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Newsflash

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NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) is celebrating National Preparedness Month by donating public health cache supplies to local emergency medical services (EMS). Public health caches are a stockpile of items to be used in a large public health event such as a natural disaster or the H1N1 pandemic flu outbreak in 2009, for example. EMS services throughout the nine-county health district will be given a donation which may include disposable gowns, masks, linen kits, body bags and blankets. SWNPHD plans to distribute the donations by the end of September. “National Preparedness Month reminds Nebraskans to prepare for the unexpected, with the theme of ‘Prepared, Not Scared’. The donated items are a part of the health department’s previous cache for public health emergencies,” states Kathie Skeen, SWNPHD Emergency Planning Coordinator. “We believe the cache will best serve the public by being utilized at the local level.” This is a good time to prepare your own stockpile of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency. Once you look at the basic items, consider what unique needs your family might have, such as supplies for pets, seniors, or persons with disabilities.

ANNUAL HOOD DECORATING CONTEST WINNER

Kyle Van Pelt, of McCook, is the winner of the annual hood decorating contest put on by the Auto Body Technology program at North Platte Community College. Auto Body students repair and repaint a damaged vehicle hood every year as part of a class project intended to teach them basic collision repair skills. Students in other applied technology programs at the college judge the hoods and vote on a winner. This year, the prizes were sponsored by Keystone Automotive Industries, a subsidiary of the LKQ Corporation. They included a spray gun kit, a cordless color match light and a sanding block package. “This was the closest competition I’ve seen in years,” said Mark Harwood, auto body instructor. “All the winning entries were within one point of each other. The students did an excellent job.”

INCREASE THE DIVERSITY

The American Red Cross urges people of all races and ethnicities to give blood or platelets to help increase the diversity of the blood supply. The vast majority of blood types fall into one of the major blood groups. However, for patients with rare blood types or those who receive regular blood transfusions, blood must be matched closely – beyond the primary A, B, O and AB blood types – to reduce the risk of developing complications from transfusion therapy. The best match may be someone of the same racial or ethnic group. Eight-year-old AJ Torres requires blood transfusions to treat complications from sickle cell disease, the most common genetic disease in the U.S. The disease is most common among people of African descent or Latino descent, like AJ, and can sometimes cause small blood vessels to become blocked. Diverse donors are important to ensuring AJ has the blood products he needs to regain his health.
SPORTS

The McCook Bison boys tennis team picked up a 9-0 win at North Platte yesterday. The Bison will travel to Holdrege on Thursday. The Lady Bison softball team dropped a 24-13 game vs. North Platte last night at the Jaycee Sports Complex. MHS will travel to Ogallala for games on Thursday. The Lady Bison golfers finished tenth at the Ogallala Invite yesterday. North Platte won the meet with a team score of 332. Kaylee Puckett’s round of 94 led the MHS girls.

The McCook Community College volleyball team picked up their 12th win of the year Tuesday and improved to 2-0 in conference play with a straight-set win over Southeastern Community College in the Peter and Dolores Graff Events Center. MCC won 25-13, 25-14, 25-17. After taking the weekend off with no games, the Lady Indians came out sharp in the first set. “I told the girls the overall defense we played in that first set was probably the best defense we’ve played all year,” MCC Coach Hayley Kobza said. “Everybody was talking, we were covering each other and that’s what we’ve been working for all along,” Sophomore Mallory Brown, (Colorado Springs) had eight kills, two assist blocks, and seven digs. Freshman Fernanda Canedo, (Cochabamba, Bolivia) had eight kills, nine digs and one ace serve.