

Sacrifices of our patriots paved the way to liberty

"The war was a longer, far more arduous, and more painful struggle than later generations would understand or sufficiently appreciate.... The year 1776, celebrated as the birth year of the nation ... was for those who carried the fight for independence forward a year of all-too-few victories, of sustained suffering ... as they would never forget, but also of phenomenal courage and bedrock devotion to country, and that too, they would never forget."
— David McCullough, 1776

Every year on the Fourth of July, Americans gather to enjoy backyard barbecues, parades and fireworks, and to celebrate our country's independence. We gather to express pride in our nation, and we gather to remind our children and grandchildren of the sacrifices made by previous generations, so we could have the opportunity to live in the freest and greatest nation in the world. With the birth of our country 235 years ago, our world changed forever. But in the years leading up to 1776, the fight for freedom in America was anything but certain and suffered many setbacks. In those first months of the war, thousands of men left their homes and families to take up arms and fight for a cause they believed in. They



On the Potomac

By Sen. Jerry Moran
jerry.moran@moran.senate.gov

risked all they had for the chance at a better life for themselves, their families and countrymen. During those early days in our country's history, Gen. George Washington spurred his troops on by saying "perseverance and spirit have done wonders in all ages." The American patriots fighting alongside him proved him right. With this same spirit of courage and sacrifice, we have an obligation to build upon our founding fathers' vision of America – a land where "all men are created equal" and are "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights ... life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." America still stands as a land of opportunity today because of the enduring power of the ideals upon which our country was founded. As citizens, we have a duty to defend those freedoms that generations of Americans have given their lives to

establish and protect. We have the responsibility to be good stewards of what we have been given so we can pass to the next generation the life we love and lead. Today, our nation's young men and women in uniform are still risking their lives to protect our own and to defend the principles we hold most dear. On this Fourth of July, we honor these brave men and women, and we express our gratitude for their courage, dedication to duty and love of country. We thank God for giving us these patriots – and those who fought for our freedoms more than 200 years ago. We are blessed to live in a nation where individuals volunteer to defend our country and our way of life – no matter the cost. And today we stand committed to preserving this nation for the sake of the next generation – so they, too, can pursue the American dream with freedom and liberty.

What a Fourth of July week!

It has been quite a Fourth of July weekend. It started and ended with quite a fireworks show. The storm Saturday night had the city crews out at 9 p.m. on Saturday. They finally went home at dark on Sunday for some much-needed rest, but returned Monday morning and worked through the rest of the weekend clearing streets and restoring power. We requested some help from surrounding towns, and crews from Goodland and Colby were here first thing Tuesday morning to help replace downed power poles and transformers in the downtown area. I was impressed by the way the people of this community pitched in to help their neighbors clean up downed branches, repair homes and whatever else was needed. The Golden Age Center was open for those that did not have their power or air conditioning on and people volunteered to help get folks there. I need to send a special thanks out to our city administrator, who saw to it that the crews all had cold water and had plenty to eat. Thanks to everyone! This week's council meeting will be the start of Budget Month. I am sure that there will be a couple of special meetings as well to discuss the budget for your city. These meet-



Mayor's Moment

By Bill Riedel
mayor@oberlinkansas.com

ings are a great way to understand what your tax dollars are spent on, and they are open to everyone. I feel as though with the increases in water rates needed to pay for the treatment plant required by the Environmental Protection Agency, we need to look at this year's budget for any opportunity to cut back on spending. The City Council, city administrator, city attorney and I will be doing our best to control cost while maintaining the services we have come to expect. Once again, I would like to invite everyone to attend a council or budget meeting this month. The council meets the first and third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m., and there will probably be special budget meetings the remaining Thursdays of July. Please call the city office for times. The fireworks show at the fairgrounds on Sunday was one of the best ever. Great job!

Once again, thanks to everyone who helped in any way with the storm. This is what makes us what we are.

Write

The Oberlin Herald encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author. Mail letters to 170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan., 67749, or by e-mail to oberlinherald@nwkansas.com. We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise. Letters will not be censored, but will be read and edited for form and style, clarity, length and legality. We will not publish attacks on private individuals or businesses which do not pertain to a public issue.

THE OBERLIN HERALD —

Sports

Headed for the other side



JENNA LONG OF OBERLIN was one of the swimmers at the Goodland meet on Saturday. The Oberlin Swim Club took a team to the meet, and next week will be at the Northwest Kansas League meet in Colby.

— Herald photo by Susan May.

Several games rescheduled

Several games were postponed last week for both the co-ed softball teams and the youth baseball teams. The June 30 co-ed games will be rescheduled later, probably sometime after harvest, said recreation director Joe Dreher. The Pony games for last Wednesday will be played this Thursday. Here are last week's results:

CO-ED
In co-ed softball action on June 26, Decatur Co-op downed Black Gold 21-8, 28-3, and Unger Chiropractic beat Sappa Valley Construction 21-4, 30-7.

PONY
The hometown boys beat Hoxie in two games June 27 in Oberlin. In the first match, Oberlin overcame Hoxie 7-3 and in the second 15-2. The boys will be at home tonight for a 6:30 p.m. doubleheader against WaKeeney in the last games of the regular season. Then on Saturday, the Oberlin Pony team will start tournament play in WaKeeney.

LITTLE LEAGUE
In Little League games, Farmers Bank and Trust beat Fredrickson Insurance 14-9 and downed Oberlin Well Service 4-3. Fredrickson bounced back and downed Crop Production Services 19-2 on June 28. This week on Tuesday, Fredrickson was to play Oberlin Well then Crop Production was to play Farmers Bank and Oberlin Well. Next Tuesday, Fredrickson will meet Farmers at 6:30 p.m. and Crop Production at 7:30 p.m. Farmers will go against Oberlin Well at 8:30 p.m.

T-BALL
Although the T-ballers don't keep score, they get to play every week, just like the big kids. Last week it was Raye's versus the Bank in the first game and Oberlin Livestock against Hansen Mueller in the second. This week on Tuesday, the Bank was to play Hansen Mueller while Raye's met up with Oberlin Livestock. Next week will be the last games for the T-ball teams. Raye's will play Hansen Mueller and Oberlin Livestock will go against the Bank.

Hays race is July 23

The Run for Life 5K will be Saturday, July 23, at the Center for Health Improvement at Hays Medical Center, promoting the need for organ, eye and tissue donation. The race begins at 8 a.m., with registration starting at 7:30. Deadline to register is Wednesday, July 20. Go to www.haysmed.com/runforlife or call (785) 623-5900.

Oberlin Red Devils plan football camp

The Decatur Community High Red Devils will hold a football camp next week for boys who want to play this fall. Coach J.D. Johnson said the camp will be from 8 to 10 a.m. daily next Wednesday to Friday, July 15. Boys who want to participate should call Coach Johnson at 475-2237 or e-mail jdjohnson@usd294.org.

THE OBERLIN HERALD

\$1,000

Shopping Spree



Next week we will start our \$1,000 shopping spree give away!!

One lucky person will win \$1,000 in scrip money to be used at any of our local sponsors.

If you want to be a sponsor, contact Tim Davis at 475-2206 and he can sign your business up.

The winner will be drawn at the *Back to School Social in the Oberlin City Park*

Remember, you can't win if you don't enter.

So shop with our sponsors and sign up!

Learn what's happening before the paper comes out

Part-time help needed



Work:

- Help with billing
- Page makeup
- Typing, proofing
- Customer service
- Fill in for vacations and sick leave
- Job could become full time later.

Must have good English skills and be computer literate. Apply in person at

THE OBERLIN HERALD
170 S. Penn Ave.
Oberlin, Kan. 67749
EOE (785) 475-2206