

Commissioners back Good Sam

By STEPHANIE DeCAMP
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 Decatur County commissioners signed a deal with the Good Samaritan Society to give the organization \$40,000 this year for improvements to the county-owned nursing home and up to \$75,000 to help cover any losses.

windows when the center was built 55 years ago. Also on the list for improvements is the wheelchair ramp leading up to the front door, she said.

The organization raised \$7,500 from its Hoedown this year, she said, which will cover the \$3,900 cost of the windows.

The ramp, on the other hand, needs to be up to Americans with Disabilities Act standards, which will require more work and money.

"The current ramp is too steep," she said. "It's an accident waiting to happen. I asked Wayne Hackney (of Oberlin Concrete) to come take a look, and it's a lot more complex than we thought. To be ADA compliant, it will have to be 60 feet long, and the only way to do that is to wrap it around the building."

Mrs. Shobe said that the total cost of the ramp and a new front door will be about \$120,000. The organization is applying for a Community Development Block Grant, which requires a 35 percent match, for \$80,000 for the project. The remaining \$40,000 will then have to be pulled from the center's budget, the county or fund raisers, she said.

The good news is that right now, the operation is doing well financially, said Randy Fitzgerald, regional director for the society.

"Through March, we're in the black," he said. "Today, our census is 39, which is really good, and we'll get our financial report tomorrow, and I'm anticipating it'll be good. Our goal is to operate as efficiently as we can and to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars."

Mrs. Shobe said that the home is going to replace some of the



Visitors like tractor show

THIS OLD JOHN DEERE TRACTOR looked pretty good to Wayne Golt of Oberlin on Sunday during the annual Selden Antique Tractor and Classic Car Show. Weldon Turner, 6, Colby (above), son of Wayne and Lauri Turner, enjoyed the barrel train ride. The names of the winners in the many contests will be reported in next week's edition of *The Oberlin Herald* — Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes

* Airport runway could get state help

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 signed a new access road (where the old one) was prohibiting construction of the runway. It was a Catch 22 in the federal system, because it was a safety issue, so the feds wouldn't move forward. And at the same time, it scored too low to be funded by them.

involved years ago when building a longer runway became a goal. The deal with the Federal Aviation Administration was a 95 percent-5 percent match then, so it made sense to go through the federal government to get the money.

"The state has also acquired land when the federal process bogged down the project or was unavailable. The state could use this flexibility to move the Oberlin project along."

"I know the FAA picture is bleak," Mr. Young said, "but if Oberlin strategically built its infrastructure, the attractiveness of the project would increase for the FAA. In other words, if KDOT helps the city to acquire the land (for the runway), the score for the project goes up on the National Priority Rating (which the Federal Aviation Administration uses to gauge whether or not to get involved in a project)."

The reason that so much focus has been put on an air ambulance being able to take off and land at the airport in Oberlin, Mr. Young said, has everything to do with what an air ambulance typically is: A Beechcraft model 90.

"It still may not be high enough to get a new runway, but the goal is to chip away at that score."

If one of these can land and refuel in Oberlin, he said, virtually any other business aircraft can, which could make centrally-located Oberlin a popular spot. And the fact that fuel is about 30 percent cheaper in Oberlin than it is in Kansas City or Denver doesn't hurt, either, he said.

"The big issue at this moment is the sequester. The money to keep the towers open came from the Airway Trust Fund.

Mr. Young, who up until this point has been the city's primary contact with the transportation agency for the project, said the state got

"This means that finding money for projects, especially those that require more than nonprimary entitlement, is hard. This hurts rural America in a disproportionate way."

"Assuming Congress figures this part out, Oberlin would be smart to continue moving forward as strate-

gically as possible. If they assume that the system will stay broken, they will miss the window of opportunity that typically opens following this type of funding crisis."

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Building group to get new members

By RAMELL TAYLOR
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 The Oberlin City Council will have a simple, short agenda when it meets at 7 p.m. Thursday at The Gateway.

been postponed. Sarah Steele, a lawyer with the Wichita bond-law firm of Gilmore and Bell, is scheduled to meet via conference call, along with financial advisor John Haas, to clarify responsibilities of the commission.

Mayor Rob McFee plans to appoint two new members to the Public Building Commission, which is working on financing for the new swimming pool.

Afterwards, the council will confirm a make-up date for electing officers and passing bylaws.

The council will also review the need to appoint two more commission members to replace two who resigned.

A representative from the Options Domestic and Sexual Violence Service of Hays will visit with the council to ask for an annual donation.

As a result of the resignations, a meeting of the commission to pass bylaws and to elect new officers has

The council will also get an update on the new water wells and progress with the project.

*Papers win awards

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 story with his piece about a video made by students about new federal school lunch program requirements, which had parents and students in an uproar last fall.

The Colby Free Press took third place advertising awards for the best health-care ad, for White Christmas Special for Great Plains Family Dentistry, and the best professional service ad, A-1 Chimney Sweep.

To the east, Norton Telegram columnist Liza Deines won a third place award for her memories written into a series of columns called Child of the 40s and The Rock 'n Roll Kid.

Clear over on the Colorado border, The Saint Francis Herald won a third-place award for the best ad series for spotlighting Hometown Heroes.

*Surveys are a start

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 for pipeline to bring water in from new, recently drilled wells, Mr. Zodrow said.

income lies within certain groups, such as a four-person household could have an income in one of four categories — under \$16,500 a year, between \$16,500 and \$27,600, between \$27,600 to \$44,150, or over \$44,150.

According to information on the survey form, the surveys are confidential and can only be checked by employees of the Department of Commerce or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The survey doesn't ask for exact income but does ask heads of household to say where their

Ms. Geihlsler said that the county would leave the townships and small cities separate so that if one of the other towns wants to apply for a grant, it can use the county's figures.

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