

# Ambulance to get cardiac monitor

Decatur County commissioners approved a \$17,000 cardiac monitor for the ambulance department at their meeting Tuesday morning. Ambulance Director Patrick Pomeory said he had already ordered the piece of equipment but could easily stop the order. The last time he talked with commissioners about the monitor, he said it would cost around \$10,000. The monitor for \$17,000, said Mr. Pomeory, is the most convenient one for emergency medical technicians to use. It has everything that is needed and comes with a carrying case and spare batteries. Commissioner Doyle Brown asked if the monitor would be kept in the new ambulance or in the first response truck? Mr. Pomeory said it would most likely be kept in the first response truck so he could use it when he gets to the scene. Mr. Brown asked if the monitor could be kept on patients when they are moved from the house to the

ambulance. The machine is very portable, said Mr. Pomeory, and can be used that way. Commissioner Pat Glenn asked what he would do with the monitor when he goes out of town. Mr. Pomeory said all equipment like that is taken out of the first response vehicle and placed in the ambulance before he leaves town. With a grant the ambulance department received from the Modern Woodmen of America, the monitor will cost the county \$15, said Mr. Pomeory. A brand new monitor goes for over \$20,000, he said, but this one is less expensive because it is refurbished. He said the department should get the machine in 30 days. In other business, commissioners heard the department has already responded to 23 calls this month. Mr. Pomeory said for the last three years, the department has had 19 calls in January.

# Late checks cause schools headache

The Oberlin School District was written up for a cash violation in the district's audit for last year because they spent more money than the district had. And it was all the state's fault. Basically what happened, said Steve Zodrow with Mapes and Miller, the company that did the audit, was the state sent checks out late. He said several other districts had the same violation. The board approved the audit at its Monday, Jan. 13, meeting and voted that it be sent to the state. The board talked with Technology Director Jess Randel about a technology plan for the district. Mr. Randel said the plan has to be approved before it can be sent to the state Department of Education. Having a plan allows the district to get an e-rate, a discount the district gets off of communication bills including phones, cell phones and

Internet. The district's percentage is 65, based on the number of students who get free and reduced lunches. Mr. Randel said later in the year, he would like to work on the needs. The board approved the plan. In other business, the board:

- Decided to table a vote on a calendar for next year and send it back to committee.
- Decided to hold parent/teacher conferences for the high school students on Friday, Feb. 14, the same day as the grade school. All students will have the day off.
- Held a closed session for non elected personnel for 15 minutes. There was no action taken.
- Held a closed session for acquisition of real property for 15 minutes. There was no action taken.
- Held 30-, 10- and 5-minute closed sessions for non elected personnel. There was no action taken.

# Zoning board bans Classic Cable billboard

The Oberlin Board of Zoning and Appeals has ruled that the billboard which Classic Cable put up off of U.S. 36 needs to be taken down, backing up a decision by City Administrator Gary Shike. Mr. Shike, acting as zoning administrator, had recommended that the billboard be removed. He said the city zoning ordinance states there can't be any off-premise signs larger than six foot by six foot. The company didn't have a permit to put the sign up, he said. Mr. Shike said a representative

from Thomas Outdoor Advertising, the company that put the billboard up, is going to the planning commission to ask if they will recommend that the council change the zoning ordinance. The notice has to be published in *The Oberlin Herald* at least 20 days before the hearing, said Mr. Shike, and it hasn't been published yet. After that hearing, the Manhattan company probably has the option of taking the case to district court, said Mr. Shike.

# City to look at rate hike

The Oberlin City Council will discuss a possible increase in sewer rates when it meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at The Gateway. At their last meeting, the council asked City Administrator Gary Shike to plug in different numbers

to the equation to see what the rates would have to be to build a reserve fund for work that will need to be done at the treatment plant. The council will also be looking at an engineering contract with Miller and Associates for planning work. City Administrator Gary Shike said he had invited Kansas State University Extension Agent Byron Hale to talk about watering lawns in the winter. The council will also be talking about a no-smoking policy for city buildings. Currently there is only a policy for The Gateway. The meeting will be aired on Local Access Channel 7 on Oberlin cable. It is open to the public.

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# Petting the power



STUDENTS AT JENNINGS SCHOOL petted two horses belonging to Kenneth Price after a wagon ride for Kansas Day last Wednesday. — Photo by Katie Randolph

# Drawing set for Feb. 12

The Decatur Good Samaritan Center and the Decatur Community High School cheerleaders are giving away several prizes, all donated by local businesses. Activities Director Jan Badsky said the list includes a night at the LandMark Inn for two, dinner at the Meadowlark Grill for two, flowers from Flowers by Lee, a scented candle from Ward Drug Store, a gift from the Washboard and breakfast for two at the Frontier Restaurant. The night for two at the LandMark Inn was donated by owner Gary Anderson, First National Bank and Hirsch and Pratt Law Firm. Money raised will be used to build the neighborhood concept at the center and for the cheerleader fund at the high school. Mrs. Badsky said she wanted to get the cheerleaders involved because she thought it would be a good intergenerational activity. A drawing will be held at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 12. Winners have to be 21 years or older.

# Newspaper Advertising Ranks No. 1

The Direct Marketing Association (DMA), in its Economic Impact Study says: "Newspaper advertising 'expenditures to sales ratio' for direct marketing advertising in 2002 is ranked first in efficiency."

**Return on Investment**

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