogs over hot coals were City Councilman Scott Hartzog (left), Charlotte Plotts and Paul Welch. The party was sponsored by the City Council and organized by a Decatur Tomorrow action team. After dinner, Jim Plotts played guitar and sang country and gospel songs.

— Herald staff photo by Carolyn Plotts

Wildcat fans didn't choose their team to win

Although western Kansas is K-State territory, many Wildcat fans didn't believe in their team enough this week to pick them to beat Miami.

The Wildcats did beat the Hurricanes 28-24, but 90 percent of those entering the fourth week of *The Oberlin Herald's* Pigskin Pickem apparently didn't believe that was possible. The other 10 percent missed on another game, so that no one was correct on all seven.

Ten people got six out of seven right, so the tie-breaker score was invoked.

Vernon Ketterl, Herndon, was closest to the correct score as Scott City trounced Goodland 50-3. He will win first prize, \$15 in scrip money.

Wilbur Reichert, Dresden, and Rusty Addleman, Oberlin, tied for second so a coin toss was used to determine second and third place. Mr. Reichert won and wins the \$10 second prize while Mr. Addleman wins \$5.

Others picking six out of seven were Wade Juenemann, Todd Ketterl, Ryan Leitner, Kelly Brown, Gary Anderson, Kenny Gee and Charley Keller, all of Oberlin.

Picking five out of six were Tom Martin, Owen Wilson, Zach May, Norm Wendelin, Ivis Hanson and Kel Grafel, Oberlin, and Charli Kastens, Herndon.

All eligible scores are entered on a spread sheet. At the end of the 10-week contest, the contestant picking the most correct games will receive a trophy.

The money won in the contest can be spent only at the sponsors: Ward Drug Store, the LandMark Inn, Fredrickson Insurance Agency, Decatur Co-op, Creative Collision and *The Oberlin Herald*.

Other scores of this week's games were:

- Norton over Oberlin, 27-14.
- Nebraska over Wyoming, 38-14.
- Atwood over Syracuse, 61-0.
- Wray, Colo., over St. Francis, 47-0.
- Ohio State over Colorado, 37-17.
- Holcomb over Colby, 34-0.

School board decides to stop paying for dental insurance

The Oberlin School Board decided to stop paying for dental insurance for the staff and teachers after receiving an increase of \$118 per person this year for the total health insurance bill.

At the monthly meeting Monday, Sept. 12, Board President Monte Moore said with the big increase in health insurance, it's up to the board to decide what its wants to do. The negotiated agreement with the teachers says that if the policy goes over \$350 per person, the board can choose to discontinue any part of it, he said.

With the increase, said Superintendent Duane Dorshorst, just the health insurance would cost \$511 for a single person.

Member Dan Nedland made a motion to discontinue paying for dental insurance per the negotiated agreement, which was approved.

Mr. Dorshorst said he has been looking into other insurance possibilities.

The dental insurance for a single costs \$30.81. Employees can opt to keep the insurance and pay it all out of pocket. The district currently pays all of a single membership.

A few proposed changes to policies were handed out, but no action was taken on them. The policy committee will look at the updates, said Mr. Dorshorst.

Another policy deals with the directory information given out on students. Mr. Dorshorst said parents would be able to sign a sheet saying they don't want information given out on their kids. It will change how much information can be put in the basketball program, he said. For instance, the student's height wouldn't be included.

The board approved members to serve on board committees for the 2011-2012 school year. Members Abby Hissong, Dan Grafel and Doug Brown will serve on facilities; Jerry Chambers, Mrs. Hissong and Mr. Brown on the eight-period day study; Mrs. Hissong and Mr. Chambers on the calendar committee; Mr. Brown and Mr. Chambers on negotiations and Mr. Chambers and Mr. Grafel on policy review.

In other business, the board:

- Accepted gifts for \$500 each from the Bargain Box Plus for the grade school to be used where needed, and for the high school for the instrumental music department.
- Approved transportation requests for Staci Breiner and Casey Schindler for busing to the Norton School District.
- Heard the preliminary fall numbers show the district up five students from this summer. Mr. Dorshorst said the district is still under last year's enrollment by three.
- Held closed sessions for 20 and 30 minutes to discuss personnel with just the board members present. There was no action taken.

County OKs trash contract

The Decatur County commissioners approved a new 10-year trash contract with an increase in monthly fees for homeowners of about 14 percent.

The contract has to be renewed every 10 years, said Bill Cathcart, who runs the trash service serving the entire county. Currently, a family pays \$14 for trash pick up and a single person pays \$7. Mr. Cathcart said he would like to increase the fees \$2 for a family and \$1 for a single. Business rates will also increase by \$2.

Before deciding on the increase, he said, he called other counties in the area, but found that each picks up different items and charges differently.

Commissioner Gene Gallentine said at their meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 13, the new rates seemed to be pretty much in line with the others.

If the county approves this contract, said Mr. Cathcart, then he will take it to the cities for approval.

While Commissioner Ralph Unger first suggested taking the new contract under advisement for a few weeks to get public comment, the commissioners decided to approve the contract with the increased prices starting next month.

Mr. Cathcart said the last time he raised rates was five years ago.

City needs surveys returned

The City of Oberlin still needs people to return the surveys it mailed out two weeks ago. Administrator Karen Larson said the city has about half of the surveys back.

The city mailed 801 surveys to homes in Oberlin. It needs at least 401 returned showing the occupants falling into the low- and moderate-income range.

The city hopes the results will help it get a Community Development Block Grant from the state. Mrs. Larson said the city received a grant to help with the sewer project based on old surveys, and hopes the results will be the same this time. The grants are available only if the city meets guidelines for the proportion of low- and moderate-income households in town.

Mrs. Larson said the city is working on a grant now to help repair some of the streets.

Anyone who didn't receive a survey or who threw it away should call the city office at 475-2712 to get another, she said.

The city has to have the surveys back by the first week in October, said Mrs. Larson, and that is next week.

Council waits on trash decision

The Oberlin City Council put off a decision on a new 10-year contract for door-to-door trash service in the city which includes a 14 percent price increase for homeowners.

With changes in state law, they said, the contract might be considered a franchise agreement, and the council decided to get some answers first.

Bill Cathcart, who provides the trash service for the county and all four cities, talked with the council at a meeting Thursday, Sept. 15. Mr. Cathcart said he hasn't raised the rates since July 2006. The suggested rate is \$16 for a family, up from \$14, and \$8 for a single, up from \$7. He didn't say what the change would be in business rates.

"We have to discuss some things before we approve it," said Mayor Bill Riedel.

RAWLINS COUNTY HEALTH CENTER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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Bringing Specialized Healthcare To Your Community

October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Dr. Rubowitz Oncology	4	5 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	6 MRI's	7 Nuclear Medicine Cardiac Rehab	8
9	10 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	11 Dr. Frederick C. Miller Cardiology	12 Dr. Frankum Surgery	13 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	14 MRI's	15 Cardiac Rehab
16	17 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	18 DEXA Bone Density	19 Dr. Curtis Cardiology	20 Dr. Saba Orthopedics	21 Dr. Reeves Podiatry	22 Nuclear Medicine Cardiac Rehab
23	24 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	25 Dr. Frederick C. Miller Cardiology	26 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	27 Dr. Tom Pagano Cardiology	28 MRI's	29 Cardiac Rehab
30	31 Dr. Rubowitz Oncology	<p>TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH A VISITING PHYSICIAN, PLEASE CALL (785) 626-3211 Cheryl Banister, RN Specialty Clinic Director</p>				

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