

Holiday show fills parking

The parking lot spilled over onto Fairway Drive and the lot to the west of The Gateway on Saturday morning, with cars of all shapes and sizes bringing shoppers to the annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Show.

The show, originally sponsored by the Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission, was taken over by the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce two years ago. This year vendors had everything from plastic storage containers to purses to jewelry to holiday ornaments to other decorations.

The doors opened at 9 a.m. with a steady stream of traffic until 4 p.m., said Chamber manager Carolyn Hackney. At 4 p.m., the doors closed, with crafters and shoppers vowing to come back for next year's show.

Gloria Tinkham of McCook said she's never been at this show before, but said it's awesome. Mrs. Tinkham sells loose leaf tea and accessories to go with it.

The Gateway is a wonderful building, she said, adding that she had no idea it was as nice as it is since she's only driven by before.

Before noon, Mrs. Tinkham said, there had been a lot of people at the show already.

Throughout the day, volunteers with the Chamber handed out numbered tickets for people to have a chance to win door prizes.

Ms. Hackney said the show had gone well. The Chamber had lots of good comments, she said, though they did have a few last-minute cancellations. By 2 p.m., they had counted about 550 people coming through the doors.

Carolyn Wurm, who had handmade baby blankets, canned goods and other items, said this was her last craft show. She's done shows for over 30 years, she said, but plans to retire.

At 78, she said her body doesn't like the loading and unloading anymore.

Mrs. Wurm said she'd done well Saturday morning at the show, adding that she really couldn't complain. Actually, she said, she's always done fairly well at the Oberlin show.



AT THE GATEWAY on Saturday, Carol Morford (above) arranged some of her Mary Kay products during the Decatur County Area Chamber's Arts and Crafts Show. Connie Albin of Quinter (below) worked on a stitching project.

—Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



Oberlin youth wins last contest

Two contestants picked all seven football games correctly in the 12th and last week of the Oberlin merchants' Pigskin Pick-em contest.

Kelly Brown, Oberlin, picked all winners and was only 2 points off on the tie breaker as the Denver Broncos downed the New York Giants in a decisive 26-6 victory. He wins the final \$15 first prize.

Gary Anderson, Oberlin, also picked all winners but thought the score would be closer in the tie breaker. He wins the \$10 second place, paid in scrip.

Seven people were right on six out of seven games. Amanda Adams, Danbury, Neb., was the closest of the one-miss contestants to the score of the tie breaker.

Also choosing six out of seven winners were Jim Hollowell, Linda Hollowell, Mabel Zimmerman and Owen Wilson, Oberlin, and Steve Vontz, McCook.

The scrip prizes won in the contest can be spent only at the sponsors: Ward Drug Store, the LandMark Inn, Fredrickson Insurance Agency, Stellar Auto Sales, Farm Bureau Financial Services, D&M Sinclair and *The Oberlin Herald*.

Each week for the past 12 weeks, the official Pigskin Pickem entry blank with the football games for that week was published in the paper. Other entry blanks were available at sponsoring businesses.

Each week, the scores of all entrants have been put on our tote board and added up. Next week, the winner of a trophy and the \$50 grand prize will be named. This is the person who was able to pick the most correct football games from high school, college and professional games published in ads each issue for the last 12 weeks.

Be sure to watch the paper to find out who was the best pigskin picker.

Other scores of this week's games were:

- Alabama over Auburn, 26-21.
- Wyoming over Colorado State, 17-16.
- Missouri over KU, 41-39.
- Buffalo over Kent State, 9-6.
- Nebraska over Colorado State, 20-20.
- Tulsa over Memphis, 33-30.
- Texas Tech over Baylor, 20-13.

Commissioners have to pay tax bill

The Decatur County commissioners found themselves having to pay — the county — a \$43 tax bill for the empty lot where the new Golden Age Center sits now.

Appraiser Alan Hale said as of Jan. 1, the site was a privately owned vacant lot, so that's what the tax bill was sent for. The county can either pay the \$43 to the treasurer and work on correcting the assessment for 2010, he said, or ask for an exemption for 2010 and 2009.

To get the building tax exempt, said Mr. Hale, the county will need to file an exemption request on the property and send it to the state. A tax exemption, he said, isn't automatic, even though the county owns the property.

The tax bill, he said, is for the south lot, which was donated to the county for the center.

The county could have filed an exemption for the vacant lot, said Mr. Hale, but it wouldn't have been for the intended purpose. The county can go back and ask for an exemption later, however, he said.

The center will go on the tax roll

in January unless it is exempted, said Mr. Hale.

The north side of the building isn't the county's? Mr. Hale asked. County Attorney Steve Hirsch asked if Mr. Hale had seen the condo agreement for the building? He said he had not.

It has the legal description in it for who owns what part of the building, said Mr. Hirsch. It's filed with the register of deeds' office.

Everything on the north side belongs to the Oberlin-Decatur County Area Economic Development Corp., said Mr. Hirsch. No one thought the side of the building owned by the corporation was tax exempt. Mr. Hirsch suggested that Mr. Hale talk to the corporation about it.

The corporation will have to file a tax exemption as of January 2010, said Mr. Hale, or have its part go on the tax rolls.

The commissioners decided to pay the \$43 for the taxes on the lot this year and then fill out the paperwork for tax exemption on the building.

Men building body shop here

Two Norton men plan to open up a body shop in the industrial park north of Oberlin along U.S. 83.

With the help of the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp., Robert Daniels and Kyle Kindal plan to open Creative Collision body shop. Both men, who live in Norton, have worked in the business for more than 10 years, although they don't own a shop now.

Norton has four body shops already, said Mr. Daniels, and Oberlin needs one. Connie Grafel, marketing director for the corporation, has really made this happen, he said. She's been wonderful and the city has good programs for economic development.

Ms. Grafel said the men brought her the best nonprofessional busi-

ness plan she's seen. Mr. Daniels has been working on this plan for a long time, she said.

Mr. Daniels and Mr. Kindal have signed on to the corporation's land agreement, she said. Under it, Creative Collision gets around four acres in the industrial park. If the men stay in business there for eight years, said Ms. Grafel, they won't owe the corporation anything. If not, then the amount they pay for the land would be prorated.

The men received \$17,500 from the Network Kansas program and \$30,000 from the United States Rural Development loan, with the corporation matching 15 percent of that, or \$4,500.

The men also worked with The Bank for a Small Business Administration loan, said Ms. Grafel.

Sappa Valley Construction is building the body shop now, said Mr. Daniels, adding that they want to open early in December, depending on the weather and construction.

Creative Collision, said Mr. Daniels, will handle all automotive collision needs, paint, body work, after-market add ons and frame straightening, using a laser guide system. They will also do restoration and some custom work.

This has been a project two years in the making, said Ms. Grafel. It's a great structure and location.

Mr. Daniels said Mr. Kindal is looking at moving here with his daughter. Ms. Grafel added that Mr. Daniels has said that he plans to get involved in the community as well.

Oberlin to hire new city treasurer

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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The City of Oberlin will be trying to find a new treasurer after the resignation of Patti Skubal.

At its meeting on Thursday, Nov. 12, City Administrator Austin Gilley told the council that Mrs. Skubal had left the job. He suggested that the treasurer's position be abolished and the formal duties of the job added to those of the clerk.

He presented an ordinance, written by City Attorney Steve Hirsch, to that effect, saying that he didn't think the city needed two positions. He said the council members see all bills before the checks are written, and the mayor signs all the checks. The city administrator doesn't handle cash, he said, while the clerk and treasurer have no purchasing authority.

The city hasn't had a clerk and treasurer in the office in the past, said Mr. Gilley. The reason why you want both is for the processing of checks, he said, if there's an administrative staff with the purchase power and a treasurer on the banking side. In that case, he said, it takes two people since the treasurer

can't pay anything without it being approved.

He added that if the city were to hire a new treasurer, that person should have some accounting skills and the city will probably have to pay more than the \$11 an hour Mrs. Skubal made.

Councilman Ray Ward said he did like the idea of dropping the treasurer's position because the city's auditing firm has warned the council that the city needed to keep its accounting checks and balances in place to discourage theft.

"Doing this takes one more away," he said.

Councilwoman Marcia Lohoefer said she agrees with Mr. Ward. She said she had called the Kansas League of Municipalities and talked to someone there, who advised not to do it. She said she also worries about cutting jobs.

Councilwoman Rhonda May countered that she doesn't feel it's the city's place to worry about saving jobs, but to save the taxpayers' money.

Mr. Gilley said that in order to have checks and balances, the employees need some training.

Third-class cities such as Oberlin, he said, are not required to have a treasurer. He said the city's new software should help condense and combine jobs.

Mayor Joe Stanley said that he thought the council would like to look at other options before passing an ordinance to do away with the treasurer's job.

Ms. May made a motion that the council table the ordinance but Mr. Gilley said that the council should do something right away because the city office is short handed.

The council vote was split, with Mr. Ward and Mrs. Lohoefer voting against tabling the matter and Ms. May and Councilman Rob McFee voting in favor. Since Councilman Bill Riedel was not at the meeting, the mayor broke the tie by voting against tabling the motion.

Mr. Ward made a motion that the city seek a treasurer at the present wage of \$11 an hour. Again there was a tie with Mrs. Lohoefer supporting the motion and Ms. May and Mr. McFee against. The mayor broke the tie in favor of seeking a new treasurer and asked Mr. Gilley to advertise the position.



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