

Decatur hospital to hold disaster exercise for area

The Decatur County Hospital plans to have a "table-top" emergency disaster exercise, with all the "action" in one room, and is inviting officials with the city and county to participate.

Administrator Lynn Doeden and Jim Sullivan, risk manager and performance improvement, talked with the commissioners about the exercise at a meeting on Tuesday, June 19. Mrs. Doeden said she and Mr. Sullivan wanted to clarify the plan because they had heard some things that didn't match up.

The hospital, she said, has a federal grant to hold the table-top drill to train people for an emergency. Mrs. Doeden said they decided that if the hospital was going to do the exercise, they should invite everyone to participate.

They won't set off sirens do any field simulations, she said; everything will take place in the hospital. Mrs. Doeden said she figured the county could use some table-top training, too.

The hospital, said Mr. Sullivan, has until the end of August to use the money. Mrs. Doeden said she talked with Bert Cool, county emergency preparedness manager, and they had an organizational meeting on Friday, June 8, to prepare for the exercise.

She said the hospital also needs to know what part it will play in the county emergency plan. There are lots of questions, she said.

Mr. Sullivan said they wanted to know who they should communicate with, how all the entities come together, when the command center opens, how the chain of command is set up, and how the county will interface with cities.

When there was a mercury spill at the high school, said Mrs. Doeden, the hospital was never called. The only reason she found out about it was because her son asked for a

change of clothes, she said. Finally she called the school to see if anyone was coming to hospital.

Another time, said Mr. Sullivan, when the city didn't have any water for several hours because of a leak, the hospital wasn't notified until that evening. In that case, the hospital had to go on fire watch because of the sprinkler system, he said.

Although the fire watch is part of the plan, said Mrs. Doeden, the hospital can't do it unless someone tells them.

Probably the emergency preparedness director needs to contact the hospital, said Commissioner Stan McEvoy, and get all that stuff lined up.

The emergency plan is being worked on, he said.

Also, asked Mrs. Doeden, if training for the National Incident Management System courses 3 and 4 is done here, can the hospital get involved? There are a few people who need it, she said.

Yes, said Commissioner Ralph Unger, but the county people will be the first priority.

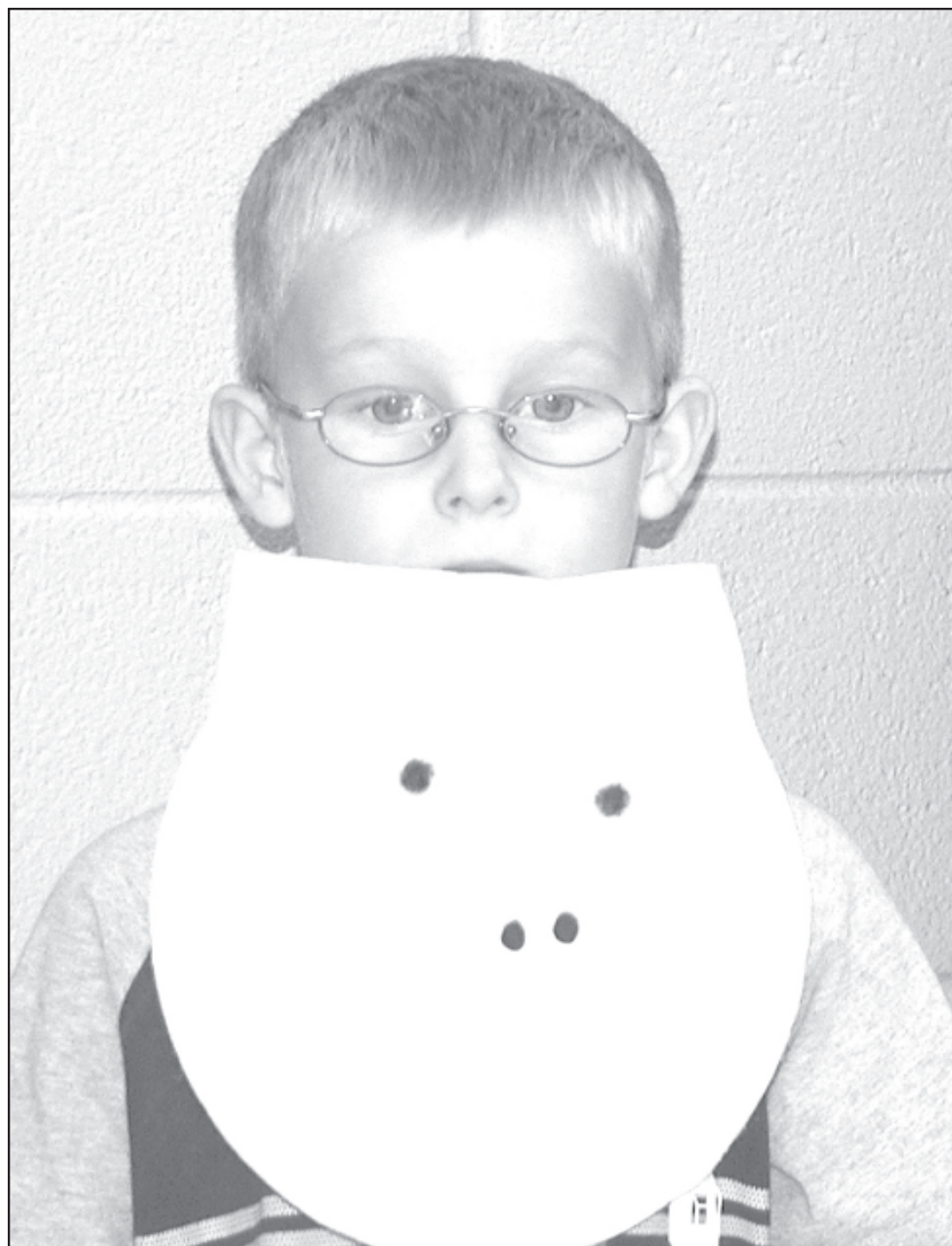
Even if everyone is trained, Mrs. Doeden pointed out, if there are no practices, everyone loses the training. Communication is the key, said Mr. Unger.

Mrs. Doeden said the hospital started on an emergency plan after the tornado in Hoisington in 2001. Today, all of the staff has identification cards so they can get into Oberlin from out of town in case there is an emergency, she said. Those cards need to be in the county plan, said Commissioner Doyle Brown.

Yes, said Mrs. Doeden, and one page isn't a plan. Mr. McEvoy said again they are working on a plan.

The hospital staff has been working on the plan for two years, said Mrs. Doeden. It is already being revised, said Mr. Sullivan.

Playing the part



AT SUMMER SCHOOL on Friday morning, Cameron Claussen played the pig during the reading theater in the cafeteria at the grade school.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Golf tourney planned

If you want to play in the seventh annual golf tournament raising money for the Decatur County Hospital, sign up soon. There's space left for just three more teams.

The tournament Saturday, Aug. 18, is set up for teams of four. All registration and fees are due to the hospital by Friday, Aug. 3.

For the cost is \$200 for a four-person or \$50 for each golfer. Cart fee is \$10.

Anyone who wants to donate \$200, but not golf, can sponsor a team as a player-level sponsor. A caddy-level sponsor gets four tickets for dinner and the auction at \$100 and a bogey-level sponsor gets one dinner and auction ticket for \$25.

All of the sponsors, said Administrator Lynn Doeden, will be listed in the program. People also can buy tickets to the dinner at \$25 and not be listed.

Mrs. Doeden said the fliers went out last week and a day later the hospital already had 24 teams registered, leaving only three openings.

All checks can be made to Decatur Health Systems and mailed to Box 268 Oberlin, Kan. 67749. All payments are nonrefundable.

Dinner will start at 7 p.m. at The Gateway. The menu includes prime rib, dinner salad, potato bar, mixed vegetables and dessert.

Money raised at the event will go to buy a recumbent bike for the physical therapy department and to get equipment and decor items for the specialty clinic addition.

Students sing in Emporia

Five Decatur Community Junior High students got the chance to perform in the National Teachers Hall of Fame Choir last month.

Nolan Henningson, Amanda Marshall, Serena Stacy, Sara Kyte and Sydney Grafel traveled to Emporia to perform in the choir on Friday, June 15. The students were accompanied by vocal teacher Susan Nelson. The kids auditioned for Mrs. Nelson and were selected to represent the school.

After the performance, Dr. Terry Barham of Emporia State University congratulated the students on their work.

City has no plans to fix chimes

The town chimes, which used to sound off five times a day, aren't working and since few people seem to have noticed their absence, the city has no plans to fix them in the near future.

City Administrator Gary Shike said he has had very little comment about the chimes, which haven't

worked all year. The chimes rang at 7 a.m., noon, 1 p.m., 6 p.m. and 10 p.m., he said.

Mr. Shike said the chimes came with the city's storm sirens. Somehow, he said, it seems that the chimes became the city's responsibility and the sirens, the county's.

The chimes were on the same pole

as a siren by the fire station, Mr. Shike said, but neighbors complained about them, so the chimes were moved to a shorter pole by the city shop.

Over the years, he said, the chimes' sound has deteriorated and it's hard to get them to a comfortable level for people to hear.

About six months ago, said City Foreman Dan Castle, the chimes were shut off. They have a tweaker on them that can be adjusted, he said, but it isn't working.

Mr. Castle said he doesn't know what it would cost to fix the chimes.

Weighted classes approved at school

The Oberlin School Board approved putting the junior high and ninth graders into a "success academy" and accepted weighted classes for the high school through handbook changes for the school.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt said the academy idea is a big change for the school. It includes common classroom rules and procedures for seventh, eighth and ninth graders. Keeping the rules and procedures the same in the classes in those grades, said Dr. Glodt, will provide a better transition from grade school to high school.

Now, he said, the students have the same rules through their grade school careers and then they go to junior high, and every teacher's rules are different. This will keep things uniform, said Dr. Glodt.

The biggest change for kids, he said, is that when students leave grade school, where they walk in lines everywhere and have more standardized rules, then they get to junior high and then have several

teachers with several sets of rules. Now the handbooks will unify the rules up into the first year of high school.

The handbook says that the academy will "enable students to better prepare themselves academically and socially for the rigors of high school and post-secondary education."

The other big change in the handbook, said Dr. Glodt, is that the high school will now have weighted classes for advanced work, beginning with the graduation class of 2009.

Grades for physics, trigonometry, statistics, calculus and chemistry II will earn a "heavier" score in grade averages.

An A in those classes will be worth five points instead of four, and an A- will get 4.75 points.

Everything is a point more than regular classes, he said. Basically, students who take harder classes will get an extra point, said Dr. Glodt.

Selden woman hired to teach kids

The Oberlin School Board hired a junior high English teacher at a special meeting late last month, filling up all teaching positions for the fall.

The board hired Robyn Wessel of Selden, a first-year teacher.

Although the special meeting on Friday, June 22, was set up to make end-of-the-year transfers, the final expenditures aren't yet known, said Board Clerk Vickie Lippelmann. The money won't be transferred until the end of June or the first few days in July, he said.

At the meeting, the board clerk administered the oath of office to board members Barbara Olson, Monte Moore, Dan Grafel and Dan Nedland, all chosen in the April election. Board Members Kurt Vollertsen and Jeannie Martin decided not to run, leaving two open seats which Mr. Nedland and Mr. Grafel will fill. Both Mr. Moore and Mrs. Olson are incumbents.

The new board members will take their positions at the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the district office.

Newspaper delivered late

With the Fourth of July falling in the middle of the week, many people will get their papers late.

The Oberlin Herald will be

mailed out on Tuesday, as usual, but the post office is closed today, which means most subscribers will get their paper at least a day late.

N-O-T-I-C-E

All flowers and decorations at the Oberlin Cemetery must be removed before Thursday, July 12. After that the city will remove them in preparation for mowing and weed eating.



Please allow 10 days for mowing and weed eating before placing flowers



FOUNTAIN SPECIAL FOR THIS WEEK

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NOTICE

The sewer lines West of Hwy 83 from the South County Road to Waldo and Wolf will be cleaned between Monday, July 9 through Friday, July 13.

The city will hang out bright orange reminders on the doors in the area that will be cleaned.

Residents should cover all floor drains with plastic and a weight. All toilets should be covered with plastic and close the lid.

If there is any unpleasant odor, the city suggests running water into each drain to refill the traps.

CONGRATS!

To Deb Marshall and Nora Urban for having perfect attendance at the Decatur County Interagency Team meetings this past year.

For information on how to get involved in your community coalition please contact us.

Regional Prevention Center
785-460-8177
www.nwksprevention.org

