



OFFICER TROY HAAS worked at his desk Thursday morning after his promotion to police chief June 21. He replaced retiring Police Chief Wade Lockhart.
 — Herald staff photo by Stephanie DeCamp

Officer named Chief of Police

By **STEPHANIE DeCAMP**

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City council unanimously voted to name Officer Troy Haas as the new police chief last Thursday, replacing Wade Lockhart, who is retiring after 15 years.

“I’d just like to thank all of you for supporting (City Administrator) Karen Larson in this decision,” Mr. Haas said at the meeting. “I look forward to supporting our community. Thanks for keeping us in modern work equipment and supporting us.”

The meeting room at the Gateway broke out in applause, both for Mr. Haas and Mr. Lockhart, who stood up to say his own thanks.

“It’s been an honor to work for the city,” Mr. Lockhart said. “I hope that I left it in a little better shape than it was when I started. If I’ve accomplished that, I think I’ll be happy.”

“I can’t tell you how much I appreciate your work for the community,” Mayor Bill Riedel replied. “You’ve hired good officers and let them do their job I don’t think a lot of people realize it, but we have a great police team here.”

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Hospital has new doctors on staff

By **STEPHANIE DeCAMP**

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Since Decatur Health Systems assumed ownership of the Oberlin Clinic and merged it with the hospital’s Family Practice Clinic, the operation has seen a whirlwind of doctors, with some staying for a while, some staying as little as two months.

However, its leaders say, the clinic continues to improve the quality of its care.

Physician Assistant Sean Conroy, who has been here a year, has an orthopedic background. Dr. Stephan Albert specializes in counseling. He came here from Fort Riley, where he helped soldiers coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan reintegrate into society. Nurse Practitioner Lynnetta Ward is a wound-care specialist.

Mr. Conroy, who grew up in McCook, went to Kansas City for school and came

back here.

“Kansas City was just way too big,” he said.

“It took me an hour one time to come home, and it was only seven miles. The thing I like most about Oberlin is the smallness of it; it’s nice being in a close-knit community.

Mr. Conroy lives here with his two sons, close to the pool.

“The funniest thing that will happen,” he said, “is some little kid will swim up and say, ‘I know you; you’re my doctor!’ Being appreciated is always nice.”

Mr. Conroy was the first to come, and he started in July of 2011. Dr. Albert followed, and began working at the clinic in August of 2011. Just this year, in January, the clinic also hired Mrs. Ward.

The hospital continues to work on doctor recruitment.



Dr. Albert



Sean Conroy



L. Ward

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