

Commissioners say no to overtime work

Decatur County commissioners agreed last Tuesday that a full-time employee from another department can't work part time for dispatch because they would have to pay overtime.

Chief Dispatcher Jeanne Pachner told commissioners she was having a hard time filling the dispatch schedule and wanted to know if Undersheriff Michael French could fill some spots.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch said it would. He talked with Ms. Pachner and they agreed that a full-time person can't be used for additional work without paying the person overtime.

Commissioner Patricia Glenn said she got a call last week from Custodian Bob Berls, who said the hot water heater had died. Mrs. Glenn said she told him it was OK to replace it. The heater was put in by Hansen's Plumbing and Heating. The commissioners ratified the

County Roundup

At their meeting last Tuesday, Decatur County commissioners:

- Talked a little about charging for ambulance standbys, although they didn't make any decisions. Story on Page 10A.
- Discussed whether full-time employees in another department can fill in dispatch. Story to left.

purchase.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman ask them to approve bidding and purchase of four gravel-trailer tires that will cost over \$500.

- Scheduled a meeting for the Road Addressing Committee at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 22.

Nobody attends city water hearing

No citizens showed up Monday when the Oberlin City Council held a special hearing required for a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to re-drill well No. 12 east of town.

Thaniel Monaco, engineer with Miller and Associates, said he hasn't heard anything new on the project but thought the hearing was the last requirement the city had to meet other than getting information to the Rural Development agency. City Administrator Gary Shike

said that the council authorized him and Mayor Ken Shobe to sign the needed paperwork at a meeting in January. The public hearing, he said, was one of the conditions for grant money.

Since there was no one in the audience, after 10 minutes the council adjourned the meeting.

Mr. Monaco said he had received an archeological study for the land southeast of town where the waste water treatment plant will be built.

An afternoon story



WEARING HER CRAZY HAT, Tiffany Anderson read in the Oberlin Elementary School library Monday afternoon. Students wore crazy hats to school Monday to help kick off Reading Week. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Women have served at hospital and center for 30 years each

Four women have been recognized for 30 years of service to health care in Decatur County.

Joan Larue, Donna Eskew, Linda Stanley and Caroline Jacobs all have worked at the hospital or Cedar Living Center for the past 30 years. At an employee dinner in January the women were recognized for their service and each received clocks.

Hospital Administrator Lynn Doeden said you don't see the longevity of staff in the workplace very often anymore, but the hospital has a number of employees who have worked there for a number of years through the good and the bad. She said it helps because it means people aren't changing jobs a lot, there isn't a huge shortage of workers and the hospital doesn't have to go out and look for people.

Each woman has had a different experience at the facility, but all have enjoyed their jobs.

Mrs. Eskew is the floor nurse supervisor at Cedar Living Center. She said she has always been a caregiver, from raising her kids to nursing.

She said she worked for eight years as a nurse aide at the Decatur County County Samaritan Center. After her children were in high school, she went to school at Colby Community College to become a registered nurse.

Her grandmother had been a nurse, Mrs. Eskew said, and she was always interested in the profession.

The job has changed considerably in the last 30 years, she said, and it is more detailed now. There are many more regulations and each one has to be followed.

Mrs. Eskew said she has worked at the center since it opened. She said she has always liked older people. Growing up, she had three great-grandparents who she adored.

She has lived in Oberlin since 1966. She and her husband Tom had six children, Bev Reiter, Jo Larson and Bruce and David Eskew, who live in Oberlin; Dennis Eskew, who lives in Washington state; and Robert Eskew, who lives in McCook. She said they have eight grandchildren and five great-grandkids.

Mrs. Jacobs is a staff nurse working primarily at the hospital. Although not originally from here, she has lived on a farm near Dresden for the last 49 years.

She said she was always interested in nursing, but didn't go to school right after graduation. Instead, she said, she had a family first, then went to school at Colby Community College.

Mrs. Jacobs also said the job has changed since she started. There is more paperwork and it seems people are more acutely ill today. There are also more intravenous injections these days.

Mrs. Jacobs and her husband Herman have five children, Ronald, who farms near Dresden; Cheri, a physical therapist in Oakley; Todd, who farms near Dresden; Loren, who works for a phone company in Colby; and Anna, a home health nurse and health supervisor in Nebraska.

The couple has 12 grandchildren.

Mrs. Larue is the material management manager, which means she is in charge of purchasing, receiving



FOUR WOMEN were recognized in January for 30 years of service each at the Decatur County Hospital and Cedar Living Center: (from left) Caroline Jacobs, Linda Stanley, Joan Larue and Donna Eskew. They received clocks at an employee banquet.

— Photo by Othelia Vacura

and issuing supplied, and inventory control.

Thirty years ago, she said, she started at Cedar Living Center after she had taken a couple of nurse aide classes. She said her husband Bernard was an only child, so she had decided she would talk care of his parents in their old age. She said she was going to get some practical experience at the center and work for

a year.

Fourteen months into the job, she said, she was asked to take the central sterile aide position. That evolved into the job she has now.

Things have changed a lot. Back then, the staff used to sterilize water, and now they buy it that way.

Increasing regulations make things different. So does the economy, she said, and changes in

the community. The area has been through tough times, and the hospital had to make changes. The facility is viable, she said, because there are good employees who really care. There is a strong board that has been proactive. They look at the trends and keep the equipment up to date. Those things have helped bring in an excellent staff. She said the hospital also has had the support of the

community.

Mrs. Larue said she isn't from Oberlin but has lived here the last 50 years.

Although she is thinking about retirement in June, she said she still enjoys her job.

She and her husband have two children, Charlene Weber, who lives in Ellis, and Bruce Larue, who lives here. They also have four living grandchildren.

Mrs. Larue said they try to take in as many of the grandkids' activities as possible.

Mrs. Stanley is a staff nurse and works on the floor at the hospital, taking care of patients.

She said she knew when she was young that she wanted to be a nurse, although she doesn't know if that was because of illnesses of her parents or not.

Mrs. Stanley attended Stormont-Vail Hospital School of Nursing in Topeka. She said she went on a scholarship and part of the deal was that she would come back here and work for a year, which she did.

Mrs. Stanley grew up south of Jennings and went to school there.

In 1974, she and her husband John moved here. The couple has four children: Chad of Denver; Chanda Fleckenstein of Sterling; Chaylene Kriegh of St. Francis and Christina Green of Jennings. They have seven grandchildren.

She said she enjoys working in a small-town hospital instead of a big one. Over the years, she said, she has had the chance to experience every aspect of nursing here and has learned a lot in this rural setting.

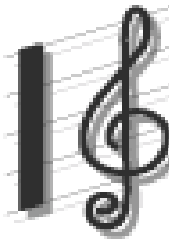
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