

Bids needed on new rec building

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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After a little research, backers of a new senior center, movie theater and bowling alley found out they need to ask for bids on the project, which had been about to start the middle of this month.

With part of the money coming from a county general-obligation bond issue, said County Attorney Steve Hirsch, the group will have to get bids.

Greg Lohofener, who has been working on the project for the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp., asked if they

County Countdown

At their meeting last Tuesday, Decatur County commissioners:

- Talked with two department heads about a new property information system, in which the information and maps are layered and each has coordinates done with a global positioning system. Story to come.

- Decided to move the flag poles from the west side of the courthouse to the front of the building. Story on Page 9A. Photo on Page 3A.

- Discovered that the county needs to take bids for construction of a new senior center, movie theater and bowling alley. Story at left.

would have to get bids. If so, he said, it could increase the cost \$25,000 to \$30,000 for the architect having

to draw detailed plans. Later in the week, however, Mr. Lohofener said the drawings would be here

soon.

The bid process will have to be advertised in the newspaper, said Mr. Hirsch. The specifications have to be here for 30 days before a contract is awarded.

That means work won't start on the project until the end of October. Thirty days would mean the commissioners would open bids during the Tuesday, Oct. 21 meeting. Mr. Lohofener said it would be good to sign a contract at that meeting so that concrete can be poured before winter.

Mr. Lohofener said that Dave Bose with Dirt Cloud Construction

had said he will help with the demolition of the existing building for the cost of fuel. He said Mick Barth also will help for an hourly rate.

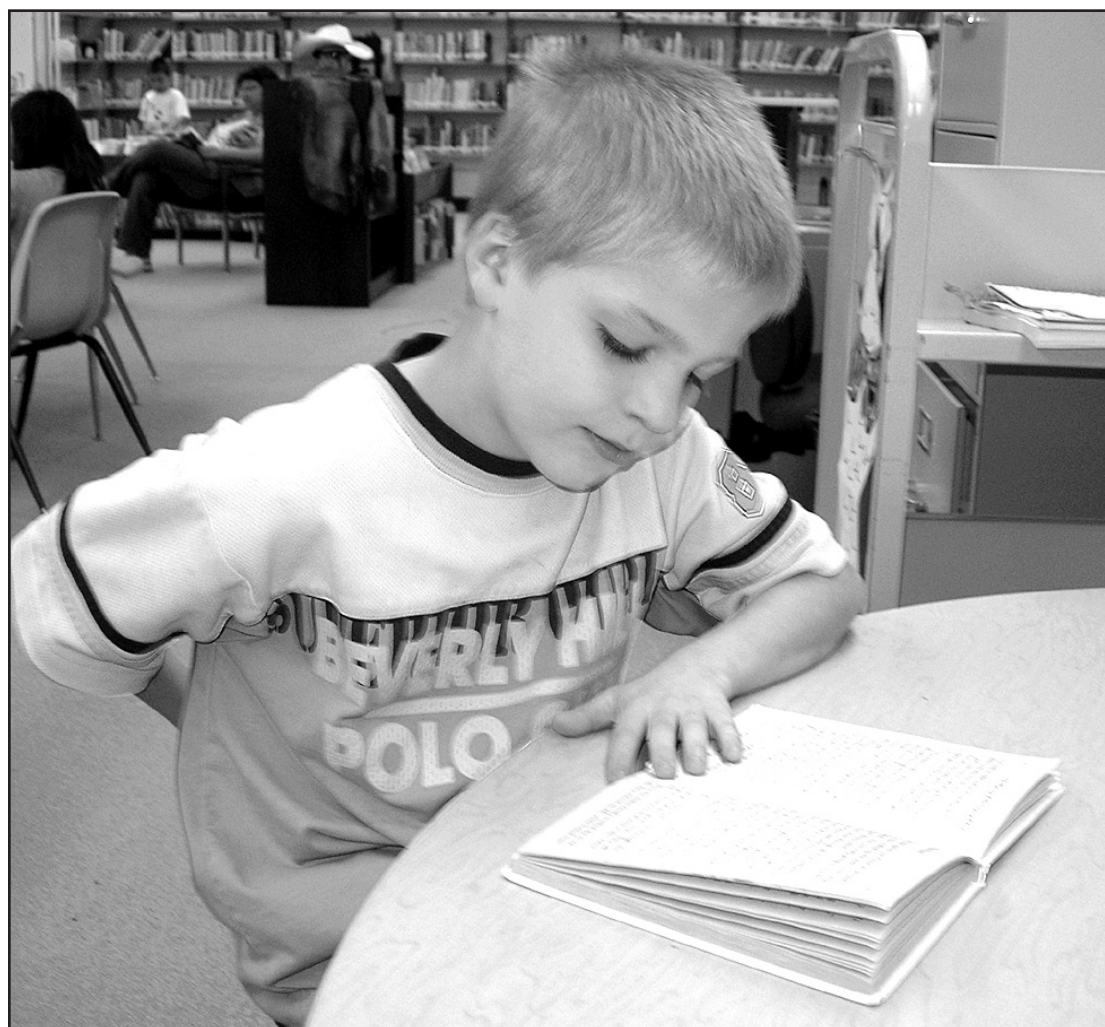
Clerk Marilyn Horn asked if Mr. Lohofener had heard at the last meeting that the county, although it will own the building, doesn't necessarily need to own the extra lots.

There was talk about the lot next to Pauls Funeral Home and the former meat locker being deeded to the county for the project. At a previous meeting, there was talk of using the lot next to the funeral home for parking for the new facility.

That lot could be deeded to the development corporation, said Mr. Lohofener, and used for an economic venture. With the locker plant being the former power plant, there was some talk at a previous meeting about whether an environmental assessment would be needed. The idea is to use the building to store the salvaged items from the center and theater.

At the request of Mr. Hirsch, the commissioners went into a closed session for five minutes for attorney-client privilege with Mr. Lohofener present.

There was no action taken.



Parents and kids read

AT OBERLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, Terese Vontz (above) read a book to her daughter Gracie during a reading night sponsored by Support Our Schools last Monday. Thomas Cody (left) sat at a table while he read a book. Parents and kids were able to come and go and find a quiet place to read during the event.

— Photos by Linda Glaze

Agency closes some services for disabled

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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With a lower increase in state money than the agency needed, officials of Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas say they have had to cut costs and restructure some of the agency's services in an 18-county region of northwest Kansas.

The service helps people with developmental disabilities in the 18 counties, said Steve Keil, director of development. Services include a day program which is set up similar to a college, where clients enroll to take classes on things like hygiene, grocery shopping, computers and other life skills; employment programs to help people with disabilities find jobs; and a "creative living" program, to name a few. The service also does case management, provides transportation and works with kids with disabilities.

President Jerry Michaud said the agency got a 2 percent increase from the state, which fell short of paying for the increase in health insurance costs for employees. He said they had hoped to increase pay for the staff, but that won't happen.

Each year, the agency asks Decatur County commissioners for continued financial support. In both 2007 and 2008, it received \$25,500 from the county, and County Clerk Marilyn Horn said the proposed budget for 2009 allows the same amount.

Mrs. Horn said the agency has been getting money from the county for at least the past 20 years.

The agency's representatives talked with commissioners about the need for more money from the state.

Mr. Michaud said the problem has been several years in the making. In the fall of 2006, he said, legislators "kicked out" some recommendations for community-based services, including those for people with developmental disabilities.

Those recommendations came with a plan to pay the cost over three years, he said, and included eliminating the waiting list for services. Currently, he said, that list has over 3,000 people on it.

In 2007, no action was taken by legislators. This year, a bill passed the House on a 118-4 vote (See SERVICE on Page 10A)

Water well finished at park but locked because of vandals

A new water well requested by the Sappa Park committee is ready to use near the shelter house, but the hydrant has a padlock on it and a sign in front of the faucet says the water is "nonpotable," not for human consumption.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the well has a lock because city officials are worried someone will leave the water on, causing a mess.

The key can be checked out of the city office by anyone who wants to use the water, said Mr. Shike, and some of the people who volunteer to work at the park have keys, too.

The "nonpotable" sign means the city doesn't treat the water or test the well, so can't assure its safety for drinking.

It isn't that the city doesn't want people to be able to use the well, said Mr. Shike, but there's been quite a bit of vandalism at the park. The screen doors put on the restrooms this year have been kicked, he said, vandals have driven through the grass around the shelter house with

a vehicle and beer cans have been scattered on some of the trails.

"I'm not sure why people can't have more respect for something that others are trying to improve," he said.

The well cost the city \$4,141, compared to about \$180,000 for the latest well on the city system that can be used for drinking water. That well, east of town, was paid for through an emergency community water assistance grant.

Volunteers from the park committee asked for a well near the shelterhouse so there would be water available for people wanting to camp at the park or for people walking their dogs.

There's another faucet at the first, or upper, campground, which doesn't have a padlock on it. It's also marked as nonpotable. That water comes down from a well at the former youth ranch. In the past, that water has been shut off for the winter, said Mr. Shike, because it comes through a building the city doesn't keep heated.

School board discusses heating system

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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The Oberlin School Board talked about the heating problem at the high school last Monday — the old system has failed and the only proposal for a replacement was much more costly than the board wanted — but they didn't make any decisions.

For several months, the board

has talked about a proposed energy project which would not only have updated the lights in the district's schools to save on power bills, but would have included a new heating system for the high school. The school has used boilers, but the main unit doesn't work and broken steam lines damaged the auditorium stage and the carpet last year.

The the energy plan proposed by

a Nebraska consulting firm was for a \$2 million project.

Board member Dan Grafel said last week he knew there was a little bit of sticker shock up front, but if the plan included a guaranteed performance contract that will pay for itself, it might be worth it. This needs to be on the future agenda, he said.

The work that Kenny Black, in-

door facilities supervisor, has done to to replace some lights is noticeable, said member Barb Olson, but what if the board finds out that the district could have spent a little more money and it would have been even better?

"I would hate to find that out later," she said.

The meeting started early last (See BOARD on Page 10A)

Highway work should be mostly done by Friday

Repaving on U.S. 36 west of town, should mostly be done by the end of the week, state officials say.

Kristen Brands, spokesman for the Kansas Department of Transportation in Norton, said Venture Corp. should have the paving done by the end of the week, depending on the weather. The crew will then

head to Hoxie to do some work at the airport, then come back here to do the shoulder work.

Mrs. Brands said the company plans to be back in this area in a little over a week to do the shoulder work, around Monday, Sept. 29. While the shoulder work is being done, she said, the area will have

one-way traffic under a pilot car operation once again.

The workers started at the Rawlins-Decatur County line and worked east, with crews heating up the surface and recycling it, then covering the smooth surface with a 1.5-inch overlay of new asphalt. The job covers an 11-mile stretch from U.S. 83

to the county line.

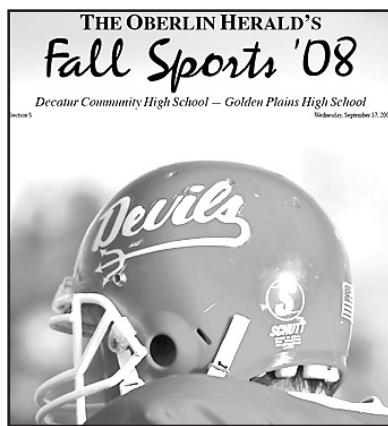
Mrs. Brands said Venture also did a two-inch overlay on U.S. 83 from eight miles south of town to the Selden junction which the crew finished on Friday, Sept. 5.

The projects together had an estimated cost of \$2.7 million.

Sports section inside

Inside today's Oberlin Herald is the 2008 Fall Sports section, featuring pictures and information on area student athletes.

The section is made possible by our advertisers, who sponsor the students. In it, you'll find pictures of the students at Decatur Community and Golden Plains high schools who are out for football, volleyball, cross country and cheerleading, along with their coaches.



*Service closes some doors in this area

(Continued from Page 1A) which included the money to get the job done, he said. It went into a conference committee and was "swallowed up." By the time it came out of committee, he said, it didn't include the extra money.

"The need is critical," said Mr. Michaud, "and it was so close to coming to fruition, but when it didn't, it was like pulling the plug."

The service will get a 2 percent increase, he said, and state money will help about 30 people statewide on the waiting list. Originally, he said, \$70 million was recommended for the service, a 1,400 percent increase.

What all this means are changes, he said.

The Wheatland Development Center in Colby will close, the Oakley office will downsize by two-thirds and a ceramics studio and shop in Atwood will close.

The Colby operation served seven clients, said Mr. Michaud, and they have been offered services in Atwood.

"The Atwood program is one of our foundational centers, and serves many, many more people," said Mr. Michaud.

With the small increase, the service has been doing a lot of restructuring, said Mr. Keil. That has meant that some jobs have been eliminated, although he doesn't know how many.

Currently, the service helps 12 people from Decatur County, he said, although not all of them live

n the county.

The money from the state came with some legislative direction that it is supposed to go for staff wages or direct support of clients, he said. The service had wanted to get the staff wages up, but that can't be done without more money.

The service gets about \$5 million a year from the state, \$8 million from the federal government and around \$500,000 from the 18 counties, said Keil.

One supporter of the service, Joyce Hartzog of Oberlin, said she has called and pleaded with the agency to pay their staff more, since there's been a high turnover rate in employees at Atwood.

Mrs. Hartzog said her daughter has been a client of the service since 1979 in Atwood. She is quite upset over the changes, her mother said, including people from Colby coming over.

Mrs. Hartzog said her daughter is semi-independent, but still uses the services.

"I know money is tight all over," she said, "but some of them don't have families. In fact, a lot of the consumers in Atwood have no one. They have no where to go for holidays. In some cases, they are severely handicapped and can't live at home."

She said her son is on the service's waiting list. Mrs. Hartzog said he lives at home and works at the Good Samaritan Center, which he enjoys, but there are others on the list who are in worse shape than him, and they desperately need the service.



Theater doors still open

AT THE SUNFLOWER CINEMA Saturday night, Kala Bose and her daughter Darian (above) worked the ticket booth while Bev Reiter (right) helped run the concession stand. The cinema will continue showing movies until the end of the month, when the building will be torn down. The theater will be updated in a new building, a project that is underway.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



Council to receive 2007 audit report

The Oberlin City Council will hold its second meeting of the month at 7 p.m. Thursday at The Gateway.

City Administrator Gary Shike said a representative from the city's accounting firm, Mapes and Miller,

plans to be at the meeting to present the 2007 audit report.

Also on the agenda is a closed session for personnel.

The meeting, open to the public, will be held in the downstairs room at The Gateway.

*Board discusses heating

(Continued from Page 1A) Monday to allow time for the members to tour both of the schools. During the tour, the members saw new lights Mr. Black put up in a classroom at high school.

The group also talked about replacing the current steam heating system at the high school. Superintendent Pat Cullen said the district does have two bids to replace a condensation return line that leaked last year, ruining the stage and some carpet in the auditorium. The district bought a new boiler from American Boiler for \$25,000, but the unit

hasn't been installed. There is heat in all of the high school now, said Dr. Cullen, although he doesn't know how efficient it is.

Dr. Cullen said he thinks American Boiler wants to get involved with the project, too.

"I think there needs to be more specifics on this project," said member Monte Moore. "I don't think we have the questions answered yet."

Are there other companies who could bid on the project to repair the condensation line and do the work? asked Mrs. Olson. Dr. Cullen said he thought they could get

some others. At one time, the board talked about using the boiler system, but shutting off the lines to the music wing, since the leak caused a lot of damage there.

How much are the practice rooms in that wing used? asked President Dewayne Jackson. How many alternative heaters would be needed?

Music teacher Susan Nelson said one of the issues with alternative heat, such as portable electric heaters, is that drastic temperature changes are bad for pianos.

City agrees not to change roofing rules

The Oberlin City Council discussed a proposed roofing regulation which would allow no more than three layers of shingles on a house at the request of a roofing company, but didn't make any changes.

Mayor Joe Stanley said a representative of Aqua Shield Roofing asked if the council could revisit the building code, claiming that the city allows too many layers of shingles.

The question has come up several times in the past few weeks, City Administrator Gary Shike said at the meeting Thursday, Aug. 14. Some people have said that the city is too lenient and others have said the code is too rigid.

Mayor Stanley said he figured money is being won or lost by someone, but in the middle of a roofing boom, it probably isn't a good idea to change the rules.

The council took no action.

Police Chief Wade Lockhart said he's been seeing people on motor scooters with little kids in front of the driver. It's not only illegal to have someone riding in front of the driver, he said, but it's dangerous. If the scooter goes down, said Chief

Lockhart, everyone knows where that kid is going to go.

People need to know that it's dangerous and isn't allowed, he said. The second person needs to be in the seat behind the driver. Besides, said Chief Lockhart, anyone 18 and under needs to have on a helmet, and not one for a bicycle, a real motorcycle helmet, he said.

Councilman Ray Ward said he's had a few people ask him why the city doesn't spray for mosquitoes. Councilwoman Rhonda May said she has too.

The person who asked, said Mr. Ward, said they would put up the first \$100 and pass the hat.

Mayor Stanley said he read that Colby is spraying every week. The spray must not last very long if the city has to spray every week, he said.

The conversation comes up on the city administrator's list a lot, said Mr. Shike. No action was taken.

In other business, the council: • Held a 20-minute closed session with the council, mayor, administration and attorney for preliminary discussion of real estate acquisition. There was no action.

• Heard there have been some

complaints about a house a 211 W. Commercial, where several vehicles are parked in the yard, surrounded by beer cans.

• Decided to meet at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 25 at Ms. May's house to come up with a five-year plan for the city. Although the meeting is at a member's house it still falls under the open meeting act.

• Talked with Kari Ketterl, who asked about trash pickup in the country. Mayor Stanley said the city only does the billing for the trash service in the city. She needs to talk with Bill Cathcart, who runs the trash service, about that, he said.

• Approved the city's emergency operation plan.

• Heard that the city has received \$5,063 from Kent Ploussard's family in memorial money for use at The Gateway. Mr. Ploussard, long-time Gateway manager and cook, died earlier this year.

• Heard that the Oberlin Housing Authority has repaid the \$10,000 the group borrowed from the city. The authority borrowed the money earlier this year to cover temporary operating capital.

AUCTION

(Machinery, Vehicles, Shop Tools & Household)

Fri., Sept. 26, 2008

Storm Date: Tuesday: Sept. 30, 1008

Machinery, Vehicles, Shop Tools and Household

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE:
Most all items were purchased new and have been shedded and are in excellent condition. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to purchase like new equipment at auction price.

10:00 a.m. CST
Location from Atwood: Go 9 miles North on US Hwy 25 to Road AA, then 1 1/2 miles East. Signs will be posted.

2008 Dodge Dakota SLT 4 x 4, V8 Magnum, Flex Fuel, 50 act.mi., Loaded	1976 J.D. 4430 PWR Shift Trans., 18.4 x 38 Tires, 3 Remotes, 3pt., 1950 hrs. S#057834R, (Sharp), Koyker K4 Quick Att. Loader, 8'Bucket, Pallet Forks	1930 Ford Coupe, Complete Restoration, 2902 act.mi.	1986 Chrysler LeBaron Convertible, 55,935 act.mi.	2008 H&H Trailer (68" x 10')	1994 F250 XLT, Ssp.trans., 99,515 act.mi. w/Tommy Gate	Gooseneck 22" Flatbed w/Winch, Tilt Bed, 7000# axles	Farmall H, PTO, New Tires, Restored S#368933	M&M Twin City, PTO, New Tires, S#901489	M&M Twin City, PTO, S#900717	M&M, New Tires, S#160084	Deines 2000 Mower/Snow Blower, w/60" Deck S#1958	Bush Hog 2510 Rotary Mower, 3pt., 10", Hyd. Lift	M&M GB, Propane, New Tires, S#08903579	M&M GB, Propane, S#08904433	M&M G, Propane, S#04700823	Cushman 3 Wheel Police Car, 6256 act.mi.	Cushman 3 Wheel Police Car, 14,260 act.mi.	Cushman Motor Scooter, 18 act.mi.	Cushman Motor Scooter, 3855 act.mi.	Renke 8" Rear Blade, Hyd.	2-Model A Motors	Hutchinson 8" x 37" Auger w/ 10hp. Elect. Motor Drag Auger	2-Brock 300 Bu. Bulk Bins	5-1800 Bu. Grain Bins	10' x 14' Shed	Winpower Generator w/Trailer, PTO	Roof Mower w/8hp B&S	3pt. Boom Lift	Stroberg Loading Chute	16-12" Stroberg Panels	6-12" Stroberg Panels w/Gates	Snap-On Tool Cabinet (54" x 28") Like New	2-Metal Work Benches w/2 Drawers, (30" x 6')	M&W Hydro-Gauge Dynamometer w/Trailer	Puma 7hp. Air Compressor, 60gal. Tank	Lincoln AC/DC 225amp Welder	Welding Table	12 Ton Press	2-Shop Vises	Band Saw	Grinder w/Stand	Craftsman 15" Drill Press	Engine Stand	Central Pneumatic Bead Blaster	Lincoln Cherry Picker	Hyd. Body Tool	Sand Blaster, 10gal.	100gal. Propane Tank	50gal. Fuel Tank w/Pump & Meter	Shop Vac	Sears Utility Cart	Handy Man Jack	Shop Creepers	Craftsman 3/4" Socket Set	Ingersoll-Rand Air Sander	Makita 3/8" Drill	Mac Air Chisel	Ingersoll-Rand 1/2" Air Impact	Bearing Pullers	Snap-On 3/8" Air Impact	Craftsman Drill Bits	3/8" Air Ratchet	KD Torque Wrench	Craftsman 3/8" & 1/2" Set	Bushing Remover	Calibers	Snap-On Pick Tools	Radiator Tester	Mac Dwell Meter	Snap-On Starter Tester	Snap-On Generator Tester	Mac Timing Light	Snap-On Compression Tester	Craftsman Tap & Die Set	Cylinder Hoses	Mac Air Sander	Craftsman Wrenches	Craftsman Line Wrenches	Hammers	24" Crescent	Aluminum Pipe Wrenches 14"-16"-18"-24"-36"	Radson Moisture Tester	6" Bench Top Buffer	Makita 12" Drill	10" Car Wacer	Craftsman Reciprocating Saw	Craftsman 6" Dial Caliper	Craftsman 12" Combination Square	Craftsman 1/2" Drill	Drill Bit Sharpener	Parts Washer	Log Chains	Air Bubble	Poulan Tree Pruner, new	Shovels	Cable Winch, 110v	Eg. Assort. of used Tractor Parts	8' x 8' Overhead Door	Radiant Heater	Extension Cords	Wheel Barrel	Assort. of Iron	Tractor Wheel Weights	3-220v Extension Cords	Transfer Pump w/Hose	Echo Chain Saw	3-Aeration Fans	Echo Weed Eater	Kitchen Table w/4-Chairs	Whirlpool Refrigerator	Sharp Microwave	Mitsubishi 36" TV	Computer (complete)	19" Color TV	File Cabinets	Monarch Maleable	Stove	Kenmore Washer/Dryer	2pc. Bedroom Set	2-Kitchen Tables	2-Twin Beds	Drafting Table	Assort. Chairs	Schwinn Bicycle	Chest of Drawers	Dresser	Lots of Books
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Sellers: Charles A. Vap Trust

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