

# Protection budget increased

By CYNTHIA HAYNES  
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Decatur County commissioners learned last week that they are responsible for the health and welfare of the county whether there is a sanitary code or not. That prompted them to pay a little more to a regional group that protects groundwater from contamination.

Health director Marilyn Gamblin warned the commissioners during their regular meeting last Tuesday that they could be responsible for old septic systems, abandoned wells and broken sewers whether they have an official code or not.

The commissioners were discussing just what the Northwest Local Environmental Protection Group does for the county and who pays the bills.

"What do they do?" Commissioner Stan McEvoy asked the health administrator.

"They regulate the sewer systems, wells, and abandoned wells," Ms. Gamblin replied. "They do cost-share things to put in new systems."

The group used to get its money from the counties and the state, she said, but the state is cutting its payments.

"The intent is to make it funded at the county level," Commissioner Gene Gallentine said.

"They (the environmental protection group) helped the counties set up their sanitary codes way back when," County Clerk Colleen Geisler noted.

The group was to meet in Colby last Wednesday and the commissioners said that they would be asking the counties to each come up with an additional \$2,000 to pay for its services.

Ms. Gamblin said that the group does a service that the commissioners are required to provide. It could be done by the county, she said, but who would go out to check problems? And if the state was asked, it would take several weeks to get a response.

"Do you have \$2,000 extra, Marilyn?" Commissioner Ralph Unger asked.

"I have \$2,300 in reserves," Ms. Gamblin replied. "I could kick in that \$2,000. It is health related."

If the state would have paid the bill, Ms. Gamblin said, now the county will have to.

The \$2,000 will pay for the 2012 program, she said, and the group won't need the money until January. Ms. Gamblin and the commissioners decided to earmark the money but not pay it out until the end of December.

In other business, the commis-

sioners:

- Learned that Ms. Gamblin can give some shots, such as vitamin B12, but that they cost the patient \$7 each because she cannot bill insurance for them. The patient has to provide the medicine, she said.
- Was told that there will be an open seat on the health advisory board in June. The job should be filled by

someone from the Jennings area, Ms. Gamblin said.

- Heard that the Golden Age Center had only one 10-pound fire extinguisher. It now has two new five-pound extinguishers, one for the kitchen and one for the front room. The old extinguisher will be put in the furnace area, Ms. Gamblin said.



**HOLDING ONE OF THE WORLD WAR II MEDALS** earned by her brother, Pvt. Bernard W. Myers, was Shirley Seeman of Oberlin. The family did not know until recently where he was killed on Feb. 8, 1945.

— Herald staffs photo by Cynthia Haynes

## Family receives WWII medals

By MARY LOU OLSON  
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The family of an area man killed during World War II finally has some closure more than 65 years later.

Pvt. Bernard W. Myers, who grew up on a farm east of the old Stone Church south of Culbertson, Neb., entered the U.S. Army during World War II, then was reported missing in action on Feb. 8, 1945, while serving in Luxembourg, a tiny country near Germany.

His sister, Shirley Seeman of Oberlin, said that her parents, Claude and Edna Myers, died never knowing how or where their son died. However, recently Terry Seeman of Grand Island, Neb., son of Mrs. Seeman and her husband Herb, learned that he might be able to find out on the Internet.

The database which he found contains a listing of U.S. soldiers, sailors, marines and civilians who have been reported as missing in action or buried at sea from World War II.

Pvt. Myers served under Gen. George Patton in the 318th Infantry, part of the 80th Division, during the Battle of the Bulge. His nephew learned that he was killed while crossing the Rhine River. He also learned that Pvt. Myers had earned the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, World War II Victory Medal and Honorable Service Lapel Button from World War II.

After contacting authorities,



**MILITARY PHOTOGRAPH** of Pvt. Bernard W. Myers (above) is shown between the Purple Heart and Bronze Star, which were among medals sent recently to his sister, Shirley Seeman of Oberlin.

Mrs. Seeman said they had many questions, and she had to furnish a copy of her birth certificate and marriage certificate before they would send her the medals.

The Seemans said that they received her brother's medals on Valentine's Day and they are still in a state of shock.

There were eight children in the Myers family, she said: Maxine, Cloyd, Arlene, Bernard, Betty, Shirley, Dewayne and Virginia.

"My sister Virginia and I are the only ones left," Mrs. Seeman said, "and my sister wouldn't hardly believe me when I told her I had received the information and our brother's medals."

We also learned that our brother and Gen. Patton are buried in the Tablets of the Mission at the Luxembourg American Cemetery, and we have a picture of the cemetery entrance and his grave site from the web site.

Another brother, Cloyd Myers, also served during World War II and was decorated by Gen. Douglas McArthur with the Purple Heart, three stars, the Silver Star, Distinguished Service Cross, Bronze Star and the Pacific Service Medal.

The Seemans said that their son is working on a link that will provide his parents with an American flag in her brother's honor.

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