

THE OBERLIN HERALD

Wheat Harvest is coming

Guess when - win money

Guess when the first load of wheat arrives at the elevator and win \$50, \$35 or \$15 spendable at participating businesses



Personalized Grain Merchandising Service

There when you need us.

Wheat harvest is almost here and Hansen-Mueller's friendly and efficient staff and high speed facility are ready to serve you. If you brought us grain last year, thank you. We look forward to seeing you again. If you've never done business with us before, give us a chance to earn your business this year.

For Feed Yard Offers:
JP Worcester
800-383-6736

For Elevator Bids:
Joe Derauf
Janice O'Hare
785-475-3116

Group says why new pool needed

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

By now you have heard that a pool committee was formed in hopes of finding some way to replace Oberlin's current city pool.

There have been committees before ours that worked tirelessly to make a new pool a reality, but as one member said, it is not possible or feasible to have enough bake sales or rummage sales to raise the money. That would take years.

And the present pool does not have years left.

A site evaluation by Larkin Aquatics on March 29 found that the present pool does not meet access requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, nor do the bathhouse or two small pools. A lift, stairs and a sloped entry would be required.

Water loss is a large issue, as the surface skimmers (troughs) around the pool drain to the storm sewer. Last season alone, 3 million gallons of water literally went down the drain. That amount of water would have filled the main pool 15 times. It cost the city \$5,600 to heat the pool last season, and the boiler did not work a third of the season.

Neither the kiddie pool nor the baby pool has a filtration system, so they must be filled each day, wasting more water. Each should have a circulation and filtration system so chemicals can be adequate for public health.

In the main pool, the diving board is too high for the depth of water below it. The pool decking has areas that need to be addressed, tripping hazards and erosion of subgrade material. The main drain needs to meet safety requirements of the Virginia Graeme Baker Act, designed to prevent a child from being sucked down by the drain.

If you would like to see the full report, contact one of the pool committee members.

The inside of the current pool has to be sand blasted and repainted every five to six years at a cost of \$50,000. Swim meets used to be held in Oberlin and attended by clubs from area towns, but Oberlin was removed from the Northwest Kansas Swim League list because the pool is not the regulation length

of 25 yards.

Swim clubs in area towns would like to see Oberlin once again able to hold swim meets, as our City Park is a favorite place for families.

Our pool continues to deteriorate and we either work together to replace it or it will become a memory of the past. The most viable way to pay for a new pool is a sales-tax increase such as Cimarron, Phillipsburg, Norton, Colby and other Kansas towns have used.

Posters are placed around Oberlin with the pool design, costs and other information. The new pool would be in the same beautiful location and the bathhouse and pump house would be used in the new design. We are proposing a 1.5-cent increase in the sales tax, but this must be voted on by the citizens of Oberlin. Before we can bring it to a vote, we must receive the go-ahead from the City Council.

At the council meeting at 7 p.m. next Thursday, June 7, Sarah Steele from the bond law firm of Gilmore and Bell will explain the financial options to council members. We encourage everyone interested in a new pool to attend.

If the council agrees to allow the tax to be voted on, it would be placed on the November general election ballot for Oberlin citizens to decide. We hope this will be a time for our people to come together and not to kick the can down the road.

Please contact council members to express your support. We hope to see you at the meeting June 7. If you have questions, send them to obpoolproject@gmail.com or go to the website oberlinpoolproject.org, which has photos and all the up-to-date information.

Danielle Leitner, Erica Fortin, Sarah Howland, Shayla Williby, Stephanie Blau, Valisha Raile and Willard Perrin
Pool Committee Members

Article brought memories back

To the Editor:

I want to express appreciation to you and to Jody Betts for an item in the "75 Years Ago" piece in the April 25 *Oberlin Herald*.

The piece referenced the families of North Valley School surprising the students and their teacher, Miss Iris Moore. Iris (Moore) Hefty is my mother. She was born in a sod house in Decatur County and grew up in the Oberlin area. She lived there until 1938, when she moved to Bartlesville, Okla., and married my father, Paul Hefty. At almost 99, she still lives in Bartlesville.

I was sent a copy of the article and this week took it to Bartlesville and read it to her. Although her memories are sometimes dim these days, she really enjoyed the article and smiled broadly as she recalled that

time 75 years past. Thank you for maintaining this sense of history.

I am a retired Kansas teacher, and during my career I created a "first-person character" from history based on my grandmother, Almina Jeanette, Iris's mother. School children were fascinated every year when I assumed the character of Nettie and told them stories of living in a sod house in Decatur County in the early part of the century and through the Dust Bowl days.

These stories came from my first teacher, this same Iris Moore of North Valley School. This piece of history reminded me of these stories, and I appreciate *The Herald's* dedication to the history of its community. Thanks again.

Rosalind (Hefty) Price, Olathe

Woman praises hospital and its staff

To the Editor:

Earlier this month, on a Tuesday afternoon, I became very ill; I thought I was going to have a stroke. Usually, when I am sick I tough it out, but I knew this was serious, so I drove myself down to the hospital. On the way, I almost passed out because I was so sick.

When I arrived, I was given immediate care and helped to the emergency room area. I was so impressed with the nurses, doctor and the other professionals. I have to admit, I have never had so much "wonderful" attention. Everyone treated me with respect, care and concern. I relaxed as best I could. In the past, I've worked in many care facilities and

in private homes, and this hospital rates at the top of my list.

I'm impressed with Decatur County Hospital and every employee. Actually, after staying there overnight, I think of each one as my friend and helper now.

Next week, I'll be having two procedures done there and another short stay. I will be able to do this with complete confidence in the entire staff. I feel like I can trust them and not be fearful. It's a turnaround for me; usually I am the helper and caretaker.

I believe that they saved my life!

Susan Rynearson, Oberlin

**Need extra cash?
Use the classifieds
to sell your stuff.
475-2206**