

County hopes feds will pay part of salary

The Decatur County commissioners signed an application Tuesday for a federal grant to help pay for some of the emergency management director's salary.

Director Patti Skubal said she applied for the grant last year and the county got \$3,189 towards her salary. The county should receive that money soon, she said, since the fiscal year for the grant process runs Oct. 1 through Sept. 30.

Mrs. Skubal said she has been talking with Linda Manning, ambulance service director, about doing a countywide emergency exercise sometime this fall. She said they would like to get as many emergency services involved as possible.

The actual event will remain a surprise, said Mrs. Skubal, since she doesn't want everyone knowing what to be ready for.

Lately, said Mrs. Skubal, she's been working on National Incident Management Systems Cast, which is a program to say whether or not groups in the county will be in compliance with the system by 2011. Groups that have to do the training and take the tests include emergency workers, county commissioners, county department heads, the school district managers, city department heads and others.

Is it really the county's responsibility to make sure that all of the groups are in compliance? asked Commissioner Stan McEvoy.

Yes, said County Attorney Steve Hirsch. Future grants will be based on whether these groups are trained and ready.

Mrs. Skubal asked the commissioners what she's supposed to do with her old vehicle. She said she can't get it started.

It was supposed to become part

County roundup

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Talked about a recent meeting in Wichita that the health administrator and Commissioner Stan McEvoy attended, where they learned that all public health departments might have to be accredited by 2011. Story to come.

- Talked with a representative from the law firm Gilmore and Bell about setting a 10-year payout on the \$300,000 in general obligation bonds to be issued for the new recreation center. Story on Page 10A.

- Signed a federal grant application to help pay for some of the emergency management director's salary. Story at left.

of the county vehicle pool, said Commissioner Ralph Unger, but if the truck is going to leave someone stranded because it doesn't start, it might not be worth it. Maybe the vehicle could be used for local travel only, but not for out of the county.

The group agreed that she shouldn't park the vehicle around the courthouse since there are already several county vehicles parked in the back, front and on the side of the building.

The commissioners held two closed sessions, each for 10 minutes, for nonlected personnel with Mrs. Skubal and Mr. Hirsch. There was no action taken.

City ordinances could regulate dogs, motels, wind energy

The Oberlin City Council will look at several ordinances, including one on pit-bull dogs, one on motels and one on wind generation, when it meets at 7 p.m. tonight at The Gateway.

The dog ordinance, said Mayor Joe Stanley, if adopted, would allow dog owners in the city limits to get their dog's blood tested. If a DNA test shows that the dog is not a pit bull or any of the other breeds banned in the current ordinance, then the dog can stay in the city.

The current ordinance, said Mayor Stanley, is older. This new part would update the code to allow use of modern technology. He added that he didn't even know people could have a DNA test done on their dogs.

The wind ordinance, he said, copied from one in Colby, outlines regulations if anyone wants to put up a wind turbine in the city. The

ordinance would allow "small wind energy systems of not more than 100 kilowatts" to be permitted in all of the zoning classifications.

The ordinance is just something the council is looking at, said Mayor Stanley.

The motel ordinance is being brought up, he said, because the city apparently doesn't have any zoning for motels now. If it wants a new motel, he said, the city is going to have to write a zoning ordinance to cover it. That would then go to the planning commission, which could alter or approve it. If approved there, it would come back to the council for the members to vote on it.

The meeting, open to the public, will be upstairs at the Gateway. The council normally meets the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. This week's meeting was moved up a day because the mayor and other members had schedule conflicts.

Flu shots to be available at election at Gateway

With colder weather on its way, flu season is just about here.

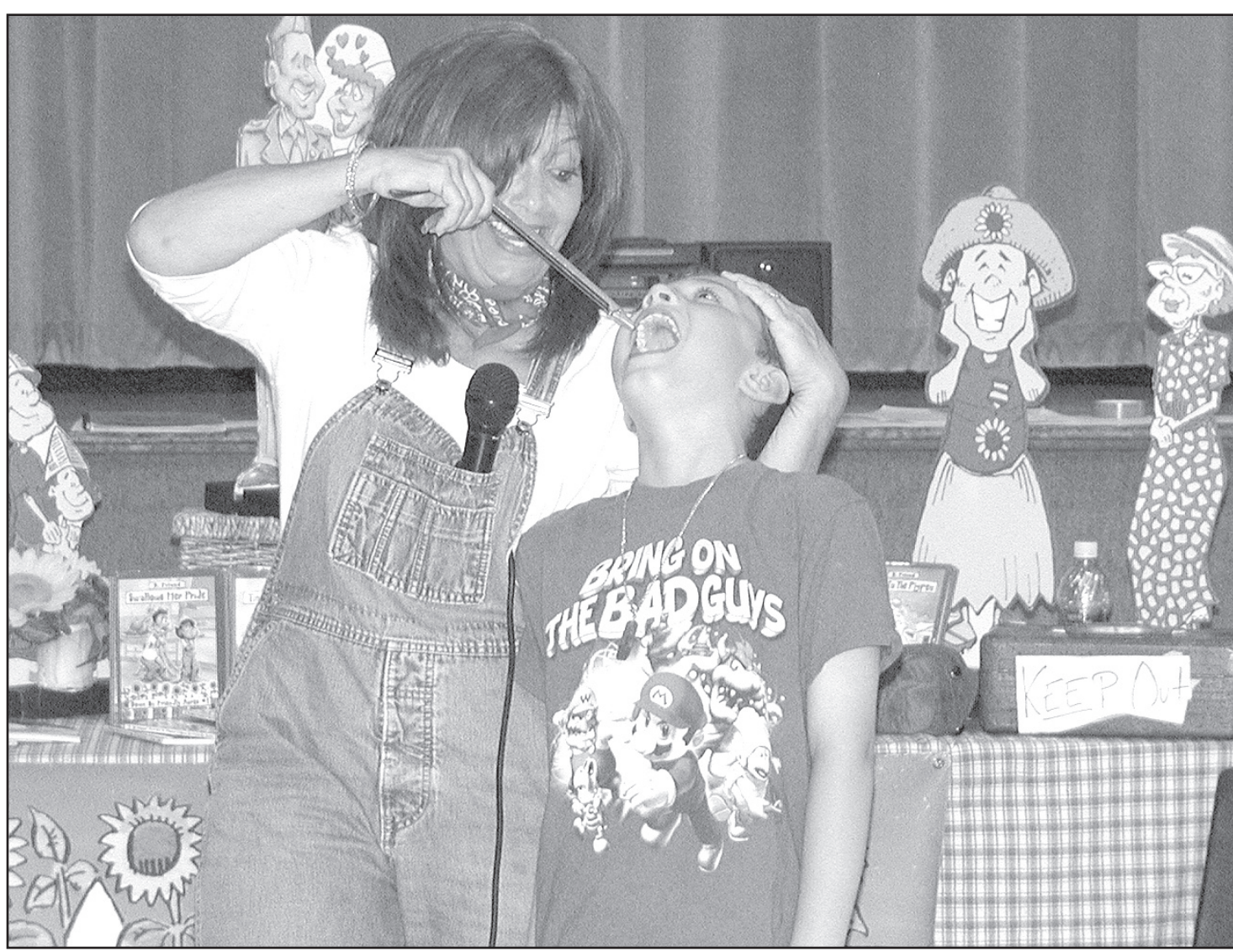
To help people be ready, county Health Administrator Marilyn Gamblin said nurses will be giving flu shots from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at The Gateway on election day.

Ms. Gamblin said she also plans to give the shots from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 22, and from 8 to 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 23, at the health department.

No appointment is needed for the shots, she said; people can just walk in.

The shots cost \$25 each, said Ms. Gamblin, but the office can bill Blue Cross/Blue Shield if the customer carries that insurance. Medicare also pays for the flu shots, so she said customers need to bring those cards in.

Anyone with questions can call the health department at 475-8118.



AT THE GRADE SCHOOL last Monday, author Ronda Friend pretended to demonstrate on Alex Hayward how a younger version of herself in one of her books used the fish pliers to get something out of her brother's throat.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Author, storyteller entertains students

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
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She looped the cord of the microphone through the front of her overalls, attached it and put the microphone in the front pocket of the bibs, like she'd done it before.

Then she was off, introducing herself, laughing, telling stories, singing and captivating her audience.

Author Ronda Friend talked to all of the students of Oberlin Elementary School sometime during the day last Monday. That evening, students, parents and grandparents met in the gym to meet Mrs. Friend and learn about her books for children.

Her visit was sponsored by Support Our Schools and the grade school.

The author said she grew up on a farm in Ohio, went to college and earned a degree in education with a minor in music. She said she has played the piano since she was 5 and worked with children for over 30 years.

She also was a professional storyteller with Scholastic Books for nine years.

"Several years ago, I launched Sunflower Seeds Press, a children's publishing company with the mission of reaching children's hearts and minds by sowing seeds of a different kind," she in her biography. "I named my company in honor of my friend, Carol Ann, who died too young."

"At her funeral, sunflower seeds were given out to represent the seeds of kindness, love, patience, forgiveness she had sown in the lives of so many. On the back of each of our books, you will find a Seal of the Sun that represents the seed of character the book highlights."

Throughout the books, said Mrs. Friend, are recipes from her grandmother, who she refers to as her mentor, as well as songs.

The books are about real stories and life lessons she learned growing up on the farm. Mrs. Friend said she grew up before video game systems, laptop computers, cell phones and other things kids have today.

As a child, she said, she was involved in 4-H, showing all kinds of animals and doing other activities.

The category she excelled in was pork, recalling with a laugh that she was "the pork queen."

In the books, said Mrs. Friend, she uses the animals to tell stories.

The author selected volunteers from the audience to act out one of her new books, "P.U. You Stink," which is a good picture book.

After acting out the story, complete with pigs, foxes and skunks, Mrs. Friend said she normally tells the students that this story is about making mistakes and learning a lesson from those mistakes. It's OK to make mistakes, she said.

The books, she said, are about giving the kids the innocence of what she had when she was younger and lived on the farm.

Before closing, she sang her song, "Love Them to Bed," for the audience. She encouraged the parents to read to their kids and "love them to bed."

The books, she said, are only available on the website at www.sunflowerseedspress.com. The school library has some of her books.

Tie-breaker determines contest winner

With the Pigskin Pick'em Contest half over, a tie-breaker was needed to decide first and second place this week.

Guessing 45 points off the tie-breaker was Kimberly Solko, who took first place and \$15 in scrip. Cheri Kastens, 58 points off the score, won second place and \$10 scrip for picking seven out of eight correct teams.

Eight people guessed six out of eight games, with Todd Ketterl winning third place and \$5 scrip to spend at sponsoring businesses. Others who chose six out of eight were Mary Kinser, Jennings; Amanda Adams, Danbury; and Owen Wilson, Mabel Zimmerman, Gary Waldo, Norm Wendelin and Linda

Hollowell, all of Oberlin.

Those who picked five games correctly were Rodney Solko and Steve Vontz, both of McCook, and Ron Solko, Colleen Gee, Jacob Gee, Travis Raile, and Valisha Raile, Oberlin.

Choosing four out of eight games were Cody Jacobs, Dresden, and Kari Ketterl, Herndon; Gary Anderson, Justin Gee, Ivis Hanson, and Gary Juenemann, Oberlin.

Jim Hollowell picked three out of eight games.

Contest rules are on Page 7A of today's paper, along with an entry form. Forms also are available at the sponsoring businesses, Wagner Chevrolet, Buick, Pontiac, and Cadillac of McCook, Farm Credit of Western Kansas, Ward Drug Store,

Raye's Grocery, the LandMark Inn, Home Planning Center, Fredrickson Insurance Agency, Farm Bureau Financial Services, and *The Oberlin Herald* and the *Country Advocate*.

Only official entry blanks will be accepted, no copies.

This week's winners were: University of Kansas over Iowa State, 35-33.

Trego Community High over

Oberlin, 38-12.

Goodland over Rawlins County, 35-24.

Norton over St. Francis, 36-16.

Missouri over Nebraska, 52-17.

Colby over Phillipsburg, 30-21.

Osborne over Hoxie, 8-0.

McCook over Gering High School, 62-7.

The tie-breaker was Texas Tech over K-State, 58-28.

The Mini Sappa Antique Club would like to thank the following businesses for sponsorship of trophies for the show on October 4 & 5, 2008.

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Ward Drug Store | Farmers Bank & Trust Member FDIC |
| The Bank Member FDIC | Oberlin Tire |
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| Decatur County Implement | Farm Bureau |
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Also, Thanks to these who donated items for goodie bags for our exhibitors and vendors.

- Ampride-Decatur Co-op
- Countryside Veterinary Clinic
- Decatur County Implement
- The Dresser
- Farmers Bank & Trust Member FDIC
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- Just On Time
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- Norton Animal Health Center
- Pauls Funeral Home
- United Northwest Federal Credit Union
- Ward Drug

Decatur County Chamber and NAPA for providing the bags

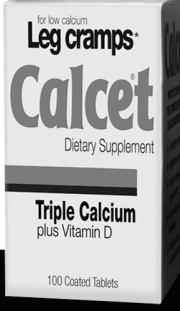
Thanks also go to Stan McEvoy for setting up the sound system, Dan Votapka for operating the train for us, United Northwest Federal Credit Union for displaying the raffle items. Thanks to Peggy Groneweg and Angie Wilson for assistance at the quilt show, Country Quilting and Keepsakes and Kristi's Quilt Farm for door prizes. Thanks also goes to Karen Spahr for assembling all of the goodies bags, and of course to Gordon and Del Hawkins for cooking the hogs for our hog roast and to the Frontier Restaurant for use of cooler space.

TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN ANY WAY

OUR THANKS
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