

# Council looks to save cash on health insurance

The Oberlin City Council heard a cost-saving suggestion at its meeting Thursday night that dependents would be covered under employee health insurance but not spouses. Councilman Jerry Fidele made the suggestion to cover all of the employee's insurance, their kids and not cover the spouses. He said that most of the spouses work and may be covered by their employers. Mr. Fidele said that there are seven employ-

ees who are single and 10 who have kids. The council has been looking at changing what type of insurance coverage the city pays for the past few months. In April, the city's plan will come up and be renewed with a 22 percent increase on the policy. Councilmen Stan McEvoy and Fidele are on a committee to research the policy with Blue Cross/Blue Shield. They found that young people cost less to

cover and that obstetrics is an expensive part of the plans. At a council meeting Jan. 4, Mr. McEvoy said he had the idea to drop the obstetrics, but the company doesn't allow this. The council is looking at another option suggested by Mr. McEvoy at the first meeting of the month. They would pay all of the employee's insurance and then half of the family plan. They would then give the employee a

one-time raise to cover the difference of what they would need to pay for insurance. The council did not decide what option to go with or what to do about the insurance, although they did say that City Administrator Gary Shike should look into other options with the company and look for other insurance companies that would be cheaper. Mr. McEvoy said that he felt something needs to be decided before they begin working on next year's budget in August.

Councilman Marvin Matchett said that one way to know for budget purposes is to change the renewal to more of a fiscal year schedule, meaning that it would come up in December. This is something that the council has discussed in the past. The council made no decision at their meeting, but asked Mr. Shike to look at other companies which may be cheaper. The issue was tabled until the February meeting.



**UNDERSHERIFF RANDY McHUGH** investigated an accident about 8:30 a.m. Thursday morning. This pickup slipped off the icy road a couple of miles southwest of Oberlin and ended up in a snow-covered field on its side. — Herald staff photo by Jeanette Krizek

## Grandson to officiate at banker's funeral

Funeral services will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday at Faith Lutheran Church for longtime Oberlin banker Carl L. Frickey, 82, who died Saturday at Decatur County Hospital.



**Carl Frickey**

His grandson, the Rev. Mark Frickey, will officiate and burial will be at the Oberlin Cemetery. After graduating from Decatur Community High School in 1935, Mr. Frickey joined Farmers National Bank of Oberlin that fall. He worked there until his retirement Dec. 31, 1985. He was elected chairman in 1965 and held that office until 1993. He continued to serve as a director of the bank until 1997, when it was sold to Gold Bank.

near Oberlin. The Frickeys were among the first members of Faith Lutheran Church in Oberlin when it was organized and he remained a member throughout his life. His wife died June 15, 1982. He married Hazelle E. (Olson) Harding, a friend from high school days, on Dec. 24, 1986. Mr. Frickey was a member and past president of the Oberlin Rotary Club and a member of Mountain Slope Masonic Lodge, the Oberlin Shrine Club and other civic and fraternal organizations. He was active in efforts to bring a television station and an FM radio station to this area.

He also was associated with the Farmers Loan and Abstract Co. and the Reserve Building and Loan Association in Oberlin, first with R.F. Landau and then with Boyd Bainter, and was also engaged in farming. He was born Jan. 25, 1918, at Oberlin, the son of Charles Lewis and Ada May (Toops) Frickey. He married Doreen L. Nitsch on Oct. 27, 1940, at St. John's Lutheran Church

Survivors include his wife, Hazelle, Bellevue, Wash.; a sister, Ura Hinkle, West Lafayette, Ind.; two sons, Charles and wife, Diane Frickey, Oberlin, and Philip and wife, Mary Bernard, Oakland, Calif.; a daughter, Michele and Robert Scherzer, Rockport, Texas; and six grandchildren. He was also preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Berta Fore.

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Memorials have been established to the Decatur Area Development Fund and the Decatur County Hospital. Contributions may be sent to Pauls Funeral Home, 121 N. Penn, Oberlin, Kan., 67749.

## Commissioners, county attorney get new official going

Pat Glenn was sworn into office as a Decatur County commissioner Tuesday morning before the regular commission meeting. Commissioner Glenn wasted no time jumping into the job, asking questions about how things run and signing pre-pays for the county. Commissioners Doyle Brown and Ralph Unger both offered to help the new commissioner. Part of the morning was spent telling Commissioner Glenn about the state Open Meetings Act and why they can and can't hold closed sessions. County Attorney Steve Hirsch told her the various reasons why they can have the sessions but said that the county normally only closes the doors for discussions on

attorney/client privileges and non-elected personnel. Commissioner Brown told her that they normally divide up the responsibilities as far as attending outside meetings. For example, he goes to hospital board meetings and she asked her if she would like to go to the fair board meetings. The commissioners met with Register of Deeds Judy Gaumer, who requested a five-minute closed session for non-elected personnel. After the session, it was announced that Pat Whetzel, who served as the register of deeds for the last 26 years, had been hired as a deputy register. Mrs. Whetzel will make \$350 a month and will work as needed.

In other business, commissioners: • Talked with Bob Berls, county maintenance man, who said that Sunday the snow blower died and he and Gaylen Huntley, county weed director, shoveled part the grounds around the courthouse. He said they tried to get in touch with the commissioners to get permission to buy a snow blower. They couldn't get a hold of anyone, so they decided to go to Stanley Hardware and buy one which was on sale. The commissioners said in that situation, he had made the right decision. • Heard from County Road Supervisor Tim Stallman, who said the county crew had gotten all the snow plowing

in the county done with no problems. He said that with the weather the past few months, they have been delayed in putting a new bridge in Olive Township. • Held a 10-minute closed session for attorney-client privilege with all commissioners, county clerk, county attorney and Sheriff Ken Badsy present. No action was taken. • Signed a participation form for the firefighters relief fund for 2001. • Decided to re-join the Kansas County Commissioner Association for \$100.

• Heard that tax exemption for Wheat Ridge Terrace Apartments had been reconsidered and approved. • Heard that Kathy Anthony, from Norcatour, would like to be appointed to the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp. board. They thought she should come in and fill out one of the applications they had drawn up. • Heard they were invited to the soil conservation awards meeting on Feb. 5.

## Man reports hit and run

Oberlin police are investigating a hit and run which took place Jan. 15. Bruce Winder of Oberlin reported that he noticed damage to the passenger side door and called the police, telling them that he thought it happened at a store's parking lot.

## Chamber banquet set for Wednesday

The annual banquet for the Oberlin-Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce will be held in a week, at 7 p.m. next Wednesday at the American Legion Hall. Members worked out plans for the dinner at a board meeting at Janey's Frontier Restaurant. The main decision was what to do about the food. They had two options, to use The Gateway crew or to try out Steve Stacey's catering business, which members said would be supporting a new business. The board agreed that if Mr. Stacey knew that he had to pay for the use of the kitchen at the building and still keep

the quoted price the same, that they would use him. For the dinner, they chose the option of top sirloin steak, baked potato, vegetable, hot bread and whipped butter, green salad and a dessert. The meal will cost \$12.50. Later they decided to move it to the American Legion and use Mr. Stacey's catering business because he doesn't have to pay for use of the kitchen there. The group said that Mr. Stacey's price was \$8 without tax and gratuity, but with the extra money they will pay for the use of the building, speaker Marci Penner and decorations for the event.

In other business, board members: • Welcomed Joe Stanley, president of the Oberlin Business Alliance, and Karen Metcalf, who is the first quarter chair for the group. They invited the members of the chamber to the next alliance meeting at noon on Wednesday, Feb. 14, at the LandMark Inn. • Were reminded that they needed a new president for the board for 2001. They are also looking for new board members and have a few people interested, including Judy Cathcart, who attended the meeting, Peg Smith and Jerry Fortin. • Heard an update of the idea of a tourism center at the old police station on the corner of U.S. 36 and U.S. 83. Mrs. Gee said that they will propose it to the City Council at their next meeting. After that time the board will discuss how they may be able to help support the center for the first year. President Gary Zodrow said they would need to discuss the plan with the new board because they will make the budget for the new year. Connie Grafel, a member of the Convention and Visitors Bureau board, said that she thought they would be interested in helping too, but can't support it on their own. • Agreed that the next meeting would be at noon on Thursday, Feb. 15, at the LandMark Inn.

## Judge comes from this area

A Kansas woman with ties to this area was named the chief judge of the 10th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals at the beginning of the new year. Deanell Reece Tacha is from Scandia. She and her husband John Tacha, who is from the Jennings area, have two sons and two daughters and live in Lawrence. Judge Tacha has a long list of accomplishments. She received a degree in American studies from the University of Kansas and later a law degree from the University of Michigan. In 1971, she was named a White House Fellow and assigned as special assistant to the secretary of labor, James D. Hodgson. She then became a member of the Hogan and Hartson Law firm in Washington for two years until returning to Kansas to go into private practice. In 1974, she became a member of the law faculty at KU and then was vice chancellor for academic affairs. In 1985, President Ronald Reagan appointed her to the Court of Appeals. She has been an active member of the United States Sentencing Commission, chaired the United States Judicial Conference Committee on the Judicial Branch and chaired the Judicial Division of the American Bar Association. Mr. Tacha is the son of Mildred Tacha of Jennings and the late Julius "Punch" Tacha. His sister, Kay Brown, lives near Jennings.

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