

Hospital buys Medical Arts clinic

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Decatur Health Systems, the management firm for the county hospital, has completed the purchase of the Oberlin Medical Arts Clinic practice and plans to move into the county-owned clinic building by the end of the month.

Hospital Administrator Lynn Doeden said Monday the purchase should mean a smooth transition for patients, who faced an uncertain future as the clinic closed on Friday. Medical records will remain at the clinic, Mrs. Doeden said.

The owners, Dr. Elizabeth Sliter and Dr. Stellan Andreca, reached agreement with Decatur Health that day, their last in the practice, and the hospital will take over the clinic's assets on Sunday. They had planned to reopen the clinic the next day, said Mrs. Doeden, but realized Monday that a lot of work would be required to get it ready and make the move.

It will open Monday, March 28, as the DHS Family Practice Clinic, combining the practices of the old Medical Arts clinic and the hospital's own clinic, which opened last fall in the specialty-clinic wing at the

hospital.

In the meantime, the staff will continue seeing patients at the specialty clinic, she said, with no lapse of service. Records for all Medical Arts patients will be available.

"We're going to go over and clean the carpets and get it set up before we see patients there," Mrs. Doeden said.

The hospital's clinic is staffed by Robin Williamson, a physician assistant, and Dr. Leslie Dally, both of whom have been working for several months. Mrs. Doeden said they have contracted with Docs on Call, a temporary service, to have a doctor at the

hospital seven days a week while they look to hire more physicians.

One doctor was interviewed here last week, and had "a very positive experience," she said. Another plans to come in mid-April, and the firm is negotiating with another "midlevel" practitioner. In all, she said, they'd like to hire two doctors and one midlevel, either a physician assistant or nurse practitioner.

Clinic administrator Barb Whitney said the doctors wanted to assure their patients of good continuity of care with the sale. Bills owed to Medical Arts have been turned

over to a Hutchinson firm, Physician Billing Service, she said, and all payments and inquiries should go to them.

"Dr. Sliter has agreed to continue to serve in certain critical positions," she said, "including medical director of the Decatur County ambulance service and the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center and as county coroner, until ... suitable replacements can be found."

Mrs. Doeden said the hospital had several reasons to buy the clinic's assets.

"We'd like to have their rural health clinic (See HOSPITAL on Page 8A)

Home Show to be Saturday at the Gateway

Interested in learning more about the Internet for your home, or new siding, or maybe a hot tub? Well, Saturday is your chance during the annual KFNF Home Show at The Gateway.

The show will run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., said Bryan Loker, general manager of the radio station. There is no admittance fee, and those attending will have a chance to register to win a trip for two to Daytona and Orlando, Fla.

The Gateway crew, said Mr. Loker, will be selling lunch.

This is the fourth year that the

station has sponsored the show, which it took on after the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce bowed out.

The home show, he said, is great for the economy. It brings people to town. At past shows, said Mr. Loker, they have had people come in from Colby, Trenton and McCook, to name a few places.

This year's show will feature 24 vendors with items including cable television, Internet access, roofing, siding, food products, appliances, hot tubs and other things for the home.

Council candidates to speak on Tuesday

The Decatur Professional Women plan a public forum for candidates running for a spot on the Oberlin City Council at 7 p.m. Tuesday at The Gateway.

The women's organization invites all voters to come learn about the candidates, said member Kimberly Davis. The candidates are James Miesner, Nolan

Johnson, Tim Bowen and Rusty Addeleman.

Janice Guthrie had filed for a council seat and her name will appear on the ballot, but she says she won't be able to serve because of personal reasons.

The forum is being supported by a donation from the Bargain Box Plus, she said.

One out of council race

An Oberlin woman has decided to pull out of the election for two seats on the City Council.

Janice Guthrie said while her name will appear on the ballot Tuesday, April 5, she isn't interested in serving on the council at

this time. Mrs. Guthrie said she has personal issues that wouldn't allow her to commit fully to the job if elected.

She said she will continue to serve on the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce board.

And now it's time for a little music



READING AN AD DURING Rotary Radio Days, Ralph Unger was one of about a dozen volunteer deejays at KFNF Radio on Sunday during the club's biggest annual fund raiser.

— Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

County merges two jobs to save money

Decatur County commissioners approved giving the duties of the noxious weed department secretary to the road and bridge department's secretary to save some money.

Commissioner Stan McEvoy said at a meeting last Tuesday that the county had been looking for cost savings and this was a good opportunity. If the road and bridge secretary did both jobs, instead of hiring a part-time secretary for the noxious weed department, he said, the county could save \$6,000 a year.

The weed-control job had been held by Jeanette Miller, who worked three half days a week in the summer, said County Clerk Colleen

Gehisler. Rhonda Manning, the Road and Bridge secretary, already works full time.

The only drawback, said weed control director Director Gaylen Huntley, is that his office has set hours for selling weed-control chemicals. He and road boss Tim Stallman both were at the meeting.

Maybe those could be changed to 4 to 5 p.m. every day at the weed building, said Commissioner Ralph Unger. The chemicals could also be sold by appointment, he said. If people know about the change, it could work.

The commissioners asked when Mr. Huntley is normally in the office. During spraying season,

he replied, it fluctuates.

The county has to learn some efficiencies, said Mr. Unger, adding that he thinks most people understand that the county has to maximize the money it spends. This is one way to do that.

Mr. Huntley talked with the commissioners about ordering 20 gallons of Milestone to spray musk thistle. It runs around \$290 a gallon, around \$5,800. The commissioners told him to get bids and see if that would cut the price.



School Board

Nedland wants to keep helping

Saying he wants to continue helping make the school system run well, Dan Nedland is seeking re-election for a spot on the Oberlin School Board.

Things are going well, said Mr. Nedland, and the district has a long list of assets, including programs, classes, buildings and more.

The board's job is to provide the best for the district, he said. It's important as a board member to be invested in the schools, and he said he is. Mr. Nedland did say he's pretty sure this will be his last term on the board.

Mr. Nedland said he started on the board with some members who had served for years and years. Since then, the members have turned over, with the exception of Monte Moore who he said provides a sense of history and direction.

The district has been able to move forward, he said. It's finished major projects, including the roof and boiler project at the high school and the renovation of the auditorium. Mr. Nedland said they have also been fixing lights and floors in the buildings.

The district has two beautiful old buildings, he said, and they have to be maintained, so it's going to be important to maintain the capital outlay fund. (The fund, supported by a six-mill levy on property in the

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D. Nedland

Grafel says he's learned board job

Saying he knows the job and the assets the school district has, Dan Grafel is running for another term on the Oberlin School Board.

Mr. Grafel is just finishing his first term. While the job on the school board hasn't always been easy, he said, he wants to continue with it.

This is a strong district, said Mr. Grafel, with a good staff, good board and a lot of good kids. The buildings and equipment are in pretty good shape, although they will continue to find things that need to be fixed.

The board is conservative on spending, he said, and tries to stay ahead on fixing things. The district still has money, which is credit partly of previous boards.

The board, said Mr. Grafel, has been careful on not spending money and being able to transfer funds at the end of the year.

He said he doesn't see any major changes coming up for the district, though the board does need to hire a principal for the high school

Mr. Grafel said he was on the board when they decided to hire Duane Dorshorst as the grade-school principal and superintendent. At that time, Oberlin was the largest district to do that. It was a good deci-

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Dan Grafel

Chambers has projects to finish

In his second deployment on the Oberlin School Board, Jerry Chambers says he'd like to continue working on school projects, so he's running for another term.

Mr. Chambers, a member of the Army Reserve, was appointed to the board, then was deployed overseas and decided not to run for re-election when the term was up. After returning home, he was reappointed to the board when Barbara Olson moved to Hoxie last summer.

While he's served on the board for several years, this is the first time he's actually run for a seat.

The board doesn't run the district, he said; it just sets policies and procedures so the staff can do their jobs.

The budget and declining enrollment are the biggest issues now and in the coming years, he said. The two really go hand in hand.

There's a lot of uncertainty with the budget, said Mr. Chambers, especially with the federal and state cuts that have been made and those that are coming.

Mr. Chambers said he's always put a lot of trust and confidence in the district's administration. Superintendent Duane Dorshorst does a great job. Ultimately, he said, it's his recommendations that the board takes,

(See CHAMBERS on Page 8A)



J. Chambers

Moore touts his experience

With eight years experience, Monte Moore is seeking his third term on the Oberlin School Board in the April 5 general election

Finances, he said, are going to be a bigger problem than they have been in the past eight years because of the cuts coming from the state and federal governments.

Since he's been elected to the school board, he feels the board and district have done a pretty good job with the budget the state allows.

Years ago, he said, when the district had to lay off teachers, it was still able to keep education at the center of everything. The most critical tool for education is keeping the people, he said.

Even with the loss in budget authority, he said, the district continues to do a good job.

Mr. Moore said he worries about how much more the district will be cut this year and in coming years. The money from the federal stimulus bill won't be there, he said, and the state has no money to replace it with.

With the retirement of the high school principal, said Mr. Moore, it will be important to hire someone who understands education with its nuisances and

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M. Moore