

Group set to plan future of health care

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

The county's special planning committee met last Tuesday morning to talk about the future of health care and what programs they could bring here to increase interest services at county facilities.

County commissioners invited representatives of health care providers and citizens to meet to talk about the future of the nursing homes, clinic, hospital and health care in general. From that, a committee was formed to include Hospital Administrator Lynn Doeden, Wheat Ridge Terrace Man-

ager Marcia Lohofener, Chief Nursing Officer Margee Wilson of Cedar of Living Center, Plant Operations Manager Jim Sullivan, Good Samaritan Center Administrator Janice Shobe, Good Samaritan Director of Nursing Loretta McFee and Maintenance Supervisor LaVern Burtis. Mr. Burtis was not at the meeting last week.

Commissioner Doyle Brown said they aren't planning to close any of the facilities, but want to talk about numbers for the future, what the county has to offer and what it can offer.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said the group is looking for the best way to use the facilities to the fullest.

Although there have been some rumors that the Good Samaritan Society is pulling out of its management contract, Mrs. Shobe said they are there at the pleasure of the county. She said the South Dakota-based organization is not pulling out.

The committee talked about several ideas.

Mrs. Doeden said she had received some information on a "gero-psych" unit, men-

tal health facility specializing in older patients. She said they can do it also as an outpatient program, but the staff would need some training.

Mrs. Shobe asked if they would have a problem with staffing and whether there is a need for the service. She said she has heard that within 10 years, there will be homes just for people with dementia.

Mrs. Lohofener said the average age of people deciding to live at Wheat Ridge Terrace is 89.

The census figures from Kansas State

University, said Mrs. Shobe, show that one of the prime groups is 85 and older. There are 151 people in that category in the county, she said, and only about half of them are in the two nursing homes.

She said she would like to get some expert opinion on whether they are going to need fewer beds or more. She said there are even more people in the age group just below 85.

How many assisted living places are there in a 60-mile radius of Oberlin? asked Mrs. (See HEALTH on Page 10A)

Senate hopefuls explain stands in forum here

The candidates for the 40th District of the Kansas Senate squared off Saturday in Oberlin at a forum sponsored by the Decatur County Farm Bureau.

Each of the three gave a short speech outlining what he would do for the area and the state if given the chance to serve.

Dan Rasure, Goodland, started campaigning in January. A Republican, Mr. Rasure, who has never held political office, was planning to go against the incumbent Sen. Stan Clark in the primary.

However, Sen. Clark's death earlier this summer in a traffic accident changed the complexion of the race.

Now Mr. Rasure is facing Rep. Ralph Ostmeyer of Grinnell in the primary. Mr. Ostmeyer is already serving in the Legislature as representative from the 118th district.

Democrat Tim Peterson, another newcomer to the electoral arena, will face the winner of the Republican primary in the Aug. 3 general election.

DAN RASURE

Mr. Rasure emphasized the declining population of the area and school funding as the two biggest areas of concern.

"We've got to have changes out in Western Kansas," he said.

He pointed to Norton County as

the only one in the area to have a population increase in the last census. Norton's economy, he said, while agriculturally based, has diversified with manufacturing plants like Natoma and New Age and is providing skilled workers for these industries.

Health care, he said, is vital to the area, both to keep seniors from moving and to lure younger couples into the area. He said there is a move to bring a Veterans Administration clinic to the district.

"We need to bring more people back to Western Kansas," he said.

The state needs to find ways to pay for education without increasing property taxes. Property taxes are the worst type of tax, he said.

Paying for schools needs to be done on a statewide basis, he said, or small districts — like Cheylin in Bird City — will begin to close and students will have to be on school buses more than an hour to get to other schools.

RALPH OSTMEYER

Mr. Ostmeyer pointed to his record. He has served in the state legislature as a representative for two terms, eight years as a county commissioner in Gove County and 14 years as a school board member.

Mr. Ostmeyer said he is a fourth-

(See SENATE on Page 10A)

House candidates talk about plans if they are elected

Two Republican and a Democrat gave their views on the important issues before the state House of Representatives at a forum held Saturday in Oberlin.

The forum, sponsored by the Decatur County Farm Bureau, featured incumbent John Faber of Brewster, a Republican, and two challengers, Republican Doug Sebelius of Norton and Democrat Bob Streyev of Norcatour.

Mr. Faber and Mr. Sebelius will meet each other in the Republican primary on Tuesday, Aug. 3, and the winner will go against Mr. Streyev in the general election in November.

Each man was given a short speech on what he sees as the major issues and how he would try to solve the problems.

DOUG SEBELIUS

Mr. Sebelius said that despite his connection to the governor (she is married to his brother), he is a Republican and has lived most of his

life in Norton, where he attended school and where his children have gone to school.

Education is not an institution of big government, he said. The people are tired of the federal government saying how they should run things.

Education, he said, is an economic development tool. As the students out here join the work force, they need to be able to compete with the rest of the world.

Borrowing money to pay for education from other state budgets is not the answer, he said.

A sales tax with proper exemptions is the fairest type of tax, he said.

It is possible to put more tax on cigarettes and alcohol, and set up a top-end bracket for income tax that would pay more. Since everyone out here is struggling, he said, it shouldn't hurt us.

Mr. Sebelius suggested that Kansas should "uncouple" its income (See MEN on Page 10A)

Kansas governor will be here Tuesday

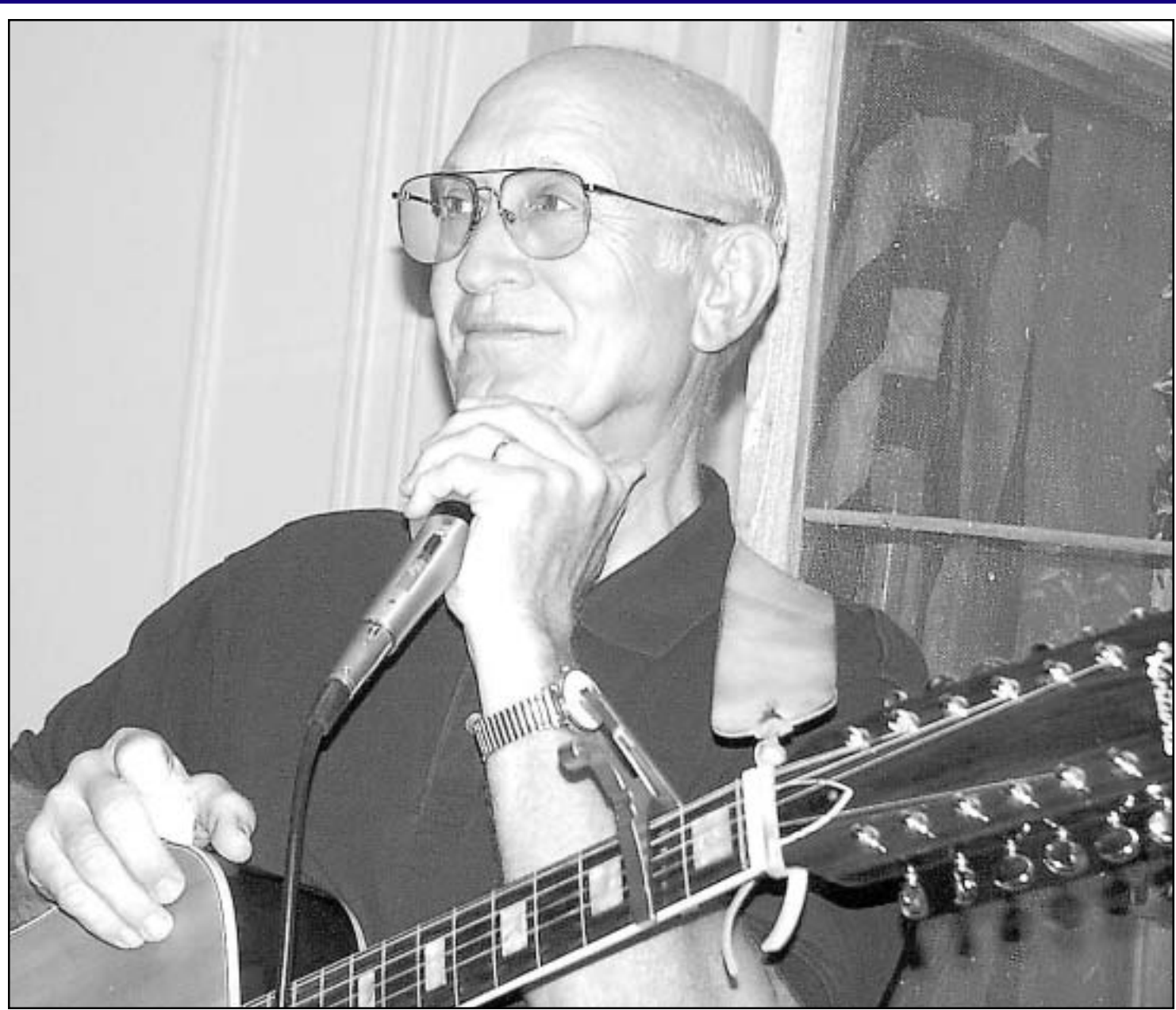
Gov. Kathleen Sebelius will make an appearance at the Oberlin Rotary Club meeting Tuesday at The Gateway, then meet with voters and visit the youth ranch here.

Connie Grafel, marketing director for the civic center and the Economic Development Corp., said she received a call last week from one of the governor's staff members about the trip to Oberlin. Plans are for the governor to attend Rotary over the noon hour, said Ms. Grafel, then there will be a 30-minute public reception at The Gateway, after which she will visit the Sappa Valley Youth Ranch.

Doug Sebelius, Norton County attorney, who is running for state representative in the 120th District, will be joining Gov. Sebelius, his sister-in-law. She will have two staff members with her.

Ms. Grafel said a letter Sam Eldridge sent to Gov. Sebelius, which later was printed in *The Oberlin Herald*, claiming that she didn't even know where Decatur County or western Kansas are, had helped spur the visit.

Everyone is welcome to attend the reception at 1 p.m. at The Gateway.



Dinner and music

WITH MICROPHONE IN HIS HAND and a guitar strapped around him, John Juenemann (above) performed at the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center last Wednesday as residents and guests, including Jeanette Conway (right), enjoyed a prime rib dinner.

—Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes



Voters will choose commissioner in August

Decatur County District 2 commission candidates Ralph Unger and Phillip Lahman talked about what they would do for the county during a public forum sponsored by the Decatur County Farm Bureau on Saturday.

Both men are Republicans, and there is no Democratic candidate, so

the race for commissioner should be decided at the Aug. 3 primary.

In the other commission seat up for election, Commissioner Doyle Brown is unopposed for re-election.

RALPH UNGER

Mr. Unger, the incumbent, said that Decatur County has been losing population since 1910 and he has no

answers to stop that trend.

However, he said, the county must make its case known in Topeka. He said he spends 30 to 60 days a year either talking to legislators or attending meetings around the state.

"I commit much of my time to building your case to people in To-

peka," he said.

The state, he said, is closing services in the county, like the welfare (Social and Rehabilitation Services) office, and then offering to help with economic development.

This is not helping us, he said. When services are not available (See THREE on Page 10A)

Shopping spree starts this week

Entry forms are out, and customers have until the middle of August to sign up to win \$1,000 in scrip to be spent in a shopping spree in Oberlin.

The promotion is being sponsored by *The Oberlin Herald* and 18 participating businesses: Hansen's Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning, Country-side Veterinary Clinic, Culligan Water Conditioning, Dale's Fish 'N' Fun, Raye's Grocery, Addleman Drug Store, the Carpet Center, Stanley Hardware, the LandMark Inn, Ward Drug Store, Rocking R, Flowers by Lee, Prairie Petals, R&M Service Center, Home Planning Center, the Dresser, Ray Jewelry and Fidele Electric and Woodcrafting.

The sponsors' ads and contest rules are on pages 6A and 7A. Everyone entering the shopping spree must be over 18. There is no purchase required. Em-

ployees of sponsoring businesses can't register where they work, and employees and immediate family members of *The Oberlin Herald* are not allowed to enter or win.

The last day to enter the shopping spree is at 5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 16. The drawing will be held the following night in the park. The winner doesn't need to be present.

There will be one grand prize winner drawn and a runner-up. If the staff at the newspaper isn't able to contact the winner by 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 18, then the runner-up will win.

The winner will have until Sunday, Aug. 22, to spend the money. The winner will need to notify the paper when they are going to shop so a photographer can accompany them.

Water use declines

With frequent rains and cooler days, water use barely went over 500,000 gallons in a day last week. Outdoor water restrictions remain in effect, however.

Last week, the city pumped:

- 264,000 gallons Tuesday, July 6.
- 316,000 gallons last Wednesday.
- 530,000 gallons on Thursday.
- 357,000 gallons on Friday.
- 426,000 gallons on Saturday.
- 270,000 gallons on Sunday.

