

# County to talk budget with groups

Getting ready to draw up the 2006 budget, Decatur County commissioners agreed Tuesday that groups and agencies that get tax money need to come in to talk with them or face cutbacks.

In the past, people from the departments and organizations always came to meetings to ask for the money or discuss their needs. It seems now, said County Clerk Marilyn

Horn, that she does the levy and people think their allocation automatic.

To get on the commissioners agenda, call Mrs. Horn at 475-8102.

The commissioners received a letter from Kenneth Morgan, an audit specialist with the state Department of Commerce, asking for a copy of the 2003 county audit, which was mailed to him.

Mr. Morgan wrote that the county needs to correct a problem noted in the audit, namely that there aren't enough people employed by the county so the handling of money isn't separated as it should be.

Commissioners told the clerk to write back to Mr. Morgan thanking him for his interest and asking him for suggestions on how to solve the problem. They said to ask

if he would like to be one of the 200 volunteers the county might need to meet accounting standards.

Copies of the letter will be forwarded to Mapes and Miller and County Attorney Steve Hirsch's office.

In other business, the commissioners:  
 • Signed a new contract with Corporate Plan for health insurance for the county.

• Discussed a letter from Jeff Younger with Midwest United showing the county locked into prices at .50 MMBtu which is good through September 2005.

Mr. Younger had sent an email and asked if they wanted to lock in December for the new year and this was correspondence that the county had locked in.



## Teacher, students help move food

ON FRIDAY, Joe Dunham (above) from the junior high student council helped load plastic boxes filled with food out of Stanley Hardware into the back of a truck. Teacher Jody Shike (right) also helped move the food

for the drive. The bounty, collected by the store over the past month, was taken to the food pantry in the basement of the United Church.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



## Workers needed

The American Cancer Society is recruiting volunteers for the annual Relay for Life next June at a meeting from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. tonight at The LandMark Inn.

"Relay for Life raises awareness about the progress against cancer while also raising funds to fight the disease," said Julie Jones, who works with community development for the society.

The group needs volunteers for everything from recruiting teams, drumming up support and setting things up, to refreshments and prizes for the event. Anyone interested can attend the meeting or call Ms. Jones at (785) 672-8985.

## Firefighters to sell pizzas

Norcat Rural Fire Department volunteers will be making pizzas again to raise money for fire fighting and safety equipment.

Pizzas must be ordered by Friday, Jan. 21, for delivery on Sunday, Jan. 30. Contact any member of the Norcat Fire Department, including Carl Lyon, Rex Knapp, Darren Wentz, Doug Dempewolf, Tad Hartsough, Galen Wentz, Jeff Roe, Scott Hartzog, Gail Bailey, Pat O'Hare, Troy Wentz or Mark Bailey.

The 12-inch pizzas can be delivered hot or pre-made to be frozen. Topping choices include beef, sausage, pepperoni, cheese, onion, mushrooms, green peppers, black olives and sauerkraut.

## Ambulance department will get a new Dell computer

Decatur County commissioners approved the purchase of a new computer for the ambulance department last Tuesday after hearing that the old one has some kind of virus and was running the Quick Books billing system slowly.

Recently, the county's auditor, Steve Zodrow with Mapes and Miller, met with Ambulance Director Patrick Pomeroy, Karen Eskew and County Clerk Marilyn Horn about billing.

Mr. Pomeroy said Mr. Zodrow advised them that the ambulance

computer was running slow and was tied up with some virus. That makes the computer actually too slow to run Quick Books.

Mrs. Horn said the county could order a computer for the ambulance department from Dell for around \$1,000 and have it at the beginning of next week. The commissioners approved the purchase.

Mr. Pomeroy presented a policy for ambulance billing which commissioners reviewed at their meeting last Tuesday.

The auditors requested that Mr.

Pomeroy set up a policy for billing. For example, send out bills at a certain time of month, statements another.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch added a paragraph on billing estates and a few other small changes were made, then it was accepted.

Mr. Pomeroy said he received a call from one of the volunteers, Becky Anderson of Norcat, who said ambulance 3 is having problems with the ignition. Mr. Pomeroy said he thought he could fix the problem.

## County sets 90-day limit on bills

Decatur County commissioners agreed at their meeting last Tuesday to set a 90-day time limit for bills outstanding at the county landfill before handing them over to the county attorney for collection.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman said there are some old landfill bills that have not been paid. County Clerk Marilyn Horn said Deputy Clerk Colleen Geishler and

landfill operator Glen Strong have talked about the past due bills. Mrs. Horn said the bills will be sent to the county attorney, who will write collection letters.

The commissioners agreed to set a 90-day time limit. If the bill isn't paid, it will be sent to the county attorney for collection. Once the user's bill has been sent for collection, they will be on a cash-only ba-

sis at the landfill.

Mr. Stallman brought in two permits for Kelley Well Service to put pipes under two county roads to supply water. The first permit allows a pipe under a Beaver Township road between sections 19 and 20 for water for Gerry Tally. The second permit allows for pipes in Summit Township for water for Casey Alstrom. Both were approved.

## County Round up

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Agreed to set a 90-day limit for bills outstanding at the county landfill before handing them over to the county attorney for collection. Story below to left.
- Approved purchase of a new computer for the ambulance department since the old one has some kind of virus and is running slow. Story to left.
- Decided that groups that want to receive tax money need to make appointments to talk with the commissioners before the end of the July. Story above.

## Soup supper postponed to Thursday at center

With icy roads and cold weather, the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center staff decided to postpone a soup supper scheduled for last Thursday to raise money for a new aviary to 5 to 7 p.m. this Thursday.

Dennis Brown and the Forget-me-Nots will be providing soup for the dinner at the center.

During the supper, there will be a silent auction for a robin print donated by Nila Wesch.

Jan Badsky, activities director at the center, said they have a bird house donated by Oak Creek Aviaries out of Campbell, Neb., and painted by Jeanette Diederich by the front door of the center for people to make donations. The house has a slit in the top and is locked on the bot-

tom. In another fund raiser, she said, the staff can pay \$1 on Fridays to wear jeans.

The existing aviary was purchased around 15 years ago, Mrs. Badsky said. It is outdated and the center can't get anyone to service it. One of the staff members has been taking time to clip claws and take care of the birds.

The aviary, said Mrs. Badsky, is therapeutic for the residents. Pet therapy is good for people of all ages, and it helps those with both physical and mental disabilities.

So far, the center has raised around \$700 for a new aviary, including money raised in an earlier fund-raiser, a donation and \$400 from the Bargain Box Plus.

## Juveniles caught hanging out in shed

Three 15-year-olds were caught hanging out in an outbuilding at a vacant house at 410 E. Commercial last weekend.

Police Chief Wade Lockhart said a neighbor reported that there had been some vandalism in an outbuilding at the former Eric Scott residence now owned by the Lund

Covenant Church.

Officer Troy Haas found some tools and lawn furniture in the shed, said Chief Lockhart.

Earlier, Leone Purton, 310 N. Wilson, reported lawn furniture missing off her front porch. It was the same furniture found in the shed. Chief Lockhart said it has been re-

turned. The tools were stolen, as well, he said, and will be returned.

Chief Lockhart said he thought the spray paint had been stolen from Dollar General.

The boys, whose names haven't been released, were reported to the Juvenile Justice Authority since this was their first offense.

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	Calve Feb. 1	
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	Feb 20 calving	
25 Older	Black Cows	Calve Feb 20
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