

## Doctor Outlined County Sales Tax Use, Purposes



Dr. Jim Dunagin

Dr. Jim Dunagin told us three weeks ago about the county sales tax election, and he must have been convincing.

Jim, who was on the Pittsburg County Progress Committee, talked to several clubs and organizations, and

voters passed the 3/4ths of a cent tax on Oct. 11.

The McAlester ophthalmologist said the county jail is overcrowded and has health violations cited by the state. The courthouse has problems of overcrowding and accessibility, he said. The courthouse has been cited by the State Fire Marshal. Fines for these violations might be added to the property taxes as “the only alternative,” if the sales tax were not passed, the doctor said.

An animal shelter for all the towns’ animal control

officers would help eliminate the dumping of unwanted animals, which now poses a health threat, as well as the possibility of rabies.

The committee had proposed using a sales tax to buy the former Public Service building next door, to pay for a major addition to the jail, and for an animal control shelter.

A new courthouse would cost \$4.5 million more, Jim said.



Jail

A 3/4ths of a cent county sales tax will provide a temporary 1/2 of a cent for all the construction. The tax would expire when it pays off the bonds.

The tax would give 3/16ths of a cent for operation  
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## Coach Sees Bright Future For ‘Young Ladies In Athletics’

McAlester High School Girls’ Softball Coach Mike Jarman told us last week that “the sky is the limit...for young ladies in athletics.” However he added another saying, “If you build it they will come,” and said he has some renovation plans for the Bud Hale Youth Sports Complex.



Mike Jarman

Jarman said he was a loan officer in a bank until his daughter started playing softball when she was six years old. Then his son developed into a left-handed pitcher.

He started coaching 16 years ago. The Lady Buffs’ Softball team was 12-24, “against some state 5A teams.

“We play the best competition and we play them well,” he said. Jarman called the team “very exciting to watch.”

The coach said the baseball and softball complex is “kind of run down.” He has plans for a new press box and concession stand, he reported.

“They say if you build it they will come....We’ve got some plans for renovation...And we’re proud of our plan.

Coach Jarman said that “the sky is the limit” for women’s sports, today, and that he is proud of McAlester’s women athletes.

The high school has hired some “sharp individuals” as coaches. There are 40 girls out for basketball, and baseball is doing well, he said.

“I have the fire to be a coach,” he stated. “And I say why not McAlester?” he added.

# Club Hears About Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation

Tim Yaciuk, Director of Development for the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, told us Oct 11 about the background and the research projects of the foundation.

The research foundation was chartered in 1946 and opened in 1950, Yaciuk said.

The foundation has 612 employees. It has added 192 over the past five years.

The main focus of the research is on alzheimer's, diabetes, obesity, lupus, stroke and heart attack. However it includes such projects as the Small Animal MRI, the Elegans "worm lab" and the "Mouse House."

Yaciuk told about "the best new drug of the year" in 2001, called Xigris. It is used for treating sepsis. Cerovive protects the brain from stroke damage, he said. And OncoVue is used like a mouthwash, in a test for breast can-

cer. The speaker also listed several drugs which the center is researching.

Dr. Jordan Tang, who is researching Alzheimer treatment, has had several compounds approved for use.

The research foundation's Education Programs include "Junior Scientist Days," the Fleming Scholar Program which selects 12 to 14 from 500 applicants each year, the Foundation Scholar Program and the J. Donald Capra Graduate Student Scholarship Fund.

He also told about a program sponsored by more than 500 Oklahoma wheat producers, in which they pledge a percentage of the profits from their crops to the foundation.

The foundation official said there are several memorial plans and all the money stays in Oklahoma. He also said that any gift after Jan. 1 can be claimed on a person's state tax return.

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Court House

of the jail and 1/16ths of a cent for operation of the animal shelter.

There are 21 parking spaces at the old PSO building, and there

are two vaults inside that can be used. The building is "reasonable priced and available."

Any extra space at the county jail can be rented, the speaker said

The doctor said that six of the seven counties around this county already have sales taxes of 3/4ths of a cent or more. Pittsburg County has been one of only 10 counties in the state without a sales tax. Most of them have taxes at or above one cent.

In addition, a large part of our sales tax revenue comes from out-of-county visitors or tourists, he said. This amounts to a "substantial discount" on the cost of the projects, he added.

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## District 6110 Dates

February 16-23, 2006 . International Assembly, San Diego, California, USA  
March 6, 2006 . . . . .RYLA Applications Due  
March 17-18, 2006 . . . . .Presidents-Elect Training Seminar (P.E.T.S.), Peabody Hotel, Little Rock, AR  
March 30-April 2, 2006 The 16th annual RYLA camp  
June 11-14, 2006 . . . . .International Convention, Malmö, Sweden/Copenhagen, Denmark

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## Attendance Visitors, and Handshakers

Last week, there were 49 in attendance. The two guests were the Good Citizens from McAlester High School. They are Jared Walters and Andrea Sellmeyer.

On Oct. 11 there were 56 members and guests. Visitors were Mary Harris, guest of Don Harris, Brent Yates, guest of Ronnie May, and Gary Boyd had Rusty McMullen as a guest. John Tucker is a Rotarian in waiting.

On Oct. 4, there were 62 in attendance. Visitors were Helen Wheeler, guest of Mary Hefebain; Merrie Brenner, guest of Phil; Brent Yates, guest of Ronnie May; David Winnete, guest of Jack Chatenay; and Mary Harris, guest of Don. Shayne Javersak also had a guest.

HANDSHAKERS-Everyone knows the women and the bankers control the money. But they also control the Rotary Commemorative Coins, just to remind us. On Oct. 4, Jim Pratt gave the coin to Becky Williams. On Oct. 11, Ann Owens gave it to Shirley Fleming, and on Oct. 18, Dick Dudley gave the coin to Roi Nelson.