

Sheriff equips trailer

Emergency gear ready to roll out

Equipped with extension cords, an ax, sledge hammer, radio, ladder, orange cones, gas masks and more, the new trailer of the Decatur County Sheriff's Office is ready for any kind of emergency.

Sheriff Ken Badsky said he would still like to get a generator for the trailer since it is wired for electricity.

The department received the trailer through a grant about a year ago. It was just a trailer then, nothing fancy. The sheriff wired it for electricity and did other work inside. He and Undersheriff Michael French then started to outfit the trailer.

Sheriff Badsky said if there is a meth lab or a hazardous spill, the trailer has the equipment needed to work at the scene.

It is set up so that if an officer needs to stay on the scene for some time, they could. It has a microwave oven and coffee pot donated by Undersheriff French.

Sheriff Badsky said he donated several items, including an AM/FM radio, extension cords and bolt cutters.

A lot of the items in the trailer, he said, were things the sheriff's office already had. In the past, he said, the fire department had a command post, but they got rid of it. He said they needed something different.

The trailer can be used by any emergency personnel in the county, he said.

The officers said they are working on grants for other equipment for the trailer. Sheriff Badsky said Ambulance Director Patrick Pomeroy was talking about adding some medical items.

Two file for ballot

Two more have filed to run in the upcoming primary election, one for state office and the other for a county post.

Bob Strevey, Norcat, has decided to run for state representative for the 120th District.

Currently, John Faber of Brewster holds the seat. Democrat Strevey, a retired Army Reserve lieutenant colonel and area farmer, ran against Mr. Faber two years ago and lost.

Incumbent Jean Hale has filed to run for treasurer for another four years.

The last day to file for the Tuesday, Aug. 3, primary election is less than a month away. It will be at noon on Thursday, June 10.

The last day to register to vote in the primary is Monday, July 19.



WITH HER HANDS on a laptop computer, Kaitlin Brown (above) changed the page of the story she was reading to kindergarten student Alexandra Waterman. Nick Mathill (below) moved the mouse to change noise effects for his kindergarten student, Kade Grafel.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Brandt

Buddies teaching little ones

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

Some kids laid on the floor, others sat on pillows on the window bench, others at the piano and some at their desks.

Each group of two to three students shared a white laptop computer. In each group, there was one fourth grader from Sherri Ruf's class and one or more kindergartners from Carol Brown's.

Each year, the fourth graders and kindergartners team up for the "Book Buddies" program, meeting weekly to read to each other. It used to be that the fourth graders would check books out from the library, said Mrs. Ruf, but this year things are a little different.

Last spring, said Mrs. Ruf, the Oberlin School District received an Enhancing Education Through Technology grant, one of 24 in Kansas.

"The primary goal of the Education Technology program is to improve student academic achievement through the use of technology in elementary and secondary schools," she said.

Since the beginning of the school year, she said, technology has been integrated into daily classroom activities.

The grant money has included new technology, including a 2-1 student-to-computer ratio, soft-



ware, presentation equipment including a projector attached to an "interwrite," a printer, scanner, digital camera, wireless internet and "inquiry-based" activities.

The students have learned how to use the laptops not only to type,

but for class work. They have used the laptops, she said, to make a talking storybook written and designed by each of them. The students made the presentation using Office software. Each of the kids recorded their voices reading a story, down-

loaded pictures and found sounds from the Internet to go along with everything.

The kindergartners are not only enjoying being read to, but are also seeing how to navigate through a program, Mrs. Ruf said.

Scouts see DUI up close

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

The Decatur County sheriff's officers talked with a group of Girl Scouts about driving under the influence and showed them what happens during a field sobriety test.

Last Monday, the girls met with Undersheriff Michael French in the sheriff's office on the fourth floor of the courthouse. The girls watched a 15-minute video made by Mazda Motors called "The Drugged Driver." The video shows what happens to people who are driving while impaired.

Undersheriff French said his wife, Tracy, was his demonstrator during the field sobriety test.

He put a blue piece of tape on the ground and went over the test. He asked his wife to test on the portable breath test and she "blew" a blood alcohol reading of .08, which is over the legal limit for driving in Kansas of .08 for a regular driver, for a person with a commercial driver's license it is .04, and if under 21 years old, .02.

The kids had the chance to test their eyes with a light. When a person is drunk, he said, their eyes will jump around rather than follow the light.

Undersheriff French told the girls his wife, who had four drinks before the demonstration, failed the test.

Oberlin Police Officer Troy Haas talked to the kids about the breath test machine, which gives a reading which can be used in court. Mrs. French wasn't tested on that piece of equipment, however.

Before leaving, the girls picked up pamphlets on drugs, some pencils and fake sheriff tattoos.

'Winner' could pay for 'prizes'

The Decatur County attorney issued a warning Monday after a woman brought in a "Certificate of Award" only to find that if she claimed her "prizes," she'd have to pay for them.

The certificate came from a company called Sweepstakes Clearinghouse in Dallas. Basically, said County Attorney Steve Hirsch, it looked like a check, but wasn't.

A letter claimed that the woman had won items including a computer, luggage, a watch, camcorder and stereo system.

Mr. Hirsch said that sending the document back in amounted to an authorization to buy the merchandise. It is not a contest or sweepstakes, he said, but the victim would have to pay for the items.

"Citizens should always be careful of these types of promotions and read the fine print," he said.

He said anyone with questions can bring offers and other schemes into the office and have him look at them before they send in money or a credit card number.

Herbicides could hurt sensitive crops nearby

The Kansas Department of Agriculture reminds herbicide applicators that some Kansas crops are sensitive to drift from hormonal-type herbicides and they need to take extra care when spraying near them.

The most common herbicide-sensitive crops in Kansas are cotton, grapes, tomatoes, and fruit and nut trees. Organic growers stand to lose their certified organic status if any type of pesticide, including insecticides and fungicides, are detected in their crops.

One element of the agency's campaign is an online registry

where growers can post their sensitive crop locations. Applicators can use it to identify how close they are to a sensitive crop and where they need to exercise caution. The registry includes county maps that show sensitive fields, as well as links to K-State Extension publications that offer tips for reducing drift.

Growers who want to list a crop on the website can access a request form at www.accesskansas.org/kda/Pest&Fert/sensitivecrops.htm. Applicators can use the same web address to find crop locations.

Business Alliance plans burger feasts

The Oberlin Business Alliance discussed two upcoming burger fries on Main Street at a meeting last Wednesday.

The first will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, the night of the Decatur Community High School prom. The burgers will be cooked in the back alley and alliance members will use the Munson building, north of Stanley Hardware to sell them.

The second fry will be held from

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, May 28, the day before Alumni/Memorial Day weekend. It will be held in front of Stanley Hardware.

The alliance will also be hosting an alumni hospitality room in the Munson building from 1 to 4 p.m. on Friday, May 28, and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 29. There will be cookies and beverages available.

Members talked about sponsor-

ing a plaque for the museum car show, which they did last year. The show is the first weekend in June.

Chamber Manager Glenva Nichols, secretary for the alliance, said she had gone to the Kansas Sampler Fair. She said 8,000 to 10,000 people came through the fair, and northwest Kansas had a great spot. She said she distributed nearly all of the brochures she took.

She said the bags with the county

advertising were a hit and many used them to carry their stuff from this part of Kansas.

Classifieds work!
475-2206

Students win scholarships

Several area students have received \$500 Pete Henry Scholarships for the 2004-05 school year.

They include Curtis Brown, Kati Niemeth, Daniel Riener and Lance Basgall, Herndon; Dana Broeckelman, Golden Plains; and Kylie Dixon, Cheylin.

The scholarship was created by Pete Henry, who farmed in the Brewster area on land rented from

former neighbors in Nebraska. He established a foundation to award academic and technical training scholarships to help area students.

Students in Cheyenne, Decatur, Gove, Logan, Rawlins, Sheridan, Sherman, Thomas and Wallace counties are eligible for the scholarships.

Internet tonight! 475-2206

The City of Oberlin is accepting proposals to remove fencing, for salvage, at Sappa Park.

Contact Gary Shike at the city office or 475-2217 for further information.

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