

**Letter to the Editor**

**Chairwoman corrects paper about pool plans**

To the Editor:  
I was a little concerned to see the pool commission's meeting with the school board made the front page of the McCook newspaper. When I read the article it seemed to say that the commission was only looking at obtaining an indoor pool, which made me think I had better write this letter to clear up any misconceptions.

Right now, the pool commission is in the fact-finding stage. We are looking at several options, trying to find out what the building costs, maintenance costs, grant situation and gift situation are for each option. The answer to the gift and grant questions will tell us whether or not there is a tax situation for each option.

Although it is cheapest to build just a simple outdoor municipal pool, we have found no grants at this time to help with the cost (we are still looking, however). With this option it looks like gifts and taxes would have to pay for the entire pool.

Although several clubs and members of the community are heroically pitching in, we are only up to approximately \$8,000. At this rate unless every member of the community jumps in to do their own fund raisers it will be many, many years before we have a new pool.

The next option we are looking at is the outdoor pool, bathhouse and an indoor hydrotherapy pool. This might get us some grants but we don't think the grants will cover all building costs. Grants go mostly to projects that benefit education, elderly, health care, underserved populace, and community development. Since the entire community will not benefit from an indoor hydrotherapy pool (arthritis, geriatrics and hospital would benefit), grants might not cover more than part or all of the hydrotherapy pool.

This means there is a possibility of taxes having to take over where gifts stop. Plus the hospital says that Medicare covers hydrotherapy handsomely, but will we have enough business from a hydrotherapy pool alone to cover the maintenance costs?

The third option we are looking at is a 25-meter outdoor pool, bathhouse, indoor hydrotherapy pool, and small 3- or 4-lane indoor lap pool. This will bring the most money in grants, and makes the project eligible to apply for Kansas Tax Credits. This pool option will also bring the most money in gifts (we have been promised more gifts if there is an indoor pool, less for just an outdoor pool), and will create more income than just an indoor hydrotherapy pool.

The questions here are maintenance costs, matching funds needed to show community involvement, and whether or not grants will allow those matching funds to go into an endowment to help a little with maintenance. If this option is to work, the indoor pools have to be built so they can be maintained as economically as possible (with as few lifeguards as possible, covers to keep the heat in the pools, windows and a ventilation system so air conditioning is not used in the summer, etc.).

The last option is just a straight indoor pool and hydrotherapy pool. This has the same problems as the previous option. We have the possibility of a building for this purpose being offered, but we need a pool architect to tell us whether remodeling an existing building will be cheaper or cost more than building new.

Our next step in fact-finding is to ask the city to hire Water's Edge, the pool architects, to give us building costs and an estimate on maintenance costs on the options listed above. That plus more research on grants should help some of the puzzle pieces fall into place.

If I have confused you rather than helping clear up any questions please feel free to call.

Anna Shaw  
member, pool commission  
Oberlin

**Sleeping babies**



AT THE Invitational basketball tournament, Vicky Leitner and Jody Merrill enjoyed the games while Mrs. Leitner's grandchildren slept through it all. — Photo by Jonna Inman

**District receives high scores**

The Oberlin School District is in the fourth year of a five-year improvement cycle with the North Central Accreditation with only a few areas that still need to be worked on, school board members heard in the January meeting.

High School Principal Charles Haag, teacher Brenda Breth and counselor Sheila Jansonius presented the improvement report to the school board Monday night.

In September, they said, an outside team came to visit and reviewed the school in three target areas.

The district's goals are for improvement in interpreting and applying written and graphical information across the curriculum, especially math and reading. All of the teachers are working on these areas, said Mr. Haag.

The visiting team, he said, was impressed with the staff and the classrooms. They knew the district was in a budget crisis, he said, but said they wouldn't have been able to tell by the work that was going on and the teachers' morale.

The team, said Mr. Haag, said the teachers needed some collaboration time and a local assessment that is the same across the board.

The local assessment is being worked on, said Mr. Haag. The teacher collaboration time has been taken care of with a two-hour late start the third Wednesday of each month.

Mrs. Jansonius said the district received all fours and fives on the math and mostly fours and fives on the graphical information. She said there were also some threes.

Mrs. Breth said the district received all fours and fives on reading and the team was impressed with the teachers.

Mr. Haag said the team liked the fact that the school improvement plan is teacher driven, instead of having administrators filling out the paperwork.

The district has another year to finish the plan. In May 2006, all the data will be collected and the cycle will end. The cycle will then start over again and work in different areas. Superintendent Kelly Glodt said the high school has been accredited with North Central for the past 75 years.

**Weed sprayers receive increase**

Decatur County commissioners approved an increase of \$1 an hour for operators who spray weeds.

Noxious Weed Control Director Gaylen Huntley presented a proposed contract from the state for the commissioners at their meeting Tuesday, Jan. 18. Mr. Huntley said the county had some of the lowest rates for spraying the weeds in the state. Old rates were \$18 an hour for the first operator and \$13 an hour for the second operator.

With the increase, the commissioners approved the state contract.

Mr. Huntley said he is the new district president for northwest Kansas for noxious weed directors, so he will be attending more meetings than usual.

The department, he said, has a youth working for them under appointment from the Juvenile Justice Authority.

The commissioners talked with Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman about a township road meeting set for 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 15.

Mr. Stallman said he was planning to invite Tom Job from the Kansas Counties Associate Multi-Lined Pool, the county's insurance carrier, to attend to talk about liability coverage for equipment and township road concerns.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said Mr. Job should talk about risk management, too.

The group talked about holding an auction in March for the county's old vehicles. Commissioners didn't decide if it should be silent or live. Mr. Huntley said he has some items to auction too.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved contracts with Decatur Health Systems and Decatur County Good Samaritan Center for \$1, which is to make a

contract with road and bridge in case there is an emergency that they will bring in non-potable water.

- Re-appointed Ron Jansonius and Butch Rittmann to the hospital board for two years.

- Approved paying \$970 for the Pitney-Bowes postage meter.

- Signed a resolution to pay around \$2,000 for employee benefits for the extension service for the first half of the year.

- Signed a 2005 contract for Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas.

- Held a five-minute closed session for attorney/client privilege with County Attorney Steve Hirsch. There was no action taken.

- Appointed Lynn Rippe as clerk of Harlan Township.

**Reader orders paper**

To the Editor:  
I am enclosing a check for the amount of \$34 to begin a new subscription to *The Oberlin Herald*.

I always relish every opportunity I get to read my hometown paper. It doesn't seem like long ago when I used to rush to the grocery store every week to see what was inside the latest edition of *The Herald*. Please sign me up and keep the paper coming my way!

Paul Kitzke  
Topeka

**Students have chance to draw stamps**

Students from grades K-12 who like to draw, color or paint may enter pictures of ducks, geese and swans in the Junior Duck Stamp contest.

The art-based program is open to students in a home-school, private, parochial, or public school setting. Students designing stamps which

feature ducks, swans and/or geese have created a big splash in the pond of adult stamp designers. Entry forms are available from Lorrie Beck at the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita by calling (316) 683-5499, extension 108, or by visiting <http://duckstamps.fws.gov>.

The program was created to help

American youth increase their awareness and appreciation for wetlands and waterfowl. Last year, more than 600 students participated in the nationwide program, which is sponsored by the Great Plains Nature center, the Coleman Company, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**Inpatient Rehabilitation Services at Hays Medical Center.**

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**Risk Management Seminar**

Brought to you by: **E Hedger (Mark Gold, Gary Moss, Angie Pope) and Prime Crop Care (Eric Moore, Pete Koster)**

When	Where	Time
Wed., Feb. 9, 2005	Elks Lodge, Hoxie, KS	7:00 PM
Thur., Feb. 10, 2005	Quality Inn, Colby, KS	10:00 AM

Featured Speaker: **Mark Gold Market Analyst**  
**Objective:** Help producers implement a marketing plan that will reduce marketing volatility and maximize marketing opportunities.

**Biography:**

The managing Director of E Hedger. Mark Gold is a former 20 year member of the Chicago Board of Trade where he was a pit trader and floor broker. During his time on the floor Mark served as Chairman of the Soybean Pit Committee and on the Public Relations Committee. His responsibilities included representing the CBOT on numerous television reports, speaking to farm groups, banking organizations and university groups. Mark has also been a floor trader at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, International Monetary Market, Sydney Futures Exchange, and the New Orleans Commodity Exchange where he served as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Mark can also be heard daily on KFRM in Kansas and KRVN in Lexington, Nebraska. In addition, Mark is a regular on the nationally syndicated TV shows Agday and Weekend Marketplace. He is an accomplished speaker having given presentations to the Kentucky State Soybean Association, Pennsylvania Corn and Bean Association, Iowa Soybean Association, North Dakota Winter show and more. Mark provides trading advice in risk management for both hedgers and speculators. Mark works extensively with the American Bankers Association and is a guest instructor for the Western States Bank School. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois with a degree in Agricultural Economics. His website is [www.ehedger.com](http://www.ehedger.com).

Trading commodity futures and options involves substantial risk of loss and may not be suitable for all investors.

**Register for Door Prizes:** Please register by 2/7/2005 to the following address:

E Hedger Email: angpope49@hotmail.com  
 Angie Pope Email: garyemoss@hotmail.com  
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 Hoxie, KS 67740 Eric Moore 785-386-4205 Email: prime@ruraltel.net  
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