

Herald wins two press awards

The Oberlin Herald won two third-place awards in the annual Kansas Press Association news and advertising contests.

The contest was for stories, photos and advertising run in 2010. Awards will be presented during the association's convention next month in Junction City.

Publisher Steve Haynes won third place for best news story on a wreck on U.S. 83 that injured Oberlin resident Elaine Marcuson.

The judge said that Haynes did a great job of telling the story.

The Herald won third place for a political ad on Republican candidates running in the 2010 election created by Leslie Nolette and sold by Tim Davis.

Dominate pictures made this ad stand out, the judge said.

Another area writer won a first-

place award in the contest for a series on servicemen killed in the Vietnam War.

Carolyn Plotts of Norcatour did five stories on servicemen from the Norton County area killed during the war. The series ran in *The Norton Telegram* as part of that paper's lead-up to a visit by the Moving Wall memorial.

The judge said of the series, "Interesting series on servicemen who gave their lives for the country. Well researched and well written."

One of the stories, on a serviceman from Norcatour, also ran in *The Oberlin Herald*.

The Telegram also won a first-place award for a feature photo of a young girl riding a sheep at the county fair. The picture was taken by Publisher Dana Paxton.

Herald Publisher Cynthia Haynes

won a third-place award for a news photo, which ran in the *Colby Free Press*, of a wreck on U.S. 83 near Oberlin. A young man from Oberlin, who was working in Colby, was killed in the wreck.

Other Nor'West Newspapers to win awards were:

- *The Saint Francis Herald* — first place for a photo layout showing how the community pulled together to aid the elderly when the town's Good Samaritan Village burned last year. Photos by Casey McCormick.
- *The Goodland Star-News* — hit a one-two punch with both first and second in editorial writing.

- *Star-News* Editor Tom Betz won first place for editorial writing and former Colby and Norton publisher Tom Dreiling took second.
- *Colby Free Press* — third place

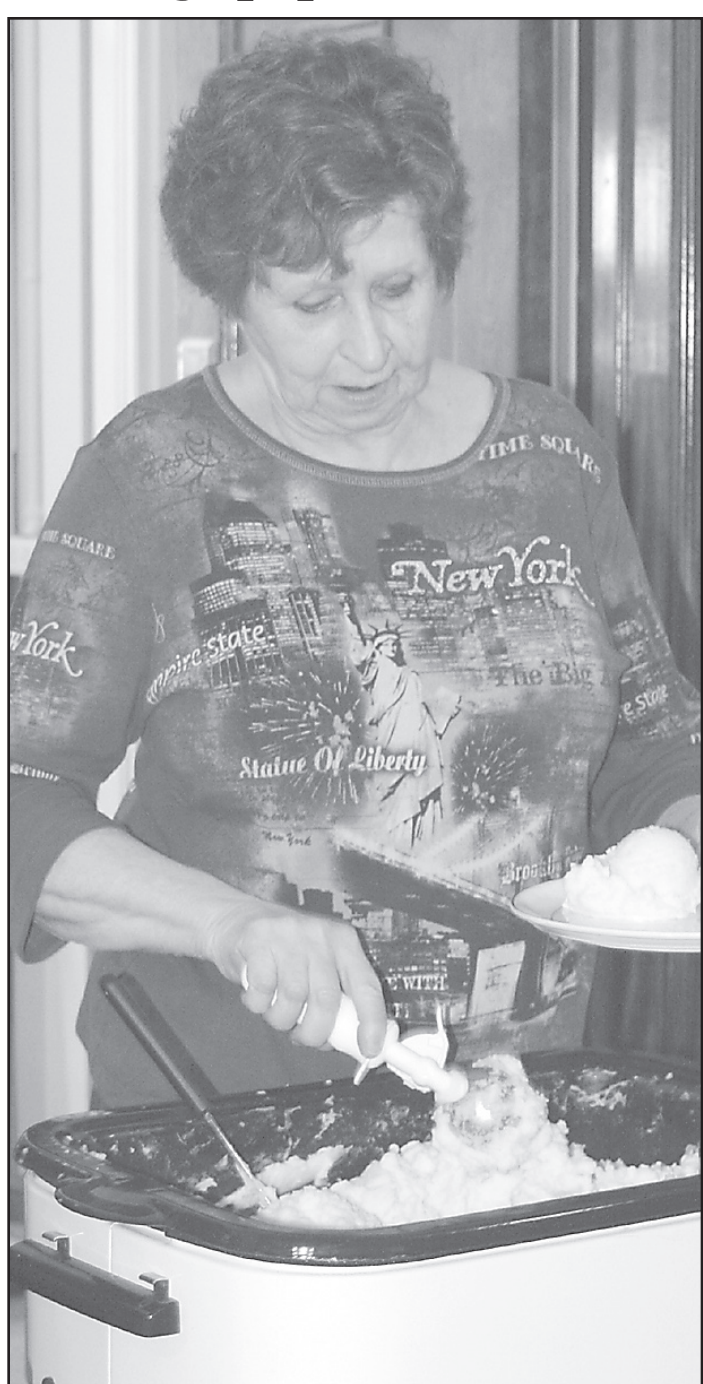
for column writing for copy editor Marian Ballard.

The *Free Press* also received a second-place award for a special section produced by the combined staffs of the company newspapers. The section dealt with the population decline in northwestern Kansas. Since the *Free Press* is the only daily in the group, the press association rules required the entry to be through that paper.

The *Oberlin Herald* was in Non-daily Division II, for papers with circulation between 1,751 and 4,000. The *St. Francis Herald*, *Goodland Star-News* and *Norton Telegram* competed in Non-daily Division I for papers with circulations up to 1,750.

The *Colby Free Press* competed in Daily Division I for papers with circulations up to 5,000.

Dishing up spuds



DISHING UP MASHED POTATOES, Annette Miller helped serve a homemade chicken-and-noodle dinner to about 125 people on Thursday. The meal was put on by the Oberlin Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star at the Masonic Temple to raise money for Dennis Brown's ministry to seniors, the Forget-Me-Nots.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

* Moore has practice

(Continued from Page 1A) programs. It will also be important that person can handle the students and work with the staff.

It's also important, said Mr. Moore, for citizens to weigh in on issues. Hopefully, it's not just the board with an opinion on things.

If re-elected, he said, he will continue to stress that parent involvement is the key to success for students. Kids do the best when

parents or guardians and grandparents are involved. Everyone needs to be involved.

Mr. Moore said he wants to be financially conservative and still be proactive with education and teach the kids what they need to know.

Mr. Moore and his wife Kelly have two children who graduated from Decatur Community High School, Allie Lohrymeyer and Gabe Moore.

* Chambers returns

(Continued from Page 1A) discusses and then votes.

Currently, he said, the district is actually sitting pretty good with the budget.

The hiring of a principal at the high school, he said, is in the works. The position has been advertised. Hopefully the district will get some qualified candidates.

Mr. Chambers said he's not the type of person to play politics. He said he will vote his conscience and listen to his constituents. Whatever he feels, he has to go with what the

majority of the people want.

Sometimes, he thinks people get the impression that the board is always unanimous on every vote. That's not true, said Mr. Chambers. The board discusses issues and tries to come up with the best decision possible.

Mr. Chambers is an Army Reserve unit administrator in Nebraska.

He and his wife Melissa have three children. Derek, who graduated from Decatur Community High in 2009; Clifton, who graduated in 2006; and Adrian, a sixth grader.

* Nedland offers ideas

(Continued from Page 1A) district, is used to make repairs and buy equipment.)

The district has an excellent staff, he said.

The schools offer outstanding programs, he said. Year after year, the students meet and beat the state average on test scores.

One problem is the continual cuts in state money, he said. The money per pupil is back to the level it was in the mid 1990s. The state has made drastic cuts, with more coming. Around nearly 80 percent

of the budget is tied up in salaries and benefits, he said.

Mr. Nedland said he wants to help hire a good principal at the high school.

The new eight-period day is working well and students and staff are proud of the things that have been improved because of it.

Mr. Nedland and his wife, Rhonda May, have three children, Hunter and Cameron, who have both graduated from Decatur Community High, and Elizabeth, a sophomore at the high school.

* Grafel wants to stay

(Continued from Page 1A) sion to make at the time, he said, and it's worked out well.

Hopefully, he said, the state's budget will get back on track. Mr. Grafel said he's not sure the economy will come back like the Democratic party says it's going to, although it seems the farm economy is doing pretty good.

It really seems like things are go-

ing well, he said. The board works well together and has been a successful team.

He said he encourages people not only to get out and vote, but for those who are interested in serving on the board to run in the next election.

Mr. Grafel and his wife Melinda have two children, Kade, a seventh grader, and Isabel, a fourth grader, both at Oberlin schools.

* Hospital buys clinic

(Continued from Page 1A) status," she said, adding that the federal designation gives a clinic advantages in billing and payment from Medicare and Medicaid. "We wanted to keep the continuity of care here in town, including the medical records, although they had already given those to us."

The county owns the clinic building and most of the equipment, she said, as it does with the hospital. Other assets the clinic sold include laser equipment used for skin treatments which the doctors bought, plus goodwill, restrictive covenants such as noncompete agreements, contracts and cooperation. The sales price, Mrs. Doeden said, is confidential.

"We will move in the 21st, clean and get ready," she said, "and see patients beginning on the 28th."

Having the hospital and clinic

under a single management, she said, should benefit patients by providing continuity of care, having one health system serving the area. With the labs and X-ray imaging departments merged, she said, there should be less confusion about who is doing what. One desk can handle all appointments.

The administrator said the hospital already has hired one former employee of the old clinic and is talking to several others. The human resources department is taking applications, she said, while noting that some employees already have found other work.

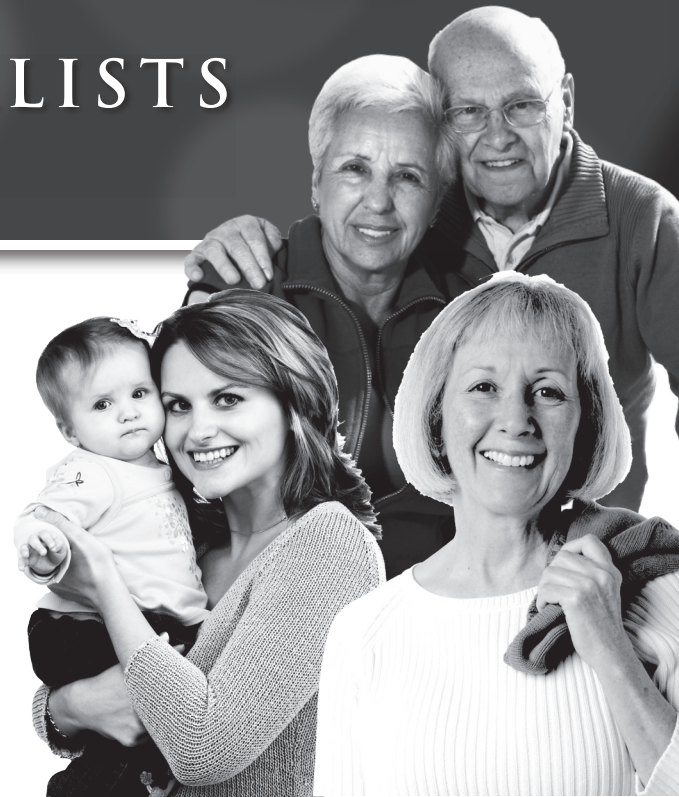
Though they are leaving, she said, Decatur Health would like to recognize Dr. Sliter and Dr. Andrecka for their service to the community.

"We wish them well in their future endeavors," she said.

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