



FIREMEN AND EMERGENCY medical technicians (above) worked together to extract an Oklahoma man, Walter Fuqua Jr., 77, from his car after he pulled in front of a pickup Saturday at the U.S. 83-U.S. 35 intersection in Oberlin.

Rescue workers join to help couple

Rescue workers had to pry an Oklahoma man out of his car Saturday after he pulled in front of a west-bound pickup at the U.S. 83-U.S. 36 intersection about 3:25 p.m.

As it was, he had to spend a couple of days at the Decatur County Hospital, interrupting the drive home with his wife.

Walter Fuqua Jr., 77, Prague, Okla., was southbound in a 2004 Ford Focus, said Officer Troy Haas of the Oberlin Police Department, when he stopped at the stop sign at U.S. 36. Then, apparently thinking the east-west traffic would stop also, he pulled into the path of a 2001 Dodge Ram 2500 diesel pickup driven by James Howsden, 46, Alma, Neb.

Mr. Howsden said he slammed on the brakes just before he got to the intersection, but it was too late. Neither Mr. Howsden; his son, Tyrell, 12; nor Mr. Fuqua's wife, Wanda, 69, was injured, although she went to the hospital in the ambulance. Officer Haas said everyone had been wearing seat belts.

Mr. Fuqua had some sore ribs and other injuries, he said, and was ad-



mitted to the hospital. Lynn Doeden, hospital administrator, said his condition was stable, but she didn't have permission to release any other information, including whether he had been released.

Both fire and ambulance crews arrived at the wreck quickly, since they were on standby at the Oberlin

His wife Wanda, 69, (below) smiled as technician Chris Koerperich helped her out of the car. A fireman (below left) used a hydraulic tool to remove the door as Assistant Chief Larry Ayers held it steady. — Herald staff photos by Steve Haynes



Speedway just west of the intersection, Mr. Haas said. Emergency medical technicians took care of Mr. Fuqua and helped his wife to the ambulance while firemen secured the car and pried the door off with a hydraulic tool.

Then the team lifted the driver out of the front seat, strapped to a back board, his neck secured in a collar.

Mr. Haas said the driver had been fortunate he'd not pulled out a little sooner, or the truck might have struck the car's door rather than the frame, possibly causing a more

serious injury.

He said traffic was heavy at the highway junction, and he was lucky that Deputy Jay Tate of the sheriff's department, who was on duty, and Officer Scott Zeigler, who came from home, offered to help direct it.

Fingerprint information ready right away

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
c.haynes@nwkanas.com

Fingerprint information on prisoners should be available almost immediately, instead of six weeks after an arrest, as in the past, Sheriff Ken Badsy told Decatur County commissioners.

At the meeting on Tuesday, March 18, the sheriff said his department had pooled money from a Homeland Security grant with 12 other area counties with county jails to buy an automated fingerprint system, which costs \$22,500 but will allow officers to get fingerprint information back in just minutes. The machines and training are being paid for through Homeland Security, the sheriff said, but the county will probably be responsible for any updates to the system.

The sheriff said that he also had purchased a new camera system for one of the four sheriff's vehicles. The new camera is special made for this type of work, he said, and came equipped with a Global Positioning System interface. The sheriff's cars had cameras but they were off the shelf from Video Kingdom in McCook, he said, and weren't made to be used in vehicles nor on country roads.

The sheriff said the new video system cost \$6,400 and is top of the line for vehicle audio and video. He said that he is slated to get a new car this year but could put the purchase of that off until 2009 if the camera purchase was a problem for the commissioners.

The sheriff said that he hopes to eventually equip all four vehicles with the new system but not right away.

In other business, the sheriff:

- Said that Undersheriff Randy McHugh would be getting a Kevlar vest. Officer McHugh was serving in the military when the others on the force got theirs. The cost will be a little over \$600, he said.

- Explained that he had rebated Red Willow County \$100 a day on its contract for jail services for the 43 days that the jail was without a furnace this winter and he wasn't accepting any prisoners.

- "We can't charge for days they couldn't use," he said.

- Talked about getting counseling for any courthouse employee needing help after a difficult incident. A fatal wreck in the county earlier this month brought the need to mind, he said.

School to offer girls a movie on bullying

Oberlin Elementary School and the Regional Prevention Center plan to offer a movie on bullying for girls in the fifth through eighth grades and their parents at the end of April.

The groups will show "Odd Girl Out" at 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 22, in the Morgan Theater at The Gateway, said Sheila Jansonius, grade school counselor. She said she will send a flier and permission slip home with the girls. The permission is needed since the movie is rated PG13, or

paternal guidance required.

Girls and their mom, dad, or another adult are invited to the movie, which will be followed by a group discussion about bullying. Dinner will be served.

For information, call Mrs. Jansonius at school at 475-2122 or at home at 475-2648.

Anyone planning to attend needs to make a reservation with her by Tuesday, April 15, because of the meal, she said.

Letters sent with corrected addresses

The Decatur County commissioners looked at a letter that the road and bridge supervisor plans to send people with corrected new addresses for the Emergency 911 system.

The commissioners suggested at the meeting Tuesday, March 11, that supervisor Tim Stallman keep a list of the people receiving the letters, which will go to those who had some problem with their first address.

Mr. Stallman said he talked with Rob McFee at the post office about the maps and addresses for the new system. The group agreed that it might take some time for the post office workers to get used to the new addresses, which use city-style street addresses rather than rural route numbers.

Patti Skubal, county emergency management director, said she plans to go to a class in Hoxie at the beginning of April for the Internet Emergency Operations Plan. The training, for anyone in charge of emergency functions, she said, will show people how to enter information into the program.

Mrs. Skubal asked if Mr. Stallman would be interested in going with her.

Is this a requirement? asked Mr. Stallman. If not, he said, he would rather give the information to Mrs. Skubal and have her enter it. He said since she is the director, she will need to know the information anyway.

The training, said Mrs. Skubal, is on how to activate the system, how to enter information and how

to change it.

Since there are other department heads going, Mr. Stallman said, there will be lots of people who will know how to work with the system.

Yes, said Mrs. Skubal, other department heads will be trained on entering their own information. She said she will be doing it for the sheriff's department.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard the ambulance department's new stair chair had come in. Mrs. Skubal said she ordered it with money from the Kansas Highway Patrol that the county gets each year. With the chair, any ambulance worker could move someone up to 500 pounds up and down a set of stairs alone.

- Heard that the road crew is busy shaping roads and putting down gravel.

- Heard that Mr. Stallman had hired Jeff Rowilson at the beginning of March.

- Approved the purchase of two 72-inch end sections for culverts at \$112 each, two 60-inch ones at \$935 and three at 48 inches for \$528. The total should be around \$5,794. Mr. Stallman said he would buy the pieces from J&J Drainage out of Hutchinson. The commissioners gave the OK as long as the purchase stays under \$6,000.

- Heard that Fire Chief Bill Cathcart had attended National Incident Management System training.

- Appointed Jim Fredrickson to the Fair Board for a commission

district No. 3 seat.

- Appointed Chuck Frickey, Ron Jansonius and Anna Shaw to the Health Foundation board, with the terms ending Dec. 31, 2010.

- Approved a transfer for \$5,327 to the employee benefits fund for the extension office.

- Heard that the county received the final bill for the new telephones installed for the Nortel AT&T system. The extension office's part was \$1,196. Commissioners decided to cut the transfer to \$4,273 for employee benefits to pay for the bill.

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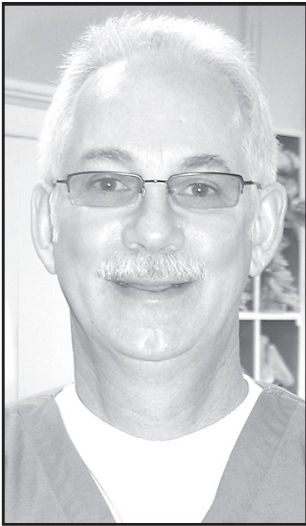
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after hours emergencies
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McCook group plans to honor teacher

The McCook Area Chamber of Commerce education committee is accepting nominations for its annual Educator of the Year Award.

All active teachers, administrator and counselors in Dund, Chase,

Hitchcock, Hayes, Red Willow, Frontier and Furnas counties in Nebraska and Decatur and Rawlins counties in Kansas are eligible. For details, call (308) 345-3200 or e-mail info@aboutmccook.com.

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