

Pool served town well, but it's time for a new one

Let's face it: Oberlin needs a new swimming pool.

Oh, we'll probably have to patch the current one up for a couple of years. It needs a \$15,000 boiler by next summer, plus who knows what leaks will appear.

Already this year, the city budget has been busted by repair bills for unexplained leaks. It took the city crew and pool engineers a couple of weeks to find and seal the leaks this time.

Next year, we can expect more of the same. The pool is 50 years old, and it's more than served its purpose. The city has reaped its \$68,000 investment back many times over, and that is a good thing.

But the pool is old, leaky and undependable. It suffers from a weird operating plan where water has to be pumped from the pool each day into the kiddie pool. At the end of the day, this water is run down the drain, rather than being recycled. New water is heated at some expense.

The pool has a sand filter which has to be manually flushed. This can cause problems, as it did at the end of the season when the crew was called away and lost a third of the pool's water.

It's not the crew's fault, really. It's the old system that's to blame.

A new pool likely will cost 10 times what the old one did. The city probably will have to borrow money to build one, and there are not many grants available for such a "frill."

(There are some grants for therapy pools, apparently, but that would require an indoor pool at twice the cost. That could be one expensive grant, in other words.)

It's hard to imagine a small Kansas town without a pool. It's sort of a necessity of life out here, something families have come to expect. Though it's not in the same class as having a hospital, no one is going to move their kids to a town with no pool. Just won't happen.

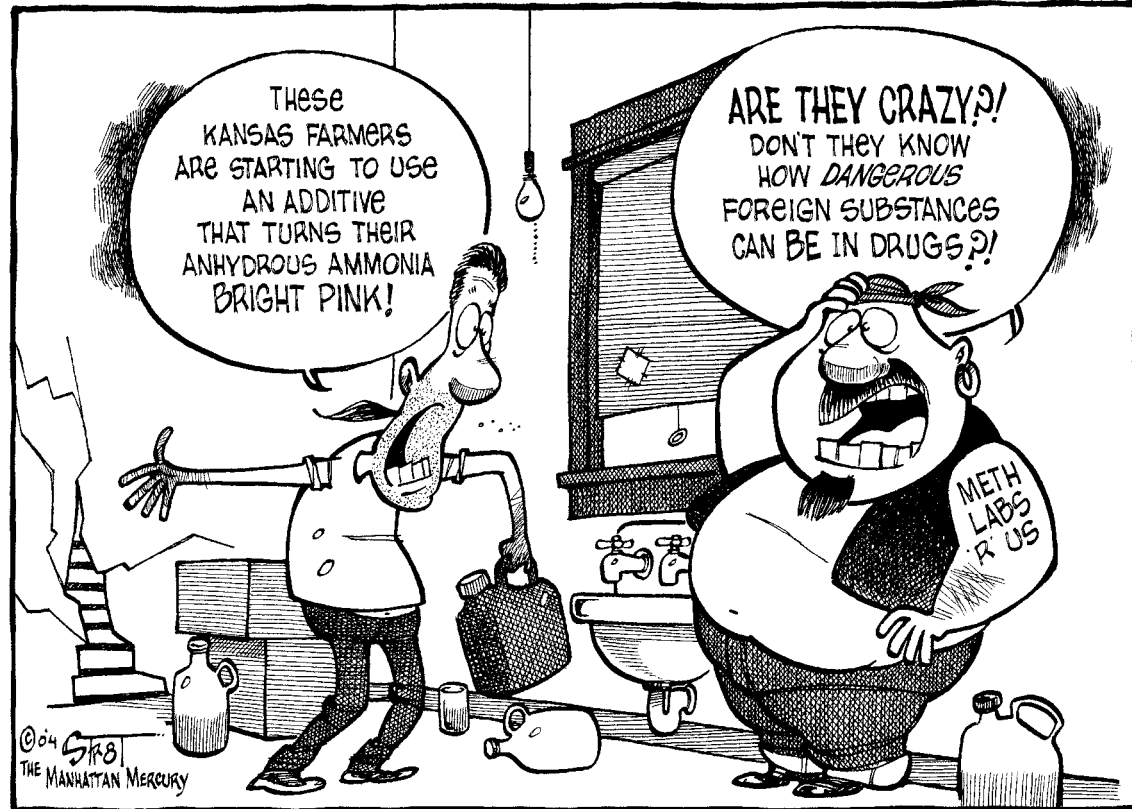
So we need to find a way to build a pool. Bake sales and fund raisers are nice for the planning stages. There's always the possibility that someone will leave the city a gift which would cover part of the cost.

But it's probably going to wind up with a bond issue, and yes, we need to do this.

The pool commission has done good work so far, but they have a long ways to go. We're sure they will come up with a suitable plan, for a better pool than we have today.

The rest will be up to the city and the taxpayers. We need to do this.

— Steve Haynes



Don't dismiss the old remedies

"Do you have an old wives remedy for wasp stings?" Jennifer asked over the phone one day last week.

"Did you get stung?" was my brilliant reply.

Duh. Here's your sign. Yes, she had been stung and wanted to know what to do.

"Mud," I tell her. "Put mud on it."

"Are you just saying that because you think I'm foolish enough to do it, or does it really work," was her skeptical comment.

When I was a kid, mud is really what my mom would tell me to put on a wasp sting. Probably because it was convenient and I could do it myself. And it was soothing, which is about all you can do for a wasp sting.

But, getting back to Jennifer. I knew she wouldn't begin to put mud on herself. After conferring with my



Out Back

By Carolyn Sue Kelley-Plotts
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coworkers, it was agreed that a paste made of baking soda and water would be the appropriate treatment.

Knowing her father is extremely allergic to hornet stings, I did advise her to watch for any adverse developments. Later, she reported that the pain and the swelling had gone away.

But let's not dismiss those old-time remedies. My children didn't know the dread of having a sticker removed. When they would come to me with a sliver, I would apply a bread and milk poultice. Leave it overnight and by morning it would, literally, "pop" out.

A bread and milk poultice is made by taking a pinch of bread, dipping it in milk, squeezing out the excess, placing it over the offending splinter/sticker, covering with a Band-Aid and waiting 'til morning. There is some reaction that happens between the bread and the milk that creates a "drawing" action. It may not work in all cases, but I swear by it, and so do my kids.

My mother was an excellent first-

aid provider with a well-stocked aid kit always at the ready. If she would have chosen a profession, she would have been an emergency room nurse. She was unflappable and would tackle almost any medical emergency. No amount of blood or gore could upset her.

One time my brother Jim brought a puppy into the house and plopped himself down in the rocker where our Grandma Davison had been crocheting. When Jim got up to take the puppy back outside, one of Grandma's crochet hooks was dangling from Jim's elbow. Unbelievably, he had not even known it had gone through his shirt sleeve, pierced his skin and worked its way into the complicated elbow joint.

Mom stopped him short. "Oh, Jim. Look what you've done! And that was one of your best shirts. Now we're going to have to cut it off."

Thank goodness she realized this injury was beyond her abilities and took him to the doctor. I wasn't sure if she meant she was going to cut off the shirt sleeve or his arm.

Writer upset with school board action

To the Editor:

I would like to congratulate the Oberlin School District on having a "mighty fine" school board, but under the circumstances, I don't feel that's appropriate. In fact, I'm ashamed to say I'm an alumnae of this district. Not only am I a graduate, but my sisters, brother and I all went to school in Oberlin from kindergarten through 12th grade. You may ask why I harbor such bad feelings towards the school board. Well, here it comes.

Any school board that does not stand behind a good and respected teacher when health issues require them to resign earlier than planned should step back and take a close look at themselves. I realize that money is short for all school systems at the present time, but when does money become more important than people?

My sister, Audrey Pavlicek, taught for the Oberlin district for 29 years. She was (is) an excellent teacher. In fact, many families requested her. Audrey fell in May while attending our uncle's funeral, breaking her left ankle in two places and the femur in her right leg. She spent all summer in the hospital, still hanging on to the hope that she would be able to return to teaching in the fall.

When she finally realized that wasn't going to happen, she handed in a tearful resignation. This was one of the hardest decisions Audrey has ever had to make. She has always been dedicated to her students, their parents, and the school district. She just plain loved the students and teaching.

When the district was faced with financial problems, Audrey was more than happy to sacrifice anything she could to help them. She went without raises and bought many classroom supplies out of her

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own pocket. But when bad times came for her, the school board didn't return the compassion she had shown them.

Audrey was turned down for early retirement benefits by the school board in a closed session. Why a closed session? Maybe they were afraid some in the community who know Audrey and respect her teaching abilities and dedication would come forth to argue on her behalf.

The reason used to turn Audrey down was the fact that she did not let them know by the end of March that she intended to retire early. How do you tell someone in March that you are going to fall and sustain serious injuries in May?

The school board was very unsympathetic in denying Audrey's early retirement.

How does a teacher who has devoted so many years of her life to the Oberlin Schools believe her hours of work and dedication were in any way appreciated when she has been treated so shabbily by the school board?

I know if you were to take a poll of the parents whose children Audrey taught, they would tell you she

deserved better than this. You were very lucky to have Audrey teaching in your school district. It's too bad you did not appreciate all the evenings and weekends she spent at the school making sure her students received the very best education possible. She knew they deserved her best and she gave it.

The members of the school board could take a few lessons from Audrey. She gave 100 percent to them, yet received zero percent back from them.

In addition, the way it was reported to the newspaper it sounded as if Audrey was granted early retirement with the benefits she should have received, when in actuality she was denied and given nothing.

For those of you who might be interested, Audrey had a very rough surgery in Denver on Sept. 9, but we hope and pray this surgery will get her back on her feet for the first time since she fell in May.

I thank God she is finally on the road to recovery.

Her proud sister,
Janet Knipp
Hays

Translation of picture

To the Editor:

I cannot read Polish but a business colleague who can provided the following translation of the text under the photo of the Polish runners (Page 1A, Aug. 18 *Oberlin Herald*):

"After one day of rest at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Kozloski, having regained strength, we continued our trip. Our destination was the city of St. Francis, which was

about 182 miles away, at which we arrived at 3 o'clock p.m. Once there, one of our cars wouldn't start which turned out to be a faulty starter. We had to wait until the next morning for the car to be repaired to continue our trip."

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From the Bible

And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a child, and set him by him, and said unto them, Whosoever shall receive this child in my name receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me receiveth him that sent me: for he that is least among you all, the same shall be great. Luke 9: 46-48

People expect good city water

More thoughts on watering, water and water supply:

The mayor says he hopes people won't "water the streets." Good luck.

I know it's probably frustrating for officials to see water running down the streets. It is frustrating when you're the homeowner, watching your money run down the drain.

But I've yet to figure out how to water the grass along the curb without getting some on the street. All you can do is try to keep the amount down.

If you can afford an underground sprinkler system, you can minimize water loss, but not eliminate it. At our house, the budget does not cover such frills, however. We're stuck with \$5.95 sprinklers you move from place to place, connected by sections of old hose.

So in principle, we agree with the mayor. In practice, we're at the whim of the shifting winds, fluctuating water pressure and the fact that you need to water up to the curb.

It's discouraging that the city has not been able to find any new water supply over the last three-four years. There must be some water out there.

It's vital to the town's future that we have plenty of water, not just



Along the Sappa

By Steve Haynes
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"enough" to get by.

New business, new industry, new people all depend on water. We have to have it, in abundant supply, if we expect to survive. It's like having a hospital, good schools, a swimming pool. People expect certain things from a town.

So we'd urge the council to continue the search. The answers might not be clear now — whether we need to build a treatment plant, find more wells or find ways to use the ones we have — but the goal is to have enough water.

Many communities have to ration water during a drought. The goal is to have more than enough water to fill all needs in a normal year.

And, yes, it will cost money to find and hook up more water. Hopefully, we can avoid a treatment plant. Maybe someone will sue the government and roll back some of the picky new contamination levels set by the government.

But whatever happens, we'll need

the water, and we should be prepared to pay for it.

Ouch.

Here we are in another year when Nature seems to have just turned off the tap.

It's better than last year, when it stopped raining in June. But if you're a farmer with wilting milo and crusty corn, you may not see the improvement.

More sprinklers go in each year, but you have to ask how long we can grow irrigated crops out here. Water tables are dropping in many parts of the state.

The city's problems, restricting lawn watering, are small compared to the potential loss of farm income if we don't get some rain.

So far, Nature seems happy to tease us and shut off the faucet.

Next year, though. Next year, things are bound to be better.

Right?

Reader suggests change in service

To the Editor:

Are you concerned about SBC (Southwestern Bell Telephone) phone service?

I am surely concerned. I have been having much trouble for over two years and SBC doesn't seem to be able to find the problem.

The public utility tells me it is on my line. SBC is not concerned about doing anything. Why aren't they doing something about this?

I can hear the click as soon as I pick up my receiver. Someone shuts the phone completely off at times, or presses on the phone buttons to make noise, or it may sound like you're in a barrel. Apparently someone, or several someone's, is on my phone line. What happened to our privacy?

It has been reported someone in-

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terrupts when I am talking long distance, or otherwise, on the phone. They say, "Your answering machine is full," or, "You have twelve messages on your answering machine."

Colby now has a new phone system which costs less, and the ones I have visited with enjoy it more than SBC.

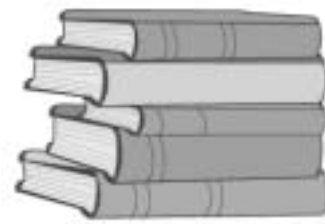
The new phone system in Colby is S&T Communications. I visited with one of their employees and they would be delighted to have some business in Oberlin.

Not everyone has the new phone system in Colby. Some are still with

SBC. That I do not understand.

I am ready for a new and less expensive telephone company.

Elsie Wolters
Oberlin



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