

Streets need new base

The Oberlin City Council received a pavement core report showing that there isn't enough base under most of the streets in town.

The report came from Penco Engineering out of Plainville. The summary, said Mayor Stanley, says there isn't enough base under most streets to mill and scrape down old asphalt.

The city is probably lucky the streets have held up as well as they have, said Councilman Ray Ward.

It could cost around \$70,000 a block to replace pavement in town, said Councilman Rob McFee.

The report tells the council pretty much what members already knew, said Mayor Stanley, and the city still doesn't have the money to repave the streets.

Karen Bolt with the Northwest Kansas Domestic and Sexual Violence Services asked the council to continue its financial help. Ms. Bolt said the service is asking for \$750 again this year.

This isn't a line item in the budget, said Mr. Shike, but is something the council normally allows.

The council will look again this year at budget time, said Mayor Stanley, adding that he was sure the city will do something.

In other business, the council:

- Heard that the water tower would be drained and the inside inspected today. There may be low water pressure while it refills, said Mr. Shike.

- Decided to move the meetings next month to Thursday, May 8, and Thursday, May 22, because the first meeting would have fallen on the first of the month and bills wouldn't be ready.

- Agreed to move the meeting time back to 7 p.m. for the summer, starting with the May 8 meeting.

- Asked people in town to take a look around outside their homes and clean up things to help beautify the city.

- Heard that Mrs. Lohofener and Ms. May had gone to a state "Wind Summit" meeting in Colby. Mrs. Lohofener said about 75 percent of the people at the meeting were farmers and ranchers wanting to know about leasing property for wind turbines. The leases, said Ms. May, run about 30-plus pages with lots of fine print.



AT THE HEALTH FAIR on Friday at The Gateway, Sandy Fair, with Fair Chiropractic Clinic, showed Kenny Krizek what the staff at the clinic can do.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Winds hurt health fair numbers

High winds and the threat of rain and snow kept the numbers down at the Decatur County Health Fair on Friday at The Gateway.

The fair, planned by the Decatur County Health Department and Decatur County Hospital, brought in 32 vendors for an all day event, said Marilyn Gamblin, county health administrator. Only one vendor didn't show because of weather, she said, but some left early, she said.

From those who did make it, she

said, she heard nothing but good comments. Around 75 people took the opportunity to walk around the fair, learning about everything from the dangers of alcohol to having their eyes tested to looking at different kinds of walkers.

Some people, said Ms. Gamblin, didn't pick up the results of the blood tests, which were drawn in April. She said those will be put in the mail.

After the fair in 2004, said Ms. Gamblin, she decided to change

the annual event to every two years. In 2006, the department held the first one on the two year schedule. The next one will be in 2010.

This year, the department gave away two toddler car seats to Jean Hale and Chelsey Zodrow, two booster seats to Tammy Hopkins and Dr. Shannon Addleman and two pedicures at the department to Catherine Neal and Carol Duncan.

County receives money request for mental health

Representatives from High Plains Mental Health Center asked the Decatur County commissioners to continue the financial support the county has given the agency for the over 24 years.

The commissioners said at the meeting Tuesday, April 22, they would see what the county could do when it comes time to do the budget. This year, said County Clerk Marilyn Horn, the county will give \$24,000 to the service, based in Hays.

The number of people served in Decatur County was down a little last year, said Karen Scheule, manager with the center from Hays. She said they think people didn't come in because they were worried that Medicare and Medicaid wouldn't pay for the service.

Traditionally, said Ken Loos, from Hays, the money to pay for Mental Health from the state was \$25 million and that's down to \$17 million. The Legislature expects the agencies to bill Medicare and Medicaid to make up the difference, she said.

It costs up to \$107 an hour for service, said Ms. Scheule, but High Plains is only able to bill Medicare or Medicaid about \$80 an hour.

Ms. Scheule said the agency isn't asking the county to put in more money. The counties can't afford to make up that difference, she said.

A new program, said Dan Sturgill, manager of the Norton office, is Functional Family Therapy, where they work with everyone in the family. The first family to go through the program, said Mr. Sturgill, was from Decatur County.

Even with financial constraints, said Mr. Sturgill, High Plains has been able to continue serving peo-

ple. "We all know early intervention works," said Commissioner Ralph Unger. "There are a lot of demands on families these days."

Decatur County has had great representatives on the High Plains board for years, said Mr. Unger. Krizek and Dorothy Vacura served for 20 years. The tradition of good representatives continues with Jay Tate, a deputy sheriff, and Linda Manning, ambulance director, who serve on the board now, he said.

Is there a program for the elderly? asked Commissioner Doyle Brown. A lot of them have been uprooted from their homes, they aren't able to drive anymore and have lost their individuality, he said. Is there someone to just talk with them for 10 to 15 minutes.

There isn't really a program like that, said Ms. Scheule. There's a need, she said, but where would the money come from? They also need a program for the caregivers, or children, of those people, she said.

Mr. Sturgill said he has always thought they have needed someone to work with the nursing homes. The service does get referrals from the homes, he said, but lots of times by the time the referrals come it is too late and therapy doesn't do much good.

A big thing now with nursing homes, said Mrs. Horn, is volunteers who are able to take the time and talk with the residents.

If any group in the county wants to learn more about the mental health service, they can call, said Ms. Scheule, and they will come do a presentation.

"We appreciate what you all are doing," said Mr. Brown.

Women, kids make baskets

On May Day, the Oberlin Royal Neighbors and students in Kids First Preschool made May baskets and delivered them to residents of

Cedar Living Center. The school is operated by Becky Ayers.

City meeting starts later

The Oberlin City Council will meet 30 minutes later than normal Thursday at The Gateway.

The time change will remain through the summer months.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the council might discuss a new motel. The Economic Development Corp. has a developer who may want to build a new motel, he said, and the council hasn't discussed the idea yet.

During the last meeting in April, the council brought up some ideas on tagging and possibly getting rid

of stray cats in the city. Mr. Shike said those ideas might be talked about again.

Also at the last meeting in April, Griff and Cindy Lincoln asked for beer to be allowed at Sappa Park for an upcoming event. The council didn't make any decision, although they said they didn't like the idea of allowing beer at the park all the time. Mr. Shike said the Lincolns will be in to talk with the council.

The meeting is upstairs in The Gateway and is open to the public.

Relay needs more teams

The Decatur County Relay for Life next month still needs teams wanting to walk through the night.

The relay starts at 7 p.m. Friday, June 13, and ends at 7 a.m. Saturday, June 14. Lynn Doeden, a committee member, said the relay has 10 teams now, but they would like five more.

Each team has to provide someone to walk every hour of the relay.

Luminaries for the relay are on sale now, she said. People can buy the small bags with lights in them in honor of someone who has survived cancer or in memory of someone who didn't.

Unlike past years, when the Relay for Life has been held at the high school track or at the arena at The Gateway, the event will be held in City Park this year.

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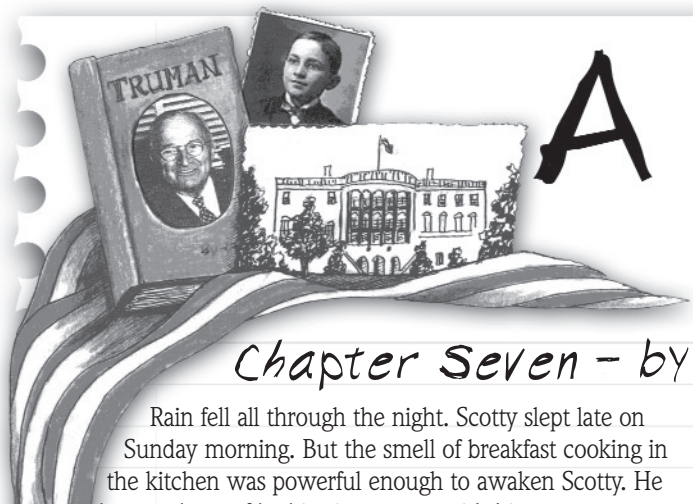
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A Familiar Face

Chapter Seven - by Kay Hively

Rain fell all through the night. Scotty slept late on Sunday morning. But the smell of breakfast cooking in the kitchen was powerful enough to awaken Scotty. He bounced out of bed in time to eat with his parents.

In the afternoon, Scotty returned to his bedroom and picked up his library books.

Starting at the chapter he had marked in the book, Scotty saw pictures of President Truman with many soldiers. In this chapter, Scotty learned a new word - segregation. But he did not really know what the word meant.

As Scotty was reading, Mrs. Brown opened his door and said that Jimmy Powers was on the front porch.

Ready for some activity, Scotty put down his book and hurried out to see his friend. Because it was still raining, the two boys stayed on the porch to work on model planes. Jimmy had brought his P-38 with him. Scotty worked on a B-52 bomber he was putting together.

Throughout the afternoon, Scotty and Jimmy worked on their model planes. The rain continued - sometimes hard and sometimes gentle. But the boys stayed nice and dry on the big porch. They talked about how much fun it would be to actually fly in the planes they were building. Neither boy had ever flown in an airplane.

As they worked together on their models, the boys shared glue and stickers and dabs of paint. Finally, late in the afternoon, Jimmy finished his plane. Scotty wasn't finished with his big bomber, but it was late and Jimmy had to go home.

Mr. Brown brought a big cardboard box out on the porch so Jimmy could carry his plane home without getting it wet.

Carefully, the two boys lowered the P-38 into the box, and then Jimmy raced off down the street, splashing through puddles of rainwater. Mr. Brown helped Scotty bring his plane inside the house and put it on the coffee table. Because he had only a little work left, Scotty decided to finish his plane. It only needed some decals and some wheels.

As Scotty sat on the floor working on his model plane, he asked his father what the word "segregation" meant.

Mr. Brown laid down his newspaper and said that segregation meant keeping people or things apart from each other. He said

Next Week: Chapter Eight - A title

Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Billie Goforth-Stewart are both of Neosho, Missouri. Truman photo by Harry Barth. Produced by the Missouri Press Foundation. Copyright 2007.

Things to Think About and Do

A. If a school is only for boys, is that segregation? Is that a bad thing? If a sick child is confined to a room alone, is that segregation? Can segregation sometimes be a good thing? Talk about this with your parents or in your classroom.

B. Have you flown in an airplane? If you have, write about your trip. Tell how it felt and what things looked like outside the airplane window.

C. Find a story in the newspaper that looks interesting based on the headline. Write a list of five things you think you know about the subject. Read the story and then look back over your list to see if you were right and add new things you learned to your list.

Visit the Truman Presidential Museum & Library at www.trumanlibrary.org