

## District gives raises to all workers

### Board approves increases for first time in three years

The Oberlin School Board approved raises for teachers by ratifying the agreement negotiated with their union, then gave administrators, hourly staff and bus drivers a raise, at a meeting last Monday night.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt said he thought it would be a terrible mistake to give a raise to the teachers through the negotiated agreement and then not give raises to anyone else. The district does need to continue saving money, he said, but also needs to compensate its employees fairly.

He said that since he has come to the district three years ago, no one has gotten a raise.

The board decided that salary employees, including the administrators and others on a salary besides teachers would get \$500 a year. There are eight of them. The hourly employees would receive 20 cent an hour and the bus drivers would receive 50 cents a trip and one cent a mile. The total cost of those raises would be \$13,800 per year.

Hourly employees make from \$7.20 to \$10.20 an hour with the average employee making \$8.27. Bus drivers make \$12.53 a trip now. They used to make \$.17 a mile and now make \$.18 a mile.

The teachers have already been taken care of in the negotiated agreement. Their raises include adding a step to the bottom of the pay scale so that teachers who have a bachelors and then so many hours of further education have a place to move to. The teachers also can move across the pay scale.

Mr. Glodt said the typical move down the scale is \$740 a year and a

### School Round up

At a meeting last Monday night, the Oberlin School Board:

- Gave the superintendent approval to work with the Jennings superintendent on a cooperative agreement for the 7-12 graders to attend school here next year. Story below left.

- Gave permission for the technology director to continue researching a complete voice over internet protocol system with a phone in every room at both schools. Story below.

- Agreed to postpone a decision on putting in sidewalks and combine the discussion with a playground committee to discuss work at the elementary school. Story on Page 3A.

- Approved raises for teachers by ratifying a negotiated agreement with their union and gave raises to administrators, hourly staff and bus drivers. Story on left.

- Approved the superintendent buying eight to 10 steam traps to replace some at the high school. Story on Page 12A.

typical move across is \$800 a year. Mr. Glodt said he estimated the cost to the district will be \$22,000.

Last year the base salary for a teacher starting was \$27,640 and this year a new teacher would get \$27,700. That is an increase of \$60.

Last year the district cut nine teachers. The teachers last got a raise in 2001.

## Schools may get new phone system

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The Oberlin School Board told the district technology coordinator to continue looking into a new phone system and suggested a complete computer-based "voice over internet protocol" system with a phone in every room at both schools.

Coordinator Jess Randel said he has been researching both the voice over Internet and digital phone systems, which could replace existing intercoms and phone systems.

The phone systems in both the grade and high schools are worn out, said Mr. Randel. They need to be replaced.

He said the underground line to the kindergarten rooms isn't working. The intercom only runs from the office to the room. The teachers can't page the office from their classrooms.

Mr. Randel said the district is in the second year of a three-year con-

tract with Southwestern Bell.

The board has some choices, he said. They can do nothing, the current phone system can be replaced with a similar one at the cost of

(See PHONES on Page 12A)

## Food is needed

With only a week and half left, Stanley Hardware's annual food drive still needs 1,134 items to reach the goal of 2,000 by the new year.

Food can be brought in during business hours. After the drive, it will be taken to the Decatur County Food Pantry at the United Church of Oberlin.



