

*Mayor tours station

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had done that several years ago, but none of the other members was on the council then.

The mayor said he thought that was a great idea and suggested spring would be a good time.

- Got a request from Councilman Rusty Addleman for an update on electrical rates in other towns to compare with Oberlin's.

Mayor Reidel said that was also a good idea. He noted that the electrical system is a revenue generator for the city and without it, taxes would probably have to be raised, since the money pays for a lot.

- Received a suggestion from the mayor that council members attend county commission meetings and take a more active role in the health care system. Although the hospital and clinic belong to the county, he said, their problems affect the city and its citizens.

He told the council that the substitution problems and health care are probably the two biggest challenges the council will face in 2012.

- Learned that City Administrator Karen Larson was on vacation but should be back for the next meeting.

- Passed a resolution allowing the city to use cash accounting for many of its financial items. The city has to pass this resolution every year or do everything on an accrual basis, which is time consuming and unnecessary, Administrative Assistant Steve Zdrov told the council.

- Designated The Bank of Oberlin, Farmers Bank and Trust and First National Bank as depositories for the city this year.

- Heard from city Sexton Jeremy Tally that he is checking the cemetery records to make sure they are all correct before moving them to a computer format. He said he already has 12 pages of corrections.

Mr. Tally said that he has raised \$5,000 so far to pay for the digital directory that will eventually be installed at the cemetery at a cost of \$20,000.

- Learned that the city pays the county to maintain the road from the U.S. 36 to the golf course, and if work is needed, the county road and bridge supervisor should be notified.

Councilman Addleman said he thinks the road needs gravel.

- Noted that the next meeting will be at 7 p.m. Thursday at The Gateway.



NURSE PRACTITIONER Lynnetta Ward took a call on Thursday as she began work at the Family Practice Clinic in Oberlin. — Herald staff photo by Carolyn Kelley-Plotts

*Nurse practitioner starts

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in Winfield. She said she continued to live in Moline and commute to work.

In Winfield, she said, the pressures of the job were less, but she missed the interaction with a variety of patients. That's when she began an on-line search which led her to Oberlin. She said one of her best friends, Kim (Schroeder) Holt, was a native of Oberlin and had spoken highly of her hometown.

"Oberlin is a great little community," Mrs. Ward said. "Everyone is so friendly. Even the people at the courthouse were so helpful giving me all the information I needed as

a new resident. Oberlin has a great grocery store, and everything you need is here."

What's the difference between a physician assistant and a nurse practitioner? Mrs. Ward explained:

"A PA is a certified health-care provider who works with one supervising physician... while a nurse practitioner is an independently licensed provider who works collaboratively, with one or more physicians to provide healthcare."

Lynn Doeden, chief executive officer of Decatur Health Systems, said the hospital and clinic are glad to have Mrs. Ward.

"We're so excited about Lynnetta

being here," she said. "I'm hoping the transition from eastern Kansas to western Kansas goes smoothly for her. I really appreciate how the community has responded to her."

Mrs. Ward said she and her husband Elmer, who she said prefers to be called "Ferd," are settling into their new home in Oberlin. Married for 5 1/2 years, they have a combined total of five children. She was quick to mention that her daughter recently gave them their first grandchild.

"Oberlin is bigger than the community we just moved from," said Mrs. Ward, "and I think it is a wonderful town."

Workers want new rig

The Decatur County commissioners talked at their meeting last Tuesday with members of the ambulance crew and the emergency medical director about the possibility of getting a new ambulance.

Chris Koerperich, an emergency medical technician with the crew, said he is working with an ambulance committee on the idea of replacing one of the units. Director Linda Manning said they need to get rid of car No. 1, which is in Jennings.

Several ideas were kicked around, including using a box from an existing rig on a new chassis or possibly going to a "first response" vehicle in Jennings rather than a fully equipped ambulance.

Ms. Manning said the service needs to get into a rotation for its equipment, because they haven't bought an ambulance since 2007 and that one has 80,000 miles on it.

"Does the Jennings ambulance do transports?" asked Commissioner Gene Gallentine.

Ms. Manning said it doesn't. Actually, said Mr. Koerperich, lots of times the Oberlin ambulance gets people in Jennings and brings them back here.

The director said they are just trying to get some ideas together to start replacing the vehicles.

Commissioner Ralph Unger asked how long a remount on a new chassis would take. Mr. Koerperich said he didn't know but could find out.

"What's in the equipment fund?" asked Commissioner Stan McEvoy.

County Clerk Colleen Geihsler said the ambulance department has \$7,755 in equipment and around \$280,000 in the regular operating fund.

Crop Production constantly changing

Crop production and the many new products that come out each year are constantly evolving and changing, Extension experts say.

The latest research findings on these products and sound soil fertility practices and recommendations will be explained at a Soil Fertility School sponsored by the Thomas and Rawlins County Extension offices from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Tuesday at the 4-H Building in Atwood. Continuing education units and certified crop adviser credits have been applied for. This is a great time to get a start on those credit hours to renew your license, said

Clint Milliman, Thomas County agricultural agent.

Addressing these ever-changing products and soil fertility practices will be Dorivar Ruiz Diaz, K-State specialist in soil fertility.

Reservations should be made by Thursday by calling the Thomas County Extension office, (785) 460-4582, or the Rawlins County office, (785) 626-3192. For information, call either office, or e-mail Mr. Milliman at milliman@k-state.edu or Cynthia Dixon, Rawlins County Extension agent, at cdixon@k-state.edu.



Pain Clinic

Experience Relief

With Tri Valley Pain Clinic

Tri Valley Health System's Pain Clinic is a multidisciplinary clinic for the diagnosis and treatment of individuals suffering from pain. Tri Valley Pain Clinic is Medically Directed by Dr. Kevin Balter, MD of Platte Valley Pain Care in Kearney.

Acute and chronic pain conditions evaluated and treated in the Pain Clinic include but are not limited to:

- Muscular (myofascial) pain
- Post-surgical pain
- Reflex sympathetic dystrophy (RSD)
- Shingles and post-herpetic neuralgia
- Diabetic neuropathy
- Irritable bowel syndrome
- Arthritis, joint pain, TMJ, sacroilitis
- Severe angina, ischemic vascular pain
- Low back pain
- Neck pain
- Whiplash
- Headaches
- Sciatica pain
- Cancer pain
- Spasticity
- Fibromyalgia

Treatments include Physical and Emotional Rehabilitation, Medication Optimization and Specialty Procedures.

For more information call Tri Valley Health System at 308-697-1172 or Platte Valley Pain Care at 308-236-0507.

Please obtain a physician referral to make an appointment.



Dr. Kevin Balter

Crew digs up sewer line

Oberlin city workers were busy digging up a sewer line to the hospital and Cedar Living Center on Monday morning.

The hospital reported a backup in its system, City Administrator Karen Larson said, and when the city tried to check the line, it found a blockage so bad it bent up the equipment.

Since the city regularly cleans out its sewer lines, she said, it appeared that something was broken.

"Something must have fallen onto our line and crushed it," she said on Monday.

It's never a good time to have a sewer line out, especially to the hospital, she noted, but with cold weather expected this week, the workers were trying to get to the break as quickly as possible. However, she noted, the sewer line is nine feet below the ground.

"Hopefully, we can have it back up before it gets cold," she said.

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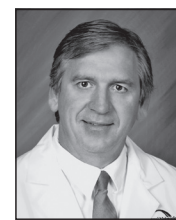
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