

# \*Woman wants officials to look at health care

(Continued from Page 1A)  
answer is.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said he's had phone calls and conversations with people about the issue. He said he doesn't know what the answer is either.

"Where are the checks and balances?" asked Dr. Addleman. The commissioners, said Mr. Unger, appoint the hospital board, but the commissioners don't manage the hospital.

There are two spots open on the hospital board, said Mr. Gallentine, and the commissioners have asked people who are interested in serving to come forward. So far, candidates have said they are interested. The commissioners interviewed them that morning.

He said he knows that the hospital tried to negotiate with Ms. Williamson and it didn't work. "Can we go off record?" asked Dr. Addleman.

Not in a public meeting, said Kim Davis, assistant publisher of *The Oberlin Herald*. "I just urge you to talk to Robin," said Dr. Addleman.

She said she knows that people have talked to the hospital board. "I'm not going to go to the hospital and tell them how to run their facility," said Mr. McEvoy.

"So we don't even have a voice?" Dr. Addleman asked. "That's not true," said Mr. McEvoy.

When recruiting for medical staff, said Mr. Gallentine, his opinion is

that they need to ask the candidates what they can do for us and why they want to be here.

The hospital board now has complete control in hiring and firing doctors and other practitioners, he noted, where before the medical staff operated the clinic.

The physicians coming here, he added, need to want to be here.

Dr. Elizabeth Sliter wanted to be here, said Dr. Addleman, and she was active in the community.

"She pulled out her check book left and right to support so many things in the community, many anonymously," she added.

She owned her own business, said Mr. McEvoy. No one had any say in that.

The county owns the hospital and clinic building, said Mr. Unger, but the operation of both is owned by a nonprofit corporation formed by the hospital board.

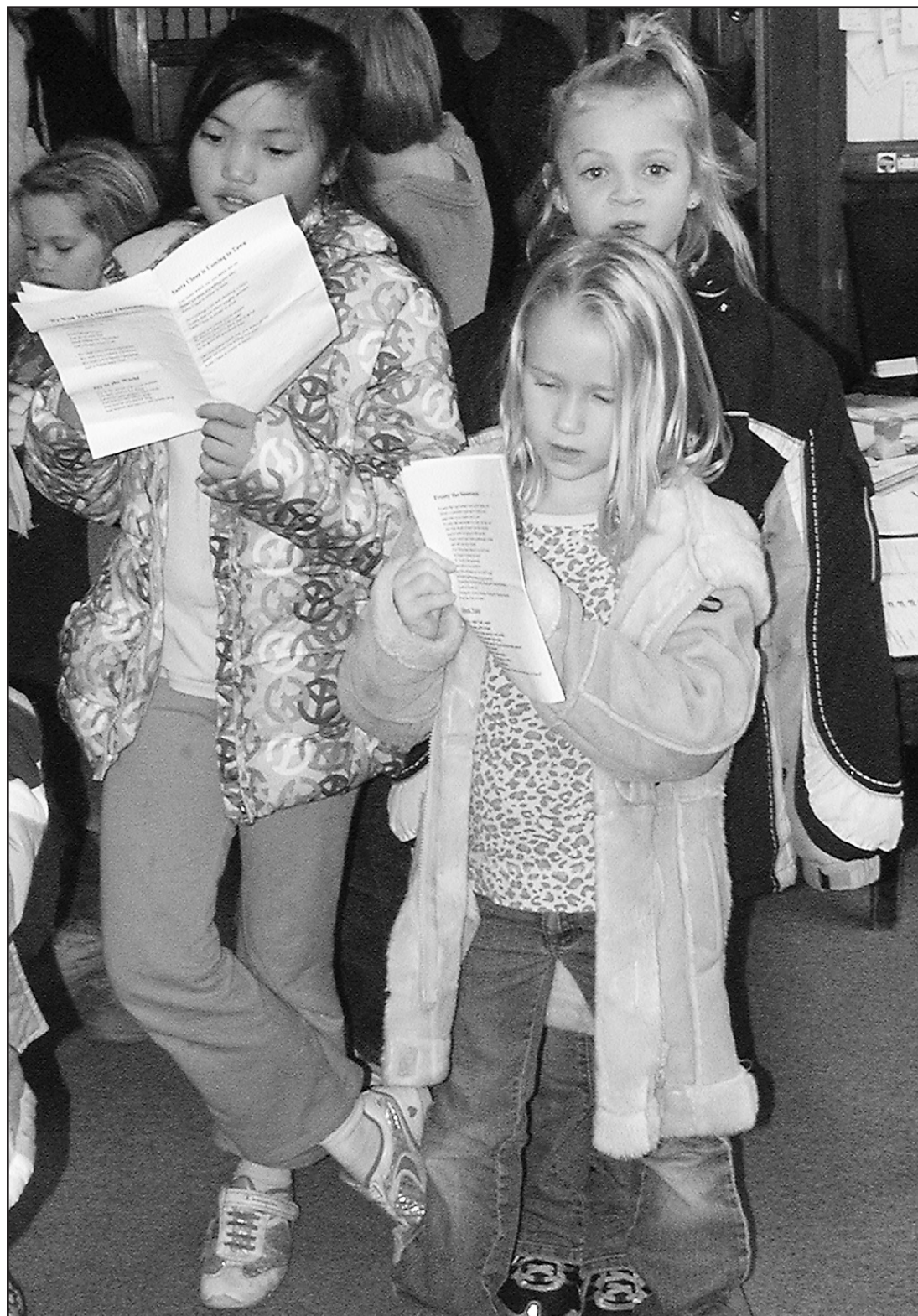
The commissioners asked Dr. Addleman if she would be interested in serving on the board. She said she doesn't have the time, adding that her kids are her priority.

At some point, someone needs to step up to the plate for the good of the community, said Mr. Gallentine. At some point, young people need to step up.

Mr. Gallentine asked Dr. Addleman if she thought things would run better if the hospital board members were elected instead of appointed by the commissioners.

That's something to be put out to the taxpayers, she replied.

## Singing Christmas carols



AT THEIR LATEST MEETING, members of the Oberlin Brownie Scout troop sang Christmas carols at businesses downtown. Calista Isbell, Morgan Jones and Gabi Johnson (back) were a few of the girls who sang at *The Oberlin Herald* office.

— Herald staff photo by Carolyn Plotts

# \*Offices to close for day

(Continued from Page 1A)  
delivery.

Decatur Community High School and Oberlin Elementary School will have a teacher work day. The students' first day of school for the second semester will be Tuesday.

The Decatur Health Systems Family Practice Clinic will be open as usual Monday.

Raye's Grocery will be closed New Year's Day but open Monday. This is one of the four times the store closes during the year. Dollar General will have regular hours through the holiday weekend, however.

Pizza Hut, Subway and the Reload in Oberlin plan to have regular hours, along with the two convenience stores, Eagle Travel Stop and CrossRoads Express. The Land-Mark Inn will be closed New Year's Day and Monday. The Frontier Cafe hadn't decided on holiday hours.

Sunflower Recreation will be closed Saturday and New Year's Day but open Monday for League Bowling from 5 to 10 p.m.

In Jennings, the Broken Wheel Bar and Grill will be closed Monday.

*The Oberlin Herald* office will be closed Monday. The paper will be printed a day later than usual, with copies at the newsstands on Wednesday and in the mail on Thursday.

Trash pick up across the county will also be a day late because of the holiday.

# \*Dance planned at hall

(Continued from Page 1A)  
Christ. For information, call Kristin McHugh at (785) 470-7176.

• Before dancing the night away, don't forget to stop in at the Land-Mark Inn for surf and turf. The restaurant will be serving crab legs from 6 to 8 p.m. Delicious!

• The Sunflower Cinema will have a New Year's Eve showing of "New Year's Eve" at 7 p.m. Saturday. The film, rated PG-13, is two hours long. It also will play at 7 p.m. Friday and then at 2 p.m. Sunday.

# \*County appoints new members

(Continued from Page 1A)  
with the current board and is reasonably up to date on the issues.

Mr. Frickey said he was about "95 percent sure" he was not interested in continuing to serve after the first year.

Mrs. Miesner said she had worked with legal, administration and experience work in with a medical-care management firm. She said she has a business background and worked in the medical community, human resources and administration and also has done volunteer work. Her husband Jim is a member of the Oberlin City Council and an Oberlin native.

Mrs. Miesner said she's always been able to lead people to places they didn't think they could go and to bring together people from diverse backgrounds.

Mrs. Wolfram asked the commissioners about the job description of a hospital board member. Commissioner Gene Gallentine said the board meets once a month, hires medical staff and deals with the teens and outs of the hospital.

She said she has over 25 years' experience in the medical field and now works in administration and has worked with hospitals placing students.

She said she wouldn't get into a job without being committed to it and will do her homework before making decisions.

It's important to make informed decisions, said Mr. Gallentine, adding that as a board member, her vote could help decide if a doctor is or isn't hired. The board deals with recruitment, how much to pay the medical professionals and other decisions with the hospital and clinic.

"Can you come on the board with no counter-productive agenda?" asked Mr. Gallentine.

Mrs. Wolfram said she thought she could. She said she does have some history with the clinic, as she worked there a number of years ago.

She added that she knows how important it is to have a hospital and clinic in town and have professionalism at both.

The last to interview was Mr. Zander.

Mr. Gallentine went over the job, noting that the members have to evaluate the management firm's chief executive officer. That evaluation, he said, has to be done honestly.

Health care is a complicated business, he said, but there are a lot of resources available.

Mr. Zander said he served on a hospital board once before, but just

long enough to get his feet wet.

He asked if the commissioners see the county health-care facility as doing a bit of everything, or just a referral service to send people somewhere else.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said he hopes it will be something in between. It needs to be viable, said Mr. Gallentine, and self-sustaining. It needs to create enough revenue to cover its expenses, said Mr. McEvoy.

Mr. Zander said life in a small town has definite advantages over living in a city, including the family atmosphere here. One of the weaknesses, he said, is that there might not be enough people to absorb the financial cost of providing good medicine.

"You kind of hit the nail on the head," said Mr. Gallentine.

The two members will start on the board in January.

# \*Nurse practitioner to start

(Continued from Page 1A)  
over the weekend and bought a house.

She added that the practitioner is excited about coming to work here and about doing the nursing home rounds.

Mrs. Ward will join Dr. Steve

Albert and Sean Conroy, physician assistant at the hospital and clinic. Mrs. Doeden has interviewed other medical professionals for Oberlin.

The hospital board, said Mrs. Doeden, also recently approved buying a new CT scanner to update the technology at the hospital. To

continue proving quality care, she said, they need to keep the equipment up to date. The scanner should arrive in March or April.

Mrs. Doeden said a new digital mammogram machine will be in at the beginning of February.

# \*Man appointed to appropriations committee

(Continued from Page 1A)  
standing voice for western Kansas during his first year in the Legislature," the speaker said. "The Appropriations Committee will benefit from the perspective and experience he brings."

At present, Rep. Cassidy said, Rep. Sharon Schwartz of Washington is the farthest west of the

committee members. And though rural, Washington is two counties east of Salina, well into the eastern half of the state.

Being part of the committee should give him better leverage to help his district and the entire western half of the state, he said, and it will help him learn more about how the Statehouse process works.

"I'm excited," he said. "I really am."

"I am honored by this appointment, and I look forward to representing the western part of the state on Appropriations."

The committee meets at 9 a.m. each day during the session, which will add to his workload. However, the freshman already has earned a

reputation as a hard worker.

"From day one, Rep. Cassidy has been a credible, common-sense voice on many issues ... from education to the budget," said House Majority Leader Arlen Siegfried (R-Olathe). "He is a tireless advocate for his district and for western Kansas."

## Cover Your Acres January 17 and 18, 2012 Winter Conference The Gateway in Oberlin, KS

Presented by Kansas State University and Northwest Kansas Crop Residue Alliance

	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4
7:45 8:15	Registration			
8:15 8:20	Welcome			
8:30 9:20	Kochia History, Biology & Implications (P. Stahlman) <sup>12</sup>	Utility of Cover Crops (J. Holman) <sup>1</sup>	Enhanced Fertilizer Products (K. Martin) <sup>1</sup>	Chloride: Wheat & Row Crops - Evans Enterprises (I)
9:30 10:20	Kochia Recs for Row Crops (C. Thompson) <sup>12</sup>	Crop Rotations with Limited Irrigation (A. Schlegel) <sup>1</sup>	Vertical Tillage & Corn Production (D. Presley) <sup>1</sup>	Add Profit w/ SoilBuilder Cover Crops - Arrow Seed (I)
10:20 10:50	View Exhibits			
10:50 11:40	Kochia Rec for Wheat & Fallow (P. Stahlman) <sup>12</sup>	Sprayer Set-up (B. Klein) <sup>12</sup>	Palmer and Marestail Control (D. Peterson) <sup>12</sup>	Ag Estate Planning - KS Community Foundations (I)
11:50 12:40	Kochia: Growth Regulator Resistance (P. Westra) <sup>12</sup>	Utilizing Yield Monitor Data (L. Haag) <sup>1</sup>	Lunch	
12:50 1:40	Trends in Crop Leases (T. Dumler) <sup>1</sup>	Enhanced Fertilizer Products (K. Martin) <sup>1</sup>		
1:50 2:40	Palmer and Marestail Control (D. Peterson) <sup>12</sup>	Kochia History, Biology & Implications (P. Stahlman) <sup>12</sup>	Sprayer Set-up (B. Klein) <sup>12</sup>	Monsanto Product Update Monsanto (I)
2:50 3:40	Farmer Panel: Attacking Weeds	Kochia Recs for Row Crops (C. Thompson) <sup>12</sup>	Ag Estate Planning - KS Community Foundations (I)	Strip-till: Seedbed Prep & Fertilizer - Brothers Equip (I)
3:50 4:40	Vertical Tillage & Corn Production (D. Presley) <sup>1</sup>	Kochia Recs for Wheat & Fallow (P. Stahlman) <sup>12</sup>	Solutions for Managing Weed Resistance - BASF (I)	Maximizing Your Yield w/ Solutions - Cargill (I)
4:50 5:20	View Exhibits			
5:20 6:10	Utilizing Yield Monitor Data (L. Haag) <sup>1</sup>	Trends in Crop Leases (T. Dumler) <sup>1</sup>	Max Yields w/ KQ-XRN and KS Fert - Kugler Co (I)	Strategies for Weed Control - Sims Fertilizer (I)

### Diamond Sponsors

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- Lang Diesel
- Brothers Equipment
- Monsanto
- Cargill AgHorizons
- National Sunflower Assoc.
- Hoxie Implement
- Simpson Farm Enterprises

[www.northwest.ksu.edu/coveryouracres](http://www.northwest.ksu.edu/coveryouracres)

### Like to Attend?

#### Early-Bird Registrations

**Due January 10.**  
Circle when you would like to attend.

<b>Tuesday, Jan 17</b> Cost \$30.00	<b>Wednesday, Jan 18</b> Cost \$25.00
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**Both days - Jan 17 & 18**  
Cost \$45.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include information for all attending.

#### After January 10

\$50.00 per day

**Mail registrations to:**  
Kansas State University  
NW Area Extension Office  
Attn: Jeanne Falk  
PO Box 786  
Colby, KS 67701

For questions, call (785) 462-6281.  
Program will be held regardless of weather. No refunds will be given.

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