

Park cabin may not rent

The City Council decided Thursday to leave the question of renting the old caretaker's cabin in Sappa Park to the Sappa Park Committee.

The committee proposed renting the cabin to hunters this year and to put any profit that resulted into renovation of the park.

The council decided that to make the idea worthwhile, the city would have to rent the place out year-around. Making it a rental will create costs for insurance, property taxes and utilities, members said.

"I don't think the city should be in the business of renting houses," said City Administrator Karen Larson. The council agreed, and decided that the committee could report to the council once it has a handle on insurance, taxes and other expenses.

The city council meets on the first and third Thursday of every month.

In other business, the council:

- Made a third payment of \$111,075 to Bryant and Bryant Construction for the street-repaving project.
- Heard that Nextech Wireless, a cell phone company based in Hays, wants to add antennae on the Oberlin water tower.
- Heard from Mrs. Larson that the city will apply for another loan to complete phase two of the water project. The first phase is being closed out, said Mrs. Larson, at a total cost of \$1,036,229.
- Heard from cemetery sexton Jeremy Tally that he will be pricing a new sign welcoming visitors to Oberlin for the crossroads intersection of U.S. 36 and U.S. 83.

City needs new water operator

The City of Oberlin is looking for a new operator for its water and wastewater systems while it begins to get ready for construction of a new pipeline and water field.

Willard Perrin, manager of the department, said that once the project gets in full swing, a third person will be needed. He is indisposed due to a knee surgery, but said he hopes to get back to work soon.

"If we get the well field out in the country..." he said, "then we'll need to get a new person trained as soon as possible."

Mr. Perrin said he had surgery five weeks ago to repair a torn meniscus,

the ball joint of one of his knees. The surgery is routine, he said, and typically only requires one or two weeks fore recovery, but he got an infection.

"It was supposed to be something simple, and it turned into something far more complicated," said City Administrator Karen Larson. "He's worked here as long as I can remember, at least 15 or 16 years, and we miss him a whole bunch."

Mr. Perrin was going for a check-up Tuesday, and said he hopes he will know then when he can return to work.

Small fires break out

A small fire broke out near the feedlot on U.S. 83 north of Oberlin last Tuesday, but was quickly put out by employees.

"We think it was a spark from the lawn mower, but we're not sure," said Dan Dorn, who is in charge of supply development at the Decatur County Feed Yard. "I'm just glad it didn't happen tomorrow (Wednesday), when the wind is forecast to pick up."

A second small fire was reported later in the day but it also was put out quickly.

The burn ban is still on, said County Clerk Colleen Geihlsler, adding that the commissioners are the ones who will decide when or if to lift it. At their meeting Tuesday, Oct. 2, they decided to keep it in place, and the issue did not come up at the meeting Tuesday, Oct. 9. There was no meeting Tuesday.



Students pep it up

A CROWD clapped for the cheerleaders Friday during a pep rally at Decatur Community High School. Volleyball player Cassidy Shields (right) got Halloween makeup and Coach Sherri Ruf (below) had a full clown face. - Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes



Big clean-up Monday

The annual Decatur Community High Halloween clean-up will run from 6:15 to 7:45 p.m. Monday, when students will volunteer their services to help clean up the town.

The students will focus on people, including senior citizens, who need a little help with their leaves. Anyone who'd like to have their yard raked that evening

should call the high school office at 475-2231 to get on the list, said senior Zach May. The students will have a hot-dog feed at the high school afterward.

The annual clean-up is done by students fifth grade through their senior year of high school, Mr. May said. The kids will meet at the school at 6 p.m. to get started.

No one picked'em perfect this time

Decatur Community High and Kansas State University fans were believers this week, choosing their teams in the Pigskin Pick'em contest.

That meant no one came up with all right answers, but 90 percent of those who played believed that

Oberlin would beat Ellis and that underdog Kansas State would defeat West Virginia. They were half right.

Everyone believed, rightly, that Oklahoma would embarrass the University of Kansas.

Because of the mix-up in games last week, we checked all the game cards and we took the latest from anyone who entered two.

Rusty Addleman of Oberlin came up with seven games correct and was the closest to the tie breaker, so he wins the \$15 first prize. Wilbur Reichert, Dresden, came in just a point off Mr. Addleman's tiebreaking score. He wins the \$10 second prize.

Last year's overall winner, Kelly Brown of Oberlin, came in third and will get \$5. He also had seven out of eight right.

Others with seven out of eight were Ryan Leitner, Tim Hrnchir and Tyler Bruggeman, all of Oberlin.

Coming up with six out of seven were Tom Martin and Reece Grafel, Oberlin, and Clayton Carter and Anna Carter, Jennings.

Getting five out of six right were J.D. Johnson and Gary Anderson, Oberlin, and Cheri Kastens, Hurdon.

All eligible scores are recorded. At the end of the contest, the person picking the most correct games will receive a trophy and \$50 in scrip money.

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

- Other scores this week:
- Oklahoma over Kansas, 52-7.
 - Hoxie over Quinter, 54-8.
 - Kansas State over West Virginia, 55-14.
 - Nebraska over Northwestern 29-28.
 - St. Francis over Wichita County (Leoti), 52-32.
 - Ness City over Rawlins County, 48-0.
 - Ellis over Oberlin, 14-7.
 - Beloit over Norton, 56-9 in the tiebreaker.



GOING AS QUICKLY AS HE COULD, shopping spree winner Sid Metcalf stopped to get some coffee before diving back into the canned-food aisle. Mr. Metcalf, who had three minutes to grab as much as he could, won the spree at this summer's fund-raising golf tournament for Decatur Health Systems.

- Herald staff photo by Stephanie DeCamp

Shopping spree gets hasty

The winner raced among the aisles as store workers at Raye's Grocery cheered him on and a voice on the overhead speakers counted down from 3 minutes.

When he was done, Sid Metcalf, a retired farmer and member of the city's Airport Advisory Board, had piled \$289 worth of food in his cart.

He won a raffle at the hospital's fund-raising golf tournament Aug. 18; the prize was a three-minute shopping spree at Raye's. The store and Decatur Health Systems split the bill for his haul, to which Mr. Metcalf added another cart of food, at his own expense. (His bill came to \$289.44). He said he was taking the second cart to the Decatur County Food Pantry.


Mr. Metcalf raced through the aisles, tossing meat, bathroom tissue, coffee, flour, canned food and laundry detergent into his cart. When time was up, he walked both carts to the register, laughing.

"Ya see, Charlie," Mr. Metcalf called out to Charlie Myers, interim administrator of the hospital. "I didn't do you too bad."

"We appreciate it, Sid," said Mr. Myers, smiling.

The money raised at the tournament in August went to help redecorate the hospital's chemotherapy room, said hospital board member Pam Wilson. The hospital and Raye's sponsor the tournament and shopping spree every year to raise money.

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