

Test wells may be drilled this week

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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Plans to drill six test wells in the continued search for cleaner water for the City of Oberlin have been delayed, but the wells might go down sometime this week.

Seven areas have actually been identified for test wells. Woofter Pump and Well out of Hoxie was going to start last week, said Chris Miller, with Miller and Associates, the city's engineering firm, but everything wasn't set up.

Originally, Oberlin contractor Dick Kelley was going to drill the wells, said Councilman Jim Miesner, but he suffered a shoulder injury and wasn't able to work. Woofter will do the holes for the same price, said Mr. Miesner, but will charge \$6 a mile to move the rig, which he said was reasonable.

On one of the properties, he said an existing well already is cased, so the landowner suggested just testing it. With that, said Mr. Miesner, a seventh site was added for testing.

Mr. Miesner said the driller thought if the wells were close enough together, all six

could be done in a day. Mayor Bill Riedel asked about the water rights.

Mr. Miesner said he would contact all the landowners and see if the city could drill a test well. At this time, he said, the city isn't asking for any water rights.

Councilman Rusty Addleman asked if there were any other wells out by his mother-in-law's property, which is on the list for a test well. If there isn't another well to tie into, he said, it might not even be worth testing it.

Mr. Miller suggested having a meet-

ing on water issues after the city gets the results from the test wells to discuss what happens next.

If the city can get some samples from the test wells in the next week, Mayor Riedel asked, how long will it take to get the results?

It doesn't take long, said Mr. Miller. He added that he didn't think the council would have anything for the second meeting in December, but might be ready for a water meeting around the first of January.

The seven proposed locations include

landed owned by or leased by Louise Pollnow, Circle W, Robert Fringer, Richard Pavlicek, Robert Pavlicek, the Bonnie Anderson Trust and Merlin Anderson, Lowell Holmberg and Gary Orr Sr.

If the city finds water out of town, asked Mr. Addleman, where would it be pumped to? Mr. Miller said he would want to hit the new main along Cass Avenue with it and then head to the water tower. It depends on where the water comes into town. The lines would have to be evaluated, but chances are

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AT THE GOLDEN AGE CENTER last Thursday, Alana Bishop helped make gingerbread and sugar cookies with members of the Daisy and Brownie Girl Scout troops. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Girl Scout troops make Christmas cookies

Flour covered work stations, shirts and cookie cutters as little hands stayed busy making sugar and gingerbread cookies last Thursday when Oberlin Brownie and Daisy Girl Scouts got together after school in the kitchen of the Golden Age Center.

Joni Marshall, Brownie troop leader, said one of girls had planned to take the cookies to the retirement home in Hoxie to decorate with the residents on Saturday. With the winter storm Saturday, the decorating party was

canceled. Another date hasn't yet been set, she said.

Mrs. Marshall said the cookie-making idea came from Girl Scout mom Becky Tate, who works in Hoxie. Mrs. Tate got the idea from Dr. Elizabeth Sliter, who used to make cookies for the Cedar Living Center here.

Mrs. Tate's daughter Mollie, Sarah Howland's daughter Emily and Dani Rouse came to help make cookies along with the younger girls. Mrs. Marshall said those girls are from

an older Girl Scout troop.

There were 27 Daisies and Brownies helping make the cookies. The girls also had a snack, played some games and sang Christmas songs.

Mrs. Marshall said the project was something fun for the girls to do, plus it's a good way for them to help others and spend some time with the elderly.

Woman wants to restore house at former ranch

The Oberlin City Council received a plan to clean up the old caretaker's house at the former youth ranch from a woman who is interested in becoming the custodian of Sappa Park.

Susan Rynearson talked with the council about her proposal to fix up the old caretaker's house at the former youth ranch, which once was the office for the ranch.

She said she spent many weeks in thought and prayer and felt called to do something with the house. She said she, Jessie Allen and Derry Bishop looked at the home and the mold in the basement.

Ms. Rynearson said it looks like the mold could be cleaned up without a lot of cost. She said they did look behind the sheet rock, and the mold seemed to come from the outside, not from the inside of the wall out.

She said they would tear out the sheet rock.

Ms. Rynearson said she figured the expenses at \$7,200 to \$8,200, hiring the two men to do the work. If this is something that the council would be interested in, she said, they could start next week.

"Did I hear somewhere that there is a well in the basement that needs plugged?" asked Councilman Jim Miesner.

Yes, said Ms. Rynearson, with no heat for four years, it probably caused the dampness.

Willard Perrin, with the city water department, said he wasn't sure if sealing the well would help with the dampness. He said there wasn't any mold in the room with the well, but it needs to be sealed anyway.

Ms. Rynearson said she didn't think they would put sheet rock up in the basement. If she and her friend, Kathleen, move out there, they won't need much space.

If the house can be repaired for

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Candidate stops to campaign here

By **CAROLYN KELLEY-PLOTTS**

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Though his name is not a household word, John Davis, who describes himself as a conservative Republican candidate for president of the United States, soldiers on with an aggressive grass-roots effort.

His campaign bus pulled into Oberlin on Monday morning, emblazoned with a flag. Mr. Davis was holding a red, white and blue plumber's wrench and an eagle to illustrate his motto, "Let's Fix America."

The small group that gathered at the Business Entrepreneurial Enhancement Center Monday morning to meet him seemed to agree that

his ideas made sense. The builder from Grand Junction, Colo., says he is in favor of balancing the budget, increasing federal revenues, term limits, upholding the Constitution, a tariff on imported products, border control, registering immigrants, honoring Social Security, Medicare and the military, getting rid of the Internal Revenue Service and creating a "fair tax," and giving power back to Congress.

Asked what prompted him to enter the race, Mr. Davis said that God spoke to his heart.

"I've never been in politics," he said. "I used to hire someone to speak for me when I had to make a presentation to the zoning board."

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Recreation ballots are due by Tuesday

There's a little under a week left for to mail back ballots on whether a recreation commission should be formed to receive up to 1 mill in property taxes in the Oberlin School District.

Last week the Decatur County clerk's office mailed out 1,776 ballots to all the registered voters in the district. While some have come back, workers at the clerk's office say they don't know how many.

The ballots need to be returned by noon Tuesday, or at least post-marked that day, to count.

The recreation commission is asking for permission to raise up to 1 mill in property taxes, which would

produce \$29,000 this year, to hire a director and buy equipment.

If the question passes, it will mean a small increase in taxes. For a homeowner in the City of Oberlin with a \$50,000 house, the increase would be about \$5 a year.

For a business property with the same value, the increase would be about \$12.

For typical dryland farm ground, the increase would cost 2 cents more per acre, he said. For a typical acre of pasture, less than 1 cent per acre, and for a typical irrigated acre, 6 cents.

Hearing rescheduled

A court appearance in the murder case against Dylan Coryell Jr. was postponed again on Monday.

A preliminary hearing once set for November had been continued

to Monday, and now has been continued to February.

Jeff Wagaman, deputy chief of staff for Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt, said the preliminary hearing has been scheduled for 9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 3, in De-

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Neighbor spruces up weed-infested yard

By **CAROLYN PLOTTS**

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Alan Shields is an unassuming type and he wouldn't want a "big deal" made out of what he saw as something that needed to be done.

But that is exactly what happened. A house in Mr. Shields' neighborhood had fallen into disrepair. The owner lived out of town and no one was caring for the property.

Mr. Shields said he got permission from the owner's mother to work on the yard and began cleaning up. He said he was caught up on his own yard work, had worked on his sister's yard and the vacant house was there, just waiting for someone to take an interest.

When he started, the grass was almost a foot tall. He began working in small sections with a push mower, doing a little bit at a time.

He had to walk each plot before cutting it to remove debris and sticks. No one has lived in the house for years and there were



ALAN SHIELDS COMPLETED volunteer clean-up on a house in his neighborhood that needed work. He took it upon himself as a project to clean up the yard of the neglected house. — Herald staff photo by Carolyn Kelley-Plotts

