

Painting planters



BILL RIEDEL, who will be sworn in as the city's new Oberlin on Monday assisted by his wife Connie. mayor Thursday night, painted the planters in downtown — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

County may hire part timer at health office

The Decatur County commissioners talked last Tuesday about changing a decision to share a county employee between the health department and ambulance service.

Ambulance Director Linda Manning, Chris Koerperich from the ambulance service and weed control director Gaylen Huntley, talked with the commissioners about the plan. The emergency medical technicians are tired, said Mr. Huntley. They need more help.

Mr. Koerperich said they are really concerned about covering the ambulances during business hours on weekdays, when many volunteers cannot get away.

Recently Mrs. Eskew, who had been working in the ambulance department full-time, switched to part-time between it and the health department during the day.

While sharing a secretary is a good idea on paper, said Mr. Huntley, it hasn't been in practice. Mrs. Eskew can't just lock up the Health Department office when there is an ambulance call.

It sounds like the health department is going to need another part timer, said Commissioner Ralph Unger.

Another idea was to maybe compensate the employers of the people who take ambulance calls during work hours.

Maybe the two departments could work together to move forward on freeing up Mrs. Eskew, said Commissioner Gene Gallentine.

The group talked about the state-required "training transitions" for all ambulance workers coming up by the end of the year. The state is forcing all ambulance volunteers to qualify for upgraded certificates. No one here can do the training, said Ms. Manning.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Talked with Randy Dicks with Aflac Insurance. Some of the employees have complained about the insurance because they get a bill and so does the insurance company, yet it takes months to get them paid. Mr. Dicks said he would pass it on.

Commissioners decide to spread radio bill out

The Decatur County commissioners agreed to prorate the \$22,974 cost of new portable radios to the departments that are going to use them during their meeting last Tuesday.

Marilyn Mack, chief dispatcher, talked with the commissioners about where the money will come from to pay for the 147 new handheld radios and pagers.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch said he didn't think that the money from E-911 fund, collected from special taxes on phone lines, could be used for the project.

Someone suggested using the money in the land line 911 account, collected from the 911 tax on fixed phone lines, then having the departments pay for the rest.

Mr. Hirsch said he's a little con-

cerned about stripping that fund completely

Clerk Colleen Geishler said the land line fund has around \$26,000.

Mrs. Mack said the department received some grant money for the radio upgrade, but it didn't pay for everything. About \$10,000 will have to be returned, she added, because the bid came in lower than expected.

Commissioner Stan McEvoy said he hated to take money out of the land line account and end up with almost nothing there.

Commissioner Ralph Unger agreed, saying he thought the cost should be prorated to the budgets of departments that will use the radios. The commissioners agreed.

Piano trio from Nebraska to play here

Three students from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln plan a free concert at The Gateway on Tuesday.

The Ezinma Piano Trio will offer a classical music concert in the Morgan Theater at 7 p.m.

The trio is made up of Meredith Ramsay, violin; Timothy Peak, cello; and Michael Glur-

Zoucha, piano. The group, all juniors, will play pieces from Haydn, Beethoven, Brahms and Schnittke.

The trio has been performing in rural Nebraska, said Mr. Glur-Zoucha, and now wants to come to Oberlin.

Over the past two years, he said, they have

performed in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Honors ChamberFest and Chancellor Harvey Perlman's State of the University address. They were the J.C. Arriaga Chamber Music Competition in Connecticut.

The trio also performed with world-renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma at the Lied Center in Lincoln.

Volunteers still needed to help fill MannaPacks

Oberlin still needs volunteers to fill a time slot to help make "MannaPacks" at the Crossroads Wesleyan Church in Imperial, Neb., on Saturday, July 23.

"This is an opportunity to make a difference in someone's life," said Deanna Castle, who is spearheading the project for the Oberlin United Methodist Church. "It takes 120 to fill a work time slot, so there are lots

of spaces available for anyone able to help out.

"The program is through 'Feed My Starving Children,' a Christian nonprofit hunger relief organization founded in 1987."

The Crossroads church and Pastor Todd Burpo, author of "Heaven Is for Real," have made a commitment of 200,000 MannaPacks. All the supplies — rice, soy nuggets,

vitamins and minerals and dehydrated vegetables — will be brought in on a semitrailer truck known as "MobilePack."

The products are packaged by volunteers into life-saving meals, so many helpers are needed.

"Wouldn't it be nice if Oberlin could be the town with the most attendees?" Mrs. Castle said. "The MobilePack will be in Imperial from

July 20 to 23, so if you cannot attend (during our) time slot on Saturday, you can sign up for a time that you can get there."

To learn more, talk to Mrs. Castle at 475-3227, go to www.fmsc.org or call (763) 504-2919.

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