

Director buys supplies

The Decatur County emergency management director brought the commissioners a list of everything she purchased with the homeland security money left over from two years ago.

Director Patti Skubal said they had \$13,886 from the 2005 money to spend by the end of last week so she went through the catalog and found items they could use now or later. She said she ended up with \$80 because she had a hard time finding anything for less than that price.

Mrs. Skubal said she did purchase a power cord for the defibrillator for the ambulance department. She also bought the generator for the emergency shelter in Norcat. The generator, she said, has to be shipped to the courthouse and then someone from Norcat will either have to pick it up or the county will have to deliver it.

Mrs. Skubal had prepared a list of everything she purchased for each of the commissioners. Included on it was a 5 horsepower generator, which Commissioner Doyle Brown asked where it would go. She said it will most likely go in the emergency trailer with other supplies. The generator will be portable, she said.

Other items purchased included two pocket wind meters, a 5.5 horsepower blower, a set of binoculars, a power adapter, four fingerprint in a can kits, 24 traffic vests, four 28 inch tall pop up traffic cones, two triangle hazmat decon tape, three talk around radios, one floodlight with stand, one megaphone, two 20 gallon plastic drums and one 55 gallon plastic drum.

Mrs. Skubal said she still has the 2006 money to spend by Friday, Nov. 16. In that money there is \$11,000 left. She said she wants to talk with both Tim Stallman, road and bridge supervisor, and Gaylen Huntley, noxious weed director.

Mrs. Skubal said the regional homeland security plan is being turned into a digital plan.

Are you looking at equipping a place in the county as the headquarters in case of an emergency? asked Commissioner Doyle Brown.

Yes, she said, some of that equipment is in the trailer. They will need radios and all that kind of stuff in case of an emergency, she said, but they also will need phones and computers.

There needs to be a location so that if they all needed to get together it would be big enough for everyone to meet.

Mrs. Skubal said she and Marilyn Gamblin, health administrator, plan to get together soon because they have set up some of the same things in case of an emergency and using the same facilities which won't work.

Although the commissioners had OK'd the purchase of a vehicle for Mrs. Skubal, they weren't allowed to spend the homeland security money on a vehicle unless it was brand new and they used all of the money.

At the meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 16, they discussed checking with the appraisers office to see if Mrs. Skubal could use their four-wheel drive in case of bad weather.

At the meeting last Tuesday, the commissioners talked with Appraiser Alan Hale who said they do use the vehicle through the winter because they are working on final reviews of property. The thing is, he said, if there is a blizzard or the roads are really bad they have no business being on them looking at land. In that case, said Mr. Hale, she can borrow the car.

Commissioner Stan McEvoy said it would only be for this season because they have money in the budget for next year.

Is it capable to tow a trailer? asked Mrs. Skubal. Mr. Hale said he wasn't sure if they got a tow package with it.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said if they needed the trailer they could find another county vehicle to pull it.

Mr. McEvoy told Mrs. Skubal she should get Ambulance Director Linda Manning's old first response vehicle. If there is anticipation of a bad storm, then get the four-wheel drive on ahead of time.

Mr. Hale said he absolutely understands sharing, all the departments can't just have a vehicle sitting around waiting to be used.

Mrs. Skubal said she would like to have emergency management on the truck. Mr. Unger said she can put that on the old first response vehicle.

They also agreed to take off the sign on the back of the vehicle that says the sheriff's office seized the vehicle in a drug bust.



YVONNE BURMASTER is the new full time sales associate at the Decatur County Farm Bureau office in Oberlin. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Associate hired to man office

The Decatur County Farm Bureau has a new sales associate, who is manning the office Monday through Friday, along with new operating hours.

Yvonne Burmaster started with the company this month selling insurance and helping customers at the office at 122 E. Commercial.

Mrs. Burmaster said they

changed the office hours from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to 8:30 to 11 a.m. and noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

She said she is licensed to sell life, health, property, casualty and crop insurance. Although she has only been with the Farm Bureau for a few weeks, Mrs. Burmaster isn't new to the insurance field.

Before being hired by the Farm

Bureau she sold insurance for Aflac and CRT out of McCook.

Mrs. Burmaster moved to Oberlin two and a half years ago from Norton after marrying Brad Burmaster. The couple have four kids between them: Daniel, 20, Matthew, 18, Jordan, 16 and Aubrey, 9.

So far, she said, she loves the job.

Basic computer classes scheduled

At the beginning of November people will have the chance to learn about using a computer and different computer programs in classes scheduled at the Business Enhancement Entrepreneurial Center.

Darrell Stern, owner of Jersey Visions, will teach the three classes. The first one, he said, is an introduction to computers for beginners, the second is a web design class and the third teaches on macro media flash, which is animation.

The first one starts on Monday, Nov. 5 and has four classes with a fee of \$45. The second starts on Monday, Nov. 26 will a fee of \$85

and the third starts in January with an \$85 fee.

Mr. Stern used to teach at the Art Institute in Las Vegas so this won't be his first time in a classroom setting.

The Oberlin-Decatur Area Economic Development Corp. purchased the text books for the classes so people can use them, but won't have to buy their own.

The corporation, said Mr. Stern, also bought the computers which are in the back conference room at the center. These are set up for people to use, he said.

With the web design classes, said

Connie Grafel, marketing director, retailers might be interested. The web is one way to possibly bring in more sales. Mr. Stern has done a great job on the corporation's site and is also working on a county site with links to places in the county.

The class also helps people who want to maintain web sites, said Mr. Stern.

All of the registration fees are due the first night of class. The class registration is open on a first come first serve basis, said Mr. Stern.

Registration forms are available at the Business Enhancement Entrepreneurial Center.

Youngster wins Pick-em this week

With six people picked nine of the winners of this week's Pigskin Pick-Em, first, second and third were determined by the tie breaker game.

Only three points off of the actual score between Oregon and Southern California, Kel Grafel took first place this week, guessing nine of the winners of the football games. He won \$15 in scrip money.

Second place went to Billy McCoy who was 16 points off of the tie breaker. He won \$10 in scrip money.

Third place went to Colleen Gee who was 22 points off on the tie breaker. She won \$5 in scrip money.

The other three to pick nine correct winners were Ivis Hanson, Mabel Zimmerman and Norm Wendelin.

Fourteen people picked eight of the 10 winners including Justin Gee, Kenny Gee, Todd Ketterl, Valisha Raile, Travis Raile, Jim Hollowell, Diana Solko, Kimberly Solko, Ron Solko, Rodney Solko, Kade Brown, Kelly Brown, Kari Ketterl and Owen Wilson.

Two people, Zach May and Vernon Ketterl, guessed seven of the winners. Four guessed six including Jeff Reinert, Jacob Gee, Gary Anderson and Helen Gee.

Betti Grout picked five of the 10

winners.

Contest rules are on Page 5A of today's paper with an entry form. Forms also are available at the sponsoring businesses, Home Planning Center, Farm Credit of Western Kansas, Fredrickson Insurance Agency, Wagner Chevrolet, Buick, Pontiac and Cadillac of McCook, Raye's Grocery, *The Oberlin Herald* and *The Country Advocate*; Prairie Petals, the LandMark Inn and Ward Drug Store.

Only official entry blanks will be accepted; no copies.

This week's games included:

- Tennessee over South Carolina 27 to 24.

- Purdue over Northwestern 37 to 17.

- Kansas State University over Baylor 51 to 13.

- Clemson over Maryland 30 to 17.

- Texas over Nebraska 28 to 25.

- Boise State over Fresno State 34 to 21.

- West Virginia over Rutgers 31 to 3.

- Arizona State over California 31 to 20.

- University of Kansas over Texas A&M 19 to 11.

- Pittsburg State over Fort Hays 35 to 0.

- Oregon over Southern California 24 to 17 in the tie breaker.

Employee to work in various areas

The Decatur County health administrator asked about a cleaning person for her office at the meeting last Tuesday.

Commissioner Stan McEvoy said he thought they had hired someone last week who would move around the county doing jobs.

They hired Sarah Fredrickson last week to work part-time in the noxious weed department and then part-time doing other jobs for the county.

The cleaning would need to be done on the weekends, she said. Maybe she can do it in the mornings or after you have closed. Ms. Gamblin said they are open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and there are a few nights that the conference room is used for meetings.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said

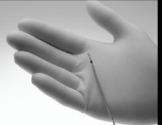
it would probably be best for her to clean sometime after you have closed for the day.

Mr. McEvoy said he went to a steering committee meeting for Decatur Tomorrow recently and Kansas Communities LLC is having a conference in Salina on Friday, Nov. 16 and Saturday, Nov. 17. He said he was supposed to ask if anyone wanted to go.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Received the maps back for the cities for the new 911 addressing system.

- Heard from Mr. McEvoy that the fair foundation received a donation of \$1,165 to pay for the rest of the sound system in the new livestock building from Mr. Unger and his wife Norma.



HEART IMPLANT LEAD DEFECTS

On October 14, 2007, Medtronic announced a defect in the electrical "lead" wire of its heart defibrillator and recalled the product. Affected models of the Sprint Fidelis defibrillator leads are 6930, 6931, 6948 and 6949. A fracture in the lead wire can lead to unnecessary, painful shocks to patients and may require replacement surgery. At least five deaths have been reported in patients with the defective leads.

Shasteen & Scholz, PC is representing patients (on a contingency fee basis) who have undergone replacement surgery or have been advised by a physician their lead wire may be defective.

For more information and a free confidential consultation regarding your legal rights and remedies, please call:

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