



MUSEUM DIRECTOR Sharleen Wurm (above) shared pictures and antidotes of the 1878 Cheyenne Indian raid with passengers on one of the four busses that followed the Western Cattle Trail during Saturday's Mini-Sapa Celebration. Native American Steve Irvin and his wife

Sue (below) told the Indians' side of the story during one of the tour stops. About 150 people participated in the re-enactment tour of the Indian raid and dedication of two cattle trail markers.

— Herald staff photos by Carolyn Plotts

Tour shows history

By **CAROLYN PLOTTS**
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About 150 people attended a re-enactment tour covering the route of the Western Cattle Trail and the Last Indian Raid in Kansas during the Oberlin museum's annual Mini-Sapa Day celebration Saturday.

One of the many highlights of the day was the unveiling of the first marker in Decatur County denoting the path of the cattle trail, 13 miles south of Oberlin on U.S. 83. The marker is on land owned by Marcia and Richard Wiltfong of Norton. Gary Anderson, president of the Oberlin Convention and Visitors Bureau, made the introductions.

Gary Kraisinger, author of the book, "The Western, The Greatest Texas Cattle Trail 1874-1886," told the assembled crowd that more than 6 million cattle were driven up the trail from Texas to Dodge City and Fort Robinson in Nebraska.

Part of the weekend celebration recognizes the Last Indian Raid in Kansas, 133 years ago on Sept. 30, 1878. A band of Northern Cheyenne, following the approximate route of the cattle trail, killed 18 men south of Oberlin as they passed through.

Four completely loaded school buses and about a dozen private vehicles departed at 1

(See HISTORY on Page 12)



Public hearing set by city on possible grant

The Oberlin City Council will have a public hearing for its application for a Community Development Block Grant to improve streets when it meets at 7 p.m. Thursday at The Gateway.

Weeks ago, the city mailed income surveys to people in Oberlin. City Administrator Karen Larson said they hope the results will help the city qualify for up to \$350,000 in grants. With the 25 percent the city would put in, the money would allow the city to re-do several streets.

On Friday, Steve Zodrow, administrative assistant in the city office,

canvassed the city. He said many people told him that they thought the city had a hidden agenda with the surveys. Mrs. Larson said he was told that people thought the city wanted to find out how much they make so it can increase taxes.

The survey, said Mrs. Larson, is needed to get the grant, that's all. Answers won't be shared with anyone else.

People's names and address don't appear on the survey form, and no, it has nothing to do with raising taxes.

The council agenda also includes:

• Chris Miller, with Miller and Associates, the engineering firm

which designed the proposed water treatment plant, will have results on the search for water outside the city. Mrs. Larson said they might have something back about the city's request for an extension from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment on the deadline to start work on the water project.

The city signed a consent order promising to build the plant, which would remove excess arsenic and uranium from the current well water.

However, this year, the new mayor and council questioned the wisdom of building a treatment plant, which would include a continuing six-figure cost to dispose of the two

elements each year.

The council decided instead to renew the push to find good wells outside of town, as Atwood has done, rather than build the plant.

• Discussion on the 2010 audit report the council received at the end of September. The council needs to decide if it is going approve the report.

• The proposed changes to the trash pickup contract.

• New regulations for the cemetery, including things like where items can be planted.

The meeting in the upstairs room at The Gateway is open to the public.

Banks stop card fraud quickly

Debit cards re-issued

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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Area banks have re-issued debit cards to some customers after thieves apparently obtained information from a payment processing company's files.

Last week, said Cathy Horton, secretary to the board at Farmer's Bank and Trust, bank employees noticed unusual activity in accounts of some Oberlin customers. Those customers were called and told what was going on. The debit cards were cancelled and re-issued, she said.

Farmer's Bank employees check their records every day for protection and security, she said.

Mrs. Horton said she thought the theft was first caught Tuesday night. The staff started calling customers about what was going on.

"The security of our customers is of the utmost importance to us," Barney Horton, chief executive officer at Farmers Bank said in a statement. "Farmers Bank and Trust would like to assure it's customers and the general public that as an institution, we have not been compromised."

He said there was a card data breach outside the bank, but the computer system at Farmers had

not been breached.

"We are taking extra precautions by reissuing new CheckCards to all of our customers as a security procedure," he added.

He added that the bank has contacted each customer in the affected area.

"We appreciate the loyalty of our customers and invite them to either call or come in to visit with us if they have any questions," said Mr. Horton.

On Thursday, Police Chief Wade Lockhart said two people reported that Citibank cards, ones the state issues for unemployment benefits, had been emptied by the thieves. He said someone had used all the money in their accounts, and both were depleted. These cards were used in Canada, he said.

Chief Lockhart said he has heard of other places out of the country where the debit and credit cards have been used.

At the Bank, President Gary Walter stressed that any breach occurred elsewhere, and his bank's files had not been compromised. Customers won't have to bear any costs of the fraudulent use of their cards, he added.

(See MONEY on Page 12)

Norcatour, Herndon meetings planned on closing offices

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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The process to close the post offices in Norcatour and Herndon has started and public meetings are scheduled for this month in each town.

In Herndon, the meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27, at the senior center. In Norcatour, it'll be from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, Oct. 17, at the former grade school.

Brian Sperry, regional spokesman for the U.S. Postal Service in Denver, said postal officials will be at both meetings to answer questions and take feedback for the decision-making process.

Mr. Sperry said he knows the proposal to close the office has been posted in Herndon. That was done last Monday, starting a 60-day comment period in which customers can say how the closing will effect them.

Mr. Sperry said as far as he knows, the proposal to close the Norcatour office hasn't yet been posted, but it will be done soon.

After the 60-day period, said Mr. Sperry, there will be 20 days for a decision to be reached. Customers will still have 30 days after that to appeal the decision to the U.S. Postal Regulatory Commission, he said.

Mr. Sperry said all customers in those zip codes, including the rural route customers, should receive a letter about the public meetings. The letter should include a questionnaire to allow the service to get some information, he said.

If the post offices in Norcatour and Herndon do close, said Mr. Sperry, there are other options including a Village Post Office, a contract office which offers stamps, prepaid flat mailers, post office boxes and a collection box.

A Village Post Office could go into a town hall, government center or a business in the town under a third-party contract, he said. The concept is something new.

If an office closes, it doesn't mean mail services will stop. Rural mail

(See OFFICES on Page 12)

School district loses 13 students

The Oberlin School District is down 13 students from last year, according to the official numbers from the state "count day."

Last year, the audited numbers showed 363 students in the district. After count day this year, Tuesday, Sept. 20, the numbers show 166 at the high school and 184 at the grade school. That means the district has 350 students.

Superintendent Duane Dorshorst said the district actually gained four students from the beginning of the year to the count day.

The board had planned on a decrease in students when doing the budget this year, he said, but the budget will be still lower than thought. Mr. Dorshorst said a

"full-time equivalency" number for the budget won't actually be done until the state auditor comes.

Last year, that was done in April, he said. Until then, he said, the district will work off what they have, knowing that the budget will be less than proposed because the head count is down.

The full-time equivalency number is a weighted figure that counts students considered "at risk" of poor performance, including those on the free and reduced-price lunch program or in the special education program, more heavily than others. Kindergarten students count as half unless on an individual education plan, he said.

