

Up in Smoke festival ready with barbecue and blues

By STEPHANIE DeCAMP
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Just in time to wrap up the summer comes the fifth annual "Up in Smoke on the Black Water BBQ Cook-off," which will last all day Saturday around the Sappa Park shelter house.

Seventeen teams have registered, said organizer Cindy Lincoln, and they will be cooking all day, handing out free samples

along the way. The object is to see who can smoke, sauce and secure the title of the best barbecue in town. Categories are ribs, pork butt, brisket, beans, open class and dessert.

Mrs. Lincoln said that the blues portion of the event will be provided by two bands, Highway 385 and Last Gasp, and singer/songwriter Lucas Maddy from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

At 3:30 p.m., the free samples will start to be handed out so that folks can vote on the "people's choice" award, said Mrs. Lincoln. The meat will be put out for supper at 5:30 p.m., she said, and all donations will go to the Decatur County Rural Fire Department.

The teams will have their cooking assessed by 12 judges over about 2 1/2 hours, Mrs. Lincoln said. The Up in Smoke com-

mittee bought the meat here for the cooks, who will be competing for prizes including a Traeger grill. There will also be the chance to sign up for a trip for two to Las Vegas.

"People should bring their lawn chairs," Mrs. Lincoln said, "and plan to stay all day. There will be children's activities, and we're doing a thing where people can sing for their supper. You can sign up at the gate to sing for a free meal."

Mrs. Lincoln said that the fire department will be there with a truck, so there shouldn't be any problems with the county burn ban. She couldn't say how much money she expects they'll raise, but she guessed it would be a lot.

"It will run in the thousands, for sure," she said. "We have a lot of sponsorship from area businesses, and a lot of people look forward to this every year."

City, county agree on free landfill day

By STEPHANIE DeCAMP
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In a move to encourage people to clean up their property, Decatur County commissioners and the City of Oberlin agreed at a county meeting last Tuesday to let people bring their trash to the county landfill for free during the first week of October.

For six days, from Monday, Oct. 1, to Saturday, Oct. 6, people can bring any matter of trash – from old tires and branches to furniture and other junk – to the landfill, five miles east of Oberlin on U.S. 36. The county has had a free dump week in the spring before, but never in the fall, officials said.

"(The usual fee of) \$15 doesn't sound like a lot if you have a pickup and all," said City Administrator Karen Larson, "but if you don't have a pickup or a truck, it is a lot."

Road Supervisor Tim Stallman, who was at the meeting, estimated that the county would lose between \$2,500 and \$3,500 in revenue from the week. The city may help by paying some of that back to the county, but no deal had been struck.

"We've done it before and haven't gotten a big response," said Mrs. Larson, "but now with the code enforcement officer, I think we'll do more. And this time around, they may have had more time to get things cleaned up and organized. I've got people calling from out of town, saying they're coming to help their parents clean up, and asking if they can burn trash and things. But the burn ban is still up."

The decision to have a second week of free dumping this year (the first, in May, and happens every year) was made by the commissioners and Mrs. Larson at the commissioners' meeting.

"It's a city and county collaboration to improve how things look around here," said Commissioner Stan McEvoy, "and hopefully make it easier for some folks to clean up."

The decision came about two weeks after the last City Council meeting on Aug. 16, when 40 to 50 people showed up to protest the way the city and its code enforcement officer are handling the ordinance dealing with blighted property.

Pigskin Pick'em gets surprise start

With several upsets in the first games of the year, it wasn't any wonder that no one got everything right for the first round of *The Oberlin Herald's* Pigskin Pick'em contest.

Only two people believed that Oberlin could beat Cambridge, Neb. Rusty Addleman of Oberlin was one of them, and since he only missed one game (Colby over Oakley), he is our first-place winner this week, winning \$15 in scrip.

The other person who had faith in the home team is on the home team and helped the Red Devils down the Trojans. However, he tied with five other people with two misses. None of them believed that Norton would beat Smith Center, but the closest to the tie-breaker score was Ryan Leitner, Oberlin. He gets the \$10 second-place prize. Cheri Kastens, Herndon, came in third and wins the \$5.

Others missing only two games were Jordan Davenport, Kelly Brown, Tom Martin and Tyler

Bruggeman, all of Oberlin.

At the end of the contest, the contestant picking the most correct games will receive a trophy and \$50 in scrip money.

Winners can be spent only at the sponsors: Ward Drug Store, the LandMark Inn, Fredrickson Insurance Agency, Decatur Co-op, Hansen Mueller, Creative Collision and *The Herald*.

Scores of this week's games:

- KU over South Dakota State, 31-17.
- Oberlin over Cambridge, 26-0.
- K-State over Missouri State, 51-9.
- Nebraska over Southern Mississippi, 49-20.
- St. Francis over Holyoke, Colo., 28-15.
- Colby over Oakley, 20-15.
- Atwood over Wheatland/Grinnell, 40-14.
- Goodland over Hugoton, 24-13.
- Norton over Smith Center, 34-13 in the tie breaker.

Rolling up summer



ROLLING AN UMBRELLA stand from the deck, Andrew Dempewolf helped clean up the Oberlin Swimming Pool for winter on Monday. — Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

Pool group organizes talks

BY CYNTHIA HAYNES
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The Oberlin Pool Project committee met last Wednesday night to discuss getting members out to speak to as many groups in town as possible.

Organizers Susan May and Shayla Williby gave the group the talks they plan to give to clubs and groups in Oberlin. They offered to help any of the other members get the information needed to make a good presentation and answer questions from the audience.

The committee members looked over the list of groups which have asked for a presentation, and came up with other groups they could approach.

Most of the time, the committee members will go in pairs so that one can explain the need for a new pool and what the new facility will look like. The other will explain why a sales tax is the best method of paying for a pool and what it will cost the average consumer.

The group also discussed the best way to get more people registered to vote, especially those who might be inclined to vote in favor of the sales tax and the pool.

The group will meet again at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Business Entrepreneurial Enhancement Center. All meetings are open to the public and everyone is invited.

Four percent raise for county employees may be included in 2013 budget

By STEPHANIE DeCAMP
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County commissioners are trying to work a 4 percent raise for county employees into the 2013 budget, while still lowering property taxes and bringing down the county's property tax levy.

The budget must be completed and turned in to the state by Oct. 15.

While nothing has been decided, Commissioner Stan McEvoy said at the county meeting last Tuesday that 4 percent was the starting figure they are working with. According to an article in *The Oberlin Herald*,

county employees have not received a raise since they got 2 1/2 percent with the 2011 budget, and before that, it had been three years.

No spending cuts will need to be made to compensate for the raises, commissioners said, since the county's valuation went up, giving the commissioners more money to work with while also cutting taxes. The total dollar amount of the raises, said County Clerk Colleen Geihlsler, has not been determined, since no decision has yet been made.

Another concern at last Tuesday's budget review was how the increased sales tax for the city's

new pool, if voters approve it, could affect county revenues.

"Our sales tax revenues could go down," Mr. McEvoy said. "People may not buy in the county if they know they can get a lower sales tax outside of it. And any revenue generated from the increase would go to the city, not us, if it passes."

The county generated \$183,000 in sales-tax revenue last year, and has pulled in \$96,000 this year to date, said Treasurer Jean Ann Hale.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard a report from Health Director Marilyn Gamblin that flu


shots will be coming in shortly. People should keep an eye out in the newspaper, she said, for dates and times when they will be available. The burn ban in place. The county is

pretty much divided in half as far as greening up, said Road Supervisor Tim Stallman. The east side is looking better after recent rain, but the west is still burnt and dry.

"We're in the baby stages" of recovering from the drought, he said, recommending that the burn ban stay in place. Commissioners agreed unanimously.

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Come join us at The Gateway Sept. 22 as we bring back the Firemen's Ball.

Dance the night away to the tunes of Mobile Music Express

Prime Rib Dinner

Silent Auction

Social Hour 5 p.m.

Casino Night

Get your tickets early for \$30 per person. Ticket prices change on Sept. 15 with an extremely limited number at the door.

For ticket information call by Sept. 15
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For the latest info like our facebook page: Decatur County Firefighter's Ball

