

Police chief asks commissioners about radios

Decatur County commissioners talked with Oberlin Chief of Police Wade Lockhart about buying another repeater for police radios Tuesday at their meeting.

The chief said that the radio coverage in town hasn't improved since the repeater was moved from the city water tower to a cellular tower near Kanona. The move has helped sheriff's officers and the county crew talk in all areas of the

county, but has made it difficult for city officers to use their hand-held radios in town.

"This has the potential to be a real problem," said Chief Lockhart.

At the request of the city council, he said, he got two bids for a repeater and was at the commissioners meeting to ask if the county would help pay for it.

Commissioner Brown asked if they put a new

repeater on the tower if it will solve the problems. Chief Lockhart said that the radio people don't want to guarantee it, but they didn't have the problems before.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch, who is a volunteer fireman, said that he can't always use the radio at his house, which is just outside of town. The radios use line-of-sight of transmission, and the hills to the southeast block the new tower.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said that he thought they needed to talk with Sheriff Ken Badsky, who was unable to make it to the meeting, before they make a decision since he was the one who moved the repeater. He said that at the time of the move, they were under the impression that it wouldn't disturb the city's use.

Chief Lockhart said that he has been on the water tower and there is an old repeater and

wiring up there, but he doesn't know if that will work. He checked with the radio people, asking if he put another repeater on the tower, whether it would interfere with the one on the cellular tower and they didn't think so.

The commissioners and chief agreed that it would be beneficial to have the radio people out for a meeting to ask questions about the repeater.

Student teaches Spanish

Teacher finishing requirements here for her certification

By **KIMBERLY BRANDT**

Connie Gregoire said she always knew that she wanted to be a teacher, she just got a little sidetracked, but student teaching Spanish classes is her last requirement before getting a teaching degree.

Ms. Gregoire started student teaching at Decatur Community High School on Jan. 9 in Maria Sanden's 9th through 12th grade classes. As a student teacher, she said, she is still learning. During class, Mrs. Sanden is in and out or sits in the back of the room supervising. Ms. Gregoire said Mrs. Sanden, a native of Mexico, is always there if she needs help.

"It is a great opportunity to work with a native speaker," said Ms. Gregoire.

She said that she was sidetracked when she first went to college, and ended up getting an associate degree from Colby Community College as a nurse and worked at the hospital in Norton. While in this career, she said, there were patients who could only speak Spanish. She said that being able to talk with them helped show her the importance of knowing a second language.

Ms. Gregoire has been a full-time student at Fort Hays State University for two years, she said, and before that took outreach classes, traveling to Hill City and Phillipsburg from Norton for her degree in secondary education with a major in Spanish. In May, she will be able to become a full-time teacher.

While teaching here, she said, she has a few goals for herself, including gaining a rapport with the students and growing in the language.

She will be teaching here until May 9 and then will graduate and look for a full-time job.

She said that she is considering eastern Kansas or Colorado, since she has family there. Part of the decision will be based on what her son, Zach does. He is a senior at the high school in Norton and will probably be going to Kansas State University.

Ms. Gregoire said that she sees a need for teachers now, especially foreign language teachers, since many are starting to see the importance in learning a second language.

A hole in one?



AFTER A WATER MAIN BROKE, Willard Perrin was in a hole last week on Rodehaver Avenue trying to get things back in working order before it started to snow again.

— Herald staff photo by Jeanette Krizek

Cost of color causes paper to stow the ink

To our Readers:

You'll notice there are no color pictures in this week's paper. We won't be running color pictures more than once a month for a while.

Newsprint, postage and other costs are soaring, and we have had to cut back. We like the color, but right now, we just can't afford it.

We are making other changes in our operation, but few that readers will notice. Subscription and want ad prices are going up in response to costs. But we promise to give you as much news, and as much quality, as you expect.

Please bear with us while the color is banished. — the Editors.

Council to discuss police and how many town needs

The Oberlin City Council plans to debate staffing at the police department during its meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at The Gateway.

At the last meeting, members decided to wait a couple of weeks to replace Officer Dennis Brown, who left to be police chief at Inman.

Members of the Convention and Visitors Bureau will be at the meeting to make a proposal to use the old port of entry building on the east corner of U.S. 36 and U.S. 83 intersection.

The idea is to put a travelers' information center in the building, serving people with vehicles that can't park easily in town or who won't take the time to come downtown. The building would be staffed by Green Thumb, a program to employ senior citizens.

There would be brochures and someone to answer questions about the area in the front room. In the back room, the idea is to sell area crafts.

Council members will continue a discussion of health insurance, too. City Administrator Gary Shike said he hoped to have quotes for this next year from three carriers.

The council will be looking at a proposal from Margaret Townsend, with the Kansas Geological Survey, to look for the sources of nitrates contaminating the city's wells. She made a proposal during the summer, but the council decided it was too expensive.

Mr. Shike said that she has contacted them again because she will be out this way doing a project and the mileage cost would be reduced.

Schools hire coordinator for computers

At the beginning of the year, the Oberlin School District hired a technology coordinator who is in charge of all the computers in the schools.

With a degree in business, a minor in computer science and experience at Nextech in Hays, Jess Randel has the skills for the job. Mr. Randel said that he had always planned while at Southwestern College in Winfield that he would go into computers, but said that the business degree helped him get in the door.

With his job at Nextech, he said, he had to travel frequently and liked the idea that this job wouldn't include that since it is hard to raise a family while you are gone. He and his wife

Kristell are raising two little girls, Grace, 3, and Genna, 1. Once they move into town, Mrs. Randel will be a stay at home mom and teach piano lessons, he said.

The Randels don't have any family in the area, but Mr. Randel said he is used to smaller town life, growing up in Kit Carson, Colo., which has a population of about 500.

He said that here he is working on many projects, including getting all the buildings connected to the Internet and using compatible programs and getting the students what they need to stay on top of things.

"Right now, there is a lot of trouble

shooting," he said, "but a large part of the job will be looking for new programs and implementing them."

Also he said he would like to see more people use the Internet, get the district's information out to the people and get students more familiar with what is available. Mr. Randel said that he would be interested in getting a district-wide software program for teachers.

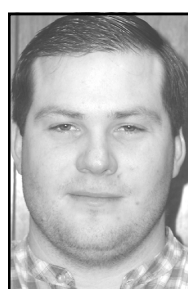
As the technology coordinator, he will not be working directly with the students since he isn't qualified to teach. Instead, he will work with teachers who can then teach the programs.

"I will help the teachers get the tools they need to teach the classes," he said.

Mr. Randel has replaced the position that was formerly held by Fred Anderson, who resigned.



C. Gregoire



Jess Randel

Banks, offices will be closed

Presidents' Day will be observed on Monday by federal and county offices and banks and financial institutions.

The Decatur County landfill will be closed and there will be no mail service. State and city offices, as well as the Oberlin schools, will be open.

Since there will be no mail, advertising and news may be left at *The Oberlin Herald* office, which will be open.

Hearing reset for March 8

The preliminary hearing for Joan Faye Evans was postponed again on Jan. 30 at the request of her attorney.

Magistrate Judge John Bremer said he received a call from the Thomas County judge who will preside over the case at 11:55 a.m. that day. Judge Richard Ress told him that he had received a call from Allen Shelton, Mrs. Evan's defense attorney, and he had requested a continuance.

Later Mr. Shelton said that Judge Ress wasn't able to make it here because of whiteout conditions between Oberlin and Colby.

Mrs. Evans was arrested in December and charged on six counts of aiding

an escape and unlawful sexual relations in events which allegedly occurred at the Sappa Valley Youth Ranch from April 3 to June 9.

At that time Mrs. Evans was released on a \$15,000 personal recognizance bond.

The hearing has been rescheduled for 1 p.m. on March 8.

(Handwritten signatures)

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