Oberlin man wins first round of football contest

Oberlin resident Kelly Brown won the first round of the annual Pigskin Pickem football prediction contest this week with seven out of eight games correct.

While five other people also picked seven out of eight correctly, our winner came closest to the actual score of the McCook versus Aurora, Neb., game in which Aurora downed Oberlin's neighbors to the North 43-25. While McCook has a good team, the two-time state championship Aurora Huskies ended up winning their 25th straight game.

The first-place winner each week receives $15 in scrip money to spend at a participating advertiser.

The second-place finisher, Tom Martin of Oberlin, wins $10 in scrip and the third-place finisher, Cheri Kastens of Herndon, wins $5 in scrip.

Several entries were disqualified because the entrants didn't read the rules carefully enough.

All entries must be on official entry blanks, which can be picked up at the participating merchants or taken from *The Oberlin Herald*. No photocopies will be accepted.

The other problem several contestants had was they forgot to give the scores for the tie-breaker game. While all other games only require the winner, the tie-breaker must have the score so that if more than one person guesses the most right, a winner can be determined.

There are eight football games in the contest each week, and many times several of our contestants will get them all right. This week, however, no one, least of all the University of Kansas, expected North Dakota State to defeat the Jayhawks, 6-3.

The other contestants to come up with seven out of eight were Amanda Adams, Danbury, Neb., and Ivis Hanson and Kel Grafel, Oberlin.

Picking six out of seven were Owen Wilson, Rusty Addleman, Charles Keller, Gary Anderson, Connie Grafel and Grant Gilliam, all of Oberlin.

Carol Ogburn and Mabel Zimmerman, both of Oberlin, were able to come up with five out of seven correct.

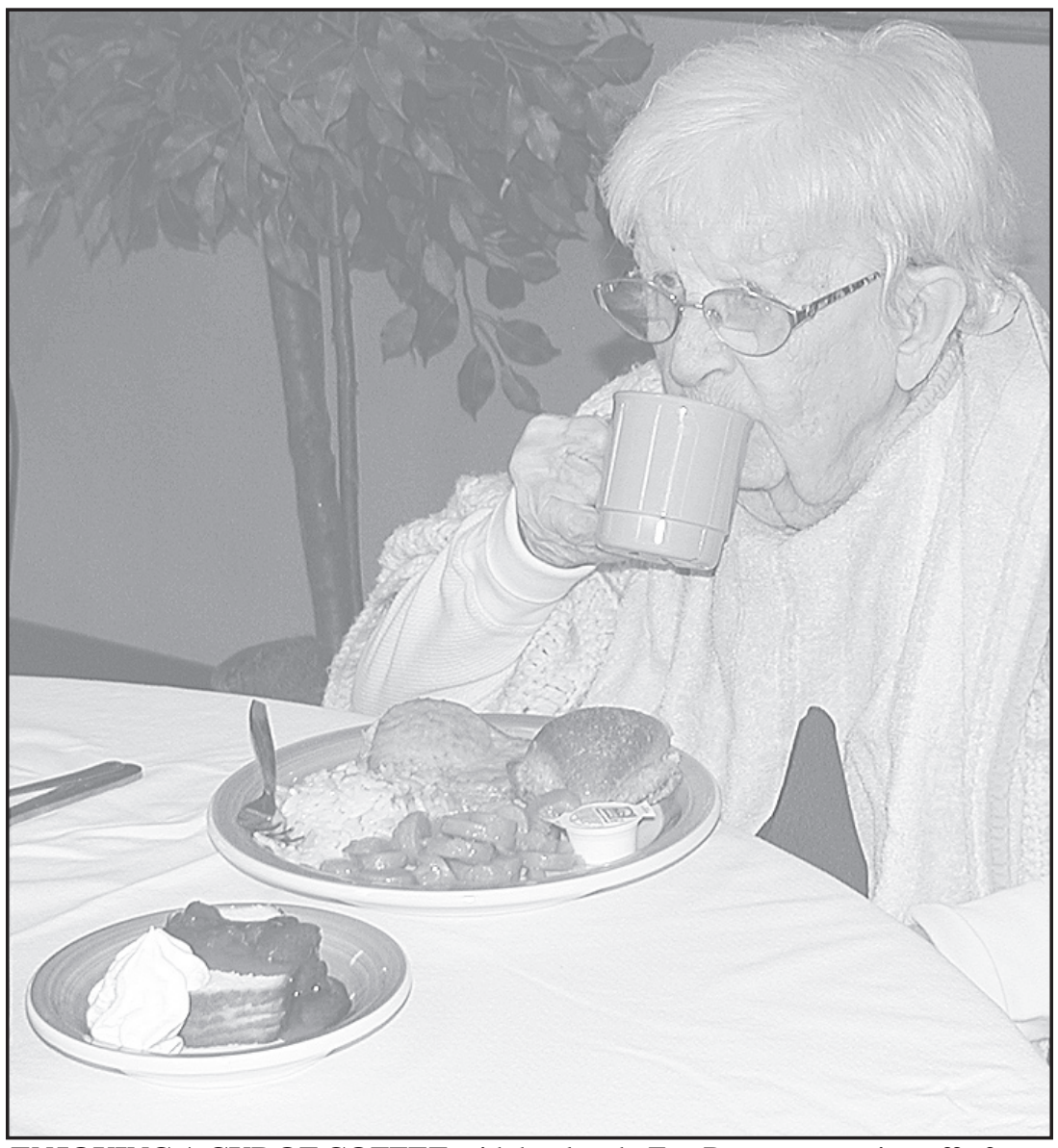
All scores will be recorded. At the end of the 12-week contest, the contestant picking the most correct games will receive $50 in scrip and a trophy.

The money won in the contest can be spent only at the sponsors: Ward Drug Store, the LandMark Inn, Fredrickson Insurance Agency, Decatur Co-op and Ampride, Creative Collision, Farm Bureau Financial Services and *The Oberlin Herald*.

Other scores of this week's games were:

- K-State over UCLA, 31-22.
- Nebraska over Western Kentucky, 49-10.
- Smith Center over Atwood, 58-6.
- Norton over Ellis, 13-0.
- Colby over St. Francis, 47-22.
- Cambridge, Neb., over Oberlin, 34-6.
- Missouri over Illinois, 23-13.

Dinner served on new dishes



ENJOYING A CUP OF COFFEE with her lunch, Eva Bryan was eating off of new dishes on Tuesday at the Good Samaritan Center. The dishes and coffee cups were purchased with money raised during the center's Hoedown fund raiser last spring.

— Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

Some leave bill unpaid

Several Oberlin utility customers haven't paid their bills for the past several months and could have to go in front of the City Council to explain why.

At a council meeting last Thursday, Interim City Administrator Karen Larson said there are several people who hadn't paid their bills during the changeover in the billing system.

The city did not send out bills for June since the old computer had crashed. Employees spent hours typing customer information into the new computer, and the city asked that everyone just pay whatever they had paid in May. However, some people did not make a June payment, Mrs. Larson said, and some of these are balking at July billings which are more than double the usual amount.

Others are moving and aren't paying their bill from their old place. Mrs. Larson said they have been telling those people that the city can't turn on the power at the new home until the old bill is paid.

If it's OK, she said, she'll have those people who say they aren't going to pay anything come see the council on Thursday, Sept. 16.

Some of the problem is people moving from house to house, she said. They don't pay at the previous house, said Mayor Joe Stanley, and then they put the bill in another family member's name.

Also, said Mrs. Larson, people with rental properties want the power turned off when someone moves out and then a week later they want it back on. That charge is only $4.50, which doesn't even pay for someone to turn on the truck and go do it.

Councilwoman Rhonda May said she thought that charge should be more that $4.50. Councilman Rob McFee agreed saying it should be more like $25.

The council took no action.

City bills went out last week for the second time since the billing computer crashed in June. The payments are due by the 15th of the month.

Ambulance needs lights, siren

When there's an emergency, the county ambulance director says, policy is that ambulance crews are to run with the siren and normally the flashing lights on.

A woman who lives near the county ambulance barn complained about the disruption in a letter to the editor printed in the Sept. 1 edition of *The Oberlin Herald*.

Ambulance Director Linda Manning said when an emergency vehicle is responding to a call, the crew needs to run with lights and sirens on, especially the sirens. The sirens, she said, warn people that there is an emergency and the vehicle is responding, no matter what time of day or night it is.

Ms. Manning said if the crew is driving over the speed limit and doesn't have the warning lights or sirens on, and they get into an accident or something happens, the county's insurance won't cover it.

The letter writer complained about the ambulance in the middle of the night running with lights and sirens on.

Ms. Manning said the law says emergency crews need to run with their sirens on when they are responding to a call.

City raises fees for municipal court

The Oberlin City Council increased the city's court costs to align with the state district court.

At a meeting Thursday, Aug. 19, City Attorney Steve Hirsch said the city's court costs have been $75 per case. The district court is charging $93.50 or $98.50. He suggested changing the city ordinance so that it aligns with the district court fees. The ordinance won't have to change again if the district court goes up.

"Is there any reason to change the court costs?" asked Councilwoman Rhonda May.

"No, but there isn't any reason why they shouldn't be the same," said Mr. Hirsch.

Councilman Bill Riedel made a motion to adopt the revised charter ordinance. Councilman Ray Ward seconded.

The court costs generate money for the city, noted Police Chief Wade Lockhart.

Mr. Hirsch said the municipal judge brought up the change.

Does the judge get any extra money if the city raises the fees? asked Ms. May. No, said Mr. Hirsch.

The court costs will change 60 days after publication in the newspaper, he said.

Interim City Administrator Karen Larson said she received a letter stating that $2 million of the airport project can be done in 2011, so the city is going to need to watch the budget closely. That means the city will pay $100,000, she said.

Mr. Riedel said he's talked to some people who are interested in building hangars at the airport. He asked if the city has a plat map with information on where they can be built. With a new runway and aprons planned, he said, the city will have to watch where things are built, and it may need a fee schedule for rentals.

Also, he said, if the city is going to build a "world-class airport," maybe it's not the best place to keep old tractor tires, household items and other miscellaneous junk.

That sounds like something for the airport committee, said Mayor Joe Stanley.

Mr. Riedel asked if any ordinance limits what can be stored at the airport. Maybe it shouldn't just be the cheapest storage in town, he said.

Maybe the committee could let the city know what is being stored, he added. Some doors won't open and junk is visible from the highway.

If large items are being stored outside the hangars and it's unsightly, said Ms. May, maybe it's not a good idea.

Mrs. Larson said Jim Wesch, with the airport committee, left a message on her answering machine saying if there is anything the committee can do, just call.

In other business, the council heard that Mrs. Larson had hedged 25 percent of the city's expected natural gas needs with Seminole Energy at $5.50 per mmbtu.

Oil leases put on hold

The Oberlin City Council put off action again Thursday on an offer to lease 646 acres for oil and gas exploration from a Wichita company.

The council has had the offer at $15 per acre leased from Fred J. Hambright since the beginning of July. The company would have to get permission to actually drill a well or build a road to it, however.

At a previous meeting, the council discussed areas that the city wouldn't want to have a well, including the golf course and the cemetery.

The city would need to talk with Pheasants Forever about any drilling in Sappa Park, said Mayor Joe Stanley. The golf course people are fine with it as long it doesn't disturb the course, he said, but they also don't want a road built across the golf course.

The company can't drill at the cemetery, he said, so he's not sure why they would want to lease it.

There's a lot of land in the lease at Sappa Park, noted Councilman Bill Riedel. Almost 153 acres, said interim City Administrator Karen Larson.

She said she talked to Willard Perrin, water manager, who said he wouldn't feel good about any drilling too close to the water wells, as the city's drinking water is too precious.

One proposed site next to a well is for nine-tenths of an acre, said Mayor Stanley. There are only a few acres, two or three, near wells, said Mrs. Larson.

Councilwoman Rhonda May said she would be interested to see what other kind of leasing is going on in the area. Mrs. Larson said a representative from Hambright told her they are leasing anything in the area that they can get their hands on.

The city needs to include any exemptions if the council approves the lease, said Mayor Stanley. Councilman Rob McFee suggested a map with the areas that can and can't be worked.

Someone noted that the council needs to include Pheasants Forever, the gun club, the black powder club and the country club, all with leases at Sappa Park, in helping determine those areas.

Child abuse hearing held for McCook man

A preliminary hearing for a McCook man arrested on charges of intentional aggravated battery and abuse of a child this summer was held last week at the Decatur County Courthouse.

No journal entry from the hearing Thursday had been entered into the court record as of Tuesday. Sidney Lampman, 33, was arrested by the Oberlin Police on the charges involving injuries suffered by a 6-month-old baby about June 19.

Mr. Lampman was released from the Decatur County Jail on Friday, Aug. 13, on $100,000 bond.

The charges against him include intentional aggravated battery, a level 4 person felony, which carries a penalty of 38 to 172 months in a state prison and a fine up to $300,000. The second, abuse of a child, is a level 5 person felony which has a penalty range of 31 to 136 months and a fine up to $300,000.

Barbecue available Saturday

Teams will spend the day Saturday grilling up their favorite meat, vegetables and other goodies, trying to win top honors at the third annual "Up in Smoke" barbecue cook-off at Sappa Park.

Those goodies, cooked slowly over wood chips, on a propane grill or one filled with charcoal, will later be served to anyone who shows up for supper at the park.

That fund-raiser meal will be served at 5:30 p.m. for $8, with live music during the supper hour.

The winning ticket for the new Traeger grill will be drawn at supper. Organizers have been selling the tickets for $1 for one or $5 for six. The winner must be present.

For information, call Patti Uehlin at (785) 475-3755 or Cindy Lincoln at 475-3554.

Money raised at the event will go to the Sappa Park Committee, which is working on putting bathrooms in the shelter house.

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