

Collections for ambulance service still slow

The Decatur County commissioners heard last Tuesday that the new ambulance was expected some time last week.

Ambulance Director Patrick Pomeroy said that he needs to move the radio scanner over from Car 4 and let the state know that one will be out of service and the new ambulance will be used. Another idea was to send Car 4 to Norcat to have a first responder ambulance for that area.

Commissioner Doyle Brown asked if there was an emergency medical technician in the area. Mr. Pomeroy said they have Scott

O'Hare who is just going to be certified and Brenda Arnold, who is already certified. There is also a Norton technician who would be willing to serve.

Commissioner Ralph Unger asked about storage for the truck, and Mr. Pomeroy suggested the county shop. He said he would check the rules on storage.

Mr. Pomeroy said that the service hasn't received any money recently. He talked with Hospital Administrator Lynn Doeden about the ambulance billings going through that facility. He is checking into the rules.

The auditor, said Mr. Pomeroy,

County round-up

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Heard that the new ambulance should be delivered soon and ready for service shortly. Story at left.
- Discussed charging someone each time the sheriff's department has to take a youth to the Trego County Juvenile Facility. Story below.

Sheriff Ken Badsky have received five applications for the joint position. They have not had a chance to meet to go over the applications.

Mr. Pomeroy said that he and

With new rules from the Kansas Workers Risk Cooperative for Counties, there will be background checks on the applicants.

Mr. Unger suggested doing a driver's license check, which the other commissioners agreed was a good idea.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard a woman from Norton is going to help Mr. Pomeroy teach a fibrillator class in Norcat for both Norton and Decatur counties.
- Heard that Mrs. Arnold is training for officer No. 1 and can do recertification for emergency medical

technicians, but can't teach a new class. Mr. Pomeroy commended her for a test score of 100 percent. Mrs. Arnold said she would like to take the second training class this fall.

- Agreed to purchase cabinets for \$300 from Pamida for the ambulance barn instead of building them for \$600.
- Heard that the contract for the Bolt family for snow and lawn mowing at the Jennings Ambulance Barn had been signed.
- Approved the purchase of two light bars for the top of the Expedition for \$199 apiece and a circular one for \$34.



School handbooks ready for new year

The Oberlin School Board approved several items last Monday night to prepare for the new school year.

Included in those items were new handbooks for the Oberlin Elementary School and Decatur Community High School.

In the grade school book, said Principal Duane Dorshorst, the section on the federal "No Child Left Behind Act" was moved from the back to page 4. The new meal and school fees are included and an S was added to the kindergarten grade system. Last year, he said, students received an S for satisfactory or an N for not satisfactory and there was no in-between grade.

In the high school book, Principal Charles Haag said, they fixed any grammatical errors, put in the school mission statement, updated the staff, put in a requirement for all students to take speech before graduation, noted that student grade point averages will be figured on the final grades instead of nine weeks, included new fees and took out the days that students are allowed to wear shorts.

for adults \$1.25. The kindergarten milk fee is \$9.

- Set the activity fees at \$15 per student, \$45 for a family and \$50 for adults.
- Set student fees for industrial arts at \$10, senior high art at \$5, senior high vocational agriculture at \$10, junior high industrial arts at \$5, junior high art at \$5, instruments at \$20 and technology at \$5.
- Adopted a 1,116-hour calendar year.
- Designated Principals Haag and Dorshorst as truancy officers.
- Set the mileage reimbursement rate at 32 cents a mile.
- Renewed the Head Start agreement.
- Approved belonging to the federal food service program.
- Approved 15 students who live in the district to be picked up and taken out of district to school.
- Gave permission to destroy certain records from the 1997-1998 school year.
- Gave permission to Jennings School District to pick up the McEvoy children from their home.



City crew on projects

The Oberlin city crew was building a retaining wall on the west side of The Gateway last week and helping get lights up at the race track.

Lead Lineman Ron Beneda (in bucket) said they put up about seven light poles at the track. The crew dug the holes last Monday and then on Tuesday actually put the poles in. He said he thinks the crew will help hang the lights, although the race committee hasn't asked yet.

On the west side of The Gateway, the crew has dug out the hillside to rebuild it, putting in poles and logs to hold the dirt in place. There will then be a sidewalk poured on that side.

Sheriff proposes charging juvenile transport fee

The Decatur County sheriff talked with county commissioners last Tuesday about charging counties or agencies that are responsible for youths who have to be taken to the Trego County Juvenile Facility in WaKeeney.

Sheriff Ken Badsky said that he would like to charge either the county or the agency a flat fee for the transport since the state now requires that juveniles be transported under police protection.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said

he thought it was a good idea if it can be done that way under state law.

Sheriff Badsky said it would be either the state Juvenile Justice Authority or a county that would get the bill, around \$100. There was no decision made.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch said he could see nothing wrong with the new contract with the juvenile facility, but the commissioners decided to put off signing it since that is what other counties are doing.

The commissioners held a 15

minute closed session with Sheriff Badsky and Mr. Hirsch for attorney-client privilege. There was no action taken.

Commissioner Patricia Glenn asked about a bill the county received for payment on the old radio

tower contract.

The commissioners are not paying for the past use, but do want to use the tower again in 2003, and sent the form back to the new owner. Sheriff Badsky said he hasn't heard anything about it yet.

Next paper will be a day late

Due to the election on the school budget set for Tuesday, *The Oberlin Herald* will print a day late next week in order to get the results.

All copy will still be needed for advertising and news by noon Monday, but subscribers will receive

their copy of the paper a day late. Copies will be available at the newspaper office and at other places on Wednesday afternoon and most area subscribers should receive their copy in the mail on Thursday.

Oberlin woman takes helm of Norton paper

Cynthia Haynes has taken the position of publisher at *The Norton Telegram*, taking the place of Kurt Gaston.

She and her husband Steve are owners of Nor'West Newspapers, which bought *The Telegram* from Dick and Mary Beth Boyd in September. The firm also operates *The Oberlin Herald* and newspapers in Colby, Goodland, Bird City and St. Francis. Mrs. Haynes, who is chief financial officer of the company and co-publisher of *The Herald*, began work in *The Telegram* office last Wednesday. She will continue to supervise the Oberlin office and the company's finances.

A native of Concordia, she graduated from the University of Kansas in 1971 with a degree in

pharmacy. She still works part-time as a relief pharmacist in area towns.

She and her husband have been publishers since 1980, when they bought the newspaper in Creede, in southern Colorado. They returned to Kansas in 1993 when they bought the Oberlin, St. Francis and Bird City papers.

She has been active in the Kansas and Colorado press associations and is a former director of the Colorado Pharmacists Association.

The Hayneses have three children, Felicia, 29, who works for Morris Digitalworks in Augusta, Ga.; Lindsay, 26, who teaches science in McLouth, near Lawrence; and Lacy, 23, a student in Lawrence.



C. Haynes

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