

Oberlin looks at senior center, theater, bowling alley

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
kldavis@nwkansas.com
 An application for the state tax credit program, with \$234,600 in pledges to help build a new senior center and theater, was sent in for approval Friday.

Last Tuesday, more than 50 people met at the crumbling Golden Age Center to learn about different ways to help get the money for the \$900,000 project, which includes a senior center, theater and bowling alley on the current site.

Development Commission out of Hill City, said the Community Service Tax Credit Program can be used for this kind of project.

The application process is competitive, he said, and projects were due at noon on Friday.

The maximum any group can apply for with the tax credit program is \$250,000, he said. Basically, if someone donates \$10,000, they can take 70 percent of that, or \$7,000, as a tax credit from the state.

That means the donation will

only cost \$3,000, or 30 percent of the amount given, he said.

With \$250,000 in tax credits, said Mr. Hrabe, the center could raise \$357,000.

Last year, he said, there were 52 applications and 13 projects were selected.

The way to rate higher in the process, he said, is to get pledges before the application goes in.

With the program, even if people owe the state income taxes, said Mr. Hrabe, they will receive a check for 70 percent of the donation back.

Another financing aid available, he said, is the Small Community Improvement Program, which started a year ago through the state Department of Commerce.

The group may not be able to apply for this program and the tax credit in the same year, however.

The state has \$500,000 in the program, with the maximum amount given at one time \$125,000. The program requires volunteer labor for a project.

The group can also apply for a Community Development Block Grant, with the maximum allowed at \$400,000.

For this program, 51 percent of the county has to meet the low-to-moderate income level, he said, and that would have to be proven through a survey.

When would the community know if the tax credit program is approved? asked Ms. Grafel.

Around July 1, said Mr. Hrabe. All of the tax credits would need to be sold by December 2009 and the project completed two years after that.

Dave Barber, with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development administration, said there are some options with loans through his agency.

The Community Facilities Program provides direct loans from the federal government.

There is also a loan program using a local bank which has a higher interest rate.

Mr. Barber said for any of this to happen, organizers need to decide what entity or group would own the center. Is it a nonprofit group or the city or county? he asked.

He said he hasn't had a lot of time to work on the project and just started to look at some options which might work.

"What I heard you say is either the city or county has to be the holder of the loan," said Rhonda May, councilwoman.

Or a nonprofit, said Mr. Barber, but that needs to be figured out.

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Your turn Barack Obama not fit to be President

To the Editor,
 It is not at all difficult to put the Obama-Wright issue into perspective: Anyone who associates with, and refuses to unequivocally condemn, a non-repentant terror-

ist, and a preacher that says 'God Damn America' repeatedly, isn't fit, deserving, or worthy of being President of our country.

If the Republicans had any guts, which they sadly don't, they

would demand that he resign from the Senate.

Thank you.
*R.W. Yeager
 Norton*

Today is 'Provider Appreciation Day'

To the Editor,
 Child care organizations and parents across the globe are joining together today to celebrate Provider Appreciation Day. It is estimated that nearly 12 million children under age 5 in the United States are in some type of child care every week.

Every day, child care providers care for an estimated 383,981 children under the age of 8 in Kansas. The children and parents of Kansas depend on our child care providers. Today is the day to recognize the hard work and dedication of providers, and to acknowledge their contributions to high quality care.

"By applauding the dedication of child care providers today, we remind our communities of the importance of high quality child

care, and let providers everywhere know that we recognize and value their important work," said Linda K. Smith, Executive Director of the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies, the lead sponsor of Provider Appreciation Day. "It is important that the care a child receives during the first five years of life be of high quality because 90 percent of brain development occurs during those years."

In recent years, local governments across the country have joined many governors in proclaiming this day of recognition. Around the globe, Department of Defense installations celebrate Provider Appreciation Day by recognizing those who care for the children of military parents living both at home and abroad. The

celebrations this year promise to carry on and strengthen Provider Appreciation Day.

Locally, Northwest Kansas Child Care & Resource Referral Agency is leading this effort. We would like to encourage all families with young children in child-care or preschool to take time to thank their providers for the hard work they do everyday. It takes a special person to work in the child-care field and these individuals are often unrecognized.

This day offers an opportunity for parents to show their childcare providers their appreciation.

Sincerely,
*Tanya Koehn
 Infant/Toddler Specialist
 Northwest Kansas Child Care
 Resource & Referral Agency
 Colby*

Honor teachers, and childcare providers

To the Editor,
 The first week of May is traditionally Teacher Appreciation Week, with Tuesday of that week touted as National Teacher Appreciation Day.

The National Education Association heads up the celebration to honor the nation's public school teachers, but don't hesitate to use the opportunity to thank private/parochial teachers as well! While token teacher gifts are always ap-

preciated (think practical and not another coffee mug), teachers repeatedly indicate that a thank you note, drawing, or other sentiment from the heart is always at the top of their list!

Provider Appreciation Day is appropriately celebrated each year on the Friday before Mother's Day. The founding organizers in 1996 saw the need to recognize the tireless efforts of providers who care for children of working

parents. As more and more parents are in the workplace, the issue of who cares for our kids is crucial. The day raises awareness of early educators who give tirelessly and generously of their time, often with low pay.

As with teachers, any heartfelt sentiment or small gesture is greatly appreciated. After all, everyone likes to hear, "job well done!"

*Holly Puga
 Norton*

Sniper fire, beer money, lapel pins, is that what we want?

To the editor,
 In light of recent events surrounding the 2008 Presidential Race, I am writing to you in hopes that we, as citizens of this great nation, will live out the true meaning of its creed — that all are created equal. The race has become a dead horse at a time when it should be anything but. The Democratic primary is going down to the wire; for all Americans, this should be a time of great interest. However, the presidential race has become marred by non-issues: religious and business affiliations, sniper fire, beer money...lapel pins.

Time and time again I hear people becoming disgusted with the state of the race. For most Americans, whether a candidate wears an American flag lapel pin or who they are married to should not be of paramount concern. For most Americans, what is important is whether a candidate is focused on giving them economic relief — helping to fill up their gas tank, helping to put food on the table, helping to ensure they retain their shelter, helping to provide

access to affordable health care. And, that is just what Americans are concerned about at home. Not to mention that we are fighting a global war, our allies have become scarcer, and we are held hostage by foreign oil because we, as the greatest nation on earth, do not have an energy policy.

These are the issues that Americans are concerned with and that the candidates have tried to focus on. However, it seems that every media outlet in the country is focused on the non-issues. It seems as if they are attempting to distract us. Where are the journalists? My father often reminds me that there is no such thing as news today. It is easy to understand his position, after growing up with the likes of Walter Cronkite and Edward R. Murrow: newsmen. The most recent debate aired on ABC was conducted by two men that, in many eyes, could never be considered newsmen — not after 45 minutes of excessive questions regarding the non-issues that the majority of Americans don't care about.

If the media insists on continu-

ing to push these wastes of time stories, I pray they treat all candidates with the same respect and scrutiny. Senator Barack Obama's association with Rev. Jeremiah Wright has filled newscasts for some time, even after Obama's call to unity more than a month ago.

However, Senator John McCain's associations with the "spiritual advisors" of his campaign have only been whispered, and certainly not challenged. Pastor John Hagee has called the Roman Catholic Church a "whore" and denounced it as a "false religion" to be swallowed up by the antichrist. Pastor Rod Parsley has called for the entire eradication of the Muslim faith, as well as repeatedly attacked the homosexual community. Both of these men, McCain calls spiritual advisors to his campaign — the same title that Rev. Wright once had in the Obama campaign. Yet, neither of these men has been brought to light in the media; nor have their ties to the McCain campaign been challenged. Why?

Regardless of the reason, you are too intelligent to be led astray by the mainstream media. I urge you, as Senator Obama does, to move beyond our divisions and embrace personal responsibility to bring this nation back to greatness.

Think for yourselves and believe in your ability to bring about change to this nation, to this world. This is the spirit that our nation was founded on...this is patriotism.

With every good wish,
*Jackson R. Dreiling
 Boulder, Colo.*

(In fairness to The Norton Telegram readers, Jackson is the nephew of this newspaper's editor/publisher. As with all submissions, the views expressed are those of the writer and not necessarily the views of The Telegram.)

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NO.	COURSE	CR.	INSTRUCTOR	PLACE	TIME/DAY	START DATE
EN176	English Comp I	3	J. Votapka	NJHS	3:00-6:00p/T&R	5/27
EN177	English Comp II	3	J. Votapka	NJHS	6:00-9:00p/T&R	5/27
PH103	Earth Science	5	G. Fossi	NJHS	6:00-9:00p/Wed.	6/4
PH103L	Earth Science Lab (Lab Fee \$40)	0	G. Fossi	NJHS	6:00-9:00p/Wed.	6/4
SP176	Public Speaking	3	E. Hill	NJHS	6:00-9:00p/R	5/29
HI177	American History 1865 to Present (\$40 Telecourse Fee)	3	R. Watz	NJHS	6:00-9:00p/R	5/29
MA178	College Algebra	3	L. Bailey	NCHS	7:00-8:30p/T/Th	5/27
MA205	Elements of Statistics (Pre-Algebra)	3	L. Bailey	NCHS	8:30-10:00p/T/Th	5/27
CH176	Fundamentals of Chemistry	5	J. Green	NCHS	1:00-5:00p/M/W/F	6/2
CH176L	Fundamentals of Chemistry (Lab Fee \$25)	0	J. Green	NCHS	1:0-5:00p/M/W/F	
PS276	Developmental Psychology (iStep)	3	K. Carter	Hospital	5:30-10:30p	5/16
EN110	Medical Terminology (\$5ITV Fee)	1	TBA	NCHS	12:30-2:30p	6/2
HE101	Basic Nutrition (\$15 ITV Fee)	3	M. Kane		8:30-11:30a	6/2
PS176	General Psychology (\$15 ITV Fee)	3	S. Callihan	Hospital	8:00a-5:30p M-F	5/19