

City says no to idea

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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Although Oberlin City Council members said they were sympathetic to an idea for renovating the caretaker's house at Sappa Park, in the end, the vote was 3 to 2 against paying for work that would allow the building to be occupied.

Susan Rynearson had been talking to the council for a couple of months about renovating the house and living in it as sort of caretaker.

Last week, she sent what she said was a final request for \$4,500 to remove moldy sheet rock from the walls and basement ceiling. The money, she said, would be used for labor for two workers. The work, she said, needs to be done by professionals because it is somewhat dangerous due to the mold.

Ms. Rynearson told the council that, because of the black mold, the house is uninhabitable and unless something is done soon, will probably have to be torn down.

In the past, Ms. Rynearson has asked the council for help renovating the house and getting new appliances for it so she could move out there, trading her services to the city for living in the house.

This time, she just asked for help removing the black mold and said she would get volunteer help for any needed remodeling and ask for donations for appliances.

Mayor Bill Riedel cautioned the council that any decision they made concerning the property could set a precedent.

Councilwoman Fonda Farr said that she was worried that other people would have the same idea and be unhappy because they did not have a chance to live rent-free at the park.

Ms. Rynearson said that she would be working for her rent and thought that it would be good to have a caretaker living at the park. She noted that she had a home in town and doesn't need to live at the park.

Lots of people and groups have (See COUNCIL on Page 10)

Family welcomes sixth child

Son is first baby of 2012

By CAROLYN KELLEY-PLOTTS
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The first baby of 2012 is here. Vincent Scott Taylor was born at 10:07 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 8, 2012, at the Norton County Hospital to Scott and Denise Taylor of Dresden.

His birth was attended by Dr. Glenda Maurer and he weighed in at a whopping 8 pounds, 5 ounces.

It was a happy homecoming Monday afternoon for little Vincent as his four sisters and one brother jostled for their turn at holding the baby. The Taylors said they opted to not know the sex of their baby until his birth, but 5-year old brother Abe said, "I just knew it was going to be a boy."

Vincent's sisters are Candace, 10; Rayna, 8; Sidney, 7; and Quinnley, who'll be 3 in February.

"We always knew we wanted a big family," said Mrs. Taylor, a stay-at-home mom.

Grandparents are Charley and Vickie Taylor, Oberlin, and Dave and Diane Carter, Jennings. Great-grandmothers are Eleanor Morel, Jennings, and Irene Taylor, Lebanon.

Several Oberlin merchants donated gifts to honor the first baby born to Decatur County parents: the baby's first prescription free from Ward Drug Store; a \$10 gift certificate from Rocking R; a free case of baby food from Raye's Grocery; Vincent's first well-baby check-up free from the Decatur Health Systems Family Practice Clinic; a \$10 gift certificate from Stanley Hardware; a surprise baby gift from Fredrickson Insurance; a free engraved baby gift from Custom Trophy; and a one-year subscription to *The Oberlin Herald*.



DECATUR COUNTY'S First Baby of the Year, Vincent Scott Taylor, was held by his mother, Denise Taylor, after his homecoming Monday afternoon. He was surrounded (going clockwise) by his youngest sister, Quinnley, almost 3, seated

by Mrs. Taylor; brother, Abe, 5; oldest sister, Candace, 10; father Scott Taylor; sister, Sidney, 7; and sister, Rayna, 8.

— Herald staff photo by Carolyn Kelley-Plotts



WILDCAT FAN GARY WALTER (left) and Jayhawk fan Rusty Addleman teamed up to sell tickets to watch the KU-K-State basketball game on the big screen at the Sunflower

Cinema last Wednesday night. The fund raiser brought in more than \$300 for the theater.

— Herald photo by Cynthia Haynes

Fans cheer on Wildcats and Hawks at theater

By A JAYHAWK FAN
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Although KU beat K-State in the basketball game last Wednesday, the Wildcat fans outnumbered the Jayhawks about two to one at a benefit showing at the Sunflower Cinema.

Fans decked out in red and blue or the purple turned out to enjoy the first meeting this year of the in-state rivals on the big screen at the theater

About 35 people — a lot of K-State fans, a dozen or so KU supporters and a pair of lost Nebraska fans — turned out to enjoy popcorn, a little friendly rivalry and the game — and help the theater at the same time.

Popcorn was served up by former Decatur Community High Principal Charlie Haag and his wife Betsy, while Gary Walter and Rusty Addleman sold tickets and kidded everyone who came in the door.

Many in the crowd arrived early to enjoy pizza and a drink at the Sunflower Recreation bowling alley next door before the festivities.

With people showing up, theater board member Duane Dorshorst, who regularly runs the projector, discovered that the television feed he was planning to use refused to bring in the game.

Quickly, he and Mr. Haag removed a television from the wall above the games in the theater (See GAME on Page 10)

Students say thanks in a unique way

Third graders at Oberlin Elementary School have already put their new dictionaries to use to say thanks to the Oberlin Rotary Club.

Before Christmas on Wednesday, Dec. 21, members of the Oberlin Rotary Club presented both third grade classes with new dictionaries.

The club has been giving dictionaries to the kids for seven years, said Lee Gilliam, a Rotary board member.

Teacher Judy Elwood said they had the students look up words as a way to say thank-you to the Rotary Club. She said the teachers thought this would be a fun way to show the Rotary members that the students

will put the books to good use, plus it was good practice for the kids.

The words the students looked up included:

- Superior, adjective: above average quality or ability, excellent.

It was very nice of the Rotary Club to give us our superior dictionaries! Thank you for my new book! Tristan Salem

- Joyful, adjective: feeling or causing great happiness.

I was very joyful to get my dictionary. Thank you Rotary! Jeannive Zillinger

- Awesome, adjective: causing you to feel awe.

It was awesome of the Rotary to (See KIDS on Page 10)

Newspaper wants 'hero' nominations

For the second year, *The Oberlin Herald* invites readers to nominate a "Hometown Hero" for an upcoming special section.

The Herald staff took the nominations last year and wrote short stories on the nominees. The paper plans to do the same this year and interview the "heroes" for a section that will be distributed in the newspaper.

All of the nominations are needed by Wednesday, Feb. 15, allowing time for the staff to interview the nominees.

Anyone who wants to nominate someone can mail a letter to Managing Editor Kimberly Davis at 170 S. Penn Avenue Oberlin, Kan. 67749 or e-mail the nomination to k.davis@nwkans.com.

Nominations, said Mrs. Davis, need to include the person's name,

the nominator's name and phone number, and the reason for the nomination. If a picture is available, that can be sent or e-mailed to Mrs. Davis.

The staff will try to write about each of the nominated "Heroes," Mrs. Davis said. A hero can be anyone, she said, maybe someone who has worked hard to raise money for a community project, someone who volunteers to shovel the sidewalk of their neighbor each winter or maybe just that person who always has a smile on their face and constantly cheers people up.

Mrs. Davis asks that people not nominate the same "heroes" as last year.

