

County finishes plans for recognition dinner

Decatur County commissioners and the county recognition committee worked out the final plans for the countywide employee recognition dinner this Sunday during a commission meeting Tuesday morning.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tim Stallman talked briefly with Commissioners Ralph Unger and Pat Glenn about giving some type of gift certificate to people who are being honored for 15, 20 or 25 years of work. The idea is to give them a \$15 certificate for dinner in the county, since otherwise people honored for 15, 20 or 25 years with the county would only receive \$2 worth of engraving added to their service plaque, said Mr. Stallman.

This is the first year the recognition dinner. Commissioners said everyone would receive something. Those who served for 15, 20 or 25 years will receive their 10 year plaque and recognition for any additional service. They will have to wait on the certificates for dinner. The two commissioners decided to not buy dinner certificates this year and want to talk with Commis-

sioner Brown, who was absent from the meeting, before making a decision for next year.

Sheriff Ken Badsy talked with the commissioners briefly about the dinner also, bringing gift certificates to be signed by the commissioners.

The sheriff talked to the commission about money the office receives from the fingerprinting fee started last year. Basically, each time the office fingerprints someone, \$45 is sent to be put into the sheriff's budget.

He asked that money be put into a line item for training. The money could then be used to train not only the officers but the drug dog, Luna. Last year Sheriff Badsy said the office received \$940 which went into the sheriff's office general fund.

No decision was made on the money.

In other business, commissioners:
 • Talked with Mr. Stallman about a shop welder. Mr. Stallman had a catalog and said there are several options. Commissioner Unger suggested Mr. Stallman pick out a couple and then get bids from people, including local busi-

nesses, which sell the equipment. At the next meeting, then, the commissioners and Mr. Stallman can open the bids and make a choice.

• Held a reception for County Treasurer Pat Fringer, since last Wednesday was to be her last day in office.

• Asked Mr. Stallman about snow removal in Jennings since the Jennings newsletter said something about a contract between the county and city. He said the county doesn't plow the streets. Farmers instead bring their tractors in to take care of it, but if the snow gets really bad, the county crew will go help.

• Heard they received two applications for positions on the Decatur County-Oberlin Economic Development Corp. from Cathy Anthony and Robbie Henningson.

• Heard that the annual township road meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 27.

• Signed a letter in support of the Northwest Local Environmental Protection Agency, which is losing its federal money.

Cancer society classroom to visit school

The American Cancer Society mobile classroom was scheduled to be at Decatur Community High School from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday and today to give students a hands-on look at why not to smoke, how to establish healthy habits and establish a strong positive image.

School Nurse Ruth Wolfram said she had contacted the society about two years ago, but the mobile classroom was booked until now.

The classroom teaches kids how to

prevent skin cancer, why not to use tobacco and the importance of eating healthy, and physical activity.

The classroom features interactive displays and computers with information on cancer prevention and health education.

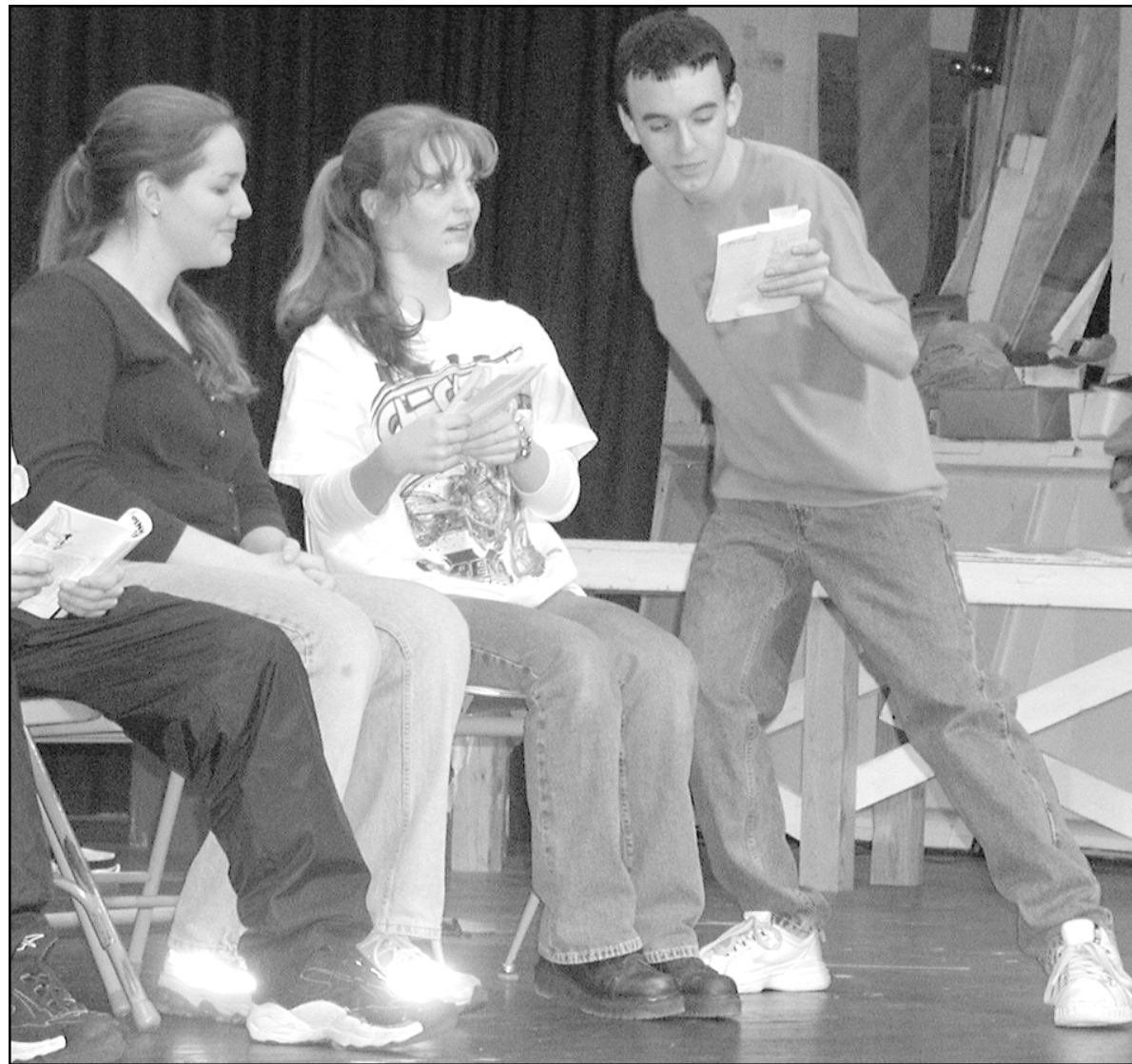
The students will take part in a telephone call which displays the difference between what healthy lungs and smoker lungs sound like. Students also will see an interactive video displaying how skin ages.

Nurse Wolfram said students in junior high and freshmen will have the chance to go through the classroom with their science classes.

She said one of the things which interested her about the mobile classroom was the interactive way good diet habits, nutrition, physical activity and the cons of smoking were shown.

"I think we need to promote healthy behaviors in our youth," she said. "Prevention is certainly a lot healthier than treatment."

Prepare to laugh



"THE PINK PANTHER STRIKES AGAIN" will be presented at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday as the all-school play at Decatur Community High School auditorium. During practice, actors (from right) Jess Elwood, Ramsey Meitl and Greta Wendelin read lines for the play.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Brandt

Treasurer-elect to take over office

Decatur County Treasurer-elect Jean Hale, a Republican, was scheduled to be sworn into office during the county commission meeting Tuesday after being appointed to the position in the wake of the resignation of Treasurer Pat Fringer.

Thirteen of the 19 Republican precinct committee members for the county meet at the courthouse on Tuesday for about 15 minutes to choose Mrs. Hale. Jack Metcalf, Republican county

chairman, said the group needed seven for a quorum, and with the winter weather, he had been a little worried that there wouldn't be enough. Only 12 votes were cast because the last person showed up late, he said.

Mrs. Hale was elected to the treasurer's job in the November general election, but treasurers don't take office until end of October because that is when the office closes its year out.

When Mrs. Fringer told county commissioners she would be quitting at the beginning of February, they suggested that if she switched parties from Democrat to Republican, then Mrs. Hale

could be appointed to take her place.

Mr. Metcalf said the treasurer-elect was the only person who expressed an interest in the job.

Last Wednesday, the appointment was certified and sent to Gov. Bill Graves for approval, which he had seven days to do. If Gov. Graves doesn't approve the position in a week, it automatically is approved.

Decatur County Clerk Marilyn Horn said her office received a fax back from Gov. Graves last Friday with his signature and the original copy will come in the mail.

Mrs. Hale said she is ready to take over. Starting before her term would have begun, she said, it will be a learning process. Although she knows the job since she has worked in the office for 11 years as the deputy treasurer, she said there are some things which will be new to her.



Jean Hale

Disaster loan deadline nears

The deadline for applications for emergency disaster loans for farmers and ranchers in Norton and Decatur counties is March 21, says John C. Vogt, farm loan manager in Norton for the U.S. Farm Service Agency.

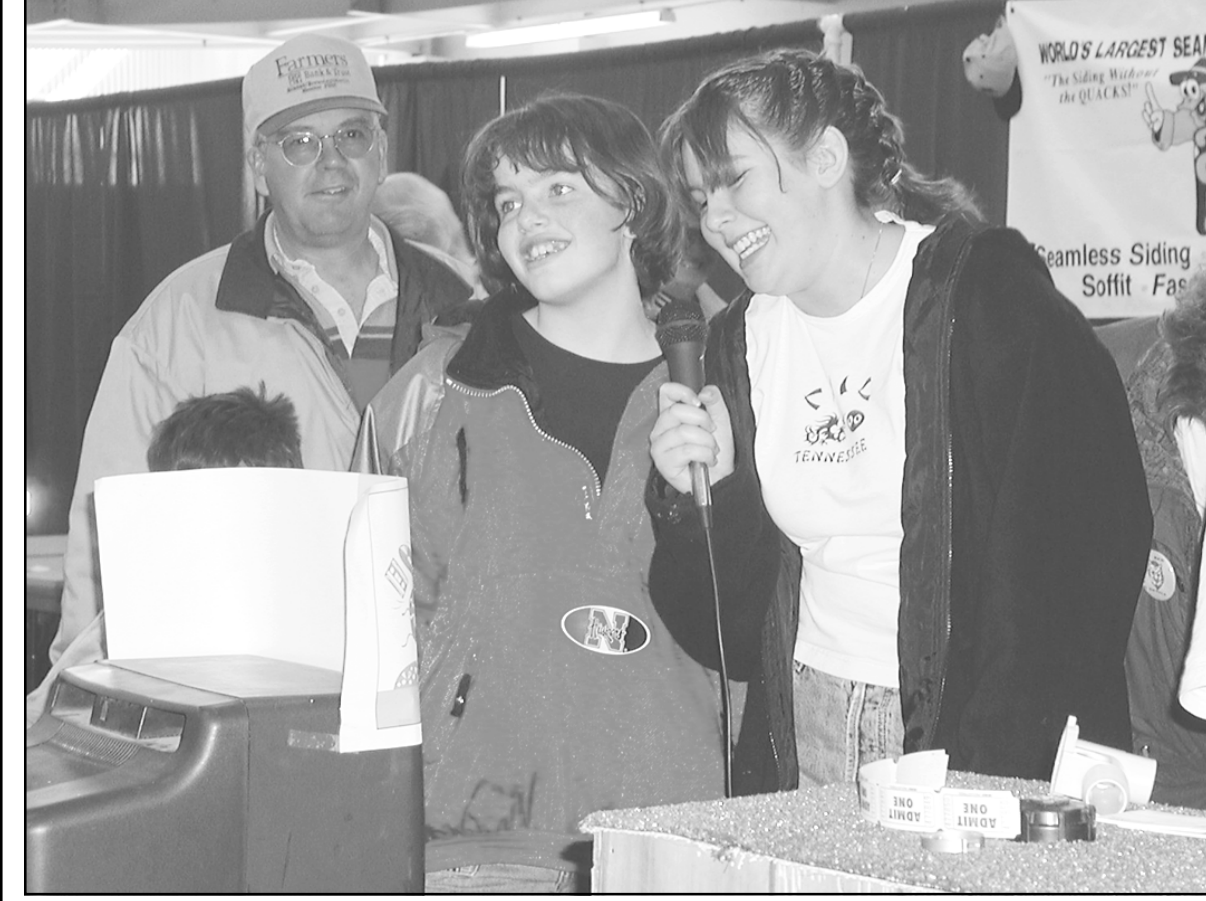
He said farmers needing credit as a result of heat, drought, wind and hail from July 1, 1999, through July 17, 2000, should apply at the agency's office at 113 N. Norton, in Norton.

"Loans covering physical and/or production losses may be made at 3.75 percent interest rate, and are scheduled for repayment as rapidly as feasible, consistent with the applicant's reasonable ability to pay," he said.

The loans may be used to buy feed, seed, fertilizer, livestock, or to make payments on real estate and chattel debts. They can also be used for other operating and living expenses, he said.

For details, contact Mr. Vogt at (785) 877-5156, or visit the office in Norton.

Makin' music all day long



SINGING A DIXIE CHICKS SONG while looking at a Karaoke machine, Kassi Bryan and Sarah Marcuson entertained themselves and onlookers at the 11th Annual Great Northwest Farm, Home and Recreation Show this weekend at The Gateway. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Brandt

Pre-trial discovery requested

After three postponements for a preliminary hearing, a pre-trial discovery hearing has been requested in the case of Joan Faye Evans, charged with aiding an escape and sex crimes.

Mrs. Evans was charged on Dec. 21 on six counts of aiding an escape and unlawful sexual relations in incidents which allegedly occurred at Sappa Valley Youth Ranch from April 3 to June 9. Two of the counts were for allegedly helping Todd Lloyd and Robert

Prebble leave the ranch on June 9. She was also charged with four counts of sexual relations with Prebble, 17.

The preliminary hearing scheduled for Thursday was postponed because of a request for a discovery hearing. Court officials said a pre-trial hearing determines the nature of some evidence before the trial. The evidence which will be looked at has a confidential nature.

The preliminary hearing has not been rescheduled.

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Oberlin named Tree City USA

For 15 consecutive years, Oberlin has been named a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

The city had to meet four standards: have a tree board or department, have a tree care ordinance, have a comprehensive community forestry program

and hold an Arbor Day observance.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the National Arbor Day is April 27, but cities can choose any day which works for them. The mayor has proclaimed May 4 as Arbor Day in Oberlin.

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