

County signs contract

The Decatur County commissioners, county attorney and county health administrator looked at a contract with Kansas Department of Health and Environment for bioterrorism money and decided to sign it at their meeting Tuesday morning. Health Administrator Marilyn Gamblin said the contract goes to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, which administers the money for the federal government. Each of the eight counties has to sign a contract to receive the money. Norton will be the administrative county.

The money will come through Norton County, said Ms. Gamblin, each county in the group gets \$10,000.

Some of the money will be used to hire a person for disease surveillance and to be in charge of the rules and regulations for bioterrorism. The contract has to be sent in by Jan. 31, she said.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch said he sent the contract to the attorney general's office for comment. The commissioners signed the contract but are still waiting for comment from the attorney general.

Ms. Gamblin said she will also receive \$23,000 from a bioterrorism grant. She said she had to write the plan for this money. The first version has been sent to the state and was sent back with suggestions for changes. She has revised the plan and sent in back to the Department of Health and Environment.

So far, she said she has received a little over \$11,000 of the money. Is the money for the health department or for the whole county? asked Commissioner Doyle Brown. Ms. Gamblin said it is for the department and each emergency entity had a chance for the grant money.

Sheriff Ken Badsky said he didn't think there was bioterrorism grant money for his office.

Mrs. Gamblin said she is looking at a lap top computer with some of the grant money. She had two bids one from Dunkers in Atwood and the other from Office Works in Colby.

The commissioners suggested she go with the one she thinks would be best. The commissioners didn't have to approve it since the money is from a grant and not the budget.

Ms. Gamblin said she used some of the emergency preparedness grant money from the Kansas Department of Transportation to get boots, gloves and suits in case of an emergency.

In other business, the commissioners:
 • Heard the annual health fair has been scheduled for Friday, April 25.
 • Heard Ms. Gamblin is working on the compliance with Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act. She said when it gets closer, she said, she will be back to talk to the commissioners about it.

Service ends in Norcat

Nor West Newspaper's Internet division, nwkansan.com, shut down its operations in Norcat as of Saturday.

President Steve Haynes said that he regretted the decision to close the service in Norcat, but that there were no longer enough customers to support it. In the end, there were only about 12 paying customers, less than half the number needed to pay costs of the system.

The company started providing Internet service to Norcat several years ago when no one else was doing so, he said. Since then, however, several other companies have come into the area and there are not enough customers to go around.

The service has been housed in the library, and Chief Financial Officer Cynthia Haynes said that the city and City Clerk/Librarian Chris Dempewolf have helped keep things going for the service.

The closure of the Norcat service will not affect nwkansan.com service elsewhere.



ASHLEY STRAGEY received her booster tetanus shot from Health Department Administrator Marilyn Gamblin Friday morning at the high school. Ms. Gamblin gave around 50 shots

and there are still around 50 students who need the shots before school starts next year.

—Herald staff photo by Karla Jones

Health administrator gives shots at school

Decatur County Health Administrator Marilyn Gamblin spent Friday morning trying to get students at Decatur Community High School up to speed on their vaccines.

Ms. Gamblin said around 105 students needed a tetanus shot. She said kids are suppose to get a booster

tetanus shot, but because of the nationwide shortage on the vaccine, they hadn't been able to receive them. Manufacturers weren't producing the vaccine fast enough and the demand grew, said Ms. Gamblin.

For the last three years, the stu-

dents haven't been able to receive the shot, she said.

Before she went to the school, permission slips were sent out to parents, she said. The shots cost \$15.

Ms. Gamblin said she did about 50 shots altogether, which left half of the students still needing them.

She said if those students do not receive the tetanus booster before school starts next year, they will not be allowed to take classes.

Commissioner Doyle Brown asked if Ms. Gamblin was planning on going to Jennings to do the shots. She said she would check into it.

County, city plan joint meeting to discuss jail

The Decatur County commissioners and Oberlin City Council are planning a joint meeting sometime next week.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn said City Administrator Gary Shike had called and the council said that week would work, so the commissioners agreed that Monday, Feb. 10, would work best for them.

Sheriff Ken Badsky asked commissioners to talk about the jail contract between the city and county at the meeting. Now the contract sets a charge of \$20 a day for the first 10 days and then \$10 for each day after that.

Sheriff Badsky asked that it just be changed to a straight \$10 a day per person.

He said he would like to add a booking fee since the county does all of the booking. The state charges \$45 a person, he said, but it doesn't have to be that high. He said he would like the county to get paid for

County Roundup

At their meeting last Tuesday morning, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Approved the purchase of a cardiac monitor for the Ambulance Department. Story on Page 5A.
- Talked about a joint meeting between them and the Oberlin City Council. Story on Page to left.

• Signed a contract with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment so the health department here could get bioterrorism grant money. Story on Page far left.

• Decided to hold a silent auction for confiscated vehicles and used county vehicles starting on Monday, Feb. 10. Story on Page 10A.

its time.

At present, he said, the county sends a bill to the city in December for the full year of use for the jail.

If the city wants to, they can run a cell in the jail, said Sheriff Badsky. They would then be responsible for booking the person, doing the laundry and cooking for them.

Sheriff Badsky said he would like to see the contract rewritten so it is

simpler.

The sheriff said the high school recently practiced a lockdown in case there is an emergency. He said he was told the school will start doing these on a regular basis like fire drills and added that he would like to see the courthouse have a lockdown drill just in case.

If there is an armed robbery or an occasion where there is an armed

Commissioners discuss positions

Decatur County commissioners discussed two township positions that haven't been filled at a recent meeting.

Harlan Township has yet to fill the trustee position and Finley Township hasn't filled the treasurer spot. Commissioners heard that Kathryn Van Meter or Earnest Huff have been suggested for the job in Harlan Township and asked County Clerk Marilyn Horn to contact them.

They asked her to write a letter to township officials to see who they would like to hold the position, since no one had been suggested.

Commissioners also talked with Ambulance Director Patrick Pomeroy, who said the past week was the first in a while that the department hadn't received any money.

In 2002, he said, the department brought in \$33,000 in payment for services.

He said he had met with Dr. Richard May about all the ambulance calls in 2002 and received a clean bill of health.

Mr. Pomeroy said he thought he might have a difference of opinion with the ambulance committee on what they want to be included on the new vehicle. He said he would be meeting with a cot manufacturer to look at cots for it.

Commissioner Pat Glenn asked Mr. Pomeroy if he had called the Oberlin Modern Woodmen of America about money they raised for the department. He said he hadn't yet, so she asked if he would so they would know what is going on.

The commissioners talked with Jack Metcalf, who is working on the Oberlin Speedway. Mr. Metcalf said he met with the fair board about the track and they said they would pledge \$5,500 matching funds for a fence.

Mr. Metcalf said they have received a bid for \$3,600 for the lights at the track and he is getting a quote from a local company too.

In other business, commissioners:

- Talked with Emergency Preparedness Director Bert Cool about grant money from the Kansas Department of Transportation. He said there is a list of things that can be purchased with it for the ambulance,

fire, sheriff and health departments. Fire Chief Bill Cathcart hasn't had a chance to look at the list yet. The commissioners suggested Mr. Cool call Mr. Cathcart.

• Held a five-minute closed session for non-elected personnel. There was no action.

• Heard the hospital has made a \$36,000 profit since it became an independent facility in April.

• Approved Jack Benton be reappointed the Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development board.

• Approved a contract from Corporate Plan, the county's health insurance provider, for vision care.

• Began talking about the holiday schedule for 2003. They approved a resolution to be closed after 3 p.m. on New Year's Eve and Christmas Eve, and be closed all day New Year's Day, President's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day.

HOUSE AUCTION

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2003 10:30 A.M.

SALE LOCATION: 451 OTWAY ST., HERNDON, KS

(In case of bad weather, sale will be held at the Senior Center, Herndon, KS)

SELLER: ALVINA KOGL ESTATE
 CLEMENS L. KOGL, EXECUTOR

OPEN HOUSE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2 - 5 P.M.
 AND SATURDAY FROM 8 A.M. UNTIL SALE TIME

For a tour of this home, call listing agent Joe. D. Green (785) 322-5583

Johnson Realty, Inc.

109 North Wolf - Oberlin, KS 67749

Call Roberta Johnson, Broker - Lynn A. Johnson, Associate Broker for information.

(785) 475-2785 or Mobiles (785) 475-8514 or (785) 475-7156

School gets new vault pit

Several volunteers are putting in the new pole vault pit at Decatur Community High School.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt told the school board at their Monday, Jan. 13, meeting that the work on the runway and the pit had started. He said the runway will be 10 feet shorter than originally planned and a little narrower, but it will work.

The volunteers have started to work on the concrete pit on nice days, he said. The mat will be placed over the concrete pit, and there will be a shelter to keep the mat out of the elements.

Mr. Glodt said extra concrete needed for the work will cost around \$400 more than expected.

The ceiling fans which the alumni association donated for the senior high gym are here, he said. Volunteers have been lined up to help install the fans.

Over the winter break, the board agreed to have ServiceMaster to come out and redo the floors in some of the bathrooms and showers. Mr. Glodt said the project didn't turn out as well as he thought it would. The workers came out and said years ago an acid must have been used on the shower floors, so they couldn't be stripped and cleaned. Mr. Glodt said the floors in the bathrooms do look better.

The new fixtures and automatic flushers were installed and everything went well.

Board Member Dan Wasson said he had heard good comments about the floors.

He said faucets at the grade school can be done for around \$2 each with a grand total of around \$667.

In other business, the board:

- Heard a new garbage disposal had to be put into the high school at a cost of \$900.
- Talked briefly about putting a sprinkler system in for the practice field. There was no decision made.

Lyric Arts Trio to perform

The Lyric Arts Trio will perform at 3 p.m. on Sunday at the Atwood High School Auditorium.

They will give their "Language of Love" presentation for a romantic Valentine's show. The trio includes Elena Lence Talley, clarinetist; Suzanne Hillis Ackin, soprano, and Daniel Velicer, pianist.

It is sponsored by Western Plains Arts Association. Admission at the door is \$8 for adults, \$4 for students or by season pass.

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