

Rec group asks county for money

The Decatur Tomorrow recreation committee asked county commissioners for financial support to hire a part-time director at the beginning of August at a county meeting last Tuesday.

Committee members Abby Hisson, Greg Grafel, Channing Fortin and Rusty Addleman met with the commissioners.

Mr. Grafel said the committee has been working on its plan for over a year now. They have taken small steps, worked on a proposed budget and asked people from the different governments and agencies to get involved.

Hopefully, the county and city can afford a better recreation program, he said. It seems that all the towns they travel to for events do something with recreation. Mr. Grafel said they would like to hire a part-time recreation director by the beginning of August to do kids' football and volleyball in the fall.

If this starts at the beginning of August, asked County Attorney Steve Hirsch, when does the committee want the money?

There are some donations, said Mr. Grafel, but the committee was

at the meeting to ask for support, \$15,000 from the county, but it wasn't specified if it was for the year or once.

What will the director do? asked County Clerk Colleen Geihlsler. Coordinate, do a website, communicate on what's offered and do the paperwork, said Mr. Grafel.

The goal is to funnel all the recreation programs through one office, said Mrs. Hisson. The director can coordinate the programs and then the coaches can just coach instead of being the middle men for everything and doing all their own paperwork.

There are programs offered, she said, that people don't know about until it's too late. Mrs. Hisson added that they don't want to see families going elsewhere for activities.

Commissioner Stan McEvoy said he can see the county having a problem coming up with the money this year. The county is already spending money on the ball program, he said, and the group's request wasn't budgeted for.

Commissioner Ralph Unger (See COMMITTEE on Page 12)

Fireworks planned for Monday night

Oberlin's annual fireworks display will light up the night sky with bright, shimmering colors for the Fourth of July on Monday.

Some shots will burst open like flowers, others like shooting stars and some just sound like a cannon going off. The community fireworks display will begin about half an hour after sunset at the Decatur County Fairground, sometime after 9:30 p.m.

Before it's time for fireworks, the Oberlin City Pool will be open from 1 to 6 p.m. with the lifeguards hosting pool games. Manager Andrew Dempewolf said there will be a new game every 30 minutes.

New this year is a dunk tank. It costs a quarter for each try, said Mr. Dempewolf. The lifeguards will sit in the hot seat and anyone can have a chance at trying to dunk them. He said they are trying to raise money for a basket full of pool toys for the medium-size pool.

Mr. Dempewolf said they are still looking for someone to make and sell food on the holiday.

Anyone who wants to go to the pool for the Fourth of July can use their pool pass. Single-day admittance costs \$2 for those 12 and over and \$1 for younger children.

At 2:30 p.m., the Good Samaritan Center will be having a "Red, White and Rhu" ice cream social, with ice cream and homemade rhubarb cobbler. The social, in the front dining room of the center, is open to the public.

When it's dark, the firework display will start at the fairground, west of town on U.S. 36. Most people gather around The Gateway or at the fairground parking lots to watch the action.

Anyone who wants to donate to the show can leave money or checks in jars at Ward Drug, the banks, Raye's Grocery and Stanley Hardware.

Countdown ends with load of wheat

The first load of new wheat is in and the Oberlin merchants' annual Harvest Countdown is over.

Dave Meitl of Dresden brought the first load of new wheat to the Decatur Co-op elevator in Lenora at 1:50 p.m. Saturday. The test weight was 63.4 pounds per bushel and moisture was 11.2 percent. The load totalled 813 bushels.

While there were a few other guys out cutting, harvest wasn't yet in full swing.

Janice O'Hare, with Hansen Mueller Grain in Oberlin, said they haven't yet taken any new wheat at the elevators in Oberlin or Cedar Bluffs, but started last Thursday at an elevator in Sublette and Friday at one in Courtland.

The contest was scheduled to go until the first load came in or 4

p.m. Friday, whichever happened first. Boxes were being picked up Monday.

There were 54 entries for this year's contest. Winners were Tim Stallman, who said the first load would come in at 1:10 p.m. on Saturday. He won \$50 for first place. Kurt Bron won second with a guess of 2:37 p.m. on Saturday. She won \$35. Juanita Eckhart took third for her guess of 11 a.m. on Saturday. She won \$15.

All prizes will be in scrip, which can be spent only at sponsoring businesses. No change will be given.

The contest is put together by *The Oberlin Herald*. Sponsors include the Decatur Co-op Association, Decatur County Title and Abstract, Fredrickson Insurance Agency, Hansen Mueller, Hometown Family Radio, KFNF, Stanley Hardware and Ward Drug Store.



ON MAIN STREET this Friday, U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran while Dr. Jay Anderson watched in the background. talked with Councilman Jim Miesner and his wife Ruth — Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

New senator greets people on street

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran greeted many people by name as he walked through downtown Oberlin on Friday, but he greeted everyone he met with a smile and a handshake.

The senator started at the new community center, getting a look at the bowling alley, theater and Golden Age Center as he visited and reminisced with old friends.

He asked about the wheat harvest and got opinions ranging from good to spotty.

Sid Metcalf said that from the highway, the crop looks good, but if you fly over, like he does, you see the holes.

Mr. Moran said that he's hoping for a good harvest. He recalled that Sid's brother, the late Jack Met-



Jerry Moran on Main Street. calf, had been his first campaign manager here when he ran for the U.S. House of Representatives back in 1996.

The senator said he was impressed with the community cen-

ter. He said he'd been a politician for long enough to know you don't interrupt Bingo, card games or meals, so he didn't go into the meal site area at Golden Age.

"All three parts of this building are like, Wow!" he exclaimed.

"The feel of the community is good," he remarked as he headed from the Golden Age Center back to the theater lobby. "My goal is to enhance the chances that our communities will stay around."

However, he noted that what he can do is limited and in reality, whether a community makes it or not is up to the people who get out a paint brush and work to make things happen.

In the theater, he talked banking with Gary Walter and Bob Gaskill of the Bank. Mr. Moran said that people need community banks

where the people know each other and can get a home or farm loan.

"I've borrowed money (for home loans)," the senator said. "They give me a stack of paper. I don't want to read this. I trust my banker."

"The paperwork reduction act isn't working," Mr. Walter, president of the Bank, said.

The senator agreed, saying that he thinks regulators would rather work with a few banks than with hundreds of small ones.

We will lose something very significant if we lose local banks, the senator said. You don't think you'll ever lose your community bank but did you ever have a meat locker plant? Regulations made it impossible for small players to stay in business.

(See SENATOR on Page 12)

Congressman talks about national debt

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
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Congressman Tim Huelskamp talked with around 30 people over the lunch hour Monday about the nation's debt and other hot issues.

As a staff member flipped charts showing the nation's debt, the congressman said he hopes the nation will do something before the debt consumes our economy. With the growing amount, the chart showed, the public debt will soon exceed the value of the nation's economy.

The three main things that are driving that debt up, he told the crowd at the Decatur County courthouse, are the big "entitlement programs," Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security.

The country has 10,000 new retirees every day, said Rep. Huelskamp, but there's no money set aside for them. We are already borrowing money to pay for their benefits and there will be 10,000 more retirees tomorrow. That number will continue to grow.

Almost half of the nation's debt is owed to foreign countries, he said, 29.2 percent of that to China, 19.9 percent to Japan, 6.1 percent to the United Kingdom, 4.2 percent to Brazil, 3.5 percent to Taiwan, 3.4 percent to Russia and 4.8 percent to oil-exporting nations.

Rep. Huelskamp, who is in his first term representing the "Big



AT THE COURTHOUSE on Monday, Rep. Tim Huelskamp talked with around 30 constituents at a "town hall" meeting. — Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

*Man discusses national debt

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 First District of rural Kansas, said on his first day in office, the country was already four months into the current fiscal year, yet the budget hadn't been passed. Congress just keeps putting things off.
 If this debt crisis isn't tackled, he said, he fears that the country won't be able to even pay the interest.

He noted that the Republicans in the House of Representatives finally did pass a budget bill called the "Path to Prosperity," which makes changes to Medicare for those 55 and younger. The Republican approach hasn't gone anywhere in the Democrat-controlled Senate, however.
 The nation is at a point where if the spending problem isn't solved, said Rep. Huelskamp, it might not be able to pay its bills.

With the country possibly going to hit the debt ceiling in August, asked Larry Smith, do you have the courage to not raise the limit and to get the spending under control?
 The issue isn't borrowing the money, said Rep. Huelskamp, but whether the nation can pay it back. Getting another credit card isn't the solution.

If the debt ceiling isn't raised, the nation will run out of money, he said. The deficit needs to be cut, future spending capped and the budget balanced.

"Today, we are borrowing 40 cents on every dollar we spend in Washington," said Rep. Huelskamp.

He said he isn't worried about what happens in August, but he is about what could happen three years from now.

Sharon Addleman asked the congressman what he felt about a proposed bill to get the United States out of the United Nations. He said he hasn't signed onto the bill, but supports the idea. He said one of the justifications the president has used to send forces into Libya is "The U.N. asked us."

The Constitution is clear that Congress should make the decision on when the country should enter into war, he said. He said Congress received a letter from the president 47 hours after troops entered Libya.

Rep. Huelskamp said he's voted to bring troops home until the president asks Congress to authorize a war and permission is granted.

"Why does the United States have to buy friendships from other countries?" asked a man in the audience. Rep. Huelskamp said he shares that concern. There are still 50,000 troops in South Korea and Germany, he said, and Pakistan gets \$1.5 billion a year in help. The nation also spends \$1 billion to help feed poor people around the world.

People in office often don't vote based on principles, but instead on partisanship, politics and personality.

Bob Gaskill, with The Bank, said the Federal Reserve Board wants the debt ceiling raised as soon as possible. Otherwise, he said, interest rates will go up. Is Congress going to be willing to bail out the Federal Reserve, he asked.

Great question, said Rep. Huelskamp. There are 13.9 million Americans out of work. That is more than any time since data started being measured in 1948.

Congress won't have to bail out the Federal Reserve, he added, because they bail themselves out by printing more money.

It seems, though, that both sides are getting uncomfortable with just printing money more, he added.

Jon Paulson, a preacher and electrical worker, said the Federal Emergency Management Agency sent

millions into the area after an ice storm a couple of years ago. He said it looked to him like most of the parts being used for repairs came from China, Japan and Brazil. It seems the nation would do itself a favor and use local parts, he said.

Mr. Paulson also said he thought families in this area are dealing with more "Third World" problems, like getting enough to eat or managing their budget.

Social problems are going to be solved here, locally, said Rep. Huelskamp. There is only so much that can be done in Washington.

Steve Haynes, president of Nor'West Newspapers, said he thought a better question might be, "Why is Emergency Management sending out money after every relatively minor storm. Where does that money come from?"

Rep. Huelskamp said he hasn't followed that agency closely, but for the last few years, if there was an emergency, it didn't have to follow the same rules to be eligible for money.

Constituents asked Rep. Huelskamp about the ability of Congress to reign in the Environmental Protection Agency, which keeps passing down requirements that cost small towns millions of dollars, more than they can afford. Rep. Huelskamp said one way to help convey those problems is to get on his website and tell the story. That way he can share that story with others in Washington.

The group talked about the future of health care, including the Obamacare plan, and whether the president's health plan can be overturned. He noted that the House, now controlled by Republicans, passed a repeal bill, but the Democrat-controlled Senate blocked it.

Sometime between now and August 2012, Obamacare will be taken up in the Supreme Court. It's hard to say what could happen, he said, but the court might find it unconstitutional. There are so many waivers to the law, you have to wonder how fair the process is. Rep. Huelskamp said they have been trying to figure out who the waivers are for and why they were granted.

Lynn Doeden, administrator of the Decatur County Hospital, asked if Mr. Huelskamp could do anything to get the state Board of Healing Arts to meet more regularly. That board meets quarterly, which doesn't allow people from other states to become licensed very quickly, she said.

Mrs. Doeden said they have a doctor who wants to come here, but he is going to have to wait five months to get a Kansas license because of when the board meets.

Rep. Huelskamp said he would get in touch with Gov. Sam Brownback's administration about the board.

Before leaving for another "town hall" meeting in Norton, Rep. Huelskamp touched on the changes coming in banking. He said a new rule won't allow anyone to get a home mortgage without a 20 percent down payment. That and other new regulations will mean fewer community banks in rural America.

"We are going to have a major credit crisis in rural America because of new regulations," said Rep. Huelskamp.

Heading out the door to the next stop, he encouraged people to pray for him, for the leaders of the country and for the president. They face some major issues, he said, and they need some major guidance, or the country could be lost.

There's still time to cut spending and control the debt, he said, before it spirals out of control, but economists agree we need to act now.

Bringing the roof down



NEW OWNERS Jeff and Elizabeth Sprenkle have started tearing down the blue house at 302 W. Hall. The home, formerly owned by Nolan and Bobbi Jo Johnson, had been in the condemnation process by the city. The Sprenkles sent

a letter to the city saying they planned to tear down the main blue house and fix up the a little white one behind it at 205 S. Cass Ave. and the garage so they could use it for storage and visitors.
 — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

*Committee wants to hire director

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 asked why the school district was being ignored in asking for money. The committee had already asked the Oberlin City Council for money.

The school district, said Mr. Grafel, is letting the recreation committee use its facilities when needed. Terry Ream serves on the board serves representing the district.

The idea is to include all ages in recreation, said Mrs. Hissong. They want to look at a variety of things for all generations in the county,

she said, adding that she doesn't want people to perceive this as all for kids. The committee wants it to be diversified.

There is also some concern about families that can't afford to do certain things, said Mr. Addleman. They are looking into a scholarship to help families out. Activities also need to be added for the older generation.

Mr. McEvoy said he's in favor of doing something, but the commissioners just can't commit anything this year. He said the county can look at the budget for next year.

Commissioner Gene Gallentine said he thought they pretty much agreed to spend the money that they are already spending on the ball program in the future for recreation. That isn't \$15,000, though.

The committee knows there is going to have to be some fund raising, said Mrs. Hissong.

The commissioners said they could look at the budget for next year.

Mr. Unger asked if there is any interest in forming a recreation commission under the state law.

He also asked who would be re-

sponsible for financial administration of recreation money.

Mr. Hirsch said there was something he wanted to talk about, but didn't want it published in the newspaper.

The commissioners went into a 10-minute closed session for attorney/client privilege, which was extended another 10 minutes with the recreation committee members, commissioners, attorney and clerk. There was no action taken afterward.

*Senator talks about health care issues here

(Continued from Page 1A)
 "It seems like the federal government is all the time regulating against small business," Mr. Metcalf said.

Several people asked for help with Oberlin's doctor problem. One suggested lobbying Gov. Sam Brownback to allow doctors from Joplin, Mo., to get licensed and work in western Kansas.

"We're banging on the door of the KU Medical School to educate more general practitioners," Sen. Moran said.

However, he noted, it's harder for doctors to make a good living treating the elderly because of poor government reimbursement under Medicare and Medicaid.

He did promise to check with state Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer and Rep. Ward Cassidy, about the issue.

The senator said that he got acquainted with Mr. Cassidy after the fire at the Good Samaritan Center in St. Francis last year.

"He's a good guy," Mr. Moran, a former state legislator in the Hays area, said.

Leaving the community center and heading down the street, the senator talked to Janice Shobe, director of the Oberlin and Atwood Good Samaritan centers, about home health care for the elderly.

He also visited with former city Councilman Jay Anderson and current Councilman Jim Miesner and his wife Ruth.

"I've been telling my constituents you can't just support politicians who spend money," Mr. Moran said "Now, you have to support those who don't spend."

After visiting briefly in Stanley Hardware, the senator greeted several people outside, including Gary Anderson, owner of the LandMark Inn, who talked about the history of

Sappa Park.

The senator said he knew all about Sappa Park. He smiled as he reminisced how he got a \$6,000 earmark to re-roof the shelter house at the park.

No one in Washington knew what to do about a \$6,000 earmark,



he said. Getting one for \$600,000 would probably have been easier.

As he got in his little car to head for Hoxie to see more voters, Mr. Moran said he was driving himself and traveling without an aide. He admitted that, because of voting in the Senate, he hadn't been sure

if he would be able to make it to northwest Kansas on Friday. So, he said, he just planned to walk around downtown rather than setting up a meeting. That way, he said with a smile, if he couldn't make it, he wouldn't leave a bunch of people waiting on him at the courthouse.



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