

Capital for a day

Governor visits Oberlin

By KIMBERLY BRANDT
Oberlin store owners, people of all ages and kids at Sappa Valley Youth Ranch got what for many may be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet the governor of Kansas last Tuesday.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius made a quick trip to Oberlin to check out Main Street, talk at the Rotary Club meeting and visit the youth ranch.

The Rotary Club, which meets at noon every Tuesday at The Gateway, had to move downstairs to the arena because of the crowd. In all there were about 75 at the lunch.

Herschel Betts, a past district governor of Rotary, introduced Gov. Sebelius. He said he got the honor because he is a Democrat like the governor, and three things are in short supply in northwest Kansas: water, Jayhawk fans (except in the winter) and Democrats.

The governor said she had come in response to a letter from Oberlin's Sam Eldridge, who claimed that she probably didn't even know where Decatur County is.

But, she pointed out, practically the first place she came in Kansas after meeting her husband was his hometown of Norton, and she's been to Oberlin several times.

"So, it's great to be back in northwest Kansas," said Gov. Sebelius.

The governor said she knows about the drought and how badly it has hurt people here. During wheat harvest, she took a trip to Goodland, where farmers were predicting that less than half of the crop would be harvested.

People in the area were wishing for rain then, she said.

Gov. Sebelius said she and her husband Gary, a U.S. magistrate in Topeka, will be celebrating their 30th anniversary this year.

She said she knows that Mr. Eldridge doesn't think she knows about western Kansas, but she said her husband has brought her many times.

In the 19 months she has been in office, she added, she has been in western Kansas 26 times, "and that's not counting Salina."

Gov. Sebelius said there are three things the state has to have: opportunity, security and accountability.

Opportunity covers a wide range of things, she said, including giving kids an opportunity to have a good education so they can live up to their potential, and the opportunity to get a job, which means finding ways to grow the economy.

The Legislature passed an economic revitalization act this year, said Gov. Sebelius, and she was (See ROTARY on Page 12A)



VISITING SAPPA VALLEY YOUTH RANCH, Gov. Kathleen Sebelius (second from right) talked to Director Sue Glodt (left). Also on the tour were Oberlin City Administrator Gary Shike and Doug Sebelius, the governor's brother-in-law (in the middle) and his wife, Nancy Sebelius. The governor got a tour of the ranch from Ms. Glodt and from some of the boys staying there, who showed her around. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Brandt

Top executive tours Sappa Valley Ranch

By KIMBERLY BRANDT
Boys at Sappa Valley Youth Ranch gave the governor a tour of their home and school last Tuesday.

Before the tour, Administrator Sue Glodt talked with Gov. Kathleen Sebelius about the facility. Mrs. Glodt said the city owns the buildings and is in partnership with Clarence

M. Kelley Youth Services to run the ranch. She said 67 percent of their income is from Medicaid, the state-federal program which helps the indigent with medical expenses.

The ranch employs about 40 people, she said, which means a 1-6 staff-to-kid ratio. The average stay is 90 days.

Gov. Sebelius asked if the facility is used

as a re-entry program for boys who have been in a juvenile lockup. Mrs. Glodt said yes; youths who are here have been sentenced to probation or are kids who have been in a juvenile facility.

The young men do community service and have jobs in town, she said. The Oberlin School District provides year-around classes.

Students work at their own speed, she said. Outside of school, they have a minimum of three hours a week therapy.

Gov. Sebelius said on her way in, she saw a group of kids in the garden. A lot of the kids are from the city, said Mrs. Glodt, and aren't used to gardening or things found in the garden. (See RANCH on Page 12A)



GETTING THEIR PICTURE TAKEN with Gov. Kathleen Sebelius (center) after her talk last Tuesday were Sam Eldridge and his family. One of the reasons for her visit was a letter from Mr. Eldridge, who claimed that the governor probably didn't know where Decatur County is. She proved that she did. — Herald staff photo by Steve Haynes

Relative gets boost

While Gov. Kathleen Sebelius billed her visit to Oberlin as an answer to a complaint in a letter to the editor, she took time to pursue another political agenda during her talk to the Oberlin Rotary Club on Tuesday: boosting the state House of Representatives campaign of her brother in law, Doug Sebelius of Norton.

The governor said she knows that Rotary is nonpolitical, but she had to put in a plug:

"It's time to send another Sebelius to Topeka," she said.

Doug Sebelius, the Norton County attorney, is running in the 120th District against four-term incumbent John Faber of Brewster. It's a rematch from two years ago, when Mr. Faber won by 158 votes.

Mr. Sebelius and his wife Nancy were seated with the governor and some of his Oberlin supporters, who had made the contacts here for her visit.

Annual County Fair, carnival ready to roll

Families and former residents will start to arrive from all over this weekend, just in time for the annual Decatur County Fair and Carnival.

It may be hard to believe, but summer is coming to a close. That means the fairgrounds will come alive, with 4-H projects on exhibit, nightly attractions in front of the grandstands and rides whirling around.

This year will be the 31st anniversary of the home-owned carnival.

Starting Tuesday, the carnival will open each night at 7 p.m. with rides for the young and old. Tickets for the rides are 25 cents apiece, with the Twistover, train, Ferris wheel, swings, Octopus, Tilt-a-whirl and moon walk each taking three tickets. The merry-go-round and small kid rides will each cost one ticket.

The fair board has lined up events to be held in front of the grandstands every night.

Tuesday, the McClain Mutton Busters will return to give kids 60 pounds and under a chance to ride a sheep. Those who want to ride need to check in at 6:30 p.m.. The show will start at 7:30 p.m. It costs \$3 apiece.

Next Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., the Bridges Band from Norton will perform. Admission will be an offering.

On Thursday night, there will be a talent concert at 7:30 p.m.

At 7 p.m. Friday, the Colgate County Showdown from KIOD Radio will return. The performance is a contest for singers who are looking for a recording contract. Winners move to the regional contest, then to state and the finals are at the Kansas State (See FAIR on Page 12A)

Primary election is Tuesday

Decatur County voters will go to the polls Tuesday to choose the candidates to represent both the Republican and the Democratic parties in the November general elections.

In many cases, the person elected on Tuesday will be the only candidate in the general election, so a victory this month will almost surely mean election on Nov. 2.

All other county offices in the pri-

mary have only the incumbent on the ballot. Treasurer Jean Ann Hale, County Attorney Steven Hirsch and Sheriff Ken Badsky are running unopposed as Republicans while Register of Deeds Judy Gaumer is running without opposition as a Democrat. District Magistrate Judge John Bremer of Oberlin and District

Commissioner Pat Glenn, what would that leave after the withholding taxes? At least 20 percent of it will be withheld, replied County Attorney Steve Hirsch.

Commissioner Ralph Under said sometimes a person gets a raise and then they actually bring home less with withholding. If an employee (See COUNTY on Page 12A)

Court Judge Bill Elliot of Hill City are both running unopposed on the Republican ticket.

On the state ballot, Ralph Ostmeyer of Grinnell and Dan Rasure of Goodland will battle for the Republican spot in the 40th District state Senate race.

Bob Streyve, a Democrat from (See VOTERS on Page 12A)

County employees to get \$60 pay raises

Decatur County employees will receive a \$60-a-month raise starting with their July paychecks.

At their meeting last Tuesday, county commissioners discussed giving a raise to the employees.

Originally, they talked about a \$50-a-month raise, which would average 2.4 percent. With a \$50 increase, asked Com-

Hospital to benefit from rounds of golf

It's time to get out the golf clubs and walking shoes for the annual Decatur County Hospital benefit.

Administrator Lynn Doeden said registration for the golf tournament starts at 8 a.m. with tee off at 9 a.m. on Saturday.

She said they can take four more teams, with each team made

up of four people. Registration is \$200 a team or \$50 a person, which includes dinner that night.

After a full day of golf, a prime rib dinner will be served at 6 p.m. at The Gateway.

So far, Mrs. Doeden said, there are 33 reservations from people (See BENEFIT on Page 2A)

* Rotary gets a visit

(Continued from Page 1A)
happy to sign it. She listed that as one of many accomplishments during what many saw as a "do-nothing" year.

An entrepreneurial center will be set up at Wichita State University under the law, she said. This should help make it easier for people to start up businesses, she said.

Security in this era includes homeland security, she said. There is no question, she said, that the world has changed since Sept. 11, 2001. Kansas, she added, may not be the primary target for world terrorists, but it is subject to natural disasters.

There is also economic security for families, and that includes health care. Small businesses, families, and farmers can't afford health care.

Gov. Sebelius said they are working on administrative costs for health care. There was \$12.5 billion spent last year in Kansas for health care. Twenty-five percent of it was spent on administration. Just a 10 percent cut would save \$300 million that could be shifted to help provide more health care, she said.

Accountability, the governor said, means trying to assure the taxpayers that their dollars are being spent well in state government. Around \$90 million has been saved by changes during her administration, she said.

The state has fewer employees than it did three years ago. Gov. Sebelius said they did an inventory on state cars and found they had way too many. The state hasn't bought any new cars for the last two years, she said; in fact, it sold hundreds of the vehicles.

By cutting spending this year, she said, the state was able to give employees a cost-of-living raise and pay for it with the savings.

Part of accountability is keeping promises, she said. In 1999 the state passed a highway plan and then, when times got tough, the Legislature started borrowing highway money to pay the state's bills.

This year, she said, she worked with the Legislature to restore money so the 10-year transportation plan will be carried out and all the promised projects will be built.

"We keep the promises we are going to make," she said.

* Ranch shows itself off

(Continued from Page 1A)
den.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the facility had been operated since the 1960s by the Cookson Hills organization out of Oklahoma. When the company left, the city remodeled the buildings using money from a bond issue.

The ranch has three houses, a cafeteria, weight room, school, office and a building out back where they hope to reintroduce a vocational agriculture program with animals.

Mrs. Glodt said they have to take the kids to town for health care, although there is a nurse on campus. Each youth has a master treatment plan, she said.

On the way down to see one of the houses, Gov. Sebelius stopped to talk with two kids and a staff member working in the garden.

In House No. 2, a few of the boys gave the governor a tour. The boys showed the visitors their levels, which mark progress in their treatment. Every time they go up a level,

* Fair offers lots of fun

(Continued from Page 1A)
Fair. Admittance is \$2 for anyone 6 and older.

The last night of the fair will be the annual Oberlin Lions Club Demolition Derby at 7 p.m.

K-State Extension Agent Byron Hale said there is something for everyone going on. Events include things for all age groups.

Although the evening events are the main attractions, the fair grounds will be hopping just about all day long. Kids in the 4-H program have been preparing all year to show exhibits, from sheep to cows to pigs to arts and crafts to food and plants.

Some of the big 4-H events include the swine show at 9 a.m. and the food auction on Thursday. Next Wednesday is the bucket calf show at 8 a.m., dairy/beef show at 9 a.m. and the sheep show at 5 p.m.



GOVERNOR KATHLEEN SEBELIUS talked to Deanna Castle (center) and Deb Lohofener of Oberlin during a reception in the governor's honor at The Gateway last Tuesday. — Herald staff photo by Steve Haynes

Government, she said, doesn't create jobs, but can do a lot to welcome businesses that do. The governor said she is happy to see in *Forbes Magazine* that Kansas was listed as the No. 1 state to relocate a business.

Before leaving, she asked for questions. School Superintendent Kelly Glodt said his district, like many in northwest Kansas, is losing enrollment and, therefore, state money, which has forced tough cutbacks. He asked if there was any glimmer of hope for more money for schools?

Gov. Sebelius said she shares his frustration, since there hasn't been any new money for schools in her two years. At first, she said, districts cut administrative levels, but now they are cutting teachers and programs. Meeting new federal education rules costs money.

The state Supreme Court will hear the school finance case in August, she said, and she is confident the legislature will act on the issue.

"The most important job we have is to educate our kids," she added.

Publisher Cynthia Haynes noted that while the state is trying to boost economic development in rural areas, it is taking away state jobs like the Social and Rehabilitation Service office in Oberlin.

Gov. Sebelius said that was less a loss of jobs and more a cut in administrative offices. There are now more points of contact for welfare clients with administrative offices closed, she said.

Is the state doing anything to bring more jobs here? Mr. Eldridge asked. Gov. Sebelius said a lot of new jobs are created by local people. As governor, she said, she spends a lot of time talking with corporate executives to promote business.

What about the "outsourcing" of jobs from Kansas? said Sharon Addleman. If the state is going to outsource jobs, what about sending them to rural communities instead of out of state or out of the country? There are college graduates here who can't get jobs, she said.

The state is looking closely at those jobs, the governor said. The worse thing is seeing tax dollars being spent to put jobs overseas. She said they found a contract that would have put a call center in India, and that has now been changed.

If the state put up a building here, said Jay Anderson, can the area partner with the state to bring some jobs here? Gov. Sebelius said they are willing to look at any number of opportunities.

Before leaving The Gateway, the governor held a public reception for

people to talk with her one-on-one and have their picture taken with her.

Her talk was aired live on KFNF Radio. Dave Stout, owner of the McCook Radio Group, said the planned to use "sound bites" from the talk throughout the week.

* Voters to choose Tuesday at polls

(Continued from Page 1A)
Norcat, will face one of them for the late Stan Clark's seat in the Kansas Senate.

Incumbent John Faber of Brewster is battling it out with Doug Sebelius of Norton for the Republican vote in the 120th District for House of Representatives.

The winner will go against Democrat Tim Peterson of Monument in November.

On the national level, U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, a Hays Republican, has no opposition from either party.

However, incumbent Sen. Sam Brownback will face Arch Naramore of Lawrence in the Republican primary and the winner will take on the victor in the Democratic primary between Robert Conroy of Shawnee and Lee Jones of Lenexa.

Folks living in Oberlin Precinct No. 1 on the west side of town will vote at the Oberlin American Legion and those living in Precinct No. 2 on the east will vote at the court-

house. Those living in Custer, Lyon and Dresden townships and in the City of Dresden will vote at the Dresden United Methodist Church.

People in Allison, Pleasant Valley and Jennings townships and in the City of Jennings will vote at the Jennings Senior Citizens Center.

Voters in Grant, Garfield and Lincoln townships and in the City of Norcat will vote at the Norcat City Hall.

Those living in Altony, Center, Harlan, Liberty, Logan, Olive, Roosevelt and Sherman townships will vote at the Golden Age Center.

Residents of Bassettville, Beaver, Cook, Finley, Oberlin, Prairie Dog, Sappa and Summit townships will vote at the Oberlin American Legion Hall.

Polling places will be open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. Anyone who is registered can vote early at the courthouse. No reason needs to be given for early voting.

* County gives workers \$60 more in paychecks

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doesn't want the raise, he added, who can turn it down.

Commissioner Glenn said they need to protect their employees and work for them. They are the ones who have made everything work for the county, said Commissioner Doyle Brown.

The commissioners agreed on a \$60-a-month increase for the 35 full-time employees who have been on the job at least six months, which

averages a 2.8 percent raise.

The increase should cost the county about \$2,350 a month or \$28,200 a year.

The commissioners didn't discuss an increase for part-time employees, but County Clerk Marilyn Horn said it would be on the agenda for the commissioners meeting scheduled Tuesday morning. She said that raise would be about 25 cents an hour for six part-time workers who qualify.

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Doug SEBELIUS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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Northwest Kansas needs...

- ★High-quality public schools
- ★Rural development and family farms
- ★Elder care programs and services
- ★A change in Republican leadership

Let your voice be heard on August 3rd

Paid for by Sebelius for Representative, Julie A. Neff, Treasurer