

At Caro Regional Center

Union pickets to protest slated labor cuts

Members of the union representing most of the employees at the Caro Regional Center have been engaged in informational picketing this week along M-81, outside the entrance, to protest planned layoffs at the state facility.

Local 831 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

represent 572 employees, including all of the attendants and some of the indirect care staff, including cleaning personnel, physical therapists and various aides.

The aim of the picketing, conducted by personnel during the day during their off-work hours, according to union chief steward Duane

Schnur, is "to make the public aware what is going on."

"It will hurt us economically, but the real question is the residents who are paying for it" (in terms of reduced care).

Federal standards, according to the union, require an attendant to resident ratio of 1:8 during day and evening shifts, 1:16 during the midnight shift.

The planned cuts, or replacing the laid off resident care aides with domestic care staff "constitutes a violation of recipient rights in the eyes of this local."

The first 16 persons to be laid off, all direct care staff, had their final day on the job Saturday.

Dr. Marlin H. Roll, the center director, told the Chronicle, he feels the picketing expresses the employ-

ees' concern for their jobs and for "the level of care we provide."

The state-mandated reduction in staff, because of its financial difficulties, began May 1, but until Saturday were accomplished by not filling positions vacated by retirements and normal attrition.

The reduction requirement has varied, but the latest plan is to eliminate 179 of 793 positions by eliminating an average of about 12 persons each two-week payday, according to Roll.

There has been some misunderstanding of the positions being eliminated, he explained. Although the first layoffs were all attendants, most of the rest will be non-direct care positions.

However, since all but attendant and domestic service positions are a step

up the ladder, those in the higher positions have bumping rights in accordance with state civil service and union rules.

Thus a truck driver's position may be eliminated, but the truck driver might bump an attendant to get his job, thus it is actually the attendant who will lose the job.

The truck driver, having started out as an attendant and worked his way up the ladder, is still qualified to work as an attendant.

One hope that the layoffs might be averted, according to Roll, won't happen. It was thought that some residents of two private care facilities in the Detroit area

which are closing might be sent to the Regional Center, but they now will go elsewhere.

The other hope that some of the layoffs might be averted stems from the fact that some new living units house 12 residents instead of the normal 16.

Twelve residents make it difficult to maintain the required minimum 1:8 and 1:16 attendant-resident ratios. Roll has applied to the state Department of Mental Health for funds to have enough staff to maintain 1:6 and 1:12 ratios in the new units, which will mean fewer layoffs.

The funding decision awaits a decision on whether

the federal standards require the minimum ratio for the residential population as a whole or per building, or whether it applies to individual living units.

If the latter, then more staff will be needed for the new living and smaller units.

Federal standards must be met in order to receive federal funds.

Cass City board hears resignations

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will not be filled again in 1980-81.

Resignations were received from Dale McIntosh, high school social studies teacher, who will enter private business; Laure Mielkowski, high school remedial reading, leaving for East Lansing with her husband, and Margaret Keating, high school English and French, leaving because of personal priorities.

The board renewed the school's membership in the High School Athletic Association and tabled action on playground equipment purchases for at least a month.

Women's Aglow to meet

Thumb Nite Women's Aglow will meet Monday at the Elkton Civic Center.

Ray and Sharon Zottneck will be the speakers. Formerly of Cass City, the Zottnecks now reside in Broken Arrow, Okla. Zottneck is associate pastor at a church in Wagoner, Okla.

The meeting begins at 7:30 following a half-hour long reception.

O-G Board hears concerns

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tax to be held in escrow, which resulted in payless paydays during the second semester.

The rule has been changed for next year. Only the first 64 percent of each property tax revenue payment received from county treasurers will have to be held for repayment of the loan.

CAREER COUNCIL

In compliance with a requirement of a federal vocational education grant received a year ago, a career education advisory council was appointed to advise the district on career education.

Appointed were Erickson, Barr, Bonnie Kleinau, Peggy Randall, Nancy Folk, and Victoria Rayl, all administrators or teachers; George Klemkowski, Nancy Robertshaw, Lewis Mandich, Martin Blondell, Robert McPhail, Dale Wells, and Bill Kretzschmer Jr., all businessmen, farmers or industrial workers; Patricia Enderle and Jenny Haley, parents; Leona LaFave, school board member; Judy Reinhardt, community member, and Peggy Berube and Paul Thomas, students.

Participation in the Huron Area Placement Services, run by the Huron Intermediate School District, was given after-the-fact approval. It had been used by students during the past school year.

OTHER ITEMS

Membership in the Michigan High School Athletic Association was approved.

The resignation of elementary special education teacher Linda Ballagh was accepted. She is getting married and moving with her husband to Pennsylvania. She had taught in the district two years.

May student of the month was Beth Thies, then a junior.

Erickson reported a federally-funded Head Start program for eligible preschool youngsters will start this fall, with the district providing the classroom. There will probably be 15 students enrolled, basically economically disadvantaged or handicapped. Sign-up hasn't started yet.

Negotiations with teachers for a new contract should start June 23 or 30, he said.

It's poor policy to hope for the best while thinking that the worst always happens.

Hospital closes year solidly in the black

Hills and Dales General Hospital closed its fiscal year solidly in the black, as of March 31, it was reported at the annual meeting Tuesday.

The hospital had an excess of revenues over expenses of \$124,238, up \$15,199 from last year, according to a report read by Robert Tuckey, a certified public accountant.

In reality that figure could make the hospital's financial year look better than it really was, Tuckey said.

Revenues for the year were down to \$3,462,233 from \$3,481,190 but costs increased only 5 percent compared to a national average of approximately 10 percent, Tuckey said.

This, combined with factors such as a favorable adjustment on its cost report, gave the hospital its profit.

Board president James Bauer said he was happy with the report considering much of the attention of the

board and administration had been aimed toward completion of the ambulatory care facility.

The debt owed on that facility will be met, Bauer said with certainty.

"I have no fear of meeting this debt if we are prudent and watch our spending from here in," he said.

A highlight of the meeting, which met with applause from those present, was the burning of a \$90,000 mortgage for X-ray equipment that was recently paid off. Administrator Ken Jensen had the pleasure of the financial torching.

In his address, he praised the new facility and remodeled building as a safer, more efficient place to work and be treated in.

Three board members were unanimously re-elected to serve on the board. Those elected were Doris Fritz, Carolyn Martin and Gerald Prieskorn.

Honor roll out for Cass City Intermediate

Following is the Cass City Intermediate School honor roll for the final marking period. A + denotes all A's.

EIGHTH GRADE

Deanna Britton, Aimee Brown, Paula Burdon, +Janis Burnette, +Lori Calka, Barbara Craig, +Libby Dickinson, Dave Dietzel, +Pam Harris, LaDonna Hawley, Ed Hewitt, Malcolm House, Jill Hutchinson, Joan Hutchinson, Paul Hutchinson, Jerry Kocan, Leslie Lowry.

Deanna Nichols, Gary Perry, Nancy Rands, Diane Russell, Susan Sheldon, Cindy Smith, Julie Smithson, +Ken Steely, Renae Stimpfel, Marsha Taylor, Shelly Terbush, +Tom +Tuckey, +Kim Wagg, +Whitney Walpole, Colleen Whittaker.

SEVENTH GRADE

Scott Albee, Mike Bills, Kevin Bliss, Juanita Bradley, Laurie Cook, Gail Evans, Crystal Forster, Anita Hartwick, Mark House, Ray Hrycko, Colleen Irrer, Gerald Kocan, Jeff LaBelle, Terri Leino, Albert Leslie, Carol Lockard, Tim Lockwood, Dave Loeding, Jeanne Marshall, Brenda Messing, Andrea Nieboer, Angela Nieboer, Kathy Nye, Jim Osentoski, Anne Polk, Barb Root, Mark Rutkowski, Jim Schmaltz, +Michelle Schmidt, +Craig Schuette, Becky Severance, Julie Smith, Tom Stimpfel, Jim Windy, Dana Zdrojewski.

SIXTH GRADE

Sue Allen, Gilly Bryant, Matt Clara, Debbie Cook, Diane Cooper, Greg Eria, Bryan Green, Tracy Grindley, Brian Gyomory, Brian Hacker, Yvette Hurd, Tammy Iseler, Andy Jeung, John Lebiola, Amy Lovejoy, +Sara MacRae, Tammy Marotz, Ronda Mattice, +Kerry Mellendorf, Barb Merchant, LuAnne Messing, Shelly Nicholas, Kris O'Dell, Shelli Paladi, Tammy Palmer, Pam Polega, +Mike Potrykus, Matt Purvis, Dave Rabideau,

+Deb Sawdon, Tom Schmidt, LeRoy Sellers, Medina Shaft, Jeff Smithson, Bob Sontag, Trina Spencer, +Annetta Stachura, Julie Sugden, Beth Taylor, Randal Teichman, Vicki Thane, Todd Tibbits, Beth Tuckey, Chris Tuckey, Jim VanDellen, Jim Vandembosche.

FIFTH GRADE

Russ Auten, +Alicia Bliss, +Deb Blue, +Chris Britt, Mike Britt, Meg Brown, Adam Carlile, Denise Cooper, Tracy Crawford, Jennifer Davis, Melissa Fee, Kim Gray, Kevin Haley, Jeff Hartwick, Lisa Hirn, Clayton Hobart, Julie Hrycko, +Heidi Iseler, Mark Kappen, Mike Kelly, +Jim Kritzman, James Lockwood.

Marie McDaniels, Shannon McIntosh, Patty Milligan, Toni Newsome, Denise Nichols, Rob Nicholas, Lisa Parrish, Kim Pasanski, Virgil Peters, Robyn Powell, Jim Rabideau, Dawn Rosenstangel, Steve Ross, Lisa Rutkowski, Kelly Rutkowski, Danry Schmaltz, Gary Suzor, Renee Szarapski, Carolyn Tuckey, Peter Walpole, Lisa Warford, Jean Weaver.

Elementary youngsters given books

Members of the Cass City branch of the American Association of University Women distributed books May 30 through the Reading is Fundamental program.

Those receiving the paperbacks were second and third graders at Deford Elementary School and the second grade class at Evergreen Elementary. Each youngster received two books.

Distributing the books were Ann Craig, Mary Brown and Barbara Tuckey. Mrs. Tuckey also read several stories to the children.

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American Greetings

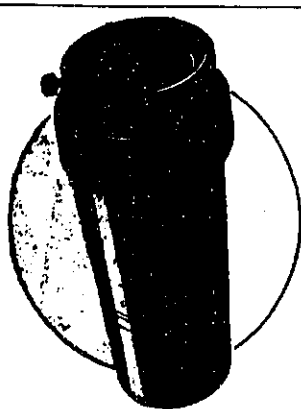
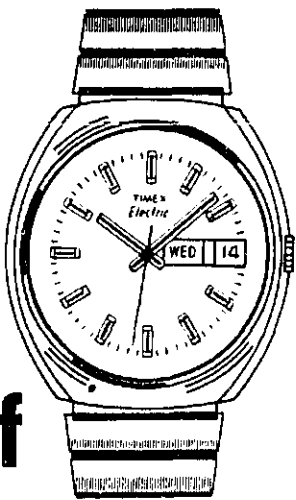
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