



KATIE KOERPERICH (above) of Koerperich Bookbindery in Selden worked with a large sewing machine to bind part of a new book the company is putting together. **Don Koerperich** (below) worked on another machine in the shop. — Photos by Carleen Bell

Oberlin man wants to share his information

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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 Two Decatur County Hospital board members and the administrator plan to meet with an Oberlin man about phone calls he's been receiving from patients.

Rusty Addleman talked with the hospital board at the board's monthly meeting Monday, March 19, about calls he's been getting. He said it had been mentioned at the January meeting that possibly he could meet with a few of the board members. He said he won't share the concerns he has in a public forum, as that's not going to do anyone any good. Mr. Addleman said he wanted it known that he never said there was no emergency room at the hospital open 24 hours, seven days a week. He said he'd pointed out that there isn't always a doctor in the emergency room. Mr. Addleman said the hospital has an excellent nursing staff.

asked board member Ruth Wolfram. "Yes," said Mr. Addleman. Board chairman Pam Wilson said she thought the first thing Mr. Addleman should ask people calling is if they had talked with the hospital administrator.

"So people have concerns about care here," asked Mrs. Wolfram, "and then what is happening with them elsewhere?"

"Yes," said Mr. Addleman. Those issues need to be brought out, she said. These people apparently feel safe talking to Mr. Addleman, she said, which is a burden for him.

Someone suggested that Administrator Lynn Doeden and possibly one board member could meet with him. Mrs. Doeden said she was OK with that.

There's a situation where one group of people doesn't think the other group is doing things right, said board member Pete Zander. People have to understand that different groups and different people will look at things in different ways.

Mrs. Doeden, Mrs. Wolfram and Mrs. Wilson plan to meet with Mr. Addleman.

He said he has people calling him with comments about the hospital and the care it gives. Mr. Addleman said he would like to relay those to the board.

"Is it specific care incidents?"

Council to hear about water wells

The Oberlin City Council will hear an update on test-well drilling for new city water wells at its meeting on Thursday.

Chris Miller with Miller and Associates, the city's engineers, will tell the council what was found when additional wells were drilled in the Ogallala Aquifer last month. In addition, City Administrator

Karen Larson said, the council will hear about a pre-construction meeting for the rebuilding of the city airport's main runway scheduled for 1 p.m. Wednesday at the city offices.

The council meeting will be at 7 p.m. Thursday in the upstairs meeting room of The Gateway. It is open to the public.

Couple binds books

By **CARLEEN BELL**
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Koerperich Bookbindery in Selden is still binding and repairing books by hand, a craft not often found in today's digital world. It's one of only a few businesses of its type left in the country.

Now owned and operated by Don and Katie Koerperich, the bindery was founded in 1969 by Don's parents, Richard and Sandy Koerperich, who visited a similar business in New Mexico to learn the trade, then came home to Selden to launch their own.

The business started in a garage on the family farm and later moved to downtown Selden. It has been continually expanding since.

Don is one of five sons born to Richard and Sandy Koerperich, and he said all of them worked at the business through their high school years. After high school, Don attended college in McCook, then returned to Selden to continue with the family business along side his parents and his brother Chris.

When Richard passed away six years ago, Don and Chris began operating the bindery full time. Two years ago, Don purchased his brother's half of the business, becoming sole owner.

Operating an "old-fashioned" book bindery, Don and Katie and three employees do a lot of book binding and repairs by hand and with decades-old machinery. The bulk of the bindery's work is subcontracting to bind new books for publishers, along with restoring damaged or used books.

Much of Katie's work consists



of using a large sewing machine to bind books with a thread and needle, but restorations require hand stitching and sewing.

"We can usually turn a book in just a few days if it is a rush job," she said, "but we usually tell our customers to expect a 30-day turnover. Some restorations can take several months, depending on how much needs to be done."

Along with repairing the binding, Don and Katie said, they make their own hard covers for books. Customers can choose among many materials and patterns to cover new or restored books and the covers are glued on to the cardboard covers.

With so few operations of its kind in the nation, Don and Katie said, advertising for their services is mostly through word of mouth.

About 75 percent of business is generated outside the area. During the summer months, for instance, they repair textbooks for a lot of schools. They said they put on some summer help to deal with the upswing in business. Winter is always a slow time, but they make up for that in the busy seasons.

"The Internet has really hurt us a lot in the last few years," Don said, "but people are always going to want books. There will always be a need for what we do."

Regardless of the challenges of running a small business in a big world, Don and Katie said they like the flexibility of what they do and like the idea of supporting the economy of their community.

"We work from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., so we can get to most evening activities that we want," Don said.

"It's nice to be able to go see our kids in sports or whatever they are doing."

The couple has four children, ages 15, 13, 10 and 5. While the older kids don't seem to be interested in taking over the family business, they said, the youngest, Jerrit, a kindergartner, loves to spend time at the bindery.

Their other children include Joseph, a freshman at Golden Plains High School; Jessica, 13, a seventh grader; and Jaiden, 10, who is in fourth grade.

"Jerrit swears he's going to work here when he grows up," Katie said. "He loves playing here and trying to help us work. He just really likes spending time here. It's one big playground for him."

FINANCIAL STATEMENT				
of Dresden City - DECATUR County, Kansas for the year ending December 31, 2011, for the Preparation of the 2013 Budget				
DRESDEN CITY				
	Cash Balance Jan. 1st	Receipts	Expenditures	Cash Balance Dec. 31st
GENERAL	3,026	7,692	6,895	3,823
SPECIAL HIGHWAY	7,650	1,096	540	8,206
SOLID WASTE	-	2,772	2,772	-
TOTALS	10,676	11,650	10,207	12,029
Outstanding Indebtedness as of December 31, 2011; \$ _____				
Certified by: Lillian Sulzman City Clerk/Treasurer				
*The above named City Officer does certify that the foregoing is a summary of moneys received by the City and expended together with the indebtedness of said City for the year ending December 31, 2011. The above City had -0- Outstanding Indebtedness as of December 31, 2011. Detailed Statement of Receipts, Expenditures and Liabilities are available at the Office of the Decatur County Clerk. Form required by KSA 80-410 Done so by - Colleen Geihlsler, Decatur County Clerk				

Hillcrest Nursing Home
 a progressive Long Term Care facility located in McCook, Neb. is currently accepting applications for RN, LPN, and Nursing Assistants positions. Full-time and part-time hours are available. Hillcrest offers competitive wages and benefits package including:
 •Health, Dental, and Vision Insurance
 •Pension Package
 •Vacation, Sick and Holiday pay
 •On-site Childcare
 If you would like to tour our facility and see the terrific employment opportunities, or receive an application, call Lynn at (308) 345-4600. EOE.

Household and Vehicle Auction
 Saturday, April 14, 2012, The Gateway 10:00 a.m.
Max and Veanna Carman All Items are like new!

- *Lots of Tools and Misc. Shop Items*
- *Lots of Furniture including:* La-Z-Boy recliners, La-Z-Boy sofa, Queen hide-a-bed sofa, lamps, lamp tables, coffee tables, dining room table with matching chairs and embroidery seats, 4 piece queen bedroom set, chrome craft table and chairs, twin beds.
- *Miscellaneous-*(2) TV's, File Cabinet, Computer, Printer, Lots of Indian artifacts, some with paperwork, plus much much more!
- *Appliances-*Near new Whirlpool appliances including: Whirlpool upright freezer, side by side refrigerator with ice maker, black top electric stove-3 years old, Washer and Dryer3 years old.
- *Dishes-* Set of porcelain china, lots and lots of antique dishes, painted plates

Like new 2001 Chevy Pickup 1500, new tires, automatic, air, cloth, 350 engine, tool box, bed liner, 33,000 actual miles, Sells at 1 p.m.

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DCA
 DECATUR COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

NOTICE OF 2012 ANNUAL MEETING

This is your official notice of the Annual Meeting of the Decatur Cooperative Association, to be held at the Gateway Convention Center in Oberlin on Thursday evening April 19, 2012.

The agenda is as follows:

6:00 p.m.	Doors Open
6:30 p.m.	Serving meal
7:00 p.m.	Business Meeting

Audit Report
 Election of Directors
 Chairman's Report
 Manager's Report

Directors terms expiring are those now held by Rod Bryan and Chris Bailey. Rod Bryan will be retiring from the board. The floor will be open for nominations at the meeting. Financial Statements will be provided at the meeting for year ending January 31, 2012.

Please mark Thursday, April 19, 2012, on your calendar and attend your Cooperative Annual Business Meeting.

Sincerely,
 Decatur Cooperative Association
 Kurt Anderson, President