

BCMh Board makes no decision on overpass

BY RAYMA BEKEBROCK DAVIS
Democrat editor

LAMAR—The Barton County Memorial Hospital Board again discussed the Highway 71 overpass at First Street at their regular meeting on Monday evening. They made no decision concerning whether the hospital would make any monetary contribution to the project.

Rudy Snedigar, CEO, said he is still waiting to hear from Wal-Mart concerning whether they will make any monetary contribution to the project.

Karen Wegener, trustee, asked if it makes any difference what Wal-Mart does.

Mike Buchanan, trustee, said he thinks the hospital should support the overpass, and Jill Purinton, trustee, agreed.

Mike Vaughan, trustee, said he believes the hospital should make no decision until everybody is on board.

Wegener again pointed out the overpass does not fit the hospital's mission. The mission is "To provide personalized, humanistic, consumer-driven healthcare in a healing environment; to empower individuals and families to be actively involved in decisions affecting their care and well-being through information and education; and to provide leadership to improve the health of the communities we serve."

Buchanan pointed out, "If we save a life, it fits our mission."

Wegener then suggested asking the hospital attorney John Hammons what he thinks concerning the issue since he was to be there later to give board education.

The board agreed to discuss the situation with Hammons.

In other business, the board discussed the student loan application and requirements to be considered for a student loan for continued education. The board decided to require a minimum credit score of 650, but also agreed to look at applications on a case by case manner. They agreed that using a credit score keeps things

less personal. Those eligible must be full-time or part-time with a 24-hour a week schedule. The board voted unanimously to make the changes to the application process. Those voting were Wegener, Vaughan, Purinton, Buchanan and Tom Shaw.

The board learned from Wendy Duvall, director of finance, the statistics for June had been very good, with every area up except physical therapy and swing bed days. She also reported a \$262,711 gain for the month of June which makes a year-to-date gain of \$2,635.

The clinics are doing much better with losses coming down. The Consolidated Physicians Clinics showed a \$6,056.43 loss for June, down from \$247,147.69 in May.

Buchanan pointed out during the discussion of finances that the Combs family had told him they were very pleased with the level of care and compassion the hospital had shown them, and he had told the family he would pass that on to the board.

Personnel remains steady at 199, and turnover for the month of June was one percent. The only positions open are for an operating room receptionist and an occupational therapist.

Snedigar told the board the clinic expansion is moving along toward getting started. J.E. Dunn has signed the contract, and the architects' contract is in the mail. Once the hospital has signed the architects' contract, it will be sent to the USDA office in Springfield. After that, the hospital should be able to seek bids. The construction manager has signed a contract as well.

Snedigar told the board that an employee of the hospital who lives in Joplin and lost her home did receive \$400 from the Missouri Hospital Association's Health Employee Relief Fund.

He also pointed out the hospital's Facebook has had 373 hits on the Lockwood Clinic information and 365 on the information on the asthma education puppet that children enjoy.

The medical staff is still working on getting liability insurance in

place for doctors who come into the hospital to work ER during a disaster. These are doctors who are not on staff at the hospital.

Wegener said she had noticed the lettering is coming off some of the granite bricks in the memorial area outside the hospital, and Snedigar said the hospital will contact the company.

Virginia Rutledge, assistant administrator, asked the board to make a decision on the tax levy which will be decided at August's meeting. She did not have the particulars of the amount as yet, but in the past the board has voted to keep the levy at the ceiling. They voted to do that again.

The board also voted unanimously to amend the Helping Hands policy for payment of hospital bills for those who need assistance. They added a sliding scale for eligibility which allows patients to pay percentages of a bill based on income. Below a certain level of income, patients do not have to pay. The account balance for that program was dropped from \$1,000 to \$500.

There was some discussion of percentages paid at the time of service, and Duvall said all patients are asked to pay 20 percent of the total bill at the time of service. All hospitals do this, and it is the same as a co-pay in a doctor's office.

The board voted to go into closed session for client/attorney discussion.

After the closed session the board unanimously approved the reappointments of Justin Ogden, MD, active status; Anthony Tay, MD, consulting staff rheumatology; Todd Baker, MD, consulting staff, ER and Donald Tibbey, DO, consulting staff ER.

The board also voted unanimously to deny the student loan applications of Michelle Belcher and Staci Werkmeister and to approve the student loan application of Shari Kelley.

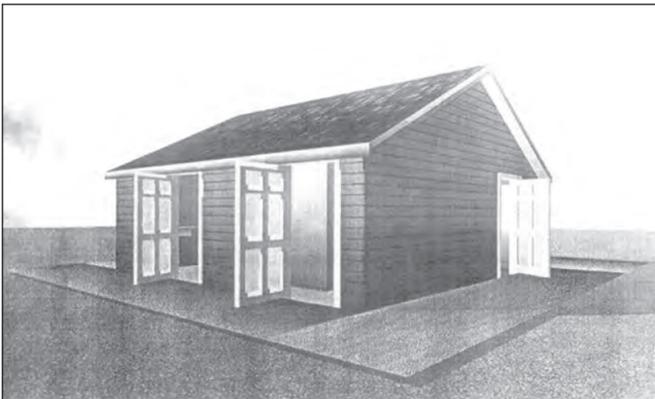
Hammons did discuss the overpass with the board, but no decision was made concerning the hospital's involvement with the project.

HEAT ADVISORY CONTINUES



Lamar Democrat/Doug Davis

The bank thermometers both read 108 degrees on Sunday at 3:17 in the afternoon, and according to the National Weather Service a heat advisory is again in effect through the rest of this week as heat indices hover over the 100 degree mark. There is danger of severe thunderstorms and dangerous lightning strikes as well as a fire hazard. Although temperatures may be lower toward the end of the week, high temperatures return early next week.



Lamar Summer Recreation League raising money for new concession stand

LAMAR—With one goal successfully completed, the Lamar Summer Recreation League has begun fundraising for yet another project.

This year the League saw one goal come true when the lights were turned on for the first evening of summer baseball/softball on fields 7 and 8 in the Lamar City Park. The goal was \$10,000 which was raised through various fundraising events and the billboard rent over the last two years.

Now the League begins a new project to construct a building to be the home of a concession stand, storage room and handicap accessible restrooms.

The fundraising project is called

the Home Run Club and includes four levels of donations to help get the funds for the much-needed facility. The first level is the Single for a \$25 donation, the Double for a \$50 donation, the Triple for a \$75 donation and the Home Run for a \$100 donation.

Those who donate will have individual names or business names placed on a plaque at the new concession stand. The City of Lamar is also helping with the project.

For those who have questions contact Gordon Godfrey, and for those who wish to donate, those donations can be sent to Godfrey at 301 West 16th Street here in Lamar.

Lamar's D.R.E.A.M. status has helped renovate homes

BY RAYMA BEKEBROCK DAVIS
Democrat editor

LAMAR—Just one more advantage of being designated a D.R.E.A.M. Community is the ability to participate in the Missouri Housing Development Commission's (MHDC) housing rehabilitation programs. Already 12 home owners have benefited from HERO or Home Repair Opportunity, and more are going to benefit from the same program.

In 2010, 12 properties were repaired through two administering companies, the Harry S. Truman Community Development Corporation and the Missouri Economic Security Corporation of the Southwest Area. In 2010 the money used for the renovations was estimated to be \$201,272.

For 2011, \$838,000 is available through the MHDC programs for a four-county area in Southwest Missouri with \$110,000 of that specifically for the City of Lamar as a D.R.E.A.M. Community.

Applications must be made through the Harry S.

Truman Community Development Corporation, Missouri Economic Security Corporation of the Southwest Area or The City of Lamar. The contact for the city is Greg Coats, building inspector for the city.

Some of the home repairs offered through the program include weatherization, lead risk reduction, accessibility to a home and rehab, including repair of wiring, plumbing, roofing, painting, floor coverings and repairs of porches and steps and sidewalks.

To be eligible for HERO, the property has to be owner occupied for at least three years; the property can not exceed 10 acres; the owner must have insurance on the structure; current real estate property taxes must be paid and verified and owner must meet income requirements. For instance a two-person household income limit is \$29,300.

Those homes already repaired and refurbished in 2010 are located at 301 Poplar, 108 Grand, 1300 Francis, 1002 Lexington, 103 West 8th, 206 East 2nd, 405 West 10th, 1805 Jackson, 104 West 8th, 905 East 6th, 702 West 10th and 1702 Lexington.

Missouri receives \$2 million grant for enhancement of its on-the-job-training program

JEFFERSON CITY—The Missouri Department of Economic Develop-

ment (DED) has announced that Missouri is one of four states to receive On-the-Job-Training (OJT) National Emergency Grants, awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor. The \$2,015,762 award is designated for states that have done an exceptional job in expanding their OJT programs, which provide OJT training for laid-off workers.

The Show-Me-State received the grant for outstanding progress among the states that received an initial OJT National Emergency Grant award in 2010. Last June, Missouri received \$1.28 million to jump start reemploy-

ment for dislocated workers experiencing prolonged unemployment by enabling employers to create training and job opportunities for these individuals. This latest award will assist the state in continuing to enhance its OJT program.

"Under Governor Nixon's direction we have made job training a priority, demonstrated by the 52 percent increase in job training funding in this year's budget," said David Kerr, director of DED. "This federal award of over \$2 million will help us further assist additional numbers of Missourians in upgrading their skills while

they look for employment. It is also another great example of how committed our administration is to job training for Missourians."

Missouri's OJT program, offered through DED's Division of Workforce Development and local workforce boards, lets workers receive work-based training that allows them to sharpen their skills while they earn wages.

The award notification from the U.S. Department of Labor cited the four recognized states as having "engaged in activities that are consistent with successful OJT reemployment

models, and apply principles that are sound and effective" in providing OJT opportunities to dislocated workers.

The Division of Workforce Development has been emphasizing the OJT program since the fall of 2009 to help businesses save training costs while preparing new hires for their vital jobs. OJT Coordinator Vicky Loggins has been featured on national OJT training seminars after Missouri's program was recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor as a best practice.

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