

County says no to van

Clerk still looking for another vehicle

Decatur County commissioners decided at their meeting last Tuesday that a used van from Northwest Kansas Development Services in Hays has too many miles on it.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn said she has gone on-line to look at used vans. The county is looking for a van that can be used for out-of-town trips, since the current on-call van is supposed to stay in the county.

Emergency Preparedness Director Bert Cool asked the commissioners to pass a resolution making Patti Skubal the assistant manager of the department so she can attend meetings. The commissioners agreed.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said he has taken over the chair for the county's emergency management committee.

Commissioner Patricia Glenn said she met with the Decatur County Fair Foundation board last Monday. She said they have \$18,000 set aside that will be shared with the group raising money for a new livestock building at the fair-ground.

The group agreed that all the money should go through the foundation and the board can order the parts needed.

Mrs. Glenn said they had received \$500 from the Wal-Mart Super Center in McCook.

The commissioners said the group should run all purchases through the county so they can save on sales tax. The building will need to be covered under the county's insurance, they noted.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Signed a contract with race promoters Don and Paula Bolt for the summer season. The contract also was signed by Fair Board President LaMoine Wolfram.

- Held a closed session for 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel with Gaylen Huntley, noxious weed director.

- Heard there is an opening on the Decatur County Health Foundation board Gene Gallentine fills the spot now. Anyone, including Mr. Gallentine, can apply in the county clerk's office.

- Heard that the positions held by Ken Badsky and Sonya Gillespie on the fair board are open. Anyone interested, including Mrs. Gillespie and Mr. Badsky, can fill out forms in the clerk's office.



AT OBERLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, Carolyn Burtis showed students, including Brooklyn O'Hare (left) and Miranda Shelton, how to hook a rug with wool strips. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Kids learn about snakes, rugs, agriculture

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
Students learned about rattlesnakes, rug making and wheat "heads" and played agriculture trivia during an "Ag in the Classroom" day Thursday at the Oberlin Elementary School.

In the morning event, sponsored by the Decatur County Farm Bureau, fifth and sixth graders moved from room to room learning about different things.

In the band room, Carolyn Burtis and Betsy Jakowski showed the students how to make rugs with wool "worms," small strips of fabric.

In the lunch room, Charlie Sargeant led rounds of agriculture trivia with the kids; in the art room, the students made "wheat heads" with soil, wheat seeds and panty hose; and in an upstairs classroom,

farmer Diana Nickelson talked with the kids about rattlesnakes.

Mrs. Nickelson said she owns and manages her own farm, and she has had encounters with prairie rattlers.

She said the snakes are an amazing reptile that belong to the viper family.

The snake has a long black tongue that helps them pick up scent, she said. The tongue, said Mrs. Nickelson, won't harm a person but the snake's venom can.

If the snake attacks with its fangs, she said, then the venom comes out. If a person is bitten, the venom gets into the blood stream.

Downstairs Mrs. Burtis and Mrs. Jakowski showed students how to use wool "worms" to hook rugs.

Mrs. Burtis asked the students

why they thought people started to make rugs. They suggested that they used the rugs to wipe their feet, keep warm by putting them on the floor and to decorate.

Years ago, said Mrs. Burtis, feed came in burlap sacks and people used the bags to hook a rug.

To make a hook, she said, they possibly used a hunk of wood and a nail.

Clothes were made out of wool, she said, so when garments, such as socks or pants wore out, they would cut the wool into small strips.

Sometimes they would draw a picture on the burlap first, then hook the wool strips into the burlap.

They would make large rugs and call them bed rugs to cover their

beds. If the rug hooker wanted a different color, said Mrs. Burtis, they would dye it using grass, plants, vegetables, berries, nuts and other items.

Mrs. Burtis took a brownish piece of wool and hooked it into the burlap-like material and then let the students try.

In the basement, another class used the foot of an old pair of pantyhose, put wheat seed in the toe then added soil. The students tied off the pantyhose at the other end and place it in a cup with the wheat sticking out.

With the help of an adult, the students hot glued designs to the wheat heads. The kids were told if they watered the heads, then the wheat would grow to make hair.

Exercise class to start

An exercise class for people 60 and older will start on Monday, April 3.

Rhonda May told the Oberlin City Council that she, Gary Sanden and Carol Morford all trained to teach the class.

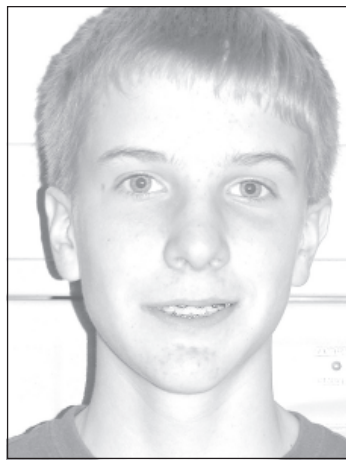
The class is supported by a grant from the Kansas Department on Aging. Oberlin became eligible for the class because the city is a Life-long Community, said Connie Grafel, marketing director of the city and the Economic Development Corp.

Ms. May said the class, from 9 to 10 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the Golden Age Center, will include a warm up, balance and flexibility, cardio, muscle training and cool down.

The class is geared at older people wanting to stay on their own or in independent living longer, she said. There is some paperwork participants will need to fill out.

Ms. May said before she took the training, she didn't think that a person could do cardio exercise in a chair, but it is possible.

student of the week



Name: Nolan Wasson

Parents: Dan and Carol Wasson

Grade: 8
Age: 14

We've nominated this student because: He always gives his best effort at what he is working on.

Student Comment:

Cool. I haven't been nominated for something like this before.

Activities involved in at school: Basketball, football, track and vocal.

My choices of movies, books and games: I like action movies, mysteries for books and sports. I also like to hunt.

After I leave Decatur Community High School I intend to: Go to college and become a veterinarian.

And 10 years from now, I think I'll be: Probably interning in the summers and finishing college.

student of the week



Name: Danica May
Parents: Dr. Richard and Delayne May
Grade: 12
Age: 18

We've nominated this student because: of her outstanding academic achievements.

Student Comment: It's nice to be nominated. I'm glad to have my hard work noticed.

Activities involved in at school: Track, cross country, scholar bowl, singers, play, musical, Kayettes, Tact.

My choice of movies, books and games: I usually read fiction and enjoy comedies.

After I leave Decatur Community High School I intend to: Attend college, but I'm not sure where yet. I'll major in engineering.

And 10 years from now, I think I'll be: In a larger city and married.

Favorite Quote: "Do what you can with what you have."

FARM MACHINERY AUCTION
DATE CHANGED TO
TUESDAY, MAR. 28, 2006 • 10:00 a.m.

Location: Nebraska Ave., Marion, Nebraska. Go 14 miles North of Oberlin, KS or 14 miles south of McCook, NE on Highway 83, then 5 miles east on Hwy 89 to Marion, NE

Sellers: Harold and Ramona Hornkohl and Other Consignors

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Many more items too numerous to mention!

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