THE OBERLIN HERALD

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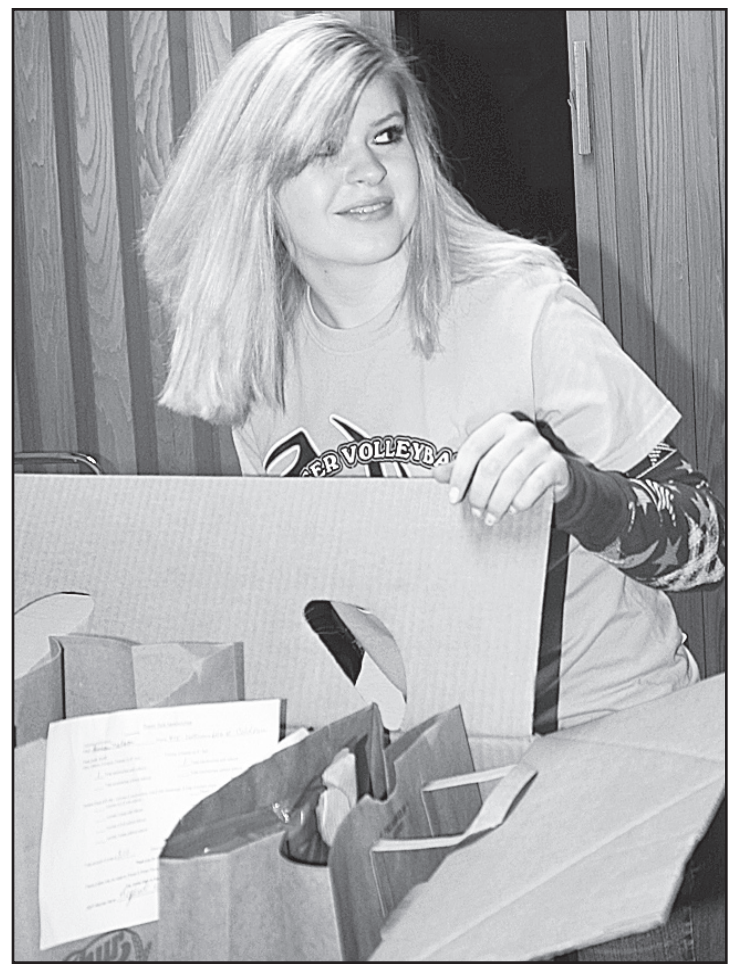
ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON, Konner Fortin (above) helped his mom, Gwen, load equipment into the truck after making and wrapping around 350 submarine sandwiches for Super Bowl Sunday. Members of the United Methodist Youth Group, sponsors and parents helped make the sandwiches and deliver them to raise money for the group. Cheyenne Soderlund (below) helped package up the items for delivery. — Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



Youth group makes, delivers sub sandwiches

Members of the Oberlin United Methodist youth group made around 350 sandwiches Sunday just in time for the big football game.

The teenagers, sponsors and parents met in the church basement around 1:30 p.m. on Super Bowl Sunday to make the sandwiches, which were delivered all over the county by 5 p.m. that day.

The six-inch subs sold for $4 each or a family combo pack with four sandwiches, a bag of chips and a two-liter bottle of soda sold for $17.

Deanna Castle, who has helped with the fund raiser, said sandwich options were a combo of ham, salami and bologna or turkey. Each came with cheese and lettuce if wanted.

The money helps pay for the youth group's ski trip and missions, she said. The group takes a ski trip every other year which is often tied in with a mission trip. This year, the teens won't go skiing, but sent $1,000 to the American Red Cross for work in Haiti.

The group takes orders for the sandwiches and then orders the supplies from Raye's Grocery, said Mrs. Castle.

Council OKs order for plant

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
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Under protest, many members believing it will be a waste of money, the Oberlin City Council agreed Thursday to sign a consent order to build a water treatment plant by the beginning of 2013.

The project, needed to lower the amounts of arsenic and uranium in the city's drinking water, has been in the works since at least 2005, but state officials now say they'll fine the city up to $5,000 for failing to comply with new, tougher federal standards for drinking water.

Back in October 2008, the council voted to table an application to borrow $4.218 million to build the plant. Since then, the water treatment plant has been discussed several times, and the decision has been tabled just as many times.

In the same year the council applied for the money from U.S. States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development administration to build the project.

The total amount for the plant is around $6 million, so the city will have to apply for more money, said City Administrator Austin Gilley.

With this, he said, the city would have $8.3 million in debt including the wastewater treatment plant, $340,000 in general obligation bonds for repairs at the former Sappa Valley Youth Ranch and The Gateway and a previous project to replace water lines.

It looks like the city has to build a water treatment plant by Jan. 1, 2013, said Councilman Rob McFee.

The consent order spells out that by July 1, the city will submit an updated design; by Jan. 1 2011, the final engineering plans will be ready for review; by Feb. 1, 2012, the city will advertise for bids; by April 1, 2012, the city will accept and award a contact for the facility; and by Jan. 1, 2013, the plant shall be substantially completed, and by March 1, 2013, the city will produce water that meets federal standards.

The council has until the first of the month to sign the letter, said Mayor Joe Stanley. The order from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment says the city has to do this, he said, or face penalties.

The order does put the liability on the city, said Chris Miller, with Miller and Associates, the engineering firm working on the plant. The order contains 43 "milestones," he said. To meet those, the city has to

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Council Roundup

At a meeting Thursday, the Oberlin City Council:

- Signed a consent order, under protest, to build a water treatment plant by the beginning of 2013. Story at left.
- Accepted a $50,310 bid for a circle drive at the main entrance on the south side of The Gateway. Story on Page 3.
- Agreed to table a decision on hiring a code enforcer to work with owners to remove or upgrade blighted properties. Story to come.
- Approved new lighting for The Gateway and talked with a heating and cooling professional about controlling temperatures in the two-story lobby. Story on Page 3.
- Decided to hold off on accepting an agreement from one of two engineering firms to help the city prepare a capital improvement plan. Story to come.
- Heard the city shouldn't plan on getting the $50,000 it normally receives from the state for the special highway fund. Story to come.

Members needed for carnival group

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
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The Oberlin Amusement Authority, which runs the home-owned carnival each summer, needs board members to fill five available seats.

Currently the board includes Candy Ketterl, who works at th U.S. Farm Service Agency; Melinda Grafel, who works for CMA Distributors; Dana Koerperich, a bookkeeper for various businesses; Jennifer Schissler, an aide at the grade school; Robert Rouse, owner of Gorman Tarps; Judy Scott, who works in the materials management department at the Decatur County Hospital; and Jim Wesch, who calls himself a hobby farmer.

The bylaws call for 12 board members, so the board needs five more members, said Ms. Scott. Last year, Ms. Scott served as president, Mrs. Ketterl as secretary and Ms. Schissler as the treasurer, she said, but the board hasn't elected officers this year.

Technically, Ms. Scott said at a board meeting last Wednesday, this will be the last fair for all of the board members except for Mr. Rouse. All of the terms are set for three years.

Ms. Scott said she thinks they need to call some of the people who came and helped set up and tear down the carnival last year and see if any of them would be interested in serving on the board. Members can be added at any time, she said.

The board is in charge of the carnival, said Ms. Scott. Members make sure the rides and games are ready for the county fair in August. They order food for the concession stand, toys for prizes, recruit volunteers and help set up and tear down the rides, to name just a few things.

The bylaws, said Mr. Wesch, provide for a board of directors and then memberships and sponsors. He said he thinks at one time, the board didn't need to be workhorses

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State representatives to stop here Saturday

Kansas state representatives will be in Oberlin on Saturday to talk with people about what's going on at the Statehouse.

Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer and Rep. John Faber plan to be at the Decatur County courthouse from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the third-floor courtroom. A light lunch will be available, sponsored by the Decatur Count Farm Bureau.

Everyone is invited to come talk with the representatives. The men plan to start their day at 8 a.m. in Bird City then go to Atwood at 9:45 at Williams Brothers Grocery. They will head to Norton for a 1:45 meeting at the Town and Country Kitchen.

"I hope to see as many of you as can make it," said Sen. Ostmeyer.

HAVING SOME FUN on their honeymoon in April 1947, Martin and Evelyn May posed for an old-fashioned picture at Knotts Berry Farm in California.

Couple shares 63 years

By MARY LOU OLSON
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Martin and Evelyn May met some 75 years ago, and they say that they never dreamed they would be sharing their life together for nearly 63 years.

Both went through the Depression years as farm kids and learned by hard work the importance of family and helping their parents through the dust storm years.

They grew up together attending the rural St. John's Lutheran Church northwest of Oberlin, where they were confirmed and later exchanged wedding vows.

Mrs. May was born to Richard and Martha Reith on the Adolph Johnson farm north of Kanona. She and her parents attended Immanuel Lutheran Church northwest of Norton. She went to the first grade in Kanona, then she and her parents and brother Fred moved to the Otto Friedemann farm northwest of Oberlin in Liberty Township in the spring of 1931.

She attended West Liberty School for three years, with Clifford Blickenstaff and Mary Preston as her teachers. In 1935, she began attending St. John's Parochial School northwest of Oberlin. It was there that she and Martin May, son of of Ernest and Martha May, became classmates.

"Martin had attended Mount

(See SWEETHEARTS on Page 5)

THE WEDDING PARTY when Martin May and Evelyn Reith (above) were married on April 7, 1947, included (back row, from left) Dorothy Reith, Mildred May, Evelyn (Reith) May and Martin May, Elbert May and Fred Reith, and (front row) Margaret Ann Schmidt and Linda Jording. The couple (below) in December 1992, after 45 years as sweethearts.

*Sweethearts enjoy farm life

(Continued from Page 1)

Pleasant School for first and second grade and Vera Preston was his teacher," she recalled. "His parents thought it was too far for him to walk the extra mile to attend the parochial school.

"We were good friends in grade school and also in high school, but we don't remember our first date. We were active in the Walther League, but that was the only entertainment we had.

"The Dirty Thirties and the Depression hold vivid memories for both of us.

"My mother had no modern conveniences, so the water we used for our weekly Saturday night baths was heated on the kitchen stove. As each member of the family crawled into the wash tub, a little hot water was added to warm the water. I often wonder how my dad could stand to get in after all of the family had bathed, but he never complained.

"I'll never forget the day our landlord walked into the kitchen without knocking when I was in the tub, and it shocked us both!"

When they were living at Kanona, she said, the bank closed. Everyone was so hard up that her dad used their car to take the neighborhood kids to school. Her mother used a cistern to keep her churned butter and watermelons cool, and sometimes they would fall into the water. To help earn some money, her mother sold butter, eggs and cream, which they took to Kanona.

"There was a telephone office in Kanona, and my dream when I grew up was to become a telephone operator," Mrs. May said. "I often walked to school with Iris and Wayne Fourtner. Our teacher was Mrs. White."

Mrs. May says she remembers helping her father as a young girl by driving the tractor, which she also drove to pull the header barge during harvest.

"During the dust storms, my mother worried about the dust when my sister Dorothy was a baby, fearing that she might develop colic."

Mr. May said before his parents built a new house, the children slept upstairs. In the winter, there was often ice on the windows, so they took heated bricks or a hot water bottle to bed to help them keep warm.

"As a family, my parents, three brothers, and sister, Mildred, all worked hard, helping with the farm work and chores. We raised a big garden, milked cows, and raised hogs and chickens.

Mrs. May said she took normal, or teacher, training in high school. She taught two years at Hawkeye, a country school northwest of Atwood in Rawlins County, then taught two years at St. John's Parochial School.

Mr. May was born and reared on the place where the couple now live in Logan Township, which they purchased from his parents. Both were confirmed in the Lutheran faith in 1938 by the Rev. F.A. Wegener, then attended high school in Oberlin, graduating together in 1942.

Mr. May helped his dad with the farming until the draft came along during World War II.

"Since I was to be drafted soon," he said, "I decided if I wanted a girl to come home to, I had better do something about it."

He started dating Evelyn and they became engaged in August 1944. He left Oberlin on Sept. 7, 1944, by bus for Denver with 21 other young men who also had been drafted.

He served in the infantry, with training at Camp Roberts, Calif., from September 1944 to January 1945. He was sent overseas in February 1945 and served in the Philippines until the fall of 1946. He also served in Korea.

"One of the highlights during my military service was when I was privileged to witness the surrender of the Japanese Army on the Island of Panay," he recalled. "To be considered as a participant in the ceremony, one requirement was that a soldier must be at least 6 feet tall. I qualified since I was 6 foot, 5 inches. That was done mainly to impress the Japanese, who were much shorter."

Mrs. May said that before her husband returned home, he found the time to make her a "grass" skirt

out of the silk from a ripcord of a Japanese parachute. He also made a top, she said, but she never felt comfortable wearing it in public.

They were married by the Rev. Ed. Schmidt on April 6, 1947, at the rural St. John's Lutheran Church. A big reception and supper followed at the home of her parents.

The newlyweds left that evening on their honeymoon, headed for California. They were invited to stay with her uncle and aunt, Frank and Cecelia (Friedemann) Kahlor, in Orange.

"They showed us around, making sure we had a good time," Mrs. May said. "We visited Knotts Berry Farm and San Juan Capistrano, where the swallows come. They are so tame, they landed on our heads and shoulders, but we weren't impressed. We also went to Tijuana, Mexico.

"On our way home, by way of Yellowstone National Park, we met up with a soldier who wanted a ride, but Martin decided it was his honeymoon and he didn't need an extra passenger."

The couple purchased the land and farmstead where they still live from his parsents in Logan township and reared three children, Ernest, a teacher at Tonganoxie; Marvin, who has taken over the farming: and Janice Cundiff of Oberlin, a speech pathology teacher for the Goodland schools. They also have seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Mr. May's brothers, Arthur, Elbert and Harlan, and a sister, Mildred Fortin, are all deceased. Mrs. May's brother Fred lives in Chico, Calif., and her sister, Dorothy Moore, in Oberlin.

"During our lives, there have been hardships and ups and downs," they agreed, "but we learned to work together in the fields, drilling and harvesting crops, raising hogs and chickens and milking cows. We also sold fryers, cream and eggs."

Mr. May said he remembers well one dry year during the 1950s when he planted a quarter section to milo and brought the whole crop home in his pickup.

"Since Marvin has taken over the farm, I am mainly his 'gofer,'" said Mrs. May.

Except for illness or trips, attending church regularly has been a big priority for them and their family.

They have always been active in church work, serving on committees and the various offices. He taught the high school Sunday School class for several years and his wife has taught over 60 years.

"Making a habit of hearing God's Word and knowing that He loves us and we are saved by grace through faith is a big joy and comfort to us," she said, "and has helped us in growing closer over the years."

*Board needs new members

(Continued from Page 1)

to run the carnival The authority had members who maybe didn't come to the meetings but did help run the carnival.

Maybe the bylaws don't need to be dealt with right now, he said; maybe the board needs to focus on getting more board members and more members of the authority since the carnival is only six months away.

It might be good this year, said Mrs. Koerperich, to have a sign-up for people who want to help set up and tear down rides and games, instead of just having work nights and seeing who shows up.

Ms. Scott said she still has people who say it's amazing what this group has done in the last two years with the members knowing little or nothing about the carnival in the beginning after most of the previous board members quit at the same time.

County Commissioner Ralph Unger said he's still hearing positive comments about the group and its work, too.

Mr. Wesch recommended tabling discussion on the bylaws and working on getting a full board instead. The group agreed.

Anyone who lives in Decatur County can serve on the board. The group meets twice a month, said Ms. Scott, and then weekly as the fair get closer.

Anyone is interested in joining can call Ms. Scott at 470-7269 or Mrs. Grafel at 322-5234.

The board members talked about a survey they might circulate for people who worked at the carnival last year to fill out. It asks about possible changes and opinions on how certain nights went last year.

Ms. Scott said it takes 220 people to staff everything for a night when each game and ride is divided into two-hour shifts.

Someone suggested one-hour shifts on the weekends when families return, said Mrs. Koeperich. The group agreed that would be a scheduling nightmare, but if a volunteer wanted to find someone to work the second half of their shift, that would be OK.

It might be a good idea, said Mr. Wesch, to bring in someone from each of the civic groups that runs a ride to get some feedback.

In other business, the members:

• Heard the authority has $72,903 in its checking account and $5,291 in savings. Insurance costs $9,000 to $10,000 last year and it costs around $50,000 to get the carnival going each year, with ordering food, toys and other expenses.

• Talked about ordering tickets that have some distinguishing mark.

*City signs order for water plant

(Continued from Page 1)

start on the plant right away, he said, and the first step is to approve the consent order.

The plan has four phases, he said, including the first phase of water treatment improvements; second phase of redrilling well No. 13; phase three, new distribution lines; and the fourth phase, additional water main improvements.

Well No. 13 is the irrigation well the city bought south of town. The second phase would make that well a municipal one so the water could be used in the city system.

While the council has signed an agreement to draw on the money applied for through the federal agency, Mr. Miller said, that only takes care of the first three phases.

The city could also request $400,000 in a Community Development Block Grant through the state. That could then help provide money to do the fourth phase.

The plant, said Mr. Miller, would also cut the amount of iron and manganese in the water from well No. 11.

The city's kind of out of options, said Councilman Bill Riedel.

"Even if we sell the city, the people who buy it will have to do this," said Mayor Stanley.

The city could unincorporate, said Mr. McFee, and everyone could dig their own well in their yard.

"I make the motion to sign the thing and get started, as much as I hate to," he said.

With no way out of it and up to $5,000 a day in fines if the city doesn't comply, the council approved the order under protest.

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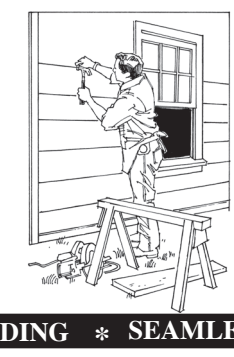
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Basketball giveaway planned

Oberlin Business Alliance members decided to hold a college basketball championship giveaway again this year.

A few members met last Wednesday at the LandMark Inn to discuss a few upcoming events. In the past, businesses have donated items for a basket of goodies to be given away after the basketball championship.

The group decided to do that again. People will be able to sign up toward the end of March to the beginning of April for the giveaway.

When the teams are narrowed to four, they have the chance to pick the winners of the semi final and the final games.

The group talked about the upcoming soup supper scheduled for Friday night before the Decatur Community High basketball games with Colby.

Sharleen Wurm, director of the Last Indian Raid Museum, said the museum would have a coffee hour from 10 a.m. to noon on Thursday, April 1, opening day for the season.

The next meeting for Oberlin's 125th Anniversary planning committee is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. next Wednesday, members heard.

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When Dad started having chest pain, I didn't realize how critical the first few minutes were to preventing damage to his heart. The Good Samaritan Hospital paramedics transported him to the Level II trauma center where the heart team opened his blocked artery in less than 30 minutes, preventing any damage. I guess time really is heart muscle, which is one reason why Good Samaritan was the first accredited Chest Pain Center in the state.
Our family is really blessed to have such skillful care close by. When seconds count, the best care from arrival to dismissal is...within reach.
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