
Club Sees \$4 Million Health Department Plans



Mike Echelle

Public Health official Mike Echelle showed Rotary Club members drawings Tuesday of plans for a new \$3.7 to \$4 million Pittsburg County Health Department, to be part of the health complex area in McAlester.

Echelle who is head of the Health Departments in Pittsburg, Pontotoc, Atoka and Coal Counties, said the building should be started in the spring of 2006 and be completed by the summer of 2007. It will be located on the southeast corner of Strong and Monroe, (or College Avenue.)

Echelle said the 31,000-square-foot building would be financed by state bonds and "existing funds."

The building will be linked to the Center for Disease Control and the State Department of Health and can be used "if we have a major problem" in the area.

One of the parking lots will have "hookups" for a mobile health van, that could be used in an emergency. Another parking lot will be designed for "Drive-by Vaccinations" for persons who have trouble getting out of their cars.

Echelle mentioned that representatives of the Center For Disease Control were in this area for six weeks, during a pneumonia outbreak.

The area was an unused part of Oak Hill Cemetery, which was transferred by the city of McAlester, to the County Health Department, the health official reported.

There would be 68 employees, including the present 48 at the present County Health Department, plus "regional people," like state nursing home inspectors, he stated.

The main lobby will seat 75 people; the restrooms will have showers, for use of the staff, if they need to work an "over 8-hour day;" nurses will have work stations "to interact with patients;" there will be 10 exam rooms; and each wing will have a "Team Room."

The new health facility will have a storage area for 2,000 to 4,000 medical records, an audiology area, a "play

Club Gets Lesson on Energy

Club members got a lesson in Economics, Tuesday before last, but fortunately we didn't have a quiz. The teacher was Robert C. Dauffenbach and the lesson was on "Energy," he said. But it was mostly on gasoline and oil prices.

Gas prices in the early 1980s, adjusted for inflation and other factors, were less at their highest, than gas prices today, he said.

Inflation can be measured using the Consumer Price Index or the Gross Domestic Implicit Price Deflator, the economic expert related.

But the latter makes a 1 percent "overstatement." He listed several biases and discussed two of them. One is quality, and an example is the automobile. They cost more, but they have "a lot of things" which are made better.

An example of a "new goods bias" is the computer, as compared to the typewriter.

He showed the chart of a new index in 1967, in which

the blue line, (the Consumer Price Index,) was 24 percent higher than the red line, which was the Gross Domestic Implicit Price Deflater.

So although the "real price" of gasoline is the same today as it was at the height of the oil crisis, the average income is a lot higher. "You can get a lot more stuff" with your paycheck, he pointed out.

In 1983 gasoline consumers used 100 billion gallons a year. Today they use 150 billion. But total spending is \$7.15 trillion, the speaker stated.

Production of oil in the U.S. in 1983 was 8.5 million barrels per day. But the U.S. usage was 12 billion barrels a day. The difference is what was imported.

Today, with 15.5 billion barrels usage, 10 billion barrels are imported. But U.S. usage is more efficient. Big cars get 24 miles per gallon. And natural gas usage is 9 billion.

Energy

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Oklahoma's production of oil would provide four days of the national consumption, the expert said.

In the meantime, China consumed 45 percent of the concrete last year. Nations like this will increase their demands for energy in the future. All that will add to the price of gasoline in the next five to 10 years. But \$3 gas is a small percent of the Consumer Price Index, and the consumer is expected to continue to pay it, he said.

In Canada, the price of gasoline was \$3 a gallon, three years ago, adjusted for differences in the two types of money.

Asked if an alternative fuel could be developed, he said he could not imagine which alternative energy would replace oil. However, President Bush signed a new energy bill, he noted.

Dauffenbach is the associate dean of Research and Graduate Programs and director of the Center for Economic and Management Research at the Price College of Business at Oklahoma University.

New Members



Iva Due



Shirley Fleming

Attendance Visitors, and Handshakers

Last week there were 50 at the meeting. David Winnett was a guest of Jack Chatenay.

The previous week there were 53 attending. Nicholas Santine was as guest of Clem.

On Aug. 2, the attendance was 52. James Beaty, Kitty Edwards, Shaun Eldon, and Jim Mills were guests of Lynn Edwards. Karl Edwards was a guest of Don Harris.

The women are winning the Rotary Commemorative Coins. If it was real money you could understand.

New member Iva Due won last week when Doug Auld was the handshaker. Loise Washington won Aug. 2, when Richard Lerblance was handshaker. Dick Dudley was the winner on Aug. 9.

Health Department

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therapy" area with observation rooms for parents, evaluation rooms, a dental exam room, vision screening, and a pharmacy area so medicine can be stored.

Echelle said finding the location was "nothing formal," but that health officials "looked at all sites.....spotted a piece of land.....and put all our eggs in one basket."

Echelle said it will be a "very, very nice facility, one you can be proud of."

Stroo Tells MEDS' Record

In the past five years, seven new businesses have located in McAlester, hiring 810 employees and bringing a \$38 million payroll to the city, MEDS President Chuck Stroo said at the August 2 meeting.

Chuck is president of the McAlester Economic Development Service. He came here with the Defense Ammunition Center School which was moved to the ammo plant here from Savanna, Ill. He is the Associate Director of Training at DAC.

In addition to helping locate the new businesses, MEDS helped four local firms expand, to provide 20 new jobs and put an additional \$14 million dollars into the economy. The local sales tax receipts also have had a large increase, due to the opening of Lowe's and several other new businesses in the city, Stroo said.

MEDS wants to project a positive welcoming attitude to prospective business and industry that may want to locate in the city, the speaker stressed. MEDS promotes economic development by "making the economic pie larger." This is done by attracting new industry, Stroo said. The economic development group also works with existing industry to help them plan and finance expansions.

There are many leaders who have worked with MEDS, he said.

Stroo said the "main thrust areas" for MEDS are:

1. Marketing and to communicate McAlester as a business friendly market.
2. To assist a developing effort with the chamber of commerce and other economic development groups.
3. Prospect development.
4. Service to existing industries.

District 6110 Dates

September 16-18, 2005 . District Conference, Inn of the Ozarks, Eureka Springs
September 16th, 2005 . . DG Ed's 4th annual Rotary Foundation Golf Outing
September 21-25, 2005 . Zone 28-29 Meeting, Memphis, TN
February 16-23, 2006 . International Assembly, San Diego, California, USA
March 6, 2006RYLA Applications Due