

## NEW PONY LEAGUE PROGRAMS PLANNED

The Jackson City Recreation Department is looking for junior high students, whether in Jackson, Wellston or Oak Hill, who wants to play baseball and softball when school is out for the summer.

Jackson Mayor Randy Heath said the city recreation department would like to create a summer recreation league for the month of June for all boys and girls who live in Jackson County and are 13 or 14 years of age.

Any boy who was 13 or 14 years of age this past May 1 or any girl who was 13 or 14 years old this past January 1 is eligible to sign up.

Heath said games would be from Tuesday, May 30 through Friday, June 30. He said the games would be played Monday through Thursday so as not to interfere with teams or players on those teams that play in tournaments on the weekends.

He stressed that those players who play on traveling teams are most welcome to play in this league as well.

He said the teams would be divided up by school districts if there is enough interest in the Jackson, Oak Hill and Wellston school districts. If not, the teams will be divided up equally.

He stressed, though, for the league to be a reality, there has to be sufficient interest.

"I know a number of girls played in junior high softball leagues this spring from Jackson, Wellston and Oak Hill, and this summer league gives them the opportunity to not only keep improving their skills, even if they are playing on travel teams, but to have a fun, positive experience with their teammates and classmates once summer starts," said Jackson Mayor Randy Heath, who also serves as the city recreation director.

"I also want to stress, if they play on other teams that play on weekends, such as travel ball teams, they can still play in these leagues as well," he noted. "This is for everyone this age, from those who maybe never played before to those who are very accomplished."

Heath said he believes efforts are being made to form junior high teams for the boys in the Oak Hill and Wellston areas. He said any boy from Jackson who wishes to play should pick up a registration form in the Jackson Mayor's office on Broadway Street.

It is possible teams from Jackson County will play teams from Vinton County and others, as well as teams from the county.

He said all girls registrations will be done through the mayor's office. He said if there is anyone who would like to coordinate signing up girls from Wellston and Oak Hill, to please call his office at 286-3224 as soon as possible.

"I truly hope there is sufficient interest to have a program for this age group," the mayor stressed. "I think it is important we make every opportunity for these young people to play, especially for those who want to play and don't have the opportunity or resources to play on travel teams. This provides for them an excellent opportunity and a very positive outlet for their weekday summer evenings."