

Improving fishing, recreation discussed

By KIMBERLY BRANDT
Oberlin Herald

OBERLIN — The secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks told an Oberlin crowd last week about plans to improve fishing and recreation at Sebelius Reservoir near Norton by leasing irrigation rights to keep the lake level up.

Secretary Mike Hayden, an Atwood native who has served as governor and as speaker of the Kansas House of Representatives, has held the wildlife job for two years now, making the transition from Gov. Bill Graves to Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

“There have been some tremendously exciting things in natural resources happening in Kansas,” he told about 60 people at The Gateway last Wednesday night.

In this part of the country, he said, it seems people sometimes take natural resources for granted. People here are close to the land and see the wildlife, he said, but changes to natural resources take place slowly, and people don’t look at the long term.

The secretary said he is looking at the long term of natural resources,

mainly water, in the state.

He is working on three projects to protect water including a contract to lease water from the Almena Irrigation District, which will help keep the level up in the Norton Reservoir; to purchasing the Circle K Ranch near Larned and retire the water rights which will be bought with it and make the land a public hunting area; and to use land in Topeka which is expected to be donated to the state by the Menninger Foundation as a public park with waterfront access to the Kansas River.

Norton Reservoir, he said, was built as a place for recreation and irrigation. Irrigators have the right to pull so much water out of the lake each year.

Gradually, Hayden said, the lake has started to go down. In many years, the lake has been so low that it couldn’t be used for irrigation and the recreational uses were lost.

During those early dry years, many irrigators put down wells. Then the wet years of 1993 and 1995 refilled the lake.

After almost 30 years, the lake was finally back to the level it had been in the 1960s, he said.

For about four or five years after

that, there were tremendous recreational and economic use opportunities at the lake.

Then the area entered the latest drought. The lake is now about eight feet above dead pool, he said. When it gets to dead pool, no water will be able to be drawn off of it.

If those eight feet of water are drawn off the lake, said Mr. Hayden, there will be no recreational value. The boat docks won’t be usable and the state park will be farther from the water.

What has happened, he said, is the area is over appropriated—that is there are more water rights out there then there is water available.

Hayden said they have to find a balance between what is taken out of the lake and the amount of water that is recharged. The long-term solution is to retire enough water rights to irrigate 1,000 and 1,200 acres.

He said the state is proposing to lease the Almena Irrigation District water rights for \$120,000 a year for the next two years.

Hayden said the money is in the budget although if the agreement works as planned, it will have to be approved by the Legislature.

Hopefully, he said, this will lead to the buying of water rights in other areas.

Hayden said the state would also like to purchase the Circle K Ranch and its water rights, which are owned by the City of Hays.

Hayden said there is a proposal to buy the land and then the state will retire the water rights. The land along the Arkansas River, he said, will make a great place for public hunting.

The state hasn’t done something like this since Cheyenne Bottoms, in Great Bend, the secretary said.

Hays purchased the land hoping to run a pipeline to town for municipal water. However, the proposal never worked out. Hayden said his department is working to convince the cities of Hays and Russell to build a reverse osmosis system off of Wilson Reservoir. The water is close to both cities but it is too salty to use for municipal water.

The federal government, said Mr. Hayden, will reimburse the state on a purchase like this for public hunting up to 75 percent.

The last project Hayden talked about was a new state park his department is working on in Topeka. When the Menninger Foundation moved to Texas last year, they left behind a 90 acre parcel next to Cedar Crest, the governor’s mansion, and a frontage to the Kansas River.

Hayden said he asked for money in the budget to start the park.

“Even in these tight budget times,” Hayden said, “we do have some exciting things happening.”

Gary Anderson from Oberlin, asked Hayden if the state has any vision for Sappa Park, which use to include a lake just outside of the city limits.

Hayden said he has thought about it a lot, especially after the lake in Atwood was brought back to life. He said in Atwood, they had to try two to three times to pass a bond issue to fix the lake.

Today it is very low because of the drought and there is very little stream flow.

Lake Atwood and Sappa Lake, both built during the depression, suffered the same fate from silt and low water levels, he said.

Hayden said one option is creating a wetland. Even if the silt in the lake was removed, he said, there is very little likelihood of getting enough water in the creek to sustain anything.

Goodland council looks at future needs

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

GOODLAND— Future needs for the city water, sewer systems and the city streets were discussed at Monday’s city commission meeting.

Darin Neufeld of Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, was a visitor to the city meeting and said he wanted to give the commissioners an idea of future projects the city needs to consider in upcoming years.

“I know it is a little early for your budget process,” Neufeld said, “but I wanted you to have time to look at these and to have an idea of the condition of the basic city systems.”

Neufeld said the water system was not in over all bad shape, but that there was a continuing need to look at places where there are a number of water leaks. He said some of the problems downtown would be improved when there are separate water mains on both sides of the street. Presently there is one water main and it is on the east side of Main.

“The plans are to allow for a separate main on the west side, and we will bury the lines when we replace the intersections,” he said.

The storm drainage system is not in bad shape he said, and the problem area downtown should be solved with the rebuild of the intersections at 11th and 12th. The next area is First Street east of Caldwell, and the other area is on 19th Street east of Cherry.

“We need to look at the plans for the sanitary sewer and make a decision about what way to go,” he said. “The plant is still operating, but it is getting costly to repair.

“We know there are leaks in the sewer lines, but don’t know where there is any major problem.

“The lift stations are in need of upgrading, and two are at capacity. Some of these are at their end of life and the two on 19th are at capacity and need both upgrading and expansion.”

On the city streets Neufeld said the city has requested a geometric improvement grant to improve

“We know there are leaks in the sewer lines, but don’t know where there is any major problem. The lift stations are in need of upgrading ... Some of these are at their end of life...”

Darin Neufeld discussing water system

Business 24 from the east exit (19) to Cherry, but he has not heard anything on this.

Mayor Rick Billinger asked if this would make it four lanes at Cherry to provide a turning lane, but Neufeld said it would bring it to three lanes to provide a turning lane.

He said there are several spots on the city streets where there are serious problems. He said one of those is Caldwell north of Toelkes to the bridge north of the airport. The intersection at Eighth and Caldwell and the west end of Eighth about a block and a half east of K-27.

He said an overlay will not help the Caldwell problem either the section to the north or the intersection at Eighth. Another area is 17th Street from Railroad to Main. He mentioned problems with the alleys behind the Main street businesses from Eighth to 13th, and that 25th Street from Presto to the street behind Wal-Mart is getting a lot of traffic and probably needs attention.

Neufeld said the city might consider a bond for some of these projects because the rates continue to be very low.

City Manager Ron Pickman said there are other city areas where something will have to be done.

“Things keep breaking down,” he said, “and they are not cheap parts.”

Oberlin schools look for tax hike

By KIMBERLY BRANDT
Oberlin Herald

OBERLIN — The Oberlin Board of Education approved raising the district’s local option budget to 25 percent of the total general fund, which is the highest it can go under state law.

Last year, the board asked for a 5 percent increase which brought the local option budget up to 18.11 percent of the general fund. Voters filed a petition, and there was a special election on the increase, which passed. The district had to pay \$2,577 for the election.

The 5 percent increase is only good for five years.

The resolution the board passed Monday night was for a continuous and permanent authority, allowing the board to levy up to 25 percent each year.

That doesn’t mean that the board has to levy 25 percent each year, said Superintendent Kelly Glodt. If the district only needs 13 percent, then the board would only levy that amount.

The local option budget comes

from a property tax levy paid by the taxpayers in the district.

Glodt said he thought the board absolutely owed it to the teachers and staff to ask for the full amount. The district faces the need to cut as many as nine teachers if the increase is not approved.

The superintendent said if the resolution isn’t petitioned, then the board will ask for 25 percent for next year. He said the increase would generate about \$180,000 a year.

Glodt said in a normal year, the increase would boost the district’s property tax levy about 6.9 mills.

If the district can increase the local option budget to 25 percent, he said, the board may only need to reduce the staff by five teachers, instead of nine.

Board President Chris Bailey said increasing the local option budget is a tough decision in the face of the continuing drought and slow economy.

“Let’s face it,” he said. “It is dry out there, but this is something that needs to be done.”

Board Member Barb Olson said she thought the community needed to make this decision.

District taxpayers have 30 days from publication of the board’s resolution to protest the increase. A petition would have to be signed by at least 5 percent of the qualified voters in the district, about 100 signatures.

Should the district wait and see if anyone starts a petition before scheduling public meetings on the increase? Glodt asked, or should it be done now?

Board Member Jeanie Martin said she thought people were misinformed the first time and some didn’t understand they were signing a petition and that the district would have to pay for the election. She said they should start informing the people now.

The board agreed to have two public meetings, the first at 7:30 p.m. next Monday at the high school cafeteria.

The second meeting will be at 7 p.m. next Wednesday at the Norcatur city offices.

Check each issue of the Free Press for additional TV Listings

TV LISTINGS sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

SATURDAY							JANUARY 24					
	6 AM	6:30	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30
KLBY/ABC (4) (6)	La Gente	Paid Program	Lilo & Stitch	Recess (E) (CC)	Fillmore (E) (CC)	Proud Family	Lizzie McGuire	That's Raven	Kim Possible	Power Rangers	Power Rangers	Inside Stuff
KSNK/NBC (3) (9)	Today Travel. (CC)				Paid Program	Paid Program	Kenny-Shark	Tutenstein (E)	Trading Spaces	Endurance (E)	Strange Days	Scout's Safari
KBSL/CBS (12) (11)	Saturday Early Show (CC)				Thornberrys	Hey Arnold!	ChalkZone (E) (CC)	Little Bill (E) (CC)	Dora the Explorer	Blue's Clues	Paid Program	Paid Program
K15CG (3)	Yoga	Market-Market	Bookworm Bunch (E) (CC)				Sesame Street (E) (CC) (DVS)		Hand-Crafts	Kansas Spotlight	Family Kitchen	Victory Garden
WGN (13)	Enterprise Rpt	People-People	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Walgreens	Soul Train Kenny Latimore.	
NICK (29)	Rocket Power	Rocket Power	Rugrats (CC)	Rugrats (CC)	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Oddparents	Oddparents	Jimmy Neutron	Jimmy Neutron	Teenage Robot	ChalkZone
FAM (30)	Digimon (CC)	Beyblade	Power Rangers	Power Rangers	Beyblade	Digimon (CC)	Digimon (CC)	Medabots	Spider-Man	Jett Jackson	Full House	Full House
USA (31)	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Body by Jake	6 Second	Paid Program	Monk Mr. Monk and the Three Pies (CC)	Movie: Derailed ★ (2002) Jean-Claude Van Damme. (CC)		Movie: Ticker	
TBS (37)	Dawson's Creek The Imposters (CC)		Movie: Troop Beverly Hills ★★ (1989, Comedy) Shelley Long. (CC)				Ripley's Believe It or Not!		Movie: First Daughter ★★ (1999, Suspense) (PA) Mariel Hemingway. (CC)			
TNT (38)	(5:00) Movie: Wyatt Earp ★★½ (1994, Western) The frontier marshal brings law and order to the Old West. Kevin Costner.				Movie: The Outlaw Josey Wales ★★ (1976) A Confederate soldier vows to avenge his family's murder. Clint Eastwood. (CC)							
DSC (42)	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Jnt. Pain Relief	Lethal and Dangerous: Snakes	Wild Discovery: Piranha	Mountain Lion: An American Hunter	Noah's Ark: The True Story			
A&E (47)	Incorble Colictr	Movie: The Onion Field ★★ (1979, Drama) Joseph Wambaugh's story of the aftermath of a murder. (CC)				All Year Round	Old House	Ask This Old	Sell This House	Makeovr Mama	Makeovr Mama	
ESPN (49)	SportsCenter (CC)		SportsCenter (CC)		SportsCenter (CC)		SportsCenter (Live) (CC)		SportsCenter (Live) (CC)		College Basketball: Va. at N.C.	
HBO (7)	(5:30) Movie: Lionheart (1987)		Movie: Just Married ★ (2003, Comedy) Ashton Kutcher, Brittany Murphy. (CC)				Artists' Specials: Degas		Inside the NFL (CC)		Movie: The Hudsucker Proxy	
DISN (17)	PB&J Otter	Stanley (CC)	Wiggles (CC)	JoJo's Circus	Wiggles Hygiene	Stanley (CC)	Rolie Polie	House of Mouse	Recess (CC)	Recess (CC)	Lilo & Stitch	Lilo & Stitch
MAX (21)	(5:10) Movie: Empire of the Sun ★★½ (1987, Drama) (CC)				Movie: Love Stinks (1999) A manipulative siren sinks her claws into a sitcom writer.				Movie: UHF ★★½ (1989, Comedy) Al Yankovic. (CC)		Movie: Trapped ★★½ (2002) (CC)	

SATURDAY							JANUARY 24					
	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KLBY/ABC (4) (6)	News (CC)	Holly-wood	Movie: Bug's Life *** (1998) Animated. A misfit ant seeks to save his colony.				Monk Mr. Monk Goes to the Theater		News (CC)	Entertainment Tonight (CC)	D'on Stardom	
KSNK/NBC (8) (9)	News	Circle/ Caregiv	Tracy Morgan	Whoopi Shout	Law & Order Patient Zero (CC)		Law & Order: Special Victims		News	Saturday Night Live (CC)		
KBSL/CBS (12) (11)	News (CC)	Paid Program	Star Search (ITV) (Live) (CC)	Hack Double Exposure (N) (CC)			District Party Favors (N) (CC)		News (CC)	Drew Carey	Drew Carey	Drew Carey
K15CG (3)	Antiques Roadshow Chicago	Keeping Up	As Time Goes By	Lawrence Welk Show (N)			Two's Cmpny	New Red Green	Austin City Limits (N)	Soundstage Chris Isaak and Raul Malo		
WGN (13)	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Movie: Angels in the Endzone **½ (1997, Comedy) Christopher Lloyd. (CC)				News (CC)		Fresh Prince	Movie: American History X *** (1998) Edward Norton.		
NICK (29)	Nick-toons TV	Nick-toons TV	Grown Up	Romeo!	All That (N)	Amanda	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	Rose-anne	Rose-anne	Cosby Show	Cosby Show
FAM (30)	(5:00) Movie: Summer Catch **		Movie: I Want to Marry Ryan Banks (2004, Romance-Comedy) Jason Priestley.				Movie: I Want to Marry Ryan Banks (2004, Romance-Comedy) Jason Priestley.				America's Funniest Home Videos (CC)	
USA (31)	Law & Order: Special Victims	Law & Order: Special Victims	Law & Order: Special Victims	Law & Order: Special Victims	Law & Order: Special Victims	Law & Order: Special Victims	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent
TBS (37)	Movie: Deep Blue Sea **½ (1999, Suspense) (PA) Thomas Jane. (CC) (DVS)			Movie: Bad Boys (1995) Two Miami cops attempt to recover stolen police evidence.			Movie: Total Recall *** (1990, Science Fiction) (PA) Arnold Schwarzenegger. (CC)					
TNT (38)	Movie: Desperado (1995) A guitar-toting gunman takes aim at a Mexican drug lord.			Movie: The Mask of Zorro *** (1998, Adventure) Zorro's protege crosses swords with a returning tyrant.			Movie: The Goodbye Girl ** (2004) Patricia Heaton. (CC)					
DSC (42)	New Detectives: Forensic Science		New Detectives: Forensic Science		FBI Files Family Secrets (CC)		FBI Files A woman's gambling winnings.		New Detectives: Forensic Science		FBI Files Family Secrets (CC)	
A&E (47)	City Confidential Horror in Amityville		American Justice: Witness and Hitman		Cold Case Files (CC)		City Confidential (N) (CC)		Crossing Jordan Secrets & Lies (CC)		American Justice: Witness and Hitman	
ESPN (49)	College Football: Senior Bowl. (Live)		Ultimate X: The Movie		Winter X-Games Aspen, Colo. (Live) (CC)				SportsCenter (Live) (CC)		Winter X-Games Aspen, Colo. (CC)	
HBO (7)	(5:00) Movie: Behind Enemy		Movie: Biker Boyz (2003) A young man joins the world of illegal motorcycle racing.				Boxing: Gianluca Branco vs. Arturo Gatti. From Atlantic City. (Live) (CC)				Sex and the City	
DISN (17)	That's-Raven	Lizzie McGuire	Movie: The Even Stevens Movie ** (2003, Comedy) Shia LaBeouf. (CC)				Barbar-ian	That's-Raven	Kim Possible	Proud Family	Even Stevens	Sister, Sister
MAX (21)	(5:30) Movie: Nowhere to Run		Movie: Trapped **½ (2002) A mother fights back after kidnappers take her child.				Movie: White Oleander **½ (2002, Drama) Alison Lohman. (Premiere) (CC)				Intimate Sess.	Movie:

SATURDAY							JANUARY 24					
	12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30
KLBY/ABC (4) (8)	Winter X-Games Aspen, Colo. (CC)				PGA Golf: Bob Hope Chrysler Classic - Fourth Round. La Quinta, Calif. (Live) (CC)				Paid Program		ABC Wild News	
KSNK/NBC (5) (9)	Jeopardy!	Paid Program	Paid Program	Golf: Michael Jordan Celebrity Invitational. (CC)	Horse Racing: Sunshine Millions. (Live) (CC)				Powerball-Mill.		NBC News	
KBSL/CBS (12) (11)	Paid Program	Paid Program	College Basketball: Duke at Georgetown. (Live) (CC)			College Basketball: UCLA at California. (Live) (CC)			News (CC)		CBS News	
K15CG (3)	Yankee Shop	This Old House	Ask This Old	Home-time	Router Shop	For Your Home	One Stroke	School-Fine Art	Love of Quilting	Wolf: Travels	On the Money	Find! (CC)
WGN (13)	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Movie: Tank Girl ★½ (1995, Science Fiction) Lori Petty, Malcolm McDowell. (CC)				Mutant X No Exit (N) (CC)		Andromeda (N) (CC)		Home Improve.	Cosby Show
NICK (29)	Hey Arnold!	Told by Ginger	Nick-toons TV	Nick-toons TV	Nick-toons TV	Nick-toons TV	Nick-toons TV	Nick-toons TV	Nick-toons TV	Nick-toons TV	Nick-toons TV	Nick-toons TV
FAM (30)	7th Heaven The Color of God (CC)		Movie: A Walk in the Clouds ★★½ (1995, Drama) Keanu Reeves.				Movie: Just a Walk in the Park ★★ (2002, Romance) George Eads. (CC)			Movie: Summer Catch ★★ (2001)		
USA (31)	(11:30) Movie: Ticker ★½ (2001, Action) Tom Sizemore.			Movie: The Foreigner ★½ (2003, Action) Steven Seagal, Harry Van Gorkum. (CC)			Movie: Con Air ★★½ (1997, Suspense) Violent criminals hijack a prison transport plane. Nicolas Cage.					
TBS (37)	Movie: The Net ★★½ (1995) A mysterious diskette endangers a computer expert's life. Sandra Bullock.				Movie: Analyze This (1999) An angst-ridden mobster seeks a psychiatrist's help.				Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Friends (CC)	
TNT (38)	Movie: Lionheart ★★ (1990, Action) Jean-Claude Van Damme, Harrison Page.				Movie: Hard to Kill (1990) A policeman emerges from a seven-year coma. (CC)				Movie: Fire Down Below ★★ (1997, Drama) Steven Seagal. (CC)			
DSC (42)	Extreme Senses		American Hot Rod Vision		American Chopper POW/MIA 2		Surprise by Design (CC)		Rally Round the House (CC)		Double Agents Super Mom (CC)	
A&E (47)	Models: The Real Skinny (CC)				M-I-S Clean Skin (CC)		Detective Beat Murder of a teen.		Investigative Reports (CC)		Parole Board: S. New Jersey	
ESPN (49)	College Basketball: Va. at N.C.		International Auto Show		Winter X-Games Aspen, Colo. (Live) (CC)				College Football: Senior Bowl. Mobile, Ala. (Live) (CC)			
HBO (7)	(11:00) Movie: The Hudsucker Proxy		Movie: The Mighty Ducks ★★ (1992, Comedy) Emilio Estevez. (CC)			Movie: Just Married ★ (2003, Comedy) Ashton Kutcher. (CC)			Big Bounce		Movie: Behind Enemy Lines (2001)	
DISN (17)	Barbar-ian	Kim Possible	Movie: The Even Stevens Movie ★★ (2003, Comedy) Shia LaBeouf. (CC)				Lilo & Stitch	Recess (CC)	Kim Possible	Barbar-ian	Even Stevens	Sister, Sister
MAX (21)	(11:00) Movie: Last Dance ★★ (1996, Drama) Sharon Stone, Rob Morrow. (CC)		Movie: Real Women Have Curves ★★ (2002) (CC)						Movie: Spy Hard ★★ (1996, Comedy) Leslie Nielsen. (CC)		Movie: Nowhere	



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