

* Nursing home numbers have increased

(Continued from Page 1A) fair last month. Of 93 surveys filled out, 88 people said they were satisfied with health care services here, two were not and two did not mark anything.

While some people didn't go out of town for health care, others travel up to 500 miles, she said. Of the services people requested, four wanted a dermatologist, five dental, two a neurologist, one rheumatologist, one radiation therapy, two an oncologist, six an orthopedist, two a gynecologist, one a psychiatrist, one a geropsych, two for ear, nose and throat, one retinal eye surgery, one for cardiologist, one for diabetes, two for dialysis and six asked for assisted living.

Good Samaritan Administrator Janice Shobe said she didn't know how accurate the numbers were for assisted living because it was a fill-in-the-blank question, and if people asked what they meant, she would say "like assisted living."

The group discussed whether they need to look into assisted living for the area. Margae Wilson, chief nursing officer at Cedar Living, said it seems that a number of people are moving closer to their kids and going to a nursing home their instead of staying in a home town.

Mrs. Shobe said nursing home use is cyclical. Who do we need to market to? she asked. Those people who are living here, or those kids who don't live here, but their parents do. Mrs. Wilson said she thinks people want to stay around their doctor, so where they go to a home can depend on where they see a doctor.

The market for assisted living needs to be evaluated, said Mrs. Doeden. Would you put it at a nursing home, at Wheat Ridge or at a new building? The problem with putting it at a nursing home is that neither has the room right now.

The idea of building a new facility was brought up, but Mrs. Doeden asked where the money would come from. Wasn't the idea of Wheat Ridge to leave the space to the west of the building to add on? someone asked.

Health Administrator Marilyn

Gamblin said in the last few weeks, she has had several people ask her about prices for the homes. Both administrators said they would get her price listings.

The company that built Wheat Ridge, said Commissioner Doyle Brown, is bankrupt. Are there any grants available for assisted living? he asked.

Mr. Brown said he hates to ask the taxpayers to foot the bill if the county doesn't even know if the facility will be filled.

If the project is done with grant or foundation money, said Mrs. Doeden, the agencies with money usually like to know what the exact cost of the facility is going to be.

Mrs. Shobe said she would look for some numbers on how much it would cost per bed or per square foot. Then the decision can be made if it is something the group wants to pursue, she said.

LaVern Burtis, maintenance supervisor at Good Samaritan, said outside of the people who want dental care, assisted living is the only thing the group can do anything about because of the numbers. He said the county needs to keep what it has.

Commissioner Brown asked if the doctors think assisted living is needed. They really have commented on it, said Mrs. Doeden. One has said they have a couple of patients who could use assisted living, she said, but it is up to the patients on what they will do. She said she doesn't think it is a bad idea to investigate it.

The community is going to have to get together and get people to move back here. Health care can't do it all.

Mr. Burtis said it is bigger than that; there needs to be jobs for people who move back here.

If part of the goal is to create more jobs, said Mrs. Shobe, assisted living isn't real labor intensive. If the county is looking for something like that, a geropsych facility, geriatric psychiatric, would need more people.

The group decided to meet to talk about what they find about assisted living at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 26.

Beer fee changed with new city ordinance

The Oberlin City Council approved an ordinance Thursday to allow businesses that have a permanent beer license to purchase an off-premise license for a fee of \$50 a year, rather than \$50 each time they have an event to cater.

In August, Mick Barth, owner of the Re-Load, asked if the ordinance could be changed. In the past, license holders had to pay \$50 for each off premise permit.

Under the new ordinance, license holders still have to get a permit approved by the council for each event.

Police Chief Wade Lockhart said he is looking at government grants for police equipment. He said he is trying to find an infrared device that will help the department catch juveniles who run away from the Sappa Valley Youth Ranch.

He said Colby got a grant on a hand-held device that normally costs \$15,000. Basically, he said, he would like to have a better chance of finding the boys from the ranch.

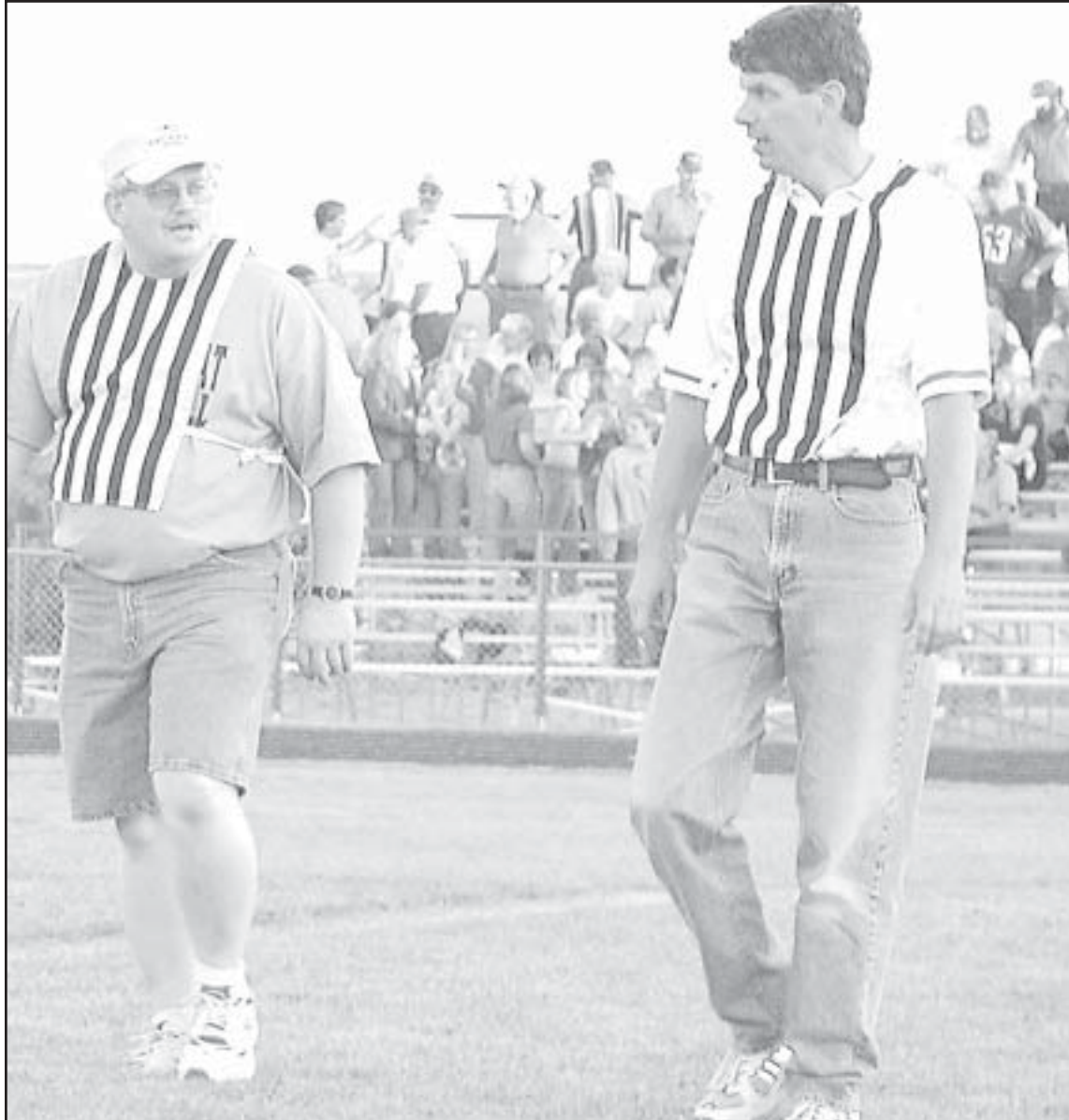
In other business, the council:

- Selected City Administrator Gary Shike as the voting delegate and Mayor Ken Shobe as the alternate for the upcoming League of Kansas Municipalities annual conference.
- Heard that the swimming pool had closed for the season. Mr. Shike said he talked with Water's Edge Aquatic Design and they will be out this week to inspect the pool.
- Heard that the Decatur County commissioners agreed to give the

Benefit planned

The Oberlin Business Alliance will be grilling up a tailgate party before the Red Devil football game on Friday, Sept. 17.

The supper will start at 5 p.m. in the parking lot at the high school. On the menu are pork burgers, Polish sausages and soda.



VOLUNTEERING TO WORK the football game from the sidelines, pharmacist Kurt Vollertsen talked with hardware store owner Joe Stanley at half-time on Friday. The men joked that they were "half-zebras" because of their officials' vests.

— Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

Pharmacist receives award

Ward Drug Store, on Main Street in downtown Oberlin, has received the Good Neighbor Pharmacy Community Service Award.

Kurt Vollertsen, owner of the drug store for 25 years as of the first of the year, was in Las Vegas in July to receive the award.

Mr. Vollertsen said he is affiliated with the Good Neighbor Pharmacy group through his drug wholesaler, AmericourceBergen. Each year the wholesaler gives out awards in four categories, for pharmacist of the year, pharmacy of the year, commu-

nity service and program implementation.

Mr. Vollertsen said the award recognizes his involvement in community affairs, including serving on the Oberlin School Board and the Oberlin City Council, the Oberlin Business Alliance, and being a consultant at both nursing homes and the hospital.

He has also had an active role in upgrading the golf course.

Dave Schenck, national director for Good Neighbor Pharmacies, said Mr. Vollertsen sets an example

for others to follow.

It is quite an honor, said Mr. Vollertsen.

There were six pharmacies honored throughout the nation at the conference. Most were on the coasts and considerable larger. They have drive-throughs, restaurants and are just bigger.

He said his wasn't the smallest pharmacy, though. There was one that was smaller.

Mr. Vollertsen said this is the first time he has received an award from Good Neighbor Pharmacies.

* Teacher wants to return to class

(Continued from Page 1A)

There are two ways to look at this situation, he said. He can worry and whine about losing one eye, or be thankful that he isn't blind. He can cry about his broken back or be happy that he is walking.

Mr. Andersen said the positive approach is better.

As a teacher, he works with kids all day. People always tell these kids that when things get tough, they just have to go a little harder, he said. He is just going a little harder.

Mr. Andersen said the community and his family have been a big help. His father, Jim Andersen, has been driving him around, making sure he takes his medications and has been around to just talk. His kids, Clay, 7th grade, and Denae, 4th grade, have been great. They came to the hospital right away to see him and then, he said, he called them from Omaha when he was able to.

The kids never complain about helping him out, said Mr. Andersen.

People in town have been great, he said. It is too bad, he said, that a person has to get a new nose, a broken back and a crushed face to realize how many good people there are around here.

Each day, he said, one of his fellow teachers brings out dinner him and his father. It has been a big help not having to worry about cooking.

Sara Fredrickson has been substituting for Mr. Andersen. He said they talk every night and figure out the lesson plans.

Mr. Andersen teaches technical drafting and industrial arts. He is the assistant football and wrestling coach and head junior high wrestling coach. He is also the assistant athletics director.

The kids from the school have been calling and stopping by. Mr. Andersen said talking to the stu-

dents helps lift the spirits.

"The sooner I can get back to teaching," he said, "the happier I will be."

The only thing holding him back from returning to work, he said, is that he wears out quickly.

He said he is just playing life day by day, but he would like to try going in half a day or a couple hours at first.

Mr. Andersen said he appreciates everything everyone has done. He hopes people won't stop calling or stopping by, because he looks forward to it.

He said he isn't a regular church goer, but is a strong believer in God, and he prays in the morning and at night. That helps him deal with his problems and pains.

"Sometimes," said Mr. Andersen, "life throws you a curve, and you can either whine about it or take it in stride and get going."

* City talks lagoons

(Continued from Page 1A) said Mr. Monaco, is around \$3.5 million, more than if the city built a mechanical plant.

Users would have to pay a minimum charge of \$28 a month, whether the city borrows the money from the state revolving loan fund or the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

If the city can get a \$400,000 grant and borrows the rest of the money from the state, he said, the average monthly user rate will be around \$25.84. With a mechanical plant, he said, though the initial cost might be less, the city would have to put aside money to replace equipment as it breaks down.

With a lagoon, the city may have to pay to remove sludge from the bottom after a while. The city can decide if they want to put in a grinder before the sewage goes through the lift station, he said. That would cost about \$80,000, but it is not a requirement.

City Foreman Dan Castle said he is against lagoons. Agencies will start to crack down on lagoons, just like they have on mechanical plants, he said. Unless the city can do a total retention lagoon system, there will have to be mechanical items added to it to make the discharge meets standards.

Mr. Monaco said the lagoon system has to have enough volume to hold waste water for 120 days, although out here experts recommend the waste be held for 180 days.

Any time a city discharges, he said, they are at the mercy of others.

If the rules change on discharging lagoon systems, then the city has two choices. They can add cells to make it a total retention or they can add mechanical equipment.

To avoid worrying about what is coming down the road, he said, the best way to go is total retention, but it is the most expensive.

Mr. Castle said if the council wants to reclaim the water and use it somewhere, which is something they have talked about in the past, they will have to put mechanical equipment in. The lagoon system also could be smelly, he said.

Mr. Monaco said twice a year the lagoons will turn over and that might cause an odor, but it shouldn't be like what the city has experienced from the old plant.

The biggest advantage to the lagoon system is the savings in operation and management, he said.

Mr. Monaco said the council didn't have to decide at the meeting but said the grant writing process needs to start, so the city needs to choose a grant administrator.

The city approved that.

The council asked for some numbers on complete retention and how much extra land they would need. Mr. Monaco said it would probably cost the city close to \$4.5 million for complete retention. He said he would get the numbers they wanted.

The council agreed that they were interested in public comment on the issue.

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