

Administrator wants out of recruiting role

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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The Decatur County Hospital administrator told the county hospital board last Monday that she was done recruiting physicians.

Someone in the board room had told her she doesn't know how to do the recruiting, Administrator Lynn Doeden said, and it's really a full-time job anyway.

Board Chair Pam Wilson said Mrs. Doeden had been asking for help with recruiting for a long time. Maybe, she said,

the hospital could share an employee with the Health Care Foundation and that person could be in charge of recruiting.

Board member Ruth Wolfram said she wasn't sure Mrs. Doeden should quit doing the recruiting after one comment. It's in the administrator's job description, she noted.

Mrs. Doeden said her job description doesn't say anything about running a clinic, which she is doing. She said she will still be involved with recruitment, but it's better for her to be the chief executive officer of the hospital and let someone else handle

the details.

Mrs. Doeden said she visited with the recruiter from Plainville and got quite a bit of information from her for a job description.

Mrs. Wolfram said she thinks Mrs. Doeden definitely needs to stay involved. Mrs. Wilson said Mrs. Doeden isn't asking to not be involved, but she's asking for someone else to be in charge of looking for doctors.

If the health foundation paid half of the salary, said Mrs. Doeden, the hospital could

pay the other half. There was some talk about benefits and other payroll needs.

Mrs. Wilson said all of that would need to be factored in. She said they would need to talk to the foundation board.

Mrs. Doeden said she would still be involved, but not in charge. Just last Monday, she said, she had eight calls on recruitment. Two years ago, she said, she asked for help with doctor recruitment and she still doesn't have any.

The board gave the go-ahead to explore the idea.

At the end of the meeting, the board held three closed-door sessions for nonelected personnel, one for 10 minutes and two for 15 each. After the board returned to open session, the board agreed to pay Mrs. Doeden for 157.71 hours of paid time off, acquired from April 2011 to April 2012, that she hasn't used over six pay periods over three months.

While Mrs. Doeden was asked what she expected for a raise, she declined.

Newcomer replaces Oberlin man in job

SARAH KESSINGER
The Marysville Advocate

Marysville businessman Chad Kramer was elected president of the U.S. Highway 36 Association, which held its annual meeting in Marysville.

Mr. Kramer, vice president of Kramer Oil Co., was elected during the association's board meeting on June 15. He replaces Steve Haynes, Oberlin, who had served as president for many years.

Mr. Haynes offered to step down and become a vice president of the group, saying he wants to focus on the project of having the highway widened to four lanes across the state. He is publisher of *The Oberlin Herald* and president of Northwest Newspapers.

About 15 people attended the group's annual meeting at the Astro 3 Theatre in Marysville. Harvest in northwest Kansas cut into attendance by some members from that area.

Clay Adams, northeast District 1 engineer with the Kansas Department of Transportation, gave updates on U.S. 36 construction projects.

Mr. Adams said people need to get engaged in projects that affect them. He said Marysville's two railroad overpasses, completed in 2004, were a prime example of how well that works. The project including moving tracks that carry up to 85 trains a day out of downtown and building overpasses to get traffic past the new tracks.

"I know Marysville was very involved in what happened here," Mr. Adams said.

President Haynes praised the department's work all along Highway 36.

"Thirty-six is in very good shape across the state," he said.

Mr. Haynes said the only problem spot was about six miles east of Mankato, where the highway surface is rough. Mr. Adams made a note and said he'd pass that on to the District 2 engineer in Salina. No work is planned for that stretch this year, he said.

The association has advocated expanding U.S. 36 to four lanes from the Missouri River west and has figures showing the economic impact from a study done by the Docking Institute of Public Affairs at Fort Hays State University.

Mr. Haynes said the route is likely to see more traffic as truck numbers continue to grow, along with congestion in the Kansas City area.

The Missouri Department of Transportation sent an update on the new four-lane U.S. 36 across the Show Me State. The department there continues to improve the road now that it's all four lanes. Mr. Haynes said, with two major repaving projects this summer.

In other business, the group also learned the Denver Porsche Club is expected to travel U.S. 36 this summer.

The association needs to add board members and field representatives from more counties along the highway, particularly eastern Kansas, Mr. Haynes said. Bill Phillipi, mayor of Marysville, was elected to the board Friday. Lonnie Phillips, Marysville, who has served as a field representative to promote association membership in Marshall County, recently stepped down. The board is seeking a replacement.

Serving this area in the meantime is field representative and webmaster Christiane Cole of Phillipsburg.

Cole reported that she has built a colorful new association website at the existing address, www.us36.com. It promotes tourism, history and commerce in each of the 13 counties along the highway.

The site also promotes the U.S. Highway 36 Treasure Hunt, a weekend of garage sales sponsored for the past six years by the association across the state each September.

This year's seventh annual garage sale weekend is Sept. 14-16. The association also has a digital newsletter available quarterly. Anyone who would like to get on the mailing list to receive it should contact secretary Bonnie Youngquist at the association office in Smith Center at (785) 282-3548 or e-mail bonniey@ruraltel.net.

Don Landoll, president of Landoll Corp. of Marysville, spoke at noon. He discussed the company's diversification into four divisions of manufactured equipment with more than 900 employees.

Landoll emphasized the importance of U.S. 36 in the transport of materials to its facilities and the shipment of products. He also said the highway's a good place to advertise openings at the company.

"It's mind boggling how much traffic there is on Highway 36," he said. "There's a lot of opportunities with all of us working together to make rural Kansas with Highway 36 a success."

The fall board meeting was set for Thursday, Nov. 15, in Scandia.

Just hold it right there...



DAVE DEPPERSCHMIDT held up a stop sign for travelers on Tuesday as Kansas Department of Transportation workers repaired a buckle in the concrete of U.S. 83 near Elm Street in Oberlin.

— Herald staff photo by Stephanie DeCamp

Couple finances a lecture

Jerry and Marcia Lohofener love America. That's the main reason, they say, that they are sponsoring the presentation of a 1 1/2 hour video lecture, "Introduction to the Constitution," at the Sunflower Cinema next week.

"We believe America is at a crossroads," Mr. Lohofener said. "Everyone must do what they can. This lecture by Dr. Larry Arnn of Hillsdale College is easily understood and matter of fact. Everyone from adults to junior high and high school students will appreciate it."

The couple saw the video advertised on television, he said. At first they watched it online, then they ordered the DVD series with the intention of sharing it with the community.

Mrs. Lohofener said she thinks everyone needs to be reintroduced to our Constitution. Some people say the document is outdated, she said, but if it is, why have things worked so well in America these past 236 years? She said America grows exceptional citizens, and we want all of our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to have that opportunity.

The Lohofeners invite everyone to a showing of the video at 7 p.m., Tuesday, July 3, at the cinema. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and concessions will be available.

"If we have more people than we have seats," Mr. Lohofener said, "we'll have another showing. We want everyone to have a chance to see this. It's that important."

Representative here for discussion

U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp visited with constituents at the Decatur County courthouse over the lunch hour June 11.

Oberlin was one of nine "townhall" meetings that Mr. Huelskamp held. Others last week were in Norton, Atwood, St. Francis, Goodland, Sharon Springs, Tribune, Leoti and Hutchinson.

Former Decatur County Clerk Marilyn Horn said that the representative had a lot of information with him but mostly fielded questions from the audience.

Rep. Huelskamp also talked about President Obama, she said, and whether he would let Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. go or keep him on until after the election due to the deaths of several Americans in Mexico.

He said farm issues, including the farm bill, were on people's minds.

Other topics of interest, he said, were tax policy, the federal debt and federal subsidies for "alternative"

energy such as wind farms.

He noted that the wind industry received about \$5 billion last year.



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Woman nails time

An Oberlin woman guessed just 20 minutes off from the actual time the first load of wheat was delivered to a participating elevator in Decatur County to win *The Oberlin Herald's* annual harvest countdown contest.

The first load of dry wheat was delivered to the Hansen Mueller elevator in Oberlin by Bruce Larue for Rich Shaw at 8:20 a.m. Monday, June 11. He said the grain had been harvested the day before in a field west of town.

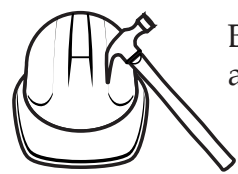
Tiffany Witt guessed that the first load would arrive at 8 a.m. on that Monday. She won \$50 in scrip money which is good at the sponsoring businesses only. Merchants are not required to give change.

The second-place guess was by Keaston Grafel, who said the first load would be in at 10:30 a.m. on that Monday. He won \$35.

Pat Dorshorst took third place with a guess of 11:30 a.m. and will receive \$15.

The contest was made possible by the sponsoring businesses, including Fredrickson Insurance Agency, Stanley Hardware, Ward Drug Store, Decatur County Title and Abstract, Hansen Mueller and the Decatur Cooperative Association.

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