

Easy plan may help county

The Decatur County commissioners discussed using a fill-in-the-blanks animal health plan in case of emergencies instead of writing one just for the county.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said they received a letter from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment offering a plan that counties can download and then fill in the correct local information.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch said some have used the plan, because he has been called to get information for the one for Sheridan County, where he serves with the fire department.

Although the group thought they could get the plan off the Internet, they didn't have the password. Mr. Hirsch said he assumed the password was sent to the emergency preparedness director, Bert Cool.

The commissioners approved the holiday schedule for next year for county employees. The days include Monday, Jan. 2 for New Year's Day, Feb. 20 for Presidents Day, May 29 for Memorial Day, Tuesday, July 4, for the Fourth of July, Sept. 4 for Labor Day, Friday, Nov. 10 for Veterans Day, Nov. 23 and 24 for Thanksgiving and the following Friday, Monday, Dec. 25, for Christmas and Monday, Jan. 1, 2007 for New Year's Day.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard that the transportation bus is going back to Colby for work because it has a fuel gauge problem and makes a clunking noise.
- Approved the appointments of Greg Grafel as treasurer, Candy Ketterl as clerk and Jim Wesch as trustee for Finley Township. The commissioners asked that Mr. Grafel write a letter of resignation as the clerk so he could be treasurer. Rich Grafel had served as the township treasurer.
- Signed tax foreclosure paperwork for seven tracts.

County Roundup

At the meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Discussed using a fill-in-the-blanks animal health plan in case there is an emergency instead of writing one for just this county. Story above.
- Heard that the county needs to be ready for a Homeland Security audit. Story on Page 1A.
- Heard that the ambulance service has worked 332 calls, plus one during the meeting, bringing the total to 333 for the year. Story to come.



Soup sows 'Seeds'

AT THE GOLDEN AGE CENTER last Monday, Clayton Carter ate a bowl of chicken noodle soup (above) during the Seeds of Hope Telethon soup supper. Bill Duncan (right) sliced and arranged pieces of pie. The committee raised a little over \$400 during the supper. After the Saturday, Feb. 11, telethon, money will be divided among 17 nonprofit groups in Decatur County.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



County hopes to add No. 1 fuel to diesel

The Decatur County Road and Bridge department hasn't been able to get any No. 1 fuel to add to the diesel, although the commissioners approved the purchase.

Supervisor Tim Stallman told

commissioners last week that he has talked with a few dealers, but the lighter No. 1 fuel just isn't available.

He said he can get a diesel additive, but it's more expensive. Mr. Stallman said he will keep on top of

it and see if the No. 1 fuel is available next year.

Commissioner Doyle Brown signed paperwork for bridge work with Penco Engineering. The commissioners had approved the federal

bridge project, but Mr. Brown wasn't at the last meeting.

Mr. Stallman said they had ordered flexible warning signs from North Dakota for \$682. The commissioners ratified the purchase.

Sheriff looks at Red Cross

The Decatur County sheriff talked to commissioners at their meeting Tuesday, Dec. 13, about starting a Red Cross unit here or working with the Salvation Army to help during disasters like the recent blizzard.

Sheriff Ken Badsky said maybe the county needs a Red Cross unit. There was a lot of volunteer help during the blizzard, he said, but it wasn't organized.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said the county has a Salvation Army representative. It might be that the county can only support one group or the other. Maybe the focus should be on one, and they can organize volunteer help.

All of this needs to be in the county emergency plan, said Sheriff Badsky. Commissioner Doyle Brown said it also needs to be part of the job description for the emergency management director.

Kimberly Davis, with *The Oberlin Herald*, asked who is paying for all the food and rooms for stranded people.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch said Jennings is sending the county a bill. Someone told city officials that the county would reimburse them. The LandMark Inn is also preparing a bill, he said.

Sheriff Badsky said he heard there is a bill from the Cardinal Cafe in Norcatour for food.

There isn't any law that says that the county has to pay for the expenses from places helping people out, said Mr. Hirsch.

Ambulance Director Patrick Pomeroy submitted a bill for Tad Hartsough from the Norcatour Fire Department who was sent out to help during the blizzard. He got stuck and part of his engine was damaged. The bill is around \$400.

No one knew why Mr. Hartsough didn't take an emergency vehicle instead of his own.

Sheriff Badsky asked if Mr. Hirsch would do the training for emergencies for his office to help get everyone on the same page during an emergency, and Mr. Hirsch said he would. Mr. Brown asked if they could have just one class for all agencies.

Mr. Hirsch said that would be too large of a class, but the training can be taken on-line at www.fema.gov. The training is for National Incident Management System.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Met Deputy Patty Skubal, who was hired to help update computers in the sheriff's office.
- Heard that the officers did 26 vehicle inspections, worked 10 accidents, three incidents, four offenses, served 33 papers and wrote two tickets in November.

Offices in the Decatur County Courthouse & Decatur County Landfill Will be closed Monday, January 2

Decatur County Treasurer Office will close at noon on December 30th, for end of year.

Happy Holidays

student of the week

Name: Karyn Jordan
Parents: Judy Jordan and Byron Jordan
Grade: 12
Age: 17

We've nominated this student because: She is a delightful student, cheery and helps others in class. She is always enthusiastic.

Student Comment: It is very exciting to finally be a senior. All my hard work has prepared me for a very eventful year.

Activities involved in at school: Singers, pep band, drama club, Kayettes, Spanish club, musical, play and the haunted house.

My choice of movies, books and games: Lord of the Rings and Ever After, movies, Harry Potter and Ugliest Beauties, books and Word Association, games.

After I leave Decatur Community High School I intend to: Go to Kansas State University and major in music, hopeful to become a band teacher.

And 10 years from now, I think I'll be: Wondering where all my years in high school went.

Favorite Quote: "He who laughs last, thinks slowest."

WAGNER

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student of the week

Name: Adrienne Pauls
Parents: Rick and Dori Pauls
Grade: 8th
Age: 13

We've nominated this student because: All the kids trust her. She is very courteous, resourceful and has respect for everyone.

Student Comment: It's super duper.

Activities involved in at school: Volleyball, basketball, cheerleading, track, vocal, band and scholar bowl.

My choice of movies, books and games: Any sports game and mystery movies.

After I leave Decatur Community High School I intend to:

Amstar Electric Inc.

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