

# Bank waits for word on branches

By CYNTHIA HAYNES  
c.haynes@nwkansan.com

The Bank of Oberlin is awaiting authorization from state and federal officials to buy three branches of First National Bank of Goodland.

The Bank plans to acquire the Colby, Bird City and Quinter branches of First National. President Gary Walter said that the first step in the purchase was to reach an agreement with First National to buy the assets and liabilities of the three branches.

The second, he said, is to get permission from the state banking commissioner and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., which insures both banks.

The third step, required by law, is to publish a notice in the local newspapers of the three branches – Colby, Bird City and Quinter – and two home offices – Oberlin and Goodland – of the affected banks for four weeks.

The publications were done in May and people have had a chance to comment on the sale, he said. Now, everyone is just waiting on the state and federal agencies to OK the application.

“It’s completely dependent on approval of the regulators,” he added.

It would be good for both banks, he noted, if the sale could go through by the end of June because banks have to put out a call report, or statement of condition, each quarter and that would be the end of June.

First National has branches in Goodland, Col-

by, Oberlin, St. Francis, Bird City and Quinter, plus Kirk and Bennett in Colorado.

Mr. Walter said the decision to buy just the three branches was purely a business decision and he couldn’t really comment on it. Nor would he say how much The Bank has offered for the three. Both those items, he said, are covered under a confidentiality agreement signed by both banks.

While the approval process is going forward, Mr. Walter said, The Bank’s people are working to make sure the computer systems between the two can work together. This is taking quite a bit of time, money and manpower, he noted, since computer and software systems of two businesses are seldom compatible.

Customers of the affected branches shouldn’t worry, however, he said.

“The only thing people will notice is a name change on their checks and the sign on the building,” he said.

The Bank will buy back any checks that still say First National from the customers in those branches that change, he said. That’s just one of the liabilities that The Bank will assume, along with things like contracts for postage machines.

Mr. Walter noted that it will be 10 years in May since The Bank bought the Colby, Norcatour and Oberlin branches of Gold Bank. At that time, he said, people didn’t notice much change, and they won’t this time.

In fact, Gold Bank had just purchased the assets of Farmers National Bank in Oberlin and Norcatour not long before, so those customers had a change of banks twice in just a few years.

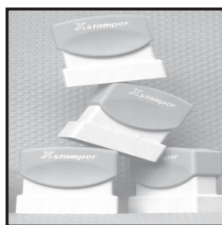
The Bank today has branches in Oberlin, Jennings, Norcatour, Oakley, Colby, Winona, Selden, Atwood, Herndon and Norton. With the addition of the three branches, it will have 10 full-service branches because the Colby loca-

tions would be counted as one and two part-time branches – Norcatour and Herndon – have no loan officers on site.

As a bonus, Mr. Walter said, The Bank customers will be getting more electronic banking services, although it may take six months to a year to get them put into full effect.

## The Stamps

you can’t wait to get our hands on



- Pre-inked (no stamp pad needed)
- Cleaner, easier to use
- 50,000 impressions before re-inking
- Dozens of models

## THE OBERLIN HERALD

170 S. Penn • Oberlin, Kansas 67749  
785-475-2206 •

## Celebrating 25 years of service.

Thank you for your support and we will continue to serve you in a professional manner.  
*We want to work for you because “We Care.”*



**We Offer Complete Veterinary Service**  
Specializing in both **large** and **small** animal care  
**Countryside Veterinary Clinic**  
of Oberlin and Hoxie P.A.

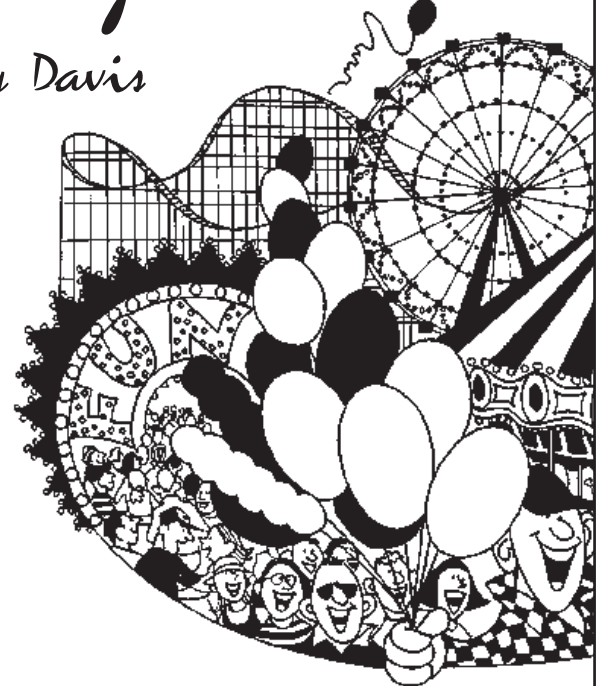
Mark R. Olson, DVM Travis A. Hissong, DVM William B. Terry, DVM  
1829 Hwy. 83, North of Salebarn — Oberlin, Kan.  
(785) 475-3808 — Toll Free 1-800-953-3808  
798 S. Rd. 10 W — Hoxie, Kan. (785) 675-3378



Our next special Edition is

# Fair Days 2012

Call Kimberly Davis  
today at  
785-475-2206  
to place  
your ad!



## THE OBERLIN HERALD

170 S. Penn — Oberlin — 785-475-2206

Serving Oberlin and Decatur County for 62 years!

### In our Deli

- Broasted Chicken
- Fresh Salad Bar
- BBQ Beef Sandwiches
- Ice and Beer
- Lottery Tickets
- Taco Salads
- Deli Sandwiches
- Deli Meats & Cheeses by the pound



Mon.-Sat. 7 a.m.-8 p.m. — Sunday 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

**SNACKS • POP • ICE • BEER**

**Raye’s Grocery, Inc.**

Oberlin, Kansas — Phone 785-475-2952