

County asks director for job list

Decision to hire full-time ambulance worker on hold

By KIMBERLY BRANDT
The Decatur County commissioners asked the ambulance director to write a job description for himself and for a full-time emergency service worker before they decide if another full-time person should be hired for the service.

Ambulance Director Patrick Pomeroy asked a few months ago about hiring a full-time worker, but the commissioners have not yet given an answer. Since then, Michael French, who was hired as the deputy in both the ambulance service and sheriff's office, has been promoted to undersheriff and doesn't work for the ambulance service.

Recently the commissioners received word that the ambulance service needed to mail some paperwork to the state. Commissioner Ralph Unger said last year when the state inspected the service, here were a few protocols and policies that the service needed to get finished.

Those hadn't been completed,

said Mr. Unger, and the county received a letter which gave a February deadline to get them in.

Mr. Unger said the commissioners wanted to wait until the paperwork was taken care of before making a decision about a full time person.

The paperwork has not affected the performance of the ambulance, said Mr. Unger, but it is part of the requirements by the state.

He said Mr. Pomeroy had worked on a lot of it, but it just hadn't got in the mail. The commissioners asked him to send it certified mail, and later received a letter the state had received the material.

Mr. Unger said now Mr. Pomeroy will be working on a list of what he thinks his responsibilities are and what the responsibilities of another full time person would be. The commissioners will be thinking about hiring another person this week and then discuss it at the next meeting. (See COUNTY on Page 10A)

Talent, auctions, chili to be offered at yearly telethon

By KIMBERLY BRANDT
The Seeds of Hope Telethon, complete with local talent, a Walkathon, snack bar, chili cook off and live and silent auction, is only a week and half away.

Committee members have started meeting weekly to prepare for the big event from 1 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 28. The goal is to collect \$13,000. Last year the event brought in a little over \$13,000.

Each year, the telethon is held to raise money for organizations throughout Decatur County. Committee members send out letters to organizations asking for them why they need the money and what they will use it for. The committee then decides case by case who should and shouldn't get the money. Those votes are compiled and the organizations are selected.

Organizations receiving money from the telethon this year are Decatur County Stand Against Violence, AWANA, Kansans for Life, FROGS Summer Camp, Tripple Creek Riders, Decatur County Re-

lay for Life, Decatur Area Theater Association, Oberlin Lions Club, Norcatour Pre-School, American Family Radio, Oberlin Girl Scouts, Norcatour City Library, Salvation Army, Decatur Area Chamber of Commerce, Jennings Community Hall and Jennings City Library.

Some of the items that have been collected for the auction are a fan package from the Miami Dolphins, a "Sunlight on the Sappa" print by Anna Seeber Shaw from The Bank, a boneless rib eye roast cut and wrapped from Raye's Grocery and tickets to a play from the Denver Center Theater Company.

Items are on display in the window of building.

The committee has decided to add two events to the telethon this year. There will be a tribute to the late Royce Wilson, former television reporter and home show promoter, who died last year.

The committee would also like to honor active duty military men and women from the county. So far, the (See TELETHON on Page 10A)

Committee wants annual Walkathon to go out with a bang

This is the last year for the Walkathon held during the Seeds of Hope Telethon on Saturday, Feb. 28.

Dennis Brown, who is in charge of the event, said he would like the event to go out with a bang.

This is the sixth year for the Walkathon, which runs the length of the telethon from 1 to 10 p.m.

Mr. Brown said he mails out pledge sheets to organizations each year, but mostly everyone who wants to take part just shows up with their money and starts walking. Six years ago, the walkathon started with the idea that the telethon would use the whole building, said Mr. Brown.

This way, people who thought they didn't have a talent could participate in the event.

Mr. Brown said he has had a 14-month-old to a 98-year-old walking on the track.

In the beginning, said Mr. Brown,

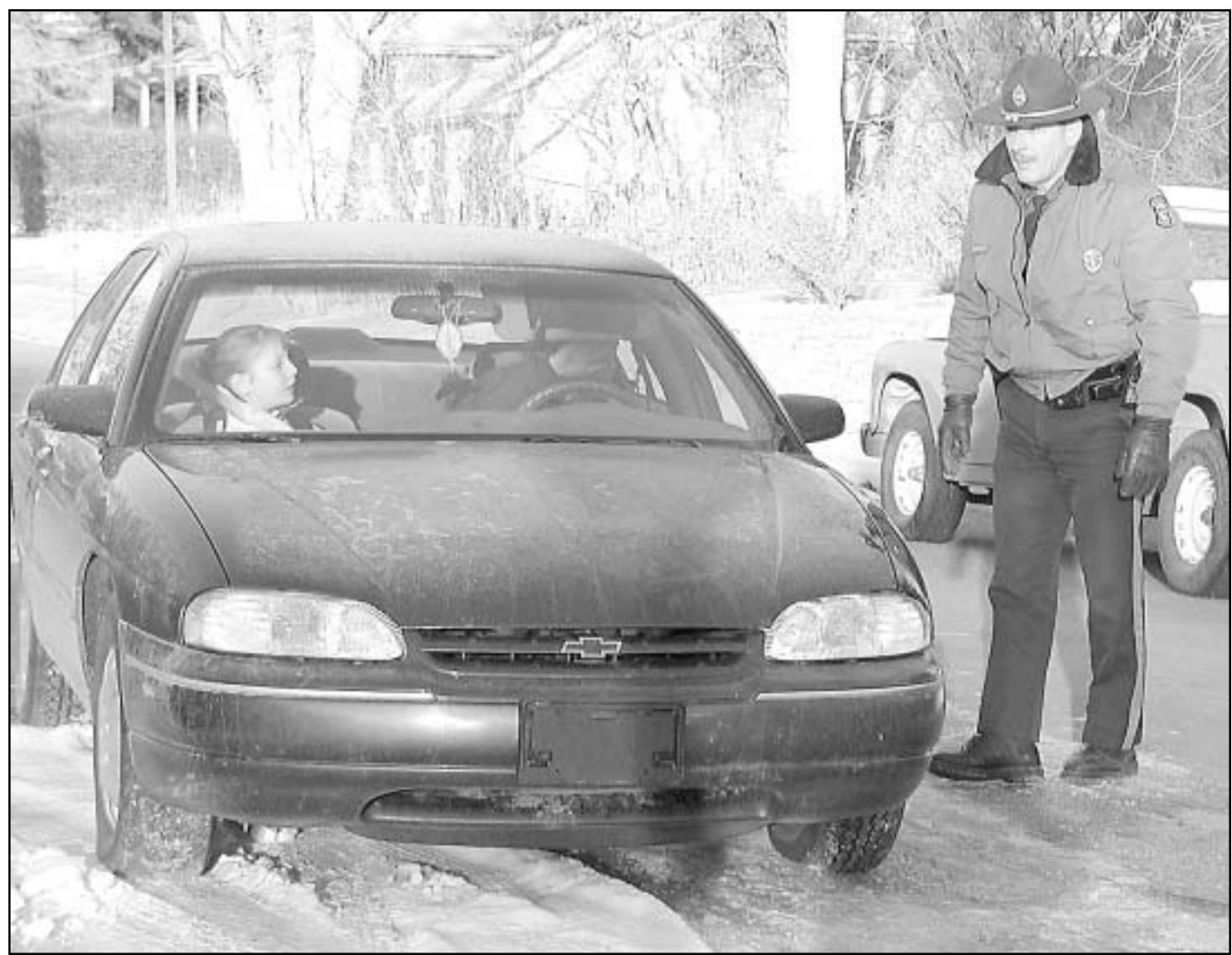
the Walkathon brought in quite a bit of money, but for the last few years the event hasn't brought in as much. Between the walkathon and the snack bar, he said, they have taken in around \$1,500 to \$1,600.

There is no minimum pledge to walk, said Mr. Brown. People can pledge what they want and walk as many laps as they want. He said they have had pledges as low as a nickel.

Mr. Brown said anyone interested in walking can call him at 475-2623 and he will mail the pledge sheet out. He said people don't have to do a pledge sheet, though; they can just show up and walk.

He said he would really like to see the schools get involved with the Walkathon and do challenges, like class against class.

If anyone has any ideas for new events that include everyone to replace the Walkathon, Mr. Brown said he would like to hear about them.



STATE TROOPERS stopped 56 vehicles outside Oberlin Elementary School on Thursday morning to check to see if the drivers and kids had their seat belts on. A trooper (above) stopped a mom and daughter to take a quick check while Lt. Doug Griffiths (below) stopped Roma Grafel.

—Herald staff photos by Kimberly Brandt

Drivers learn safety

Nine Kansas Highway Patrol troopers set up safety lanes around Oberlin Elementary School on Thursday, checking to see if people were wearing their seat belts and children were safely strapped in.

Lt. Doug Griffiths said the troopers were outside the school for about 30 minutes on the chilly morning, and for the most part, it looked like Oberlin parents had their act together this year.

In that time, they made contact with 56 vehicles. Of those, most occupants were receptive, said Lt. Griffiths, and most were aware of what National Child Safety Week is about. Not all, though.

Around 8 a.m. on the west side of the school, a man in a red car was stopped and the officer found that those in the vehicle didn't have their seatbelts on. The man received a ticket and seemed to be unhappy about it as he pulled out. Later, the troopers heard a squeal of tires nearby and figured it was



the same car.

Lt. Griffiths said the troopers gave five tickets for child restraint violations and three for seat belts.

He said the child restraint tickets covered kids 14 and under, and the seat belt tickets are for anyone 15 and over.

For a seat belt ticket to be written, there has to be a primary violation, which means the children

weren't restrained or there was some other traffic infraction. There were more child restraint tickets given than seat belt tickets, Lt. Griffiths said, because in two cases the kids weren't buckled in but the adults or people 15 and over were wearing their seat belts.

The troopers only did the safety lanes at the grade school. Lt. Griffiths said the troopers came from all

over the area, including two from Colby, one from Smith Center, one from Stockton, two from Phillipsburg, one from Hill City and two from Norton.

On Friday, the troopers planned to regroup and talk about how the week had gone. He said the troopers did a lane in Norton last Wednesday and several other programs.

A hand well played



WITH HER POKER HAND, Denise Abbey won a bouquet of red roses Friday from *The Oberlin Herald* and businesses downtown, just in time for Valentine's Day. The second prize, a gift basket, wasn't claimed, so it was donated to the Seeds of Hope Telethon.

—Herald staff photo by Kimberly Brandt

Herndon Beavers to play last game at home on Friday

The Herndon High Beavers will play just one more basketball game at home, Friday against the Palco Roosters.

When the Herndon School District agreed last year to consolidate with Atwood, high school students knew there would come a time that they would no longer be Beavers, no longer run onto the field or the basketball court in Herndon and no longer wear blue and gold.

That time has come. There is only one regular-season basketball game scheduled. That will start at 5:30 p.m. Friday night when the Beavers play Palco.

It may be the Beavers' last season, but what a way to go.

Atwood Superintendent Lee Tarrant said the boys have lost just one game this year, so they will be going on to regionals in Goodland. If they win there, they would go to sub-state in Colby and then hopefully to state.

Dr. Tarrant said the boys have a super team, losing in overtime to Weskan for their only setback.

Coach Ryan Becker said he expects a full house Friday. They have been trying not to talk a lot about this being the last home game in (See BEAVERS on Page 10A)

Newspaper group wins news award

The Nor' West Newspapers group, including *The Oberlin Herald*, has won the 2004 Burton Marvin Award for News Enterprise from the William Allen White Foundation at the University of Kansas.

The Marvin award is the only statewide news honor given by the

foundation and the William Allen White School of Journalism.

The Herald and its sister papers won for their special edition, "Rural Schools ... on the Bubble," last spring. The 32-page section, produced by the staff of all six Nor' West papers, examined the (See AWARD on Page 10A)

* Award received from university for special issue

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 condition of school districts across northwest Kansas, including enrollment and budget trends.
 It went into the probability of consolidation down the road, and the impact of the last round of school consolidation on Kansas towns.
 "This package of stories represents the newspaper group's dedication to coverage of an issue of overriding public concern, representing a commitment to serve the public and initiative in acting on that commitment," the judge said.
 Under the ownership and direction of Steve and Cynthia Haynes, Nor'West includes the *Bird City Times*, *Colby Free Press*, *Goodland Star-News*, *Norton Telegram*, *Oberlin Herald* and *Saint Francis Herald*, ranging in circulation from 489 to 2,160. The total news staff for all six papers is just eight, and all eight were involved in the analysis of rural school districts in 12 northwest Kansas counties.
 Cynthia Haynes designed and edited the special section, with help from Mary Lou Olson on proofing, Karla Jones on makeup and Kimberly Brandt, but Mr. Haynes stressed that it was a company-wide effort.

"This award represents a lot of hard work by our staff, from the news department through advertising and the press," said Mr. Haynes. "They should be proud of this recognition by the White Foundation judges."
 The Marvin award is named for an early dean of the School of Journalism. It usually goes to a project by a larger newspaper that is considered above and beyond the ordinary run of news coverage, but judges are allowed to split the award if they consider an effort by smaller newspapers to be worthy.
 In this case, the judges gave two awards. The other went to *The Wichita Eagle* for a three-year project to reveal crimes by Kansas parolees. The newspaper had to sue to get the information, taking the case to the state Supreme Court under the Open Records Act. It eventually discovered more than two dozen murders by felons supposedly under state supervision.
 Steve Haynes is a 1970 graduate of the White School of Journalism and Cynthia Haynes is a 1971 KU pharmacy graduate. They have operated Nor'West Newspapers since moving to Oberlin in September 1993.

* Telethon to raise money for groups

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 committee has been unsuccessful in finding any family members of active duty military people who would like to be interviewed during the telethon.
 The idea is to highlight a military person every hour by interviewing the person or a family member. Organizer Kimberly Brandt said the committee would like to show pic-

tures of the service men and women. Anyone who is interested in having their family member honored should call Ms. Brandt at 475-2206.
 The telethon will be shown on local access cable channel 7 in Oberlin. Those who don't get cable can watch the telethon live at The Gateway. Anyone is welcome to come to The Gateway that day and watch and eat at the snack bar.

Alliance to hold basketball giveaway

The Oberlin Business Alliance will hold a college basketball giveaway for the person who can choose the winner of the national college championship.
 The giveaway will take place at the beginning of April. Those who want to participate can pick up forms at participating businesses or the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce. If there is a tie, the participant who guesses the closest final score will win.
 The alliance will give away a "pot of gold" for St. Patrick's Day. Joe Stanley, owner of Stanley Hardware, said the idea was to have a piece of paper with all the participating stores on it and then have the customer take the sheet to each of the stores to get signed. The promotion will run Tuesday, March 9 through Wednesday, March 17.
 After the paper is signed by the participating businesses, it will be put in a box and there will be a drawing. The pot of gold will include prizes from participating businesses.
 With only six members at the meeting last Wednesday, Kurt

Vollertsen, owner of Ward Drug Store, said it may be time to get the Chamber and the alliance combined. Rusty Addleman, owner of Addleman Drug Store, said if someone looked back in the minutes they will run across this topic every so often. There will be those for it and against it.
 It may be time to do it, said Mr. Vollertsen.
 Marilyn Horn, who is the county clerk and a member of the Chamber, said that the chamber is countywide and the alliance does business promotions just in Oberlin.
 Maybe it is time to do some kind of reorganization, said Mr. Vollertsen. People might not get burned out that way, said Brian Loker, with KFNF.
 In other business, Mr. Stanley said that Chamber Manager Glenva Nichols wanted to get a third person on the signature card at The Bank. Mrs. Nichols and Gary Walter with The Bank are on the card now. Mr. Vollertsen said he would do it.
 Nadean Stoney of Oberlin was winner of the Sweetheart Valentine drawing.

Surprise



AT THE SWEETHEART LUNCH Friday at Cedar Living Center, Earl Brown surprised his wife, Zola with a red rose. — Photo by Teresa Shaunessy

Teacher says program is a hit

The Oberlin School Board listened to a presentation about a Computer Curriculum Corp. program used in the special education classes at the high school and also at the grade school in the computer lab.
 Teacher Rhonda Barth said she uses the math program in her classroom. She said students get to depend on calculators and she doesn't like that. The students hate word problems, she said, no matter how they are exposed to them.
 The computer will tutor the kids and then re-teach them on its own, she said.
 Could this program be used for summer school? asked board member Monte Moore? Yes, said Mrs. Barth. Each student can be put at the level they are at and work from there. The program doesn't deal with just math; there are also spelling, reading and other areas.
 The program has been valuable to

the students, said Mrs. Barth. She already has two students who have passed a year's growth.
 Superintendent Kelly Glodt said, pointing at the chart of students' growth, that these are kids who haven't made a year's growth in every year they have been in school, and they have made this progress in this short amount of time.
 High School Principal Charles Haag said the program was tremendous in the summer school in Chadron, Neb., where he worked. The students were put at the level they needed to be and then there were two or three teachers to oversee it. The students came and worked their program for 30 minutes a day two to three times a week.
 When the computer says a student is at a certain grade equivalency, asked Mr. Glodt, does it compare to the tests given through special education? Mrs. Barth said it is pretty

close.
 A weakness with the program is that there isn't any science on it, said Mrs. Barth. She asked what the district will do for science credits if the program doesn't offer science.
 Mr. Glodt said Technology Director Jess Randel is looking into programs that have the science curriculum.
 Mr. Haag said he believes in this program. It is very accurate.
 The grade school has 50 computers with the program. Principal Duane Dorshorst said around two to three times a week, every child in the grade school uses the program. The school uses it for both math and reading.
 Mr. Glodt said he thinks people will start seeing a switch all over the country, because more schools will be going to computer-based education rather than using test books.

City to get automated weather system

The City of Oberlin received a letter from the Kansas Department of Transportation saying that they will pay up to \$68,400 to put an automated weather system at the airport here.
 The city would be responsible for the remaining cost of construction and preliminary engineering costs.
 The device, known as AWOS-III, is an automated weather observation system, said City Administrator Gary Shike.
 The letter from Secretary of Transportation Deb Miller said that the project was selected on an estimate of \$76,000 with the state providing 90 percent of the construction costs, including construction engineering.
 The Oberlin City Council received the police chief's report at their meeting Thursday, Feb. 5, at The Gateway. Chief Wade Lockhart said in January the department purchased two Samsung video cameras for a total of \$514.
 In other business, the council:
 • Heard that Ray Lohofener had resigned from the Housing Authority. Mayor Ken Shobe is working on

a replacement.
 • Received the new numbers for the low to moderate income standards for a survey to see if the city can get a community development

block grant.
 • Heard that City Administrator Gary Shike will be getting prices to fix the air conditioner units at The Gateway.

* County waits to hire

(Continued from Page 1A)
 Mr. Pomeroy said he understood that it would be a big step for the service since there have never been two full-time paid positions before. He said no matter who is hired for the job, it will help with the billing.
 What would the person be paid, asked Commissioner Patricia Glenn? Mr. Pomeroy said in the range of \$22,000 to \$24,000 a year.
 A minimum requirement is to be a certified emergency medical technician. Mr. Pomeroy said he isn't going to hire someone who needs to be trained.
 In other business, the commissioners:
 • Heard that there are seven people signed up for a first responder class that starts on Tuesday, Feb. 24. The last class had only four and one completed it. A first responder is trained in two and a half months and can drive and help with patient care on the ambulance with a trained emergency medical technician.
 • Held a 10-minute closed session for attorney/client privilege with Mr. Pomeroy and County Attorney Steve Hirsch. There was no action afterward.

* Beavers to play Friday

(Continued from Page 1A)
 Herndon, although the boys and district residents are fully aware that's what it is.
 He said he thinks the 12-man team is at ease with it being the last game. They have all known throughout the year that this will be the final season. The kids went through the turmoil last year, he said, with months of talks and the decision to consolidate with Atwood. At that time, students didn't know if they would have a season this year or not.
 With there only being seven teams in the regional and Herndon seeded as No. 1, the Beavers will have a bye the first week while others play a "pigtail" game to see who advances. That means there isn't any way to get another game in Herndon.
 Mr. Becker has coached Herndon football and boys basketball for the past four years.

Seeds of Hope

Walk-a-thon 2004

Come and be a part of the FINAL Walk-a-thon

Help us bring this part of the Seeds of Hope to a close, with a big bang!

Name	Sponsor	Amount
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____

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 at The Gateway
 Questions - contact Dennis Brown at 475-2623.

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87 BUICK ESTATE WAGON, 81000 ACTUAL MILES	\$1,500
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92 MERCURY SABLE GS, V-6, LOADED	\$1,000
92 OLDS ACHIEVA SL COUPE	\$ 950
91 FORD TAURUS GL, 3.8 V-6	\$ 900
87 OLDS 98 REGENCY BROUGHAM COUPE	\$ 850
89 BUICK REGAL CUSTOM COUPE, LOADED	\$ 800
85 FORD LTD, A STRAIGHT CAR	\$ 800
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90 OLDS CUTLASS CALAIS	\$ 595
88 CADILLAC FLEETWOOD	\$ 250

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84 CHEVY 1/2 TON 4X4, 350 V-8	\$2,500
88 FORD F250 4X4, FI 351 V-8, AUTO	\$2,495
87 DODGE D150 4X4, 318 V-8	\$2,000
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