

THE OBERLIN HERALD —
People in
Our Community
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RADIOLOGY TECHNOLOGIST DEAN SPRINKLE (above) prepared Donna Guinn for a bone-density test at the Decatur County Hospital last month. Thanks to a \$24,500 gift from a patient's son, the hospital is able to perform high-quality bone-density scans as needed instead of waiting for a monthly visit from a mobile unit. Audie Chason, (below)

a former executive for Mindways CT, trained radiology technologist Dean Sprinkle to use the CT bone-density software. Mr. Chason said he decided to give his company's software to the hospital after watching Sprinkle work with his mother.

— Photos by Becky Wilson/Decatur Health Systems

Gift to hospital equips scanner to do bone test

By **AMY ANDERSON**
Decatur Health Systems

A routine scan of a new patient led to a \$24,500 donation of software from the patient's son that will allow Decatur Health Systems in Oberlin to perform quicker, more sensitive bone density screenings, making for earlier detection and treatment of osteoporosis.

Audie Chason accompanied his mother, Josefa, to her first visit with medical director Dr. Robert Rosin. The Austin, Texas, resident said he was impressed by Dr. Rosin's approach to his mother's health care and the responsiveness of the staff. He was particularly taken with the facility's up-to-date equipment and the bedside manner of radiology technologist Dean Sprinkle, who performed a routine CT scan on Mr. Chason's mother that day.

Mr. Chason is the father of Jennifer Juenemann of Oberlin.

A former radiology technologist himself, Mr. Chason recently retired as an executive at Mindways CT, a Texas company that develops software for CT scanners. The company's QCT Bone Density software works with a Computed Tomography scanner to detect low bone mass in the spine earlier than other tests. The firm's software works by measuring the interior bone, which is affected earlier and to a greater degree, separately from the

denser walls of the bone. The price is generally too much for smaller, rural hospitals, however.

Mr. Chason said he decided his company's software would make an excellent gift for the Decatur County Hospital and the Oberlin community and would be a way to thank Decatur Health Systems, Dr. Rosin and Mr. Sprinkle for the way they had helped his mother.

"Quantitative Computed Tomography is a great benefit for our patients and service area," Mr. Sprinkle said. "Our QCT is faster and has no uncomfortable positioning requirements like the mobile DXA scan unit previously used at the hospital. The QCT measurements are more accurate than DXA by virtue of QCT's ability to avoid artificially high BMD measurements due to factors such as obesity, arthritis or degenerative spine diseases."

Dr. Rosin said he recommends bone mineral density screening for postmenopausal women every two years, but once a year if a patient is being treated for osteoporosis.

"Early detection will allow us to begin earlier treatment to conserve bone quality and reduce susceptibility to fractures of the hips, spine and wrists," he said. "These types of fractures are a huge factor in reducing quality of life in patients, particularly in older adults. They also



contribute significantly to the cost of health care in this population.

"Having the ability to do these scans on site and at the patients' convenience is a big advantage in screening for these problems."

In the past, the Decatur Health clinic used a mobile scan unit that visited Oberlin once a month. Using this gift, patients will be able to get their bone density screenings done during regular appointments. The scans are quick, taking an average of 5-10 minutes, and use a low dose of radiation, comparable to a mammogram.

"Donations such as Mr. Chason's are a big factor in allowing rural

hospitals like ours the opportunity to stay up-to-date and competitive in the health care market that exists today," said hospital Chief Executive Johnathan Owens. "We are always looking for donations of equipment or cash that keep the health care dollars of our patients flowing within the local economy."

A doctor's referral, required for a bone-mineral density screening, can be obtained by scheduling an appointment through the Decatur Health Family Practice Clinic at (785) 475-2015.

Decatur Health Systems

By *Becky Wilson*

The closing months of the calendar are packed with the biggest holidays of the year, and while they're special every year, this year in particular it seems like each holiday has had something special in store for us up at the hospital.

Over Thanksgiving, the radiology technicians here were trained in the use of new bone density software for the CT scanner, which was donated to Decatur Health by the son of a patient. Audie Chason, a former radiology technician and retired medical software company executive, gave the hospital bone density software developed by his company after watching the staff work with his mother.

The software will allow us to do bone-density scans, which are important to track the onset of osteoporosis, any day of the week instead of waiting for a monthly visit from a mobile unit. This was a totally unexpected and substantial gift, and everyone has been touched by the generosity of Mr. Chason, who truly embodied the spirit of the

holiday spirit.

So it was a very happy Thanksgiving in the radiology department, and in the past couple of days the arrival of a piece of equipment called a CT injector has ensured it will be a merry Christmas. A CT injector works with the scanner by administering to patients a high-contrast dye to help highlight internal organs and vessels. This can help diagnose things such as heart or vascular disease, cancer, injuries, strokes and digestive disorders. The injector of-

fers a precisely timed delivery that a human can't match.

This will allow us to perform right here in Oberlin certain tests that previously patients would have to go out of town for.

The CT scanner itself hasn't been here for all that long, and already it's delivered some impressive results, in some cases detecting things so early that it could literally be called a lifesaver. Both the bone-density software and the injector will only expand the scanner's capabilities.



Anogene Rogers
95th Birthday

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, December 29
2:00 - 4:00 pm
Selden Community Building

If you can not join Anogene for her celebration, she would enjoy receiving cards at 13287 W. Rd. 110 N. Rexford, KS 67753

Lynnetta Ward has returned home after spending eight days visiting her daughter and family, Melinda and Gustavo Handshy and their 15-month-old son, Lucas, in Vina Dela Mar, Chile.

Calvin Ufford attended the college graduation of his grandson, Rob Roy Rutherford IV. He received a bachelor of arts degree in economics from Washburn University in Topeka on Dec. 14. He is employed by Capital Federal Savings, Topeka. He is the son of Rob Roy III and Jane (Ufford) Rutherford, Berryton.

Gary and Judy Vaughn of Henderson, Colo., visited relatives in Oberlin on Friday and were joined for lunch at the Frontier Cafe by Gloria McKenna, McCook; Joyce Carlton, Karl and Donna Hazen, Melissa Carlton and Dave Vick and Hayden. The Vaughns were en route to Kansas City to spend the holidays with John and Tamra Owen and family. Joining them will be Tom and Tonie Owens and family, Atlanta, Ga.

Jeanie Martin accompanied her daughter, Erica Martin, of New York City, to Tokyo, where they spent five days recently. Her daughter is a fashion designer for American Eagle Outfitters.

Melissa Hasty, a 2008 graduate of Decatur Community High School, graduated recently from Baker University and is living in Lawrence where she will be a graduate student at the University of Kansas. Her address is 2001 West 6th Street, Apt. E-8, Lawrence, Kan., 66044. Her parents are the Rev. and Mrs. Doug Hasty of Cheney, formerly of Oberlin.

Winning highs in pinochle at the Golden Age Center last week were Kelva Dryden and Henry Edgett. Lows went to John Cederberg and Dorothy Moore. Gladys Geis was the Chicken Foot dominoes winner.

Pitch high winners were Dewaine Stapp and Henry Edgett with lows going to Dorothy Moore and John Cederberg. Bridge highs were won by Ila Ray, Merle Shirley, Cynthia Matson and Charlotte Meints.

Funeral services were held on Dec. 12 at Memory Gardens Cemetery in Amarillo, Texas, for Claude A. Tongish, 86, who died at a hospital there on Dec. 8, 2012. He was born in Ludell and was a son of Herman and Catherine Tongish. A daughter, Karen, of New York City survives. He was also preceded in death by his wife, the former Mabel Riepl, originally from Herndon, and two brothers, Melvin and Harold Tongish.

Samantha Anderson, a freshman at Bethany College at Lindsborg, participated on a team with students playing an online business simulation game. Her team finished in the top 100 of the 2,879 teams playing worldwide. She and her partner, Blake Hosey, a senior from Littleton, Colo., placed in the top 100 for six consecutive weeks, ending with No. 47 earnings per share, No. 8 return on equity and No. 41 stock price. She is the daughter and Richard and Maureen Anderson of Oberlin.

Pat Fringer and Reta Barratt of Oberlin, and Rhonda Jennings, Topeka, and Kim and Brian Brumley and Kourtney, McPherson, attended funeral services on Nov. 9 in Tulsa for Allen Capps, 71, who died on Nov. 6. His wife, the former Marcela Vacura, is a sister of Mrs. Fringer and Mrs. Barratt and a daughter of Margaret Vacura of Oberlin. Other survivors include five children, Teresa (David) Elam, Lindsey, Okla.; Mark (Sonya) Capps, Tulsa; Loretta Capps, Catoosa, Okla.; Becky (Tommy) Cantwell, Salina, Okla.; and Roy Capps and wife, South Carolina, as well as seven grandchildren.

Women enjoy festive potluck

The Oberlin United Methodist Women, Dorcas Circle and Prairie Chapel United Methodist Women met for their first combined meeting and a Christmas potluck supper at the home of Jim and Linda Hollowell on Dec. 6.

The 30 women enjoyed a "sit down" potluck, followed by a gift exchange, telling of their most memorable Christmases over the years and concluded the evening by singing Christmas carols.



Happy 50th Anniversary

Join us in celebrating Walt and Donna's 50th Wedding Anniversary Dec. 29th at the Golden Age Recreation Center from 4-8 p.m.

Walt and Donna were married in Hamlet, Nebraska at the Hamlet Union Church on Dec. 30th 1962. Please come and help them celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.



Planning a Wedding?

The Oberlin Herald

is happy to run pictures and stories of weddings.

However, we need the information within five weeks of the marriage. Write-ups received after this date require a \$10 charge for each month past the deadline date.

Stop by our office for a wedding form.