

Two named to board for hospital

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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The Decatur County commissioners appointed two members to the hospital board Tuesday morning, a long-time nurse and nursing instructor, and a retired veterinarian who moved to town more recently.

The board interviewed four candidates, including former Hospital Board member Chuck Frickey, Ruth Wolfram, Ruth Miesner and Norbert Zander.

All of the candidates had filled out an application in the county clerk's office, and all said people had told them they should apply for the board.

The commissioners appointed Mr. Zander, a 1959 graduate of Decatur Community High School, to a one-year term for an at-large position, and Mrs. Wolfram, former Oberlin school nurse and now director of the Colby Community College nursing program, to a three-year position representing commissioner District No. 2.

The spots are being vacated by veteran members Ron Jansonious, who had a year left to serve in the at-large post, and Connie Grafel, who decided not to take another term.

Mr. Frickey, a retired lawyer and former officer of the old Farmers National Bank, was the first to interview. He said he was interested in

Practitioner hired here

A nurse practitioner with 26 years of experience in health care plans to start at the Decatur County Hospital and the Decatur Health Systems Family Practice Clinic the middle of January.

Hospital Administrator Lynn Doeden said Lynnetta Ward might start earlier, but she will for sure be seeing patients by the middle of the month.

Mrs. Ward, from Moline, brings years of experience to the medical practice here. Mrs. Doeden said they interviewed Mrs. Ward the middle of December, and a few days later she confirmed the offer for the job.

The administrator said Mrs. Ward then came to Oberlin (See NURSE on Page 8A)

the term with just a year left. People approached him about serving on the hospital board, he said, and he's been doing some consulting work (See COUNTY on Page 8A)

Mom urges men to look at hospital

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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An Oberlin mother and businesswoman encouraged the Decatur County commissioners to take a look at the county hospital and the reasons why a physician assistant is leaving at the end of the year.

Dr. Shannon Addleman, a chiropractor here, said she is a young parent who moved back to her hometown to raise her kids. She said she plans to stay here because she loves Oberlin.

The hospital is an important asset, she said, and is at a critical point.

Dr. Addleman said she thinks the commissioners should talk with the departing physician assistant, Robin Williamson, one on one. She is honest, has a high integrity and is trustworthy, Ms. Addleman said.

She asked if the commissioners thought a community meeting is possible so the taxpayers can have a voice, and whether the commis-

sioners have talked with business owners. This is a critical time, she said, urging the men to again talk with Ms. Williamson.

Taxes are going up and people are asking why, said Dr. Addleman. The county has lots of houses on the market. She said she is hearing that people just don't know what to do.

"Do we need a town hall meeting?" she asked.

It might put people to rest if the commissioners talk with Ms. Williamson, she added. She is a real asset to the community.

Commissioner Gene Gallentine said the commissioners haven't visited with Ms. Williamson, but there was a "community conversation" on health care earlier this year and Ms. Williamson was there.

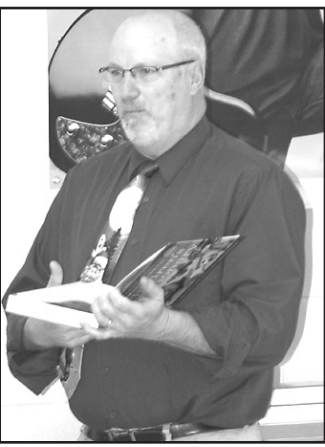
Other counties are having the same issues keeping and recruiting doctors, said Mr. Gallentine. He added that he's not sure what the (See WOMAN on Page 8A)



Rotary gives books

AT THE GRADE SCHOOL last Wednesday, members of the Oberlin Rotary Club handed out new dictionaries to the third graders. Spencer Wishon (above) was the last to receive his book and get a chance to look at it. KeLynn Jacobs (right) held on to her dictionary while Principal Duane Dorshorst (below) read off names.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



Electric cooperative carries city's load

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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After a raccoon fried the substation on the north edge of town last week, the electric crew ran the city-owned power plant for a couple of days before Prairie Land Electric started providing power for the entire town.

City Administrator Karen Larson said Prairie Land, a rural electric cooperative based in Norton which

serves rural parts of Decatur County, took over providing power for the entire town last Wednesday night.

The power went out in Oberlin around 4 a.m. last Monday, Dec. 19, when a raccoon got on the main transformer at the substation off U.S. 36, causing hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage.

Mrs. Larson said the crew operated the power plant until about 5 p.m. Wednesday, about 60 total hours,

when lines were re-routed allowing Prairie Land Electric to provide the power needed for the city.

Mrs. Larson said the city is going to lease a replacement transformer, but it probably won't be here until Monday, Jan. 9. Repairs need to be made to fire damage at the substation, she said.

She said representatives of the city's property and liability insurance company, EMC, through

Fredrickson Insurance Agency here, are looking at the damage. Considering all of the damage, said Mrs. Larson, everything went quite smoothly. Everyone worked hard and crew members who were out on vacation came to work so that the power could be turned back on.

Mrs. Larson said she might have an update on the electric situation at an end-of-the-year meeting at 4:30 p.m. Friday at The Gateway.

Representative to work on budget for House

By **STEVE HAYNES**
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Ward Cassidy, the state representative for the five "northern tier" counties in northwest Kansas, has been appointed to the House Appropriations Committee, the panel

which puts together the House version of the state budget.

Basically, he said, Appropriations takes budget requests for all state agencies which have gone through other committees and tries to fit them into the available money. Its members deal with the governor's office and state agencies, and serve on conference committees which

work out differences with the Senate.

"To have a voice in western Kansas on that committee is probably a good thing," Rep. Cassidy said. "We haven't had much voice on that committee, and it's a powerful one."

Cassidy, whose district covers Decatur, Rawlins, Norton, Chey-

enne and Phillips counties, was named to the 23-member panel earlier this month by Speaker Mike O'Neal of Hutchinson. The first-term representative also serves on the Education Budget and Corrections and Juvenile Justice committees.

"Rep. Cassidy has been an out-

Events scheduled for New Year's Eve

Have you made plans for New Year's Eve? Here are some ideas:

• Dance your way to the New Year. The American Legion plans a dance starting at 9 p.m. Saturday with guest deejay Jonathan Fick of Jam Session. Everyone is welcome.

• Giddy Up! The Tripple Creek Riders have cooked up a New Year's Eve dance with a western

twist. The dance starts at 7 p.m. at the Old Bohemian Hall on the grounds of the Last Indian Raid Museum. Everyone is invited to come join the club for family fun, raffles, free snacks, beverages and live music, but leave the alcohol and tobacco at home.

Admission is \$3 for singles and \$10 for families. A \$100 donation will go to Teens for (See DANCE on Page 8A)

Businesses to close

A new year is coming, and since the holiday is Sunday, many businesses and all banks and government offices will be closed Monday.

All city, county, state and federal offices will close, as well as financial institutions and post offices. There will be no mail (See OFFICES on Page 8A)

