

Petition would stop pool project

By RAMELL TAYLOR
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A petition against issuing bonds to build a new city swimming pool project was approved for circulation last Tuesday.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch said the backers have 30 days to get signatures from 5 percent of Oberlin's eligible voters, just under 60 people.

The petition was filed for an anonymous group by the Shelton Law Firm. Attorney Allen Shelton said the petition was first submitted Monday afternoon. After a few cor-

rections, he said, the petition was resubmitted Tuesday morning and accepted by the county attorney.

Mr. Shelton said he could not reveal who asked him to file the petition due to a confidentiality agreement.

After circulators collect the signatures, Mr. Shelton said, they will file the petition with the county clerk to be reviewed.

County Clerk Colleen Geihlsler said the anonymous group has until July 19 to turn in 59 eligible names. After the clerk's office verifies the (See PETITION on Page 12A)

Pool tour gives sides argument time

By RAMELL TAYLOR
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When the Oberlin Pool Committee invited members of the Public Building Commission and residents to take a tour of the old city pool, opposing sides engaged in a heated confrontation over the idea of building a new pool, something voters approved by a 2-to-1 margin last year.

The tour started with committee member Shayla Williby explaining the pool's water leakage problem. She said the pool is losing three

million gallons of water down the pool gutters each summer.

"With the new pool," Mrs. Williby said, "it would take 12 summers to use as much water as this pool uses in one summer."

Bob Ross, vice president of the commission, suggested just fixing that problem rather than building a new pool.

Mrs. Williby said that isn't the only problem with the pool. The base is unstable and could collapse, she said.

(See TOUR on Page 12A)

Harvest moves through county

The wheat harvest was in full swing around Oberlin and in some parts of the Kanona area last week.

Decatur Cooperative General Manager Kurt Anderson said the grain has been dry, but test weights have shown big swings, from 40 to 60 pounds. The quality of the wheat has been all over the board.

"Norcat is doing well for quality and test weight," Mr. Anderson added, "probably the best for all Decatur Co-op locations."

He said farmers with fields north and west of Oberlin still hadn't sent in test loads as of last Wednesday. "Fields in that area are still a

mixed bag," Mr. Anderson said. "It's just a very slow and steady progression."

Earlier in the harvest, he said, many areas in the county were yielding from 10 to 40 bushels per acre.

"Right now," Mr. Anderson said, "we're averaging 25 to 30 bushels per acre throughout the co-op's eight locations."

Longtime farmer Monte Moore said summer-fallow wheat south of Oberlin has begun to develop and should be ready to cut soon.

"The green spots in the terrace channels northwest and south of (See HARVEST on Page 12A)

Fourth of July show draws crowd to park

Oberlin's first Fourth of July Festival was such a success that talk has already started about bringing the event back next year, with the possibility of syncing Jonathan Fick's firework show with the laser light show used this year.

Festival coordinator Teresa Diederich said about 1,500 people came out to watch the laser show in City Park last Thursday.

"Our goal," she said, "was to just

offer something for people to do on the Fourth of July."

Although the show was interrupted by a blown fuse, she said she had spoken with city Lineman Dave Perrin and he said it was the result of a miscommunication that will be resolved for future events.

Mr. Fick, who has a family tradition of putting together a fireworks display the Saturday before the (See SHOWS on Page 12A)



Parade sets tone for day

DURING THE FOURTH OF JULY Parade on Thursday, American Legion members (from left above) Bill Woods, Gary Allen and Greg Cundiff rode down Penn Avenue carrying the colors. That evening, the festival moved to City Park, where Whitney Francis (right) and little Tessa Leitner show their best dance moves. Good Samaritan Center employees and their families (below) marched wearing red, white and blue.



Veteran mail carrier retires after 33 years of rural delivery

By RAMELL TAYLOR
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After delivering people's mail for a little more than 33 years, Mike Helm retired from his duties as a rural carrier for the U.S. Postal Service on May 31, 2013.

Mr. Helm said he served in the Army's 82nd Airborne Division from 1970 to 1973. Counting the three years in the army and his accumulated sick leave, he said, he retired after serving the government for 36 years and 11 months.

He grew up on the farm of his parents, John and Helen Helm, near Norcat, where he would work and help surrounding neighbors.

He said he could remember coming home for lunch with a friend and finding a Norton Telegram newspaper with a story about the post office testing in Norcat circled. He said his friend told him it was a hint from his mother.

After taking the test, Mr. Helm said, he joined the Norcat post office as a substitute carrier. After almost four years, he became the rural carrier for Norcat.

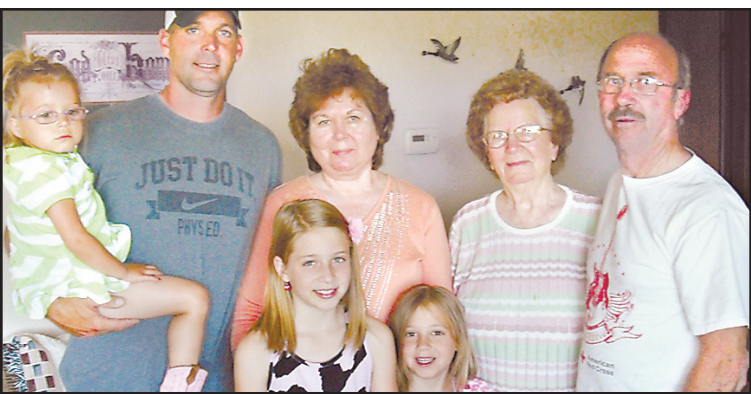
In 1985, he took a carrier position at the Oberlin post office. He delivered Route 1, east of U.S. 83 to the Kanona-Danbury Road, north to the Nebraska border and south to the area around Dresden, for 28 years.

"The route has changed so much over the years," Mr. Helm said. "Out of 225 patrons, only about 20 of the customers remain from when I started."

He said during his career, he delivered to five generations of the Fortin family, who are popular for their athletic tradition in Oberlin.

One of the more exciting memories he recalled about his career came shortly after he transferred

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MIKE HELM with four generations of the Fortin family.

