



## Hospital might get new rooms

The hospital administrator showed Decatur County commissioners plans to add rooms to the east of the building at their meeting last Tuesday.

Administrator Lynn Doeden said they started with a list of things that the staff wants and needs. She then went to the hospital board and discussed the needs, which require more room. She said there aren't any more rooms at Cedar Living Center that can be used for the hospital.

The idea is to add onto the east side of the building by the emergency room entrance, she said.

The hospital board, said Mrs. Doeden, hired an architect to look at the project. The plan includes moving the Cottonwood Home Health Care office closer to the entrance, two exam rooms, a nurses' office, a doctors' office, a stress test room and a procedure room with a restroom.

She said the plans show a place where two more exam rooms can be added.

The architect, Grant Krager from North Platte, has worked with hospitals in that area, she said.

Mrs. Doeden said the board got specifications for electrical work, utilities and sewer.

The next step is bid negotiations, she said. So far the hospital board

hasn't approved anything, but they are looking for grants to help pay for the improvements.

The price will be around \$600,000, give or take, said Mrs. Doeden.

She said she planned to meet with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development office about financing.

There are some things for the rooms that the board can get at discounted prices, she said.

When the project is bid, asked commissioner-elect Stan McEvoy, will the board get a price for the extra two rooms. No, said Mrs. Doeden.

It might be a good idea, said Commissioner Ralph Unger, to bid the two extra rooms as an option just to see what it might cost. It might be cheaper to do it now with construction already going, agreed Commissioner Doyle Brown.

The hospital has a flat roof and the new section would, too, Mr. McEvoy noted. How much more would it cost to install a pitched roof?

Mrs. Doeden said she wasn't sure, but she could find out. Maintenance on flat roofs can be expensive, said Mr. McEvoy.

Mrs. Doeden said she thought the roof had a 30-year warranty.

## Decatur Tomorrow to hold meeting in mid January

The Decatur Tomorrow steering committee has planned a community meeting for the middle of January to help move the project forward.

Paul Shields, committee member, said the meeting will be from 5 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 23, in the high school cafeteria.

Recently, Mr. Shields was the closing keynote speaker at a Kansas Communities LLC meeting in Hutchinson in November which was on getting involved in projects such as this.

Mr. Shields said he spoke on two main areas that are key for towns to survive — leadership and people getting involved.

Part of becoming an effective leader, he said, is to step outside what a person normally would do.

For himself, he said, he is a farmer and involved in agriculture. It is important that he gets outside agriculture and exposes himself to new ideas and new people.

It is important, said Mr. Shields, to concentrate on your own community, but it is also a good idea to learn what other towns are doing.

That's as simple as traveling off the interstate, through smaller towns to see what others are doing.

Mr. Shields said, for him, it was just like being the closing speaker at the conference. That isn't something he would normally do, but he learned from it and it has helped him develop himself as a leader.

Another step, he said, is giving interviews. He said people need to get comfortable with giving inter- (See GROUP on Page 10A)

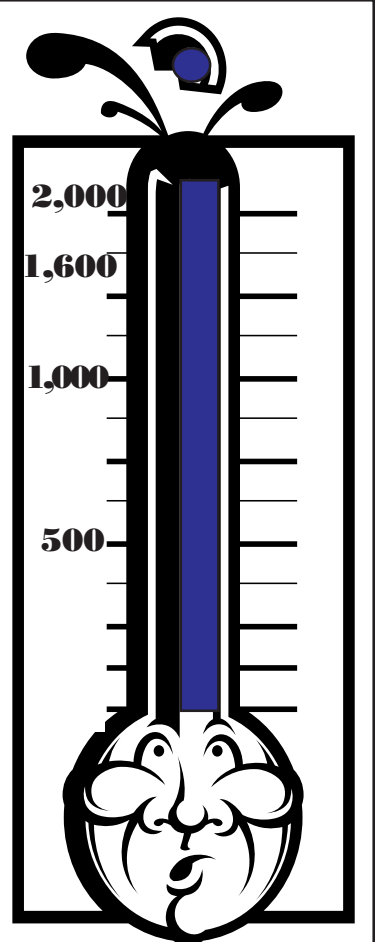
## Drive exceeds its goal

Over 2,000 items have been donated to Stanley Hardware for the annual food drive and there is still a week and a half left.

Each year Joe Stanley, owner of the store, sets the goal at 2,000 food and non-perishable items. Normally the goal isn't met until after Christmas, but this year the goal was met and exceeded before the new year cut off.

On Monday afternoon the store had received 2,023 items, which are displayed in the window. All of the items will be taken to the Decatur County Food Pantry after the new year.

Items can be donated until Monday, Jan. 1.



AT THE GAZEBO, Dave Bergling (above left) looked at Kevin Cooper's ticket to see if it matched the one drawn. Mr. Cooper won the \$1,500 in the Christmas on Us pro-

motion. Before the drawing, Anna Carter (below) joined other kids in the Lutheran bell choir in playing Christmas music.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

## Winner gets \$1,500

Three tickets were drawn out of a large plastic trash can Saturday, two were winners but the other ticket wasn't claimed during the annual Oberlin Christmas on Us drawing.

Each year *The Oberlin Herald* and Oberlin merchants team up to give \$2,500 in scrip away in a shop-at-home promotion.

The first \$500 went to 10 instant winners, who found their ticket numbers in weekly ads in the newspaper. Each instantly won \$50 by matching their numbers with the ones listed.

The rest of the money, \$2,000, was given away during a drawing Saturday for a \$1,500 first prize and \$500 second prize.

Saturday morning about 500 people gathered around the gazebo in Centennial Park, each with their tickets in hand or the numbers written down. The bell choir of St. John's and Faith Lutheran churches entertained before the drawings.

The first ticket was drawn. It was No. 761597. The number was written on several pieces of long white paper and shown to the crowd as Dave Bergling, *The Oberlin Herald* advertising manager, called the number again.

Out of the crowd came Dave Nichols, who had the winning ticket, which he had received from R&M Service Center.

Mr. Nichols said he was



shocked because he didn't think that he would win. He went home

with \$500 in scrip money. He said he didn't know what he was going

to spend the money on. (See WINNER on Page 10A)

## Board looks at improvements to schools

The Oberlin School Board discussed improvements to the district's facilities at its meeting last Monday.

While the board didn't make any decisions, it did ask Superintendent Kelly Glodt to check on prices on resurfacing the track, getting a new boiler at the high school, working on the television lab and electrical work at the junior high.

Mr. Glodt said he talked with employees about the district's needs and some things would cost more than the others.

There needs to be a curb around the playground so that gravel doesn't spread onto the concrete basketball court, as children are falling on it. Some of the sidewalks at the grade school, said Mr. Glodt, are getting bad and the steps may need to have some repair work.

Are the sidewalks a tree root issue? asked board member Kurt Vollertsen.

Mr. Glodt said he didn't think so, it's just an age thing.

It would be nice, he said, to clean the water stains off the building. The

high school, especially would look good if some of the stains were removed.

The steps at the front of the high school need work, he said, and it would be nice to put in a ramp out to the street.

The school needs a new hot water heater and tank, which will cost more than \$15,000.

Both of the schools, said Mr. Glodt, also need new flooring. Many of the items, he said, are going to have to be done piece by piece with the board committing \$20,000

a year for them.

A lot of schools, said High School Principal Charlie Haag, are going to carpet in the halls. It doesn't last as long, but it is quieter and easy to maintain.

He said the district might want to look at the cost of carpet compared to tile.

The electrical work in the junior high needs to be replaced. If a teacher plugs in the laptop cart it blows the fuse, the board was told. Maybe not in the room being used. (See SCHOOL on Page 10A)