

Red Cross blood drive a smash hit

By **STEPHANIE DeCAMP**
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The Red Cross blood drive last Tuesday at The Gateway was a roaring success, as people lined up throughout the day to help replenish dangerously low blood supplies in Kansas.

The donors ranged from Ray Corcoran of Oberlin, who was giving blood for the first time, to Gary Walter, president of The Bank, who donated his 94th unit. Mr. Walter said that one of the goals on his "bucket list" – a list of things he wants to do before he dies, or kicks the bucket – is to bring his total up to 100 units of blood.

The Red Cross crew was busy throughout the day, said phlebotomist Lanell Burden, because the number sent out for the drive was based on advance appointments that had been made. But for every one reservation there were two to three walk-ins throughout the afternoon, she said, making for long waits. Donors went through a checklist

of questions to ensure they were eligible to give blood before being laid down to rest during the brief time they would have to suffer the needle.

People in line could be heard wondering aloud at the turnout, and a few suggested the wildfires over the last few weeks had put the cause into sharp relief.

"I've never seen a turnout like this," said Mary Pritchett, an apheresis technician (one who specializes in donor blood) from Wichita, who said she has worked drives in Oberlin before.

Sandwiches, cookies, juice and water were supplied by Decatur Health Systems, which sponsored the drive. Donors munched on the goodies after getting up from their beds and nurses gently guided them to the eating area in case they became faint or dizzy.

The next Red Cross blood drive will be from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 7, at the Decatur Community High School.



VISITING DURING a reception last Wednesday at the Sunflower Cinema, Dr. Roy Jensen (left) talked to University of Kansas alumnus Chuck Frickey. — Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

Health worker spread hepatitis

By **STEPHANIE DeCAMP**
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A Hays Medical Center contract worker charged with drug crimes in New Hampshire may have exposed some heart patients to the viral disease hepatitis C, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment said Friday.

Patients who received cardiac catheterization between May 24 and Sept. 22, 2010, may have been exposed to the blood-borne disease, the agency said.

The agency said David Kwiatkowski, 32, worked at the hospital as a contract radiology technician during those dates, and has since been charged in New Hampshire with obtaining controlled substances by fraud and tampering with a consumer product, according to the U.S. attorney's office in New Hampshire.

The *Boston Globe* reported he is accused of stealing fentanyl, a

powerful anesthetic, from Exeter Hospital's cardiac catheterization lab and returning dirty syringes to treatment areas, filled only with saltwater solution, which were then used on patients. As many as 30 people later contracted hepatitis C, officials say.

About 460 patients received the procedure during that time, the Hays Med said, and those who may have been exposed are being contacted by mail to come in for free testing.

A hotline has been set up at (877) 261-7140 for anyone concerned they might have been exposed. The line is available from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Hepatitis C affects the liver, said the department, and only one in five people who contract the virus has any initial sickness. Symptoms range from mild illness to severe disease, with most developing a chronic infection that can cause long-term health problems.

By **CYNTHIA HAYNES**
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University of Kansas friends and alumni got together last Wednesday evening at the Sunflower Cinema vestibule to meet Dr. Roy Jensen, director of the university's cancer center, hear about what's happening at the school, talk with each other and eat some fancy snacks.

"If we're going to be the University of Kansas," Mr. Caboni quoted Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little as saying, "we're going to be the university of all of Kansas."

Mr. Caboni noted that right now, 10 students from Decatur County attend the university.

The big news of the evening was from Dr. Jensen, who announced the KU center's being

designated as a National Cancer Institute cancer center, just the 67th in the country.

This has been a long process, Dr. Jensen said. The first application for the designation was made in 1974. In 2005, he said, former Chancellor Bob Hemenway made it one of the university's top priorities.

The project has received lots of support from the Kansas governor's office, he said, through three administrations starting with Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, and the legislature also got behind the project.

The designation will create well over 1,100 jobs and \$450 million in economic activity, Dr. Jensen said, adding that the university's top-rated pharmacy school played huge in getting the designation.

The pharmacy school ranks No. 2 in the nation, he said, and has been in the top five "more often than the KU men's basketball team."

Several important cancer drugs have been developed at the university, he said, but the clinical trials weren't done in Kansas.

That is why the university has set up the Midwest Cancer Alliance, he said. The alliance is an organization of hospitals, doctors, nurses and patients across the state. Hospitals in Goodland, Hays, Great Bend and Salina are part of the group and available to do clinical trials.

"You shouldn't have to get in a car and drive to Kansas City to get the best possible cancer care," he said. "We are the cancer center for Kansas and we're going to serve all the people of Kansas."

Development Corp. asks for money

By **STEPHANIE DeCAMP**
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The Economic Development Corp.'s budget is largely unchanged from previous years, with equity available but little ready cash to spend, board member Greg Lohofener told the Decatur County commissioners Tuesday.

Unlike most agencies, he noted, the corporation receives money from both the city and the county.

The city is the department's primary backer, he added, budgeting around \$40,000 a year even during these lean times.

"We don't have a large amount of ready cash," Mr. Lohofener said. "We're hoping you can budget in \$12,000 to \$13,000 for us next year; that's about a half-mil levy. We have a significant amount of equity, but not a significant amount of cash."

"Other than the property tax,

we're not here with our hands out. Down the road, I sincerely hope to be less of a burden to the city and county, and we'll be able to support ourselves from our own operations."

The agency has closed the books on two debts, though, he said. The Golden Age Center/Sunflower Cinema project no longer needs an account, and the line of credit needed for the bowling alley has

been paid in full.

The truth is, if you listen long enough to the pluses and minuses, the whole mess can get quite confusing, he said. The point is, while the agency may appear at first glance to be flush with cash, it really isn't. Most of its money is tied up in loans and lines of credit that it takes out to further development. This, of course, requires payments with interest.

One of two cookouts for firefighters canceled

One picnic recognizing Decatur County firefighters has been canceled – a cookout and benefit planned by the volunteers for Saturday – but another – a community-organized thank-you next Wednesday – is still on.

Money raised at the event will go to help buy equipment for the rural fire department. Organizers

suggest bringing lawn chairs and enjoy hamburgers, polish sausages, hot dogs and watermelon.

Anyone who can't make it to the August cookout can mail donations to the Decatur County Fire Department, in care of the Decatur County Clerk, Box 28, Oberlin, Kan. 67749.

Five new bridges planned for Decatur County

By **STEPHANIE DeCAMP**
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Decatur County will be getting five new bridges this year, Road Supervisor Tim Stallman said at Tuesday's commissioners' meeting, with one of them being paid for mostly by the federal government. The commissioners signed an

agreement with Penco Engineering to do construction engineering for the federal bridge, which is replacing an old one 13.5 miles south and 1 mile west of Oberlin. Because it's a federal project, the firm will need to have an approved inspector monitor the work, he said.

The commissioners opened bids

for the bridge on Friday, with Claver Construction of Pratt winning the project for \$219,257. They've done other bridges for the county before, Mr. Stallman said. Claver will begin the job around the first week of September.

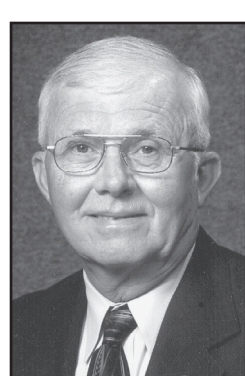
Mr. Stallman confirmed that Oberlin Concrete started work

Monday on the city bridge at the south end of Penn Avenue by the co-op. This Monday, Reese Construction will start building three steel bridges in the southwest corner of the county, in two- to three-week intervals. Reese is already working on a bridge that's half a mile away from the federal project.

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(Kansas Hospital Association)

KCC

(Kansas Chamber of Commerce)

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Congressman Huelskamp's Endorsement

by the American Freedom PAC

This month at Decatur Health Systems

Providers

Dr. Steven Albert DO
Sean Conroy PA-C
Lynnetta Ward APRN-BC
Tricia Carney APRN-C

Schedule appointments with the Family Practice Clinic at 475-2015.

Schedule appointments with the hospital and Specialty Care Clinic at 475-2208.

The Fitness Center is open daily from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Call 475-2208 for membership information.



810 W. Columbia Oberlin, KS

"Caring and Sharing From The Heart"

August 2012

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Emergency care available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.				
		1 Dr. Albert Lynnetta Surgery Sonogram Cardiac rehab	2 Dr. Albert Sean Lynnetta MRI	3 Dr. Albert Sean Lynnetta Cardiac rehab
6 Dr. Albert Sean Cardiac rehab	7 Dr. Albert Cardiology	8 Dr. Albert Sean Surgery Sonogram Cardiac rehab	9 Sean MRI	10 Sean Cardiac rehab
13 Dr. Albert Sean Lynnetta Cardiac rehab	14 Dr. Albert Lynnetta Tricia Outreach clinics Bone Density	15 Dr. Albert Sean Urology Surgery Sonogram Cardiac rehab	16 Dr. Albert Sean Lynnetta MRI	17 Dr. Albert Sean Lynnetta Cardiac rehab
20 Dr. Albert Sean Lynnetta Cardiac rehab	21 Dr. Albert Lynnetta Cardiology	22 Dr. Albert Sean Surgery Sonogram Cardiac rehab	23 Dr. Albert Sean Lynnetta MRI	24 Dr. Albert Sean Lynnetta Cardiac rehab
27 Dr. Albert Sean Lynnetta Oncology Cardiac rehab	28 Dr. Albert Lynnetta Tricia Outreach clinics	29 Dr. Albert Sean Surgery Sonogram Cardiac rehab	30 Sean Lynnetta MRI	31 Sean Lynnetta Cardiac rehab