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## Nursing home deficit

**T**he Sullivan County Nursing Home operated at a deficit last month and things look tight as the fiscal year wraps up.

There was a \$58,974 deficit for March, while last year the county took in a surplus during the same month.

The number of residents at the facility has declined and the maze of federally funded programs has caused the county many headaches.

The fiscal picture at the nursing home is cause for concern, but it is not cause for alarm.

The county has imposed a moratorium on spending except for essentials. Residents will be well-fed and taken care of, but new equipment purchases will be delayed.

The nursing home is not at 100 percent capacity, and some of the problems will be solved when that happens.

The nursing home provides quality service to its residents. There is a good staff and the place is well-run. The county ought to be spreading the word.

The county's population is getting older, and as years go on there will be more need for the services the nursing home provides.

The second issue is the maze of government programs that provide assistance to nursing home residents. It is enough to make the public's head spin, but the good news is that the county is working on ways to work itself through the problem.

From all appearances, controlling costs will get the nursing home through the tough times this year. County officials hope the nursing home will turn the fiscal corner this year and things will return to normal.

We hope so.

The nursing home is an essential part of this community. For years the nursing home has been a tremendous home for older people who need special care. This year alone, the county has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on capital improvements, making the facility even better.

Most county have relatives or friends who live or have lived in the facility. They want to be ensured that the facility will continue to operate at its traditional high level.