

Grant would pay for special refrigerator

The Decatur County commissioners approved an application for a \$5,245 Public Health Emergency Response grant.

Health Administrator Marilyn Gamblin said at a meeting Oct. 8 that she would like to use the money from the state for a new refrigerator for the health department to store vaccines. The one the department has now is a household refrigerator. Ms. Gamblin said she would like a laboratory-grade refrigerator that would have an alarm on it to alert her if the temperature rises.

At any time, she said, they have \$6,000 to \$7,000 worth of vaccines in the refrigerator.

She said she checked with a merchant who sells refrigerators and the store here doesn't offer one. Ms. Gamblin said the Norton Health Department has one they purchased for around \$4,000. She's waiting for some quotes from companies that carry the item.

The old refrigerator could be sold, said Ms. Gamblin, or used for drinks or food for the staff. They have an older refrigerator they use for that now.

She said she will be back when she has some prices for a new fridge.

Ms. Gamblin said the department will have some of the H1N1 flu mist

County roundup

At the meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Approved having the noxious weed director buying chemicals at the best price possible from among bids he received. Story to come.
- Approved buying a 1998 Caterpillar dozer for the road and bridge department and landfill. Story to come.

- Approved a new door for the north side of the Good Samaritan Center and a new heater/air conditioner for the building. Story below.

- Talked briefly about what kind of money might be available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Story below.

vaccines soon and should get more doses each week. The mist can be used on people from age 2 to 49.

Commissioner Gene Gallentine said he's been hearing some things about the vaccine not being safe and wondered if Ms. Gamblin has heard anything.

The H1N1 vaccine, she said, is made the same way as seasonal flu vaccine. The tests run on it have been good.

People can find whatever they want on the Internet, she said, including information from people who are opposed to the vaccine and those who support it.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Talked about sending a letter against listing the black-tailed prairie dog on the endangered species list.

- Heard that the transportation bus will not run today, allowing the drivers to attend a required training class in Colby.

- Approved a resolution to allow setting a date for the delinquent tax sale.

There are currently 13 properties on the sale bill, but that could change as people come into pay. Those owners haven't paid taxes on the property for three years. The sale hasn't yet been set, but probably won't be held until spring.

County looks at federal money

The Decatur County commissioners talked briefly about what kind of money might be available for the county through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act at their meeting last Tuesday.

Commissioner Gene Gallentine asked if the clerk had any numbers for what would be available for the county.

The state is going to get \$20 million, he noted.

Clerk Colleen Geihlsler said she didn't have any numbers, but the information she got from the state says the county would have to say how they will use the money.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said from what he's read, the state is pretty much grabbing all the stimulus money, so none of it will get to

the county. These are bonds, said County Attorney Steve Hirsch, so the county can borrow the money and then pay it back.

Mr. Unger said he doesn't see any reason to borrow money under the program.

"They have us in a deep, deep hole for us, our kids and our grandkids," said Mr. Unger.

After some discussion, the commissioners approved \$800 for materials for Steve Stacy to start the painting and work to the walls on the third floor for the court.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Decided to hold off paying the \$957 quarterly bill to Northwest Kansas Planning and Development

Commission because the agency still hasn't provided some paperwork on the landfill.

- Held a five-minute closed session to discuss personnel. There was no action taken.

- Approved transferring \$15,000 from the general fund to the landfill.

- Agreed that Commissioner Stan McEvoy could serve on the Kansas Counties Commissioners Association board.

- Decided to call federal surplus in Topeka about holding a few vans for Mr. Unger to take a look at for a new trip vehicle.

- Held a 10-minute closed session for attorney-client privilege. There was no action taken.

Commissioners hire top dispatcher

The Decatur County commissioners hired a new chief dispatcher after 20 minutes behind closed doors during the meeting Tuesday, Sept. 29.

The commissioners interviewed the three current employees at a September meeting but hadn't yet

made a decision. After spending 20 minutes in a closed session to discuss personnel, the job was offered to dispatcher Marilyn Mack.

Mrs. Mack will train for the job for the month of October and then start at the beginning of November. The commissioners approved

paying Mrs. Mack \$11.85 an hour during training and \$12.85 an hour after that.

Other candidates were dispatchers Bev Reiter and Tanya Lipker.

Chief Dispatcher Jeanne Pachner had previously decided to retire this year.

* City looks to clean up properties

(Continued from Page 1A) properties, said Mr. Gilley. This year there's \$15,000 budgeted for blighted properties.

With a volunteer program like this one, said Mr. Gilley, it could make that \$15,000 stretch.

The council's consensus was

to move forward with a volunteer program.

Part of having a stricter policy is having the documentation showing that a property needs to be torn down, said Mr. Gilley.

One way to do that is bring in an independent contractor, who would

follow the city's ordinances, but take pictures and get the documentation needed to have a building torn down.

Mr. Gilley said he would call an independent contractor who might do the work.

Man charged with misusing account

A 20-year-old Oberlin man was arrested by the Oberlin Police Department on 29 counts of making a false information on Wednesday, Oct. 7, and for allegedly making unauthorized charges to the account of an area farmer.

Royal Jonathan Fisher Jr. was still in the Decatur County Jail last Monday. That day, Magistrate

Judge John Bremer signed an order of supervised release, allowing Mr. Fisher to go free on his own recognition and giving him seven days to check in with court services.

Mr. Fisher had been employed by Jim Abbey.

Each of the 29 counts reads the same, with each being a level eight nonperson felony carrying a penalty

of seven to 23 months in state prison or a fine up to \$100,000 for each.

The complaint said Mr. Fisher "charged merchandise and signed charge tickets at D&M Sinclair, Oberlin, Kansas, to the account of Jim Abbey, with knowledge that such writing falsely states or represents some material matter or is not what it purports to be, and with intent to defraud, obstruct the detection of a theft or felony offense, or induce official action, to-wit: defendant did not have authority to charge to account of Jim Abbey."

The charges took place from April to August, the documents said.

River restoration group to meet at The Gateway

Anyone interested in the streams or rivers in northwest Kansas is invited to the Republican River Restoration Partnership meeting next week at The Gateway.

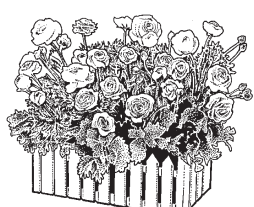
The partnership, made up of people in Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska, working to manage the riparian areas around the river and its tributaries, will meet at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 22.

Goals for the partnership, said Jennifer Tenbenschel, with the Southwest Nebraska Resource Conservation and Development agency, are to foster cooperation among the three states to develop a regional plan for the watershed, increase economic development throughout the area, increase the quantity and quality of the water in the watershed and

create educational opportunities on water.

Presentations during the meeting will include Dr. Wayne Wolcott, with the department of biological systems engineering with the School of Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, talking about virtual watershed hydrological units.

To register, call Ms. Tenbenschel at (888) 585-1085 or e-mail jennifer.tenbenschel@rcdnet.net. Lunch will cost \$10.



Church serves turkey dinner

MEMBERS OF THE Oberlin Covenant Church served a steady stream of visitors and churchgoers a traditional turkey dinner last Wednesday. One helper (above) worked with a glass bowl while Mary Henzel (below left) cut pumpkin pies and Barb Dehlinger (below right) worked on a batch of gravy.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



Home gets new door, heat, air

The Decatur County commissioners approved a new door for the north side of the Good Samaritan Center and a new heating and air conditioning unit for the building at their meeting last Tuesday.

Administrator Janice Shobe said she got two bids for both projects. The air unit services the east hall. It's 30 years old, she said. The pilot light goes out a lot on the heater.

She said R&M Service Center bid \$6,500 for both the heater and air conditioner and \$3,300 for just the furnace. The other bid was from Garrett Plumbing Heating and Electric Co. of Norton for \$3,495 for the heater and \$5,443 for the heater and air conditioning.

The furnace from R&M is 92 percent efficient and the one from Garrett is 90 percent, she said.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said they probably are going to want to address the air conditioning too.

After some discussion, the commissioners decided buy the unit from R&M.

Mrs. Shobe said she received a \$2,900 bid on the door from Colby Glass and one for \$2,403 from McCook Glass.

The commissioners approved the low bid from McCook Glass.

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