

# Nursing homes plan for future county needs

Both of Decatur County's nursing homes have seen a decrease in numbers in the last 10 years, as home health care, assisted living and overall better health keep people at home longer.

Administrators from Cedar Living Center and Good Samaritan Center say this is part of a national trend, but they want to keep the homes open and the quality of care up. The homes have been cutting back on beds and trying to improve services for years.

This year, they have teamed up with representatives from the hospital and Wheat Ridge Terrace, a senior apartment complex managed by the Decatur County Hospital, to try to work out a game plan for the future of health care.

The group meets once a month with county commissioners to look at services that could be added to health care here, how to boost patient numbers and other areas.

Hospital Administrator Lynn Doeden said they don't plan to close any of the facilities, but want to have an economically feasible plan to provide for the future. There is no need for anxiety from staff or residents, said Good Samaritan Administrator Janice Shobe.

Mrs. Doeden said the decline in nursing home residents isn't iso-

lated to this area. She said she is hearing that there is a decline all over northwest Kansas.

Cedar Living Center, run by the hospital, is certified for 36 beds, she said, and the hospital itself is certified for 24. The center currently has 31 residents, with five beds empty.

Ten years ago, she said, the center had 50 beds with 87 percent occupancy, and five years ago the center had 50 beds with 93 percent occupancy.

Since then Cedar Living has cut by 14 beds.

"I feel the numbers have dropped because residents of Decatur County are given several options for health care now," said Mrs. Doeden, "such as home care and independent living. Some have chosen to move closer to children or to where assisted living is available."

Good Samaritan Center is certified for 50 beds, all of which are Medicare and Medicaid certified, said Mrs. Shobe. There are 44 residents, with six beds empty.

Mrs. Shobe said in 1993, there were 79 beds with 78 residents. In 1996, there were 64 beds with 60 residents, in 1999 there were 56 beds with 50 residents and in 2002 there were 55 beds with 48 residents.

That means in the last 11 years, the center has seen a drop in beds of

29.

She said reasons for the decline include a decreasing population in the county and other alternatives, such as home health care, plus, people stay healthier longer.

"Trends nationwide," said Mrs. Shobe, "show decreasing nursing home population. In Kansas alone, the number of beds available in 1997 was 26,604 with 22,899 occupied. By 2002, those numbers had dropped to 21,579 and 18,543, respectively."

The administrators agree that the hospital is important to health care in the county.

Mrs. Doeden said to continue having residents in both of the nursing homes, they need doctors to provide the assessments required to receive Medicare and Medicaid payments. That may need X-ray and lab facilities which the hospital provides. She said they also need place for residents to be admitted when they need hospital care.

"Without a strong hospital," said Mrs. Shobe, "we will see an even more rapid decline as people will choose to go elsewhere, where good hospital care is available."

The health committee was to meet on Tuesday during the county commissioner's meeting.

## Park here



ON A SUNNY DAY, Custodian Bob Berls hung a "van-accessible" sign on the east side of the courthouse just in time for the primary. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Brandt

# County deals with dirt

Decatur County commissioners talked with the road and bridge supervisor about current projects last Tuesday, including blading the roads and dirt work for the fair.

Supervisor Tim Stallman and the commissioners talked about moving the crow's nest from the middle of the race track to the horse arena. Mr. Stallman said he didn't think the crew should take the crow's nest down, but they could use the crane to move it.

Mr. Stallman said before it is moved, they should have approval from the fair board.

He said the crew has been asked to do some dirt work to get the cattle area ready for the fair, and the area in front of the grandstands for the demolition derby and the mutton busting.

Custodian Bob Berls said he has two signs to hang up to inform the handicapped that the entrance that meets the American with Disabilities Act requirements is on the east side of the courthouse.

He said he would like to attach the signs to the building rather than putting two more posts in the ground. The commissioners said that would be OK.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard that Ambulance Director Patrick Pomeroy will go to Garden City for training.
- Heard that Cedar Living Center has a hallway that needs fire sprinklers. The improvement will cost around \$40,000.
- Talked with Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, who stopped in the courthouse to greet people.

# Health ideas offered at fair

Members of the Decatur County health planning committee are planning a booth where they can pass out and gather information in the commercial building at the Decatur County Fair.

Representatives from the Decatur County Hospital, Cedar Living Center, Good Samaritan Center and Wheat Ridge Terrace apartments have been working with the Decatur County commissioners to plan for the future of health care, see how they can bring patient numbers up and find out what kinds of services people want.

That group plans to man a booth for the Decatur County Fair, which will start on Tuesday. Administrators Lynn Doeden and Janice Shobe said the facilities are working together to make sure they are providing all the health care needs of the county.

Mrs. Shobe said she would like the booth to show not only what the county can offer with the two nursing homes, Wheat Ridge and the hospital, but also find out what the

missing links are.

The group would like to know what services people want at the hospital and centers, said Mrs. Doeden. For example, they would like to know if people are interested in an assisted living facility, where seniors who are not ready for a nursing home could live.

Representatives from Cedar Living and Good Samaritan worked up a survey for people to fill out. Mrs. Doeden said they would like to contact every age group with the booth. In 2003, said Mrs. Doeden, 79 percent of patients who used the hospital were from Decatur County, and that number is on the rise.

People are traveling out of county to get care, though, a lot of which they could get here. Mrs. Doeden said surveys show that 16 percent go to Nebraska, 4.5 percent go to Hays, 1.7 percent go to Norton, 1.5 percent to Sheridan County and 6.5 percent to Colorado.

The flow works both ways, though, she said, and the hospital here gets 11.4 percent of the patients

from Rawlins County.

The women said they plan to have the booth manned by staff who can answer questions. If they don't know the answer, though, they will write them down and either Mrs. Shobe or Mrs. Doeden will get back to the person.

# LAND AUCTION

## 480 +/- Acres Decatur County Land Tues., Aug. 10, 2004 • 2 p.m.

Sale Location: Oberlin American Legion, 114. S. Rodehaver, Oberlin, KS

### Seller: Robert J. Manning Estate

Richard A. Manning, Executor

#### LEGAL DESCRIPTION

**Tract 1:** North One-half (N1/2), Section Four (4), Township Five (5) South, Range Twenty-eight (28), West of the 6th P.M., Decatur County Kansas.

**Tract 2:** Northeast Quarter (NE1/4), Section Thirty-five (35), Township Five (S) South, Range Twenty-eight (28), West of the 6th P.M., Decatur County, Kansas

**TERMS:** 10% down day of sale, balance at closing with certified funds.

**CLOSING:** On or before September 10, 2004, Decatur County Title and Abstract will be the escrow agent and will do the closing. Seller and Buyers will share the closing costs equally. Buyers will pay the mortgage policies.

**MINERAL RIGHTS:** Seller's interest going to Buyer.

**TITLE EVIDENCE:** Title insurance will be issued with Seller and Buyers sharing the cost equally.

**POSSESSION:** Day of closing

#### F.S.A. INFORMATION:

**Tract 1:** N1/2 of 4-5-28, 320 Acres, 235.1 Acres crop land, 26.6 Acres CRP @ \$31.00 per acre, annual payment - \$825.00, expires 9-30-07

Wheat: Base acres - 193.8, yields - 37

Sorghum - Base acres - 11.1, yields - 46

3.6 Acres windbreak @ \$37.00 per acre, annual payment - \$133.00 per year, expires 9-30-16

**Tract 2:** NE1/4 of 35-5-28, 160 Acres, 114.6 Acres crop land, 114.6 Acres CRP \$37.12 per acre, annual payment - \$4,254.00, expires 9-30-10

**CRP payments** will be prorated to day of closing. Seller receives all of 2003 FSA payments; Buyers will receive all of 2004 payments.

**TAXES:** Seller pays 2003 and prior years; Buyers pay 2004 and subsequent years. Tract 1 taxes for 2003 were \$797.16; Tract 2 taxes for 2003 were \$360.94.

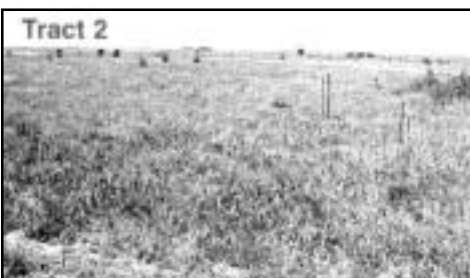
**All of the crop land on Tract 1 has been sprayed for wheat planting.** Costs of chemical to be paid by Seller. Costs and what wheat chemical was applied will be announced day of sale.

**INSPECTIONS:** Each potential bidder is responsible for conducting their own independent inspections. Seller and Johnson Realty, Inc., its agency and representatives are making no warranties about the property, either expressed or implied.

**MANNER OF SALE:** This land will sell in two tracts and will not be offered in one unit.

**ACREAGES:** Acreage figures are considered to be approximate and are from reliable sources based on (USDA) FSA figures. All FSA information is subject to change. FSA acres may not be the same as deeded acres.

**AUCTIONEER'S NOTE:** Tract 1 cropland has been sprayed for wheat planting this fall. It has a nearly new submersible well which is irrigating the windbreak consisting of 1260 planted trees. Tract 2 has real good CRP established grass with good grass on the balance of acres. Both tracts are excellent hunting with CRP and trees. Both tracts are set up for fantastic hunting!



**Announcements day of sale take precedence over printed material. All boundaries are the responsibility of the Buyers. Subject to all easements and restrictions recorded or unrecorded.**

AGENCY: Johnson Realty, Inc., its agents and representatives are the Exclusive Agents of the Sellers.  
**For more information or a tour of this land, call Lynn A. Johnson,**  
(Office 785-475-2785 or Cell 785-475-8514)

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# Water usage climbs, plummets with rain

Water usage in Oberlin plunged from the brink of danger last Tuesday and Wednesday to moderate on Thursday and low on Friday as rain drenched the grass and trees.

At the end of June and beginning of July, the city was only pumping from 200,000 to 300,000 gallons a day. Then last week it was approaching the danger level of 800,000 at midweek.

As soon as it rained, however, water usage dropped, going to its lowest on Friday, as a gentle, all-day rain soaked the earth.

Water restrictions are still in

effect. Those with odd addresses can water on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and those with even addresses can water on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. No watering is allowed on Mondays.

Last week, the city pumped:

- 620,000 gallons on Monday, July 19.
- 798,000 gallons on Tuesday, July 20.
- 795,000 gallons last Wednesday.
- 458,000 gallons on Thursday.
- 269,000 gallons on Friday.
- 390,000 gallons on Saturday.
- 440,000 gallons on Sunday.

# Two men end up in jail as cops have busy night

Two Oberlin men wound up in jail Friday, a 44-year-old who allegedly assaulted an officer after being told this car would be towed, and a youth who was found drunk near downtown.

Undersheriff Mike French said he was hit with a car door after stopping a driver at U.S. 83 and Oak Street in Oberlin at 8:25 p.m.

The driver, Terry Urban, 44, Oberlin became irate when Deputy French gave him tickets for having expired license plates and no insurance. When told he couldn't drive the vehicle and it would have to be towed, the undersheriff said, he slammed the car door into the officer's leg.

Officer French said he was bruised but nothing was broken. Mr. Urban was arrested for battery against a law enforcement officer and disorderly conduct. He was taken to jail but later released on bond.

Officer French said alcohol was not involved in the incident. About an hour later, at 9:40 p.m.

while Deputy French and city Police Officer Troy Haas were at the back door of the courthouse, they heard a disturbance in the alley a few doors down. They said they followed the noise and found Eric Farr, 19, on the 100 block of Griffith. Mr. Farr was quite intoxicated, Officer French said, and the men arrested him for minor in possession, obstruction of justice and disorderly conduct—all city charges. He was booked into the county jail.

## Internet Tonight! 475-2206