

Doctor to speak at center

The Decatur County Good Samaritan Center will hold two two-hour sessions for families and friends of people affected by dementia and Alzheimer.

Dr. Michael Breiner, Lincoln, Neb., will lead the sessions at the center at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 20, and at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10.

Dr. Breiner, a retired doctor, said his mother suffered from Alzheimer's and that got him interested in it.

Dementia, he said, means the mind is lost. Alzheimer's is irreversible dementia which is when the nerves are destroyed and people can't make new memories or recall old ones.

The average person, he said, has Alzheimer's three and a half years before it is diagnosed. The disease, which was named in 1975, has been known as the disease of the century and causes a lot of anguish, Dr. Breiner said. The average age of diagnosis is 75.

The sessions, he said, are for families and friends of those affected by the disease and anyone interested in Alzheimer's. Everyone, said Dr. Breiner, will have someone in their family at some time who will have Alzheimer's.

During the sessions, he said, he will give a short slide show, define the disease, show the process of the disease and answer questions.

At the beginning of the disease a person will lose their short-term memories and then at the end they will lose all their memory.

For families, said Dr. Breiner, there are six stages: anger, guilt, grief, fear, denial and depression.

Once, he said, families and friends understand the disease process everything else falls into place. Over the last three years, he said, he has spoken in 10 towns.

"We are all terminal," he said, "but we have to decide how we are going to spend life."

Everyone will have pain and suffering.

Alzheimer's causes suffering, but he said, he doesn't believe in unnecessary pain and once a person learns about the disease there is less pain and suffering.

Is Alzheimer's more prevalent or are people living longer? asked Lisa Stacy, Good Samaritan activities director.

A little of both. This is a constantly aging society, said Dr. Breiner, and people are living longer and getting the disease.

Mrs. Stacy said the center is going to open an Alzheimer's daycare unit. Are there any activities, she asked, that are better than others?

Dr. Breiner said it doesn't hurt to try to stimulate the brain, like crossword puzzles or other puzzles. However, he said, he isn't sure if it helps to keep the disease from progressing.

Letters to Santa in paper

A new doll, a bike, a gift for mom or dad are only some of the items kids in Decatur County have asked for from Santa Claus.

Each year *The Oberlin Herald* prints area youngsters' letters to Santa and then forwards them on. The letters are printed in a special section in this week's newspaper.

Serving others



AT THE OBERLIN BUSINESS ALLIANCE soup lunch Dr. Elizabeth Sliter (left) and Steve Haynes volunteered to serve soup. The lunch brought in \$467 for Christmas decorations for the city. — Herald staff photo by Jim Merriott

Commissioners ask for ideas to fix door

At their meeting on Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners discussed getting a garage door repaired at the county ambulance barn.

Ambulance Director Linda Manning said she can get the automatic door open, but it doesn't always close all of the way. She asked if she could get an estimate to get the door fixed or possibly replaced. The commissioners gave her the go ahead to see what it would take to make the door work.

Ms. Manning said a woman from Norton County contacted her about a workshop they are planning on

Medicare billing. She said she and Karen Eskew, an emergency medical technician who does the department's billing, would attend.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman said he received a letter from Miller and Associates on behalf of Red Willow County about what roads the Nebraska county is supposed to maintain along the state line and which ones Decatur County is supposed to maintain. Mr. Stallman said he will talk with the townships on the roads.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved a highway permit to

put an electric line under the ground for Kendal Fisher on the Traer Road.

- Heard that employees in Sheridan County are trying to get U.S. 23 widened. County Attorney Steve Hirsch talked with the commissioners about the project. He said the Sheridan County commissioners are asking people in the area to write letters to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to get the road widened. The commissioners decided to write a letter.

- Held a 10-minute closed session for non-elected personnel with Ms. Manning. There was no action taken.

- Received a check for \$4 for rent at the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center from 2004 to now.

- Signed the 2006 Decatur County budget amendment to republish for the Noxious Weed Department to increase expenditures from \$135,000 to \$175,000 because the service brought in more money than was expected.

- Approved signing the Area Agency on Aging 2007 budget expense of \$4,300.

- Approved the 17th Judicial District Court budget for 2007 for \$26,250 and the court-appointed attorney fees at \$10,000.

District trying to update its crisis plan

The Oberlin School Board discussed updating its crisis plan for the district in case there is an emergency during school hours.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt said he talked to other superintendents at a meeting in Oakley about crisis plans and what they are doing.

The Oberlin district, he said, is in the middle of redoing its crisis plan. He said district personnel have met with the hospital, ambulance depart-

ment, sheriff and other emergency workers.

The crisis plan would be needed if there is a bomb threat, chemical spill or intruder in the school, among other things, he said. With a plan, all of the people involved would be on the same page. He said he will meet again with the district team to get the plan written.

Mr. Glodt said school personnel have talked about having another

community-wide drill, maybe at Oberlin Elementary School, but nothing has been set up.

The board held a 10-minute and 5-minute closed session to discuss non-elected personnel with no action taken. Afterwards the board approved extending the contracts of the administrator and two principals for another year.

In other business, the board:

- Approved Mr. Glodt paying the

anonymous donor which went to Jack Mumm.

At the drawing, Mrs. Nichols announced the winners of the Chamber of Commerce light contest. In Oberlin first place went to Bernard and Frieda Goetze, second to Patty Brown and third to Kevin and Megan Rippe. In Jennings first went to Sue Long, second to Stan and Ramona Shaw and third to Imogene Keenan.

Selected board members Delayne May and Barb Olson to be the calendar committee for next year.

Selected board members Monte Moore and Jeanie Martin to be the negotiators for the next year.

Alliance gives away \$1,000 in prizes

The Oberlin Business Alliance gave away \$1,225 in Santa Bucks at its drawing Saturday afternoon at Centennial Park.

Chamber Manager Glenva Nichols called out almost 20 names before she got 10 people who were in the audience.

Those 10 were Sherry Quackenbush, Doris Black, Kenny Gee, Walt Meitl, Judy Wenger, Deb Lohoefer, Matt Farr, Jack Elwood, Amanda Grafel and Carolyn Rippe. Each received a wrapped gift with a certificate in it. Nine were for \$25 in Santa Bucks

and one was for \$1,000 in Santa Bucks. The grand prize winner was Mrs. Quackenbush.

Before the adult drawing, the alliance gave a movie pass, good for one show a month for a year, to Kaitlyn Howland. Mrs. Nichols also drew for a movie pass from an

Hospice tree decorates credit union window

The annual Hospice Memorial Tree is up at Northwest Federal Credit Union on Main Street in Oberlin for anyone who wants to put an angel on it.

Julia Schemper, administrator assistant with Hospice, said anyone

can stop by the credit union and give a donation to the organization and put the name of a loved one on the

tree. Anyone who wants to take part in the tree can stop by the credit union.

Donors have week to invest

Investors have a week and a half to take advantage of the founders club part of the Decatur Community Educational Foundation.

Dr. Mark Olson, a member of the foundation, said the founders club closes at the end of the year.

To be in the founders club a donor needs to make a single gift of \$10,000 or donate \$2,000 this year and the next four years for the same amount.

All of the members of the founders club will be named on a plaque, which will be displayed at Decatur Community High School, he said.

Donors have been able to take part in the founders club since the foundation started in April 2005.

All gifts are 100 percent tax deductible. The Oberlin school foundation, he said, is working with the Greater Salina Community Foundation to make the money it collects go further.

To make a donation, he said, people can mail their checks to Decatur Community Education Fund, Box 274, Oberlin, 67749. People should put in a memo that's that is where they want the money to go.

Those who don't want to be involved in the founders club can give for the education fund, scholarship fund or endowed fund.

The other levels are Decatur visionary with a gift of \$5,000 or more; Decatur Advocate, \$2,500 to \$4,999; Decatur Donor, \$1,000 to \$2,499; D-Club, \$500 to \$999; Red Devil, \$100 to \$499; and Little Devil, \$50 to \$99.

Postal chief to leave

After 15 1/2 years, Oberlin will get a new postmaster as Linda Smith has decided to move to Arizona to be closer to family.

Mrs. Smith started working as the Oberlin postmaster on May 19, 1991. She said she came from McCook, where she worked as a clerk and then a supervisor in the post office there.

Mrs. Smith said she wants to move to Glendale to be closer to her daughter and granddaughter, who is 6.

Mrs. Smith's husband, Colin, is the plant accountant for Parker Hannifin in McCook. She said he will move too after he retires.

Mrs. Smith's last day at the post office will be Friday. She starts her new job as supervisor in Glendale on Saturday, Jan. 6.

After she leaves, Ken Zerr, who is the postmaster in Tribune, will fill the position until someone is hired. The postal department will take applications and do interviews to fill the postmaster spot here. Mrs. Smith said it will take anywhere from 60 to 90 days to fill the position, depending on how many applicants they get.

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NEW ON THE MARKET!

112 E. MAPLE. This illustrious two-story historic home boasts a prestigious pedigree. Built in 1895 as a farmhouse, it was moved to town in 1910 and showcases windows and staircase from the old Benton mansion. This durable family home features marble floored foyer opening to spacious rooms, with hardwood floors, that include 5 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths, recently renovated eat-in kitchen, living room, dining room, front parlor, family room and sunroom. The home has been lovingly restored to its Victorian vintage. The large corner locale is landscaped as an English garden. Call Roberta for an appointment to view this new listing.

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Ice runs through your veins

You wait until the last possible second to make your shopping move. It's not until December 22nd ... 23rd ... even the 24th that you enter the fray.

Now it is your time to shine!

To all of you men who have that ice running through your veins, we salute you! And we are here to help add to your awesome legend!

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