

Cutbacks beset health services

By STEPHANIE DeCAMP
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The Decatur County Health Department has taken a cut of \$500, and if it's cut anymore, said Administrator Marilyn Gamblin, its family planning services might have to be scrapped altogether.

The program provides birth control and other options to residents, Ms. Gamblin told county commissioners at their Aug. 28 meeting, as well as pap smears, which must be done each year to check for cancer. The birth control is charged on a sliding scale, based on income and family size.

"It helps get those services to those who need it," she said, "and they can't just go down to the drug-store and buy it for \$30."

The department always provides education on family planning, she added.

"The cut comes from the state," Ms. Gamblin said, "We get federal and state money, and it's based on the number of people you serve. That's how they figure it."

The department's building itself mirrors the situation, she said: it has a leaking roof that has been repaired once, but needs work again.

"It leaked in the hallway and into an exam room," she said. "They're supposed to be back by the end of the week to fix it right. It's around the skylight in the hallway, and if you look up you can see daylight."

The department isn't big enough to take too many cuts, she added.

"It's kind of hard to make cuts when you only have one nurse and one office person," she said. "We do immunizations, family planning, child-care licensing, early detection programs, mammograms for uninsured women over 50, foot care, blood pressure clinics, blood draws twice a year, a health fair every other year and the big preparedness plan (in the event of a disaster) that we work on continually."

The only option left, if further cuts need to be made, would be to start trimming services, she said, and family planning would likely be the first to go.

The department doesn't generate a lot of revenue, Ms. Gamblin said. The majority of the cash it receives is from donations and federal grants. The federal government, for example, provides money for the vaccines for a children's program

that is gearing up to start.

In 2011, she said, the department took in \$22,300 in donations. In the first six months of this year, it only brought in \$9,228. The projected amount for the 2013 budget is only \$16,000, said Commissioner Stan McEvoy, though if the county doesn't get a doctor sometime soon, it could change the situation.

"We're just like everyone else with the doctor and the hospital," Ms. Gamblin said. "It affects everything we do... If people go out of town to see a doctor and they need other services, they're going to get those there instead of coming here."

"Because we don't deliver babies here, women have to go out of town for that, and for a lot of them, the doctors now provide vaccines. So the women go to those doctors for the vaccines, and we've seen a decrease in people coming here. I'm hoping the medical system will get fixed so that we'll draw some of those people back, but we don't know what's going to happen."

"I just want to see us have a strong medical community again, and everybody working together to provide services to the people."

The department is able to bill insurance for some things, the director said. Vaccines and immunizations are billed to private insurance whenever possible, as is family planning. The department charges for foot care and provides low-cost blood work. It gets donations from blood-pressure clinics.

The worst-case scenario for the clinic would be shutting down, though that doesn't seem likely in the near future, Ms. Gamblin said. If that were the case, however, people needing the department's services would have to go to Norton or Atwood, which would mean the beginning of regionalization.

"Regionalization is like having one central health department," she said. "It's kind of like our preparedness regions, but bigger. There would be one health department... and it would hire staff to man those other health departments, and once a month they'd hold an immunization clinic in Oberlin. To me, it doesn't sound ideal, but that's kind of what (state officials) are looking at. They have been for several years."

School board looks over lost class time

The Oberlin School Board talked briefly about the amount of classroom time lost by students in activities, after receiving a report last Monday that showed losses here to be much greater than the state average in most schools.

Superintendent Duane Dorshorst handed out a list, which compared "instruction time" lost at Decatur Community High to other Class 2A schools and the state average. Time lost in the junior high was also compared to the state average.

Mr. Dorshorst said he would be interested to see the comparison in time for schools east of Salina and those west of Salina, where distances often are greater.

"How are these calculated?" asked board member Dan Nedland.

Mr. Dorshorst said each school keeps track of the time lost.

The document that showed the loss of time in the classroom for the students last year at the high school included:

- 5.4 hours for the football team compare to 1.48 hours for the state average.
- 11.3 for cross country and 3.38 for the state average.
- 6.9 for volleyball and 2.33 for the state average.
- 12.9 hours for boy's basketball and 4.4 for the state average.

- 9.5 hours for girl's basketball and 4.84 for the state average.
- 24.3 hours for wrestling and 6.51 for the state average.
- 20.88 for track and field and 11.49 for the state average.
- 19.6 for golf and 15.57 for the state average.
- 13.7 for cheerleading and 4.4 for state average.
- 7.8 for forensics and 4.89 for state average.
- 8.3 for instrumental music and 7.43 for the state average.
- 5.9 for vocal music students and 5.15 for the state average.
- 3.2 for the Kays group and 2.79 for the state average.
- 1.8 for Scholar Bowl and 3.29 for the state average.
- 1.7 for pep assemblies and 1.48 for the state average.
- 3.5 for homecoming and 1.13 for the state average.
- 3.5 for yearbook and 5.05 for the state average.
- 13.8 for FFA and 18.37 for the state average.

For the junior high the numbers included:

- 6.1 for football and 1.69 for the state.
- 6.3 for volleyball and 1.87 for the state.
- 8.7 for boy's basketball and 2.46 for the state.

Showing them how it's done



TEACHING A FOURTH-GRADE CLASS about how a grain elevator works can be a tough job, but you wouldn't have known had you seen Kurt Anderson explaining it to the fourth grade class on their Friday field trip to the Decatur Co-op. There, the kids learned about how the office runs, machines work and what kind of word problems a person can encounter on the job.

— Herald staff photo by Stephanie DeCamp

Residents, riders honor 9/11

By STEPHANIE DeCAMP
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It started with the American Legion, but word spread, and soon 13 people were out in the 98-degree heat at Oberlin's main highway junction with their American flags, remembering those who died in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Alan Marietta, president of the Oberlin Legion Riders, said that he and fellow member Chris Johnson decided at the last minute that they should do something to honor the day.

"We put out a few e-mails this morning," Mr. Marietta said. "We didn't think the day should go unnoticed. We still have troops deployed, we're losing a soldier every day and our politicians don't have the guts to even talk about it."

The crowd, mostly civilians, was peppered with soldiers in uniform, all with flags taller than themselves. Along with a few Legionnaires and an old army truck, the group stood at the intersection of U.S. Highways



LEGIONNAIRES AND OTHERS GATHERED at the intersection of U.S. 36 and 83 at 5 p.m. last Tuesday to honor those lost in the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. Gary Allen (left) and Chris Johnson were on the southwest corner with an old army truck despite the 98-degree heat.

— Herald staff photo by Stephanie DeCamp

36 and 83, waving to anyone who drove by. They had one simple sign that read, "9-11."

Pick'em contest heats up

An Oberlin man guessed all eight games right and won first place for this week's Pigskin Pick-em.

The winner was Jerry Schuetz, who landed \$15 in scrip money. It was the first perfect score in the contest this year.

Both the second and third place winners guessed six games correctly. The tiebreaker game determined that Tim Hrnchir took second, winning \$10 in scrip, and Cheri Kastens took third for \$5.

Eight people, including Ryan Leitner, Clayton Carter, Jordan Davenport, J.D. Johnson, Ivis Hanson, Tom Martin, Rusty Adleman and Wilbur Reichert guessed five winners correctly.

Derick Lorentz, Kelly Brown and Reece Grafel all picked four winners. Both Gary Anderson and Tyler Bruggeman picked three.

All eligible scores are entered on a spread sheet for the end of the contest, when the contestant who picked the most correct games will receive a trophy and \$50 in scrip.

Winnings can be spent only at sponsors for the contest: Ward Drug Store, the LandMark Inn, Fredrickson Insurance Agency, Decatur Co-op, Hansen Mueller, Creative Collision and *The Oberlin Herald*.

The scores for this week's game are:

- Texas Christian over Kansas, 20-6.
- Smith Center over Oberlin, 20-14 in overtime.
- Kansas State over North Texas, 35-21.
- Nebraska over Arkansas State, 42-13.
- Stanton County over St. Francis, 36-0.
- Plainville over Norton, 22-14.
- Rawlins County over Sylvan, 30-28.
- Goodland over Burlington, Colo., 48-0.
- Ulysses over Colby, 24-0.

Mini Sapa Day has fun in store

Mini Sapa Day activities, commemorating the Last Indian Raid in Kansas, will kick off with a free open house from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 30, at the Last Indian Raid Museum.

Director Sharleen Wurm said there will be musical entertainment, coffee and cookies.

An afternoon program will follow at 3:15 p.m. at the Oberlin Cemetery, with a presentation by the Oberlin American Legion and Auxiliary at the Last Indian Raid monument. Cost is \$5 per person.

Several individuals will give reenactments and stories about the lives of five Civil War, three World War I and three World War II veterans at their respective graves in "Voices of the Past."

Quilting workshop classes begin

A seven-week quilting workshop will begin in October at the Dane G. Hansen Memorial Museum in Logan, with Julie Lowry of Stockton as instructor.

Classes will be held from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 and Nov. 6 and 13 at the Hansen Plaza Community Room, 110 W. Main in Logan.

For details or to register, call (785) 689-4846.

Come join us at The Gateway Sept. 22 as we bring back the Firefighter's Ball.

Prime Rib Dinner

Dance the night away to the tunes of Mobile Music Express

Silent Auction

Get your tickets early for \$30 per person. Ticket prices change on Sept. 15 with an extremely limited number at the door.

For ticket information call by Sept. 15
Andrea at 470-1119
Jolene 470-7475
Kelsey (308) 737-7893

Social Hour 5 p.m.

For the latest info like our facebook page: Decatur County Firefighter's Ball

Casino Night

Restonic Beds on Sale

Free bedpack including:

- ❖ sheets ❖
- ❖ 2 pillowcases ❖
- ❖ 2 pillows ❖

with purchase.

Free Delivery

Free Setup

Come cash in on the savings

Free Removal of Old Beds

Through the month of **SEPTEMBER!**