



# Welcome Home

Hospital Clinic Lab Wheat Ridge Terrace  
Cedar Living Center Community  
Cottonwood Home Health Care



Dr. Stephen Albert



Sean Conroy PA-C



Lynnetta Ward APRN-BC



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# Decatur hospital practice to purchased

By Kimberly Davis

The Oberlin Herald  
k.davis@nwkansas.com

While it's been a year of changes for the Decatur County Hospital, the staff hasn't ever stopped providing 24-hour care, seven days a week.

Early in March, the Hospital purchased the business of the Oberlin Medical Arts Clinic, housed in an adjacent county-owned building.

Before that, the hospital had been running its own Family Practice Clinic out of the Specialty Clinic in the hospital with Dr. Leslie Daly and Robin Williamson, a nurse practitioner, treating patients.

Later in March, said hospital Administrator Lynn Doeden, the Family Practice moved to the old Medical Arts building. Throughout the process, the medical staff continued to care for patients, taking appointments and provided emergency room care around the clock. When the staff was short, the clinic was also covered by temps from Docs Who Care, she said.

The hospital hired Sean Conroy, a physician assistant, in July, and in September, Dr. Steven Albert, who had worked in Oberlin once before.

Since the purchase of the Medical Arts business, Doeden said, the hospital now runs just one lab and one X-ray department for both the hospital and Family Practice Clinic. Doeden said they had to add staff to the lab.

Tricia Carney, a nurse practitioner from Colby, works at the clinic every other week on Tuesdays.

In December, the hospital hired Lynetta Ward, a nurse practitioner, who started to see patients in January.

With a doctor and three "midlevels" at the hospital and clinic, said Doeden, the hospital has stopped using Docs Who Care at the clinic. Two weekends a month, they still hire the firm, allowing Dr. Albert to have some time off. The doctors aren't actually in town during those weekends, she said, but can support the midlevels if needed.

In November, the staff resumed going to Norcatour and Jennings every other Tuesday for outreach clinics.

The hospital continues to offer specialty clinics with traveling doctors each week. Those include surgery, foot, heart and bone specialists. Doeden said she is talking with an oncologist from Hays about seeing patients here.

Also new this year, she said, the hospital is working with doctors in Kearney to do office visits for patients over a video system.

The patient would come to the Decatur County Hospital, said Doeden, and be able to talk to and see a doctor in Kearney. So far, she said, one patient has used the service.

Doeden said the patient asked if the hospital here could provide the service, as her fam-



- **Beds** – 24 as Critical Access Hospital, 37 long-term nursing care.
- **Revenue 2011** – \$6,359,165, expenses of \$7,150,969.
- **Loss 2011** – \$791,804.
- **County Money** – \$197,154.
- **Providers** – One doctor, one physician assistant, two nurse practitioners.
- **Administrator** – Lynn Doeden.
- **Phone** – (785) 475-2208.

ily was traveling to Norton for it.

A new digital mammogram machine is in and ready for use, the administrator said, adding that the hospital has done 16 of the tests already.

The hospital will have a new CT Scanner in April. She said the board decided to buy the machine to help provide newer technology for the patients.

Another change, said Doeden, is that they took out a wall to expand the fitness room. The room offers treadmill, stationary bike, stair stepper, elliptical and weights for people to use for \$20 a month.

Doeden said the hospital has 121 full-time, part-time and as-needed employees. She said they have a few who are only called to work when needed.

Besides the Family Practice Clinic, the hospital also operates Cedar Living Center, a 37-bed nursing home; Wheat Ridge Terrace senior apartments; and Cottonwood Home Health Care.

Twenty-seven people living at Cedar Living Center with room for 10 more, she said.

A deluxe bathtub with jets was put in last year for residents. Also, said Doeden, they are offering family-style meals, but with a choice between two entrees at breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Wheat Ridge Terrace has 12 apartments, but only one is empty right now.

In 2011, said Doeden, the hospital had 1,447 inpatients, down 609 from the previous year.

She said there's no way to compare numbers for the Family Practice Clinic, as Oberlin Medical Arts was a private business and didn't have to share numbers.

Doeden said she knows the number of patients being seen at the Family Practice Clinic is up, though, because in January 2011, they saw 266 patients and in December 501.



Opened in 2011, the new entrance to the Rawlins County Health Center includes a welcoming waiting room and up-to-date reception area able to serve both new and refurbished areas of the complex. – Marian Ballard/Colby Free Press

## Rawlins Health Center nearly a brand-new place

By Marian Ballard

Colby Free Press  
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The Rawlins County Health Center has undergone so many changes in recent years, it could be difficult today to recognize the original structure, which dated from the early 1950s.

The center raised an \$8 million fund that included a loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Administration, tax-credit grants from the state of Kansas and a Community Development Block Grant. A multi-stage capital project began in 2010 involving both new construction and refurbishing the existing structure, along with updating

equipment. It's now in its final phase, conversion of the old patient wing to serve as a clinic and converting the old emergency room into space for a CT scanner.

Further plans include a new lab on the main level. A chapel is included in future plans, marking a change from the medical-only model prevalent when the hospital was first built, according to Amber Withington, public relations director for the hospital.

With construction still underway, a new entrance and admissions area opened in 2011, along with a new cardiac rehabilitation center.

Just a few weeks ago, a new patient wing

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