



STATE'S TOP SENIOR SERVANT



ZACH OSOWSKI/THE OLDHAM ERA

Alta Haunsz receives a plaque and a \$500 check from Becky Beanblossom, president of Home Instead, which named Haunsz the winner of the 2013 Kentucky Salute to Senior Service Award.

Haunsz wins Kentucky Salute to Senior Service Award

BY ZACH OSOWSKI
STAFF REPORTER, THE OLDHAM ERA

Alta Haunsz just couldn't stop working. President of the Volunteer Association at Baptist Health La Grange, Haunsz began her career as a volunteer in 1995. As a retired nurse, the 83-year-old found that making others feel better through volunteer work makes her feel better, too.

And on Wednesday, July 11, she was honored for her work as she accepted Kentucky's Salute to Senior Service award.

The awards contest is sponsored by Home Instead Inc., which provides in-home care to senior citizens. Out of the 50 state winners, Maj. Melvin McLaughlin of Randolph, Vt., took home the national grand prize,

which came with a \$5,000 donation to the charity of his choice.

Haunsz and the 49 other state-level winners each received \$500 to donate to their favorite charity.

Becky Beanblossom, president of Home Instead, presented the award to Haunsz. Upon receiving her check, Haunsz promptly turned it over to the hospital.

"It's good to know there is still something you can do after you turn 65," Haunsz said to a gathering of friends and family at a reception in the hospital lobby.

Haunsz spends most of her time at the hospital doing clerical work and making pillows for patients. As the head of volunteers, she also organizes volunteer meetings.

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MOORE, BAKER PARK PROJECTS AWARDED

BY WESLEY ROBINSON
NEWS INTERN, THE OLDHAM ERA

Oldham County Fiscal Court unanimously approved bids on paving contracts for Peggy Baker Park and for walking trails at Wendell Moore Park.

The Peggy Baker project was awarded to Mac Construction and Excavating for their bid of \$65,703. Flynn Brothers Contracting won the Wendell Moore contract with its bid of \$69,076, provided the company has all of its paperwork up to date with the secretary of state.

Another contract for paving at the softball complex and dog park was tabled until next month. Five companies placed bids for the project, with the low bid of \$50,890 from Flynn Brothers Contracting.

County Magistrate Steve Greenwell applauded the closed bidding process, noting the large disparity between some of the bids.

"I don't think you'd get those results with a reverse auction," Greenwell said.

Greenways of Oldham County gave a \$10,000 grant to match with \$40,000 of federal money designated for the trail program for a continuous bike and pedestrian trail from Old La Grange to Buckner.

The nonprofit planted 60 new trees on Commerce Parkway last year.

See 'Parks,' page A4

ULLMAN, 32, DENIES ABUSE, RAPE CLAIM

Oldham County Police charge Crestwood man in connection to allegations by 14-year-old girl

BY WESLEY ROBINSON
NEWS INTERN, THE OLDHAM ERA

A 32-year-old Crestwood man has been accused of raping his daughter's friend at a sleepover.

Ricky Ullman Jr. was charged of first-degree unlawful transaction with a minor, third-degree rape and first-degree sexual abuse.

Ullman pleaded not guilty to all three charges and is scheduled back in court at 1 p.m. Wednesday, July 24. He is being held on \$50,000 bond.

According to police, Ullman allegedly engaged in sexual intercourse with the then 14-year-old girl around 4:30 a.m. June 23.

The girl lives in the same apartment complex as

Ullman and was spending the night with his 12-year old daughter.

The alleged victim told police she went into Ullman's room, where the two had sex.

On June 28, the girl's mother brought her to Oldham County Police to file complaint. The girl told police she and Ullman had exchanged sexually explicit texts.

Police have not released any further information for this case.

In an interview with the Oldham Era at the county jail Thursday, July 11, Ullman said he had been out with friends on the night in question and came home intoxicated, bringing food for the two girls. He said he then went to sleep.

He said his daughter disputed her friend's story, tell-

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Arts Association of Oldham County's Artist of the Month, Ann Klem, stands in front of her art display and talks to Roxanne Kopp Friday. Klem is a glass artist.

ZACH OSOWSKI/THE OLDHAM ERA

ARTIST OF THE MONTH: JULY

Klem's specialty is artistic glass

BY ZACH OSOWSKI
STAFF REPORTER, THE OLDHAM ERA

Ann Klem will freely admit she is addicted to glass.

Creating artistic glass pieces is her specialty, and some of her work was on display Saturday at Gallery 104 in downtown La Grange. She was selected

July's artist of the month by the Arts Association of Oldham County.

Ten years ago, Klem's daughter talked her into taking a bead-making class. Her passion for making artistic glass started with a torch, which Klem used to make glass jewelry.

About six years ago, Klem moved up to using a kiln,

which allows her to make large pieces – from decorative bowls and plates to large wall pieces, and even clocks.

"I enjoy both techniques," she said. "But I'm in a mode of trying to work larger all the time."

Because the pieces are

See 'Artist,' page A4



La Grange Rotary Club's Pancake Breakfast

7 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, July 20th

\$6 adults/\$3 children • La Grange Community Center • 307 W. Jefferson Street, La Grange

PVFD firehouse project likely to cost \$1.5 million

BY ZACH OSOWSKI
STAFF REPORTER, THE OLDHAM ERA

The Pewee Valley Fire Protection board delayed plans on building a new station in Shelby County for at least another month.

The fire board had originally budgeted \$1.25 million for the project. But bids from three companies, opened last month, came in higher than expected, with the lowest at \$1.7 million. Fire Chief Bob Hamilton, who is on the building committee, said they met with the contractors find ways to lower the costs.

Treasurer Chris Haunz, also on the building committee, said he thinks they could get the total down to \$1.5 million with the redesigns. Anything below that, he said, would require reducing the size of the building.

"You can only strip away so much before you start redesigning the building," Haunz said. "If we make drastic changes we would probably have to open it back up for a rebid which would cost additional money."

The structure is meant to be an unstaffed building to provide an access point for the volunteer firefighters responding to fires in Shelby County. Long-term, however, the board hopes the building will have live-in quarters for the firefighters on duty. This added element increased the cost, but Haunz said an option could be to leave the second floor unfinished. The board could

finish the rooms at a later date.

Joe Burkhardt, who was named the new board chair at the meeting, said he felt fine about the new cost because the board has a good history of paying off its debts.

"I'm more comfortable with our financial situation and our ability to make about anything work," Burkhardt said. "I'm more worried about getting what is in our best interest in the construction of this station."

Ultimately, the board agreed \$1.5 million is something it is comfortable with. The building committee hopes to have a proposal at the next meeting on Aug. 19 for the building plans which the board can approve or deny.

While Pewee Valley is in Oldham County, about 30 percent of the fire district is located in Shelby County. The new firehouse will help improve response time to fires and other calls over the county line. The board will not be buying any new equipment for the building, but will reallocate engines and other equipment.

Also at the meeting, the votes of June's election were made official/ Rick Williams was re-elected, 274-65. Beach Craigmyle attended his first meeting as a board member. He was appointed by Oldham County Judge-Executive David Voegele to replace former chairman Jim Brewer.

Email us about this story at: zach@oldham-era.com

Ullman

Continued from A1

ing him nothing could have happened because she had been awake all night.

He said his daughter's friend has been to his house numerous times and slept over before. He said that, as a father of nine children, he would not rape a young girl.

"I know how I would feel if somebody did something like that to me," Ullman said as he denied the allegations. "That's just not me. I have some history, but nothing like that. I would never, ever touch a little kid."

Ullman said he doesn't know why the girl is accusing him, but is more concerned with how the charges will affect his family. He said in addition to the rumors swirling in the commu-

"I know how I would feel if somebody did that to me. ... I have some history, but nothing like that. I would never, ever touch a little kid."

— Ricky Ullman Jr.

nity about the situation, he fears having to register as a sex offender and not being able to see his children or his nephews and nieces.

"I'm not trying to lose my family over something that didn't happen — that's all I have left," Ullman said.

Ullman said he met went to Oldham County Police to be interviewed in regards to the situation and turned over his phone for evidence prior to being jailed. He said he erred by not telling the girl's mom about the texts, but insists he did nothing wrong and that he did not respond

to any sexually explicit texts the teenage girl sent him.

Tracy McCain, Ullman's fiancée, has been with him for nearly 13 years and said there is no way he committed the crime.

"They could have charged him with anything other than that, and I could have believed it," McCain said.

McCain works at night and was away when the alleged rape occurred, but supports Ullman's claim of innocence. She said the alleged victim told her and Ullman's 12-year-old daughter that noth-

ing happened. "I think the justice system needs to be revamped for cases like this," McCain said. "It's a lot harder for him to recover from this. People have strong feelings about cases like this and are more apt to presume guilt."

McCain said Ullman is being represented by a public defender and the couple does not have the money to bail Ullman out. He will remain in police custody as the case continues.

"We don't have the means to fight it," McCain said. "We just have to hope that justice comes through this time."

Ullman said he's leaving the situation in God's hands.

"I didn't do anything, so I think my chances are good," Ullman said.

Email us about this story at: intern@oldhamera.com.

Fiscal Court OKs first reading of OC comprehensive plan

The newest Comprehensive Plan for Oldham County made its first stop in Oldham County Fiscal Court on Tuesday, July 16.

Jim Urban, director of Planning and Development Services, presented the plan to the magistrates for a first reading. He outlined the main points, including the new land-

use map, which will aid in identifying what areas of land can be used for specific types of development.

Fiscal Court will host a second reading of the plan at 6 p.m. Aug. 6, to accommodate anyone from the public who wishes to speak on the matter.

—Zach Osowski

School

Continued from A2

year, my students will be able to work together well, disagree well, be able to defend their positions well and, of course I want them to be excellent readers, writers and mathematicians."

Maurer said she's had some trouble developing business in a new town, but she's celebrating the successes she's had with her students. She recalled one student wanted to get into a Latin school in Louisville, but couldn't meet the requirements.

After two years with her, he tested at 13-plus grade level for almost all subjects. She

said she looks forward to helping students where to reaching their achievement levels.

"It's not that we're doing any magic here, it's just the atmosphere is different," Maurer said. "You can work with them one on one."

For additional information about rates, scheduling or curriculum contact Jubilee Academy at APlusEducational-Solutions.com or call Goodale at (502)439-4400.

For more information about Back 2 Basics contact MoldingYoungHearts@hotmail.com, or call Selena Maurer at (502)594-8156.

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