

## Group moves forward on pool

By RAMELL TAYLOR  
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Bylaws were accepted, officers were elected and a resolution to issue revenue bonds to construct a new swimming pool in Oberlin was approved at a meeting of Oberlin's new Public Building Commission on Thursday.

The meeting took place at The Gateway after Mayor Rob McFee appointed new members Brandon Oein and Sarah How-

land during a City Council meeting, which continued while the commission members went off to their own meeting.

Only three of the five commission members were present, Bob Ross, Mrs. Howland and former Mayor Ken Shobe.

A set of proposed bylaws was accepted. Officers were then elected, with Mr. Shobe as president, Mr. Ross as vice president and Mrs. Howland as secretary.

When it came time to review a resolution

for the new pool project, Mr. Ross said the meeting should be postponed until all five members could be present to discuss business.

Since having three members present is considered a quorum, Mr. Shobe ruled, the meeting could not be postponed.

In an effort to accommodate the request, Mrs. Howland said she would call a fourth commission member, Colleen Gee, to attend via teleconference. Mrs. Gee answered

and joined the meeting.

Mr. Ross said he was "no way" for the construction of a new pool. He suggested the city should rebuild the existing pool.

Mr. Shobe said since the City Council already had agreed to build a new pool, the suggestion of rebuilding the old pool would be out of the commission's jurisdiction. Mr. Ross disagreed.

"We don't have to decide to approve (bonds) for a new pool," Mr. Ross said. "The

vote (approved) was for a tax increase."

However, the proposed resolution declared it necessary to construct a new swimming pool, issuing revenue bonds not to exceed \$2,150,000 for the purpose of paying all or part of the cost.

A motion was passed unanimously to approve the pool project and issue the bonds. Despite the sometimes heated discussion earlier, Mr. Ross seconded the motion and voted for it.

### Cool summertreats



ONE MEMBER PREPARED a drink as Pam Wilson (center) of the Decatur Professional Women handed a straw to a customer Friday. The group is selling root-beer floats and limeades from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Friday through

August in front of the old Addleman Drug Store building downtown on Penn Ave. Donations go to a scholarship fund for high school seniors.

— Herald staff photos by Ramell Taylor

## City gets loan to pay for water system

By RAMELL TAYLOR  
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The Oberlin City Council agreed to go through the U.S. Department of Agriculture to finance its \$6.8 million water project at a meeting Thursday.

City Administrator Karen Larson said the department gave the city until June 14 to commit to loan terms. No amount has been determined for the loan.

She said the council could go through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for the loan, but the interest rate for the federal loan is 2.125 percent, while the state interest rate is twice that, 4.25 percent.

The Agriculture Department also agreed to refinance the city's general obligation bond at the same interest rate, while the state would not.

Mrs. Larson was given permission to accept the terms on behalf of the city.

City Foreman Dan Castle reviewed a rebuilding project for city power lines. He said the work will be done by Dan Sherman from IDS Electric out of Holdrege, Neb.

He said the plan is to rebuild the lines over a 10-year period, spending \$150,000 each year, and the city has already allocated money in the budget.

"There are six areas where we want to start to rebuild (this year),"

Mr. Castle said. "It would take seven weeks of labor, costing \$135,000."

During the project, he said, nearly everyone will have an outage at some point because of the transfer from the old lines to the new ones. He said he would give a presentation to the council to show progress of the new lines.

Mr. Castle also reviewed the plan to repair the city's power plant, which he says still would not support all of Oberlin should we have a blackout.

"There is no way to produce enough power during the hottest part of the day," he said. "Not with everyone's air-conditioning units running."

Mr. Castle said in order to make the power plant supply the whole town, they need to double the power of the cooling capacity.

The current cooling unit cost \$40,000, he said, and a new one would cost anywhere from \$60,000 to \$80,000.

The idea of raising electric bills one cent per kilowatt was to use half of the money as financial reserve for power-plant repairs, Mr. Castle said.

In other business:  
• Shayla Williby of the Oberlin Swim Club asked permission to hold an open swim meet from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, July 11. (See WATER on Page 7A)

## Flag retirement ceremony planned

By RAMELL TAYLOR  
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On Flag Day, this Friday, the Oberlin American Legion Post will demonstrate how to properly destroy tattered, old, soiled or faded flags at a ceremony beginning 6 p.m. at City Park.

Anyone with a tattered flag can bring it to a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, as they are collecting flags to be used in the ceremony.

Along with the flag presentation, people can see a demonstration by martial arts instructor Snake Blocker and listen to the sounds of DJ Full Throttle. The Legion Riders,

a motorcycle group, will provide food for a donation.

Ruth Miesner, president of the Legion Auxiliary, says this event has not been done before in Oberlin.

Recent events conducted by the Legion included Memorial Day services, which included a display of decorated Legion Rider motorcycles, as well as one of uniforms and weapons presented by Legion member John Bremer.

The Legion is responsible for the 244 flags that fly during the Avenue of Flags on Memorial Day, all of which were donated by the families of fallen veterans, she said.

Flags are selected in reverse order, starting with the most recent donation. Legion volunteers carefully store all donated flags in large wooden cases until they prepare to fly them on Memorial Day.

Proper flag etiquette during Memorial Day is quickly raising the flag to the top in the morning, then slowly lowering the flag to half staff, then raising the flag to the top once again at noon, according to a pamphlet put out by the Veterans of Foreign Wars on flag hanging etiquette.

The rules for proper use and display that the Legion will demonstrate next week can be traced back

to Public Law 94-344, approved by Congress and signed by the president in 1976.

In celebrating Flag Day, everyone is encouraged to decorate in the colors of red, white, and blue. Bunting a flag for decoration is acceptable as long as it falls free. Flags should never be used as drapery, festooned, drawn back or in folds, however. Colors should begin with blue, followed by white, then red.

Hanging the flag on a wall is acceptable in either a horizontal or vertical manner as long as the union is at the top. On a staff projecting from a building, the union should be at the peak of the staff.

## Tournament set to help sick teacher

Softball players can come to compete for a good cause at a tournament at the Oberlin field Saturday, June 29, to raise money for Sherri Ruf, a popular teacher and coach at Oberlin Schools, who is undergoing medical treatment.

Dana and Chase Juenemann, longtime friends of the Ruf family, are putting together the tournament, with all proceeds going to help pay Mrs. Ruf's expenses.

Coed teams can register for \$150 for the double-elimination tournament. Mrs. Juenemann said she's expecting the event will have eight teams, but

she would be open to adding more if needed.

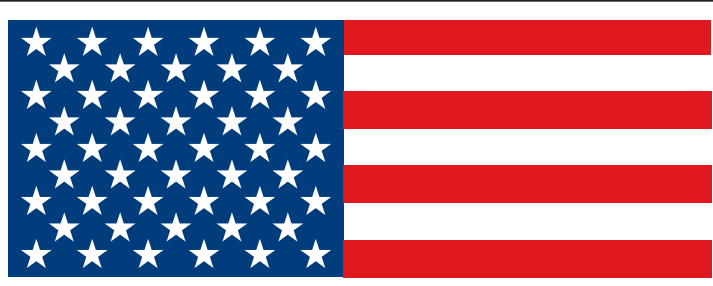
Children 15-18 can participate with a parent's consent.

Mrs. Juenemann said she is looking for businesses who would like to be involved. She said she wants to provide food, as well as T-shirts, to the winners.

Registration ends Saturday, June 22. Teams looking to register and businesses looking to get involved can call Mrs. Juenemann at (785) 470-0299 or e-mail her at dansat14@hotmail.com.



Sherri Ruf



### Flag inserted into paper

Inside today's Oberlin Herald is an American Flag banner you can put up in your window. Many people like to display it between Flag Day, June 14, and the Fourth of July. The flag is provided by our sponsors, including Hansen Mueller, Hirsch and Mahoney, Johnson Realty, the Carpet Center, Raye's Grocery, Great Northwest Insurance Agency,

Decatur County Title and Abstract, United Northwest Federal Credit Union, The Bank, Creative Collision, the Decatur Cooperative Association, Crop Production Services, Golt Home Planning Center, Ultimate Fertilizer, Decatur Health Systems, Acme Touch Printing, Amanda Sowers Photography and The Oberlin Herald.

## Representative looks back at contentious legislative session

By KEVIN BOTTRELL  
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Much like last year, the 2013 Kansas Legislature proved contentious, with deadlocks and rejected proposals pushing the session nine days past its 90-day limit. This time, however, the issue wasn't congressional redistricting; it was the state budget and taxes.

Now back at his St. Francis home after the session, Rep. Ward Cassidy said he is writing a column looking back on how the session went.

"There were some things I liked and some things I

didn't," Cassidy added.

The representative said he thought his major accomplishment for the session was helping to reverse a budget cut for community and technical colleges. Higher education was set to get a 1.5 percent across-the-board cut, he said.

Cassidy said he did not like the fact that four-year colleges — especially Fort Hays State University — still got cut.

"When you vote for a budget, you do it because there are things in it you like," he explained. "There are also

things you don't like."

Public schools did not get cut this year, he said, and may be in line for a \$10 to \$12 increase in base aid next year, depending on how a lawsuit against the state turns out. That lawsuit, brought by a collection of school districts, alleges that the state has failed to fund schools as guaranteed under the Kansas Constitution.

"I don't agree with that lawsuit," Cassidy said, adding that if the courts find in favor of the districts, the Legislature may need a special session to decide how to increase the budget.

"I think the schools will win that," he said. "Then the question is: 'How much money and where do we get it?'"

It certainly doesn't fit into the governor's tax plan."

The bottom line on the tax plan, Cassidy said, is that the state sales tax rate will drop from 6.3 percent to 6.15 in a compromise between the House and Senate.

(See LEGISLATOR on Page 7A)

