

Doctor returns to hometown



Dr. Robert L. Rosin

By STEPHANIE DeCAMP
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Oberlin has a new doctor, Robert L. Rosin, a Decatur Community High graduate who specializes in internal medicine and has some long-term goals for Decatur County Hospital.

"My wife and I looked at a lot of communities," he said. "This is home, and we found no place that was in greater need than Oberlin."

Dr. Rosin said that internal medicine is basically a specialty in adult diseases and those associated with

old age and aging. He made a point, however, to say that he will also be seeing children, though he can't deliver babies.

"When I left training in 1988," he said, "most interns didn't see patients under 18. But I moved to Scott City and found out early that in a small town, I need to see the little ones. So here I will see children. We just don't deliver them - that's a whole other ball game."

"The big concerns here are just like the rest of western Kansas. Diabetes, heart diseases and obesity

go hand in hand, and I'll see plenty of them here."

Amy Anderson, recruiter and provider relations manager for Decatur Health Systems, said the hospital plans a meet-and-greet event to introduce Dr. Rosin in November, but nothing has been set.

Dr. Rosin said that the No. 1 priority, after patient care, will be recruiting more doctors here.

"I want to be the bridge to the next generation of younger doctors," he said. "Recruitment will be terribly important to my job. We need the

next generation of family practice doctors here, who hopefully will have an interest in delivering babies. It's scary to be the only new doctor in town if you don't have a lot of experience, so we're going to make recruitment a very big issue over the next few years ... and if you want new blood you can keep, you go after people in training."

Ms. Anderson will be going to medical schools to recruit, and later, Dr. Rosin will be teaching these students on the job. Not only should this effort bring in new people and

their families, she added, but returning residents and theirs as well.

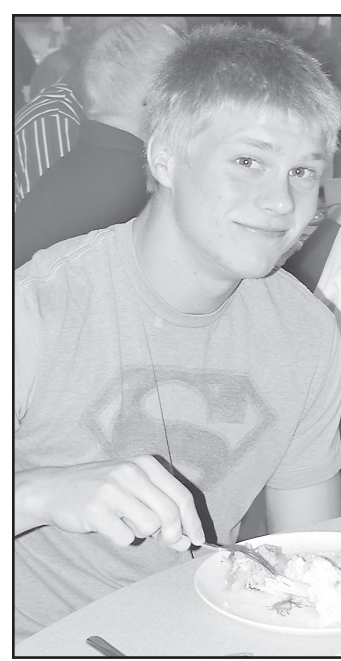
"Ultimately that's how you succeed," Dr. Rosin said. "Teaching and having students around is incredibly vital; there's nothing like a fresh young mind asking questions to keep us older folks thinking. They have so many, and you've got to have the answers, because they ought to know. And the more advanced the training the better. It's a terribly big boost for the hospital to have the students there, and we'll try (See DOCTOR on Page 7A)



Church supper brings out crowd for holiday food

OFFERING THE FIRST turkey and trimmings of the season, the Oberlin Covenant Church provided dinner on Wednesday for a donation. Becky Ayers (above left), Charles Keller and Nancy Robinson passed a to-go box as they filled it with the goodies. Don Anderson (left) had his own way to get his plate to the table and Matt Glading (right) showed a football player's enjoyment of the big meal.

- Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes



Voting choices all spelled out on the ballot

By STEPHANIE DeCAMP
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Did you know that more than two parties have candidates running for the presidency this year? Can you name the two or three questions you'll be voting on Nov. 6?

This year's ballot features three races and two or three ballot questions, all of which are printed on Page 6B of today's *Oberlin Herald*.

The races are at the county, state and federal levels. For the county, Democrat Brad Long is running against Republican Brad Marcuson for commissioner in District 3, which covers most of the county except Oberlin and the northwest.

For the state, Democrat Sen. Allen Schmidt and Republican Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer have been thrown

together in District 40, which covers the northwest corner of the state. For the presidency, former Gov. Mitt Romney of Massachusetts and Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin are running as Republicans, while President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden are seeking re-election for the Democrats.

Many people may not know, however, that Gary Johnson and James Gray are running for president as Libertarians, and Chuck Baldwin and Joseph Martin are the Reform Party candidates. All other posts, from the county up, only have one candidate.

There is one ballot question for the city and one for the county, along with a statewide constitutional amendment. As per usual, these are (See ISSUES on Page 7A)

Two men vie for county seat

By STEPHANIE DeCAMP
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The position of county commissioner for the 3rd District is the only county job that is contested this year, with Democrat Brad Long of Norcat running against Republican Brad Marcuson, who lives south of Oberlin.

Mr. Marcuson said he has worked with the Farm Bureau and the Decatur Co-op and has been clerk of Summit Township.

"I'm willing to listen to people and try to represent them," he said. "I care for the county, and have worked for it nine years. I want to help make it a better place."

Mr. Marcuson said that finding more doctors for the county clinic and hospital is his No. 1 priority.

"I would say health care - we need doctors," he said. "I'd listen to what people say, visit with the people on the committees and see what can be done. It's a hard situation, but it's something that needs to be looked at."

He added that fiscal responsibility and doing what he can to bring residents back to the county are top priorities, too.

"We have to look after the county's needs, to help western Kansas," he said. "I love this county; it's afforded me a great place to raise a family, and I'd like other people to move back here and live the lifestyle."

When it comes to national politics, he said, he's frustrated, and (See COMMISSION on Page 7A)

Bridge construction nears end

If you're tired of slowing down, or even stopping, for the temporary traffic lights at the bridge over the Prairie Dog Creek south of Oberlin on U.S. 83, your time is near.

The lights, cones and orange signs should be gone by Friday, state officials say, as the construction crew finishes the job. Eric Oelschlager, area engineer with the Kansas Department of Transportation in Atwood, said an asphalt crew was to repave the approaches to the bridge Tuesday and the "cure time" for the concrete overlay on the east side expires today.

After that, both sides of the bridge can be open, and the traffic lights, which enforce one-way traffic past the work, can be turned off.

He said today is the deadline for the contractor, to finish the \$293,138 job. The crew first milled off an inch and a half of the concrete deck, then working on one half of the bridge at a time, drilled out any weakened concrete and replaced it. Then, a 1 1/2-inch deck overlay was put down on each side and an epoxy sealant was sprayed on the concrete rails to fix cracks.

"I'm assuming they will come in Thursday

or Friday and take the traffic control down," Mr. Oelschlager said, adding that work started about Aug. 6.

One thing that won't get done is repairs to a dip just south of the bridge. The engineer said state crews had intended to fill the hole during the project, but found they'd just be in the way. They'll have to do the work next summer, he said.

Next year, he said, the department expects to take bids on replacing the decks on three bridges east of Oberlin on U.S. 36. Work won't begin until at least the summer of 2014, he said.

Council plans to totally redo troubled nuisance ordinance

By STEPHANIE DeCAMP
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The city ordinance governing blighted property will be completely redone, with the City Council setting a meeting for Thursday, Jan. 31, to hash it out once and for all.

The Council discussed the so-called nuisance ordinance, which has become a nuisance itself, after reviewing examples used by other cities, as provided by City Attorney Steve Hirsch. The council had asked for these so it would have something with which to compare the current ordinance, which hasn't been updated for decades.

Mr. Hirsch told the council at its Oct. 4 meeting that most other cities in Kansas had a similar ordinance that basically followed the same format as the one Oberlin has. He

found a few different examples, however, and the council had been asked to review them.

"We'll have to have an open meeting," said Mayor Rob McFee, "and people will need to bring their hopes and desires and we'll figure it out."

In the meantime, Code Enforcement Officer Jan Ackerman will be allowed to continue citing violations for property deemed in need of a clean up. She was limited at the Oct. 4 meeting to doing her job only from public property.

City Administrator Karen Larson said that Mrs. Ackerman had sent out 15 new letters this month, and that she had changed the warning letter to be more specific.

"No one will doubt what she's saying," Mrs. Larson said, "It's very

specific. She's going to change it again to tell people who are having a problem fixing it to call her or the city to get with volunteers, and that this is only a courtesy letter."

Mrs. Larson said so far only one resident had come in to discuss the letter with her, and a compromise had been made. The woman had a vehicle with flat tires in the driveway that is still licensed and insured, but appears to be junk. The woman said the vehicle has sentimental memories for her.

"It goes to show that this is hurtful to people, but when you come together and talk about it, they know it's no big deal and they can keep it up," said Mrs. Larson. "If you kindly nudge them, it works."

She added that several people had volunteered to help others.

Hospital seeking a leader

Hospital board members met Thursday to interview two candidates for the job of hospital administrator.

The entire meeting was in closed session, but Becky Wilson, spokesman for Decatur Health Systems, said no decisions were made.

"They phone interviewed six people and brought two people in for interviews," she said, "and I know one of the candidates took another offer during that time."

Charlie Myers has been acting chief executive since Lynn Doeden left Sept. 1.

Early voters can cast ballots now

Early voting kicked off last Wednesday, and if you would like to skip the lines on election day, Tuesday, Nov. 6, or need to be out of town, all you need to do is call or stop by the county clerk's office.

The office will take down your information and mail you a ballot for your township and city, if you live in one, and you can then return it either in person or back in the mail, said Colleen Geihlsler, the county clerk and election officer.

Lines aren't that long on election day, Ms. Geihlsler said, but for those who are sick, confined to the home or otherwise busy, voting at home can be a real convenience.

Charissa Huff, who lives in Harlan Township, about 7 miles north and 8 miles east of Oberlin, cast her ballot Wednesday afternoon.

"I already made up my mind," she said. "I've never voted early before; I'm a real procrastinator. I put things off all the time. But I think this is an important election, and figured I might as well drop in and get it out of the way."

Ms. Geihlsler said that as of Monday, 176 people had voted

