

Monitors bound for Uganda

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SUPERIOR — More than 250 computer monitors donated by the Superior Pawnee Computer Society will be included in the next shipment which Computers for Africa makes to Uganda, East Africa.

Timothy M. Leacock, president of Computers for Africa, which is based in Omaha, was in Superior last week to pick up the monitors.

Larry Yost of Superior, SPCS president, said the monitors were part of the first state government surplus computers acquired by the Superior group.

"It was an excellent match," Leacock said. "We (Computers for Africa) had more computers than monitors; SPCS had extra monitors — now they are together to benefit young people in rural African communities."

The mission of Computers for Africa is to promote sustainable information and communications technology development in rural African communities.

Their program begins with American students refurbishing computers into ready-to-set-up labs and ends with a cluster of sustainable ICT programs in rural Africa. To date, more than 1,000 computers have been sent to Africa.

Leacock said the next shipment of 360 computers and monitors was scheduled for May 2007.

Windy, dry conditions spark grass fire

LACK OF SNOW,
MOISTURE CONTRIBUTES
TO PROBLEM

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Nearly 20 firefighters responded to a controlled burn that spread into a grass fire

Thursday.

Dan Yurk, a firefighter with the Hastings Fire Department, said Phillips Industries had a permit to burn trash at its site at 362 Road 3167, which is one mile south of U.S. Highway 6 near Inland.

"It was a controlled burn that got out of control," Yurk said.

He said the call came in around 1:45 p.m.

After only a few Hastings rural firefighters responded to the growing fire, the Glenvil Rural Fire Department was called in for mutual aid. By 2:30 p.m., the fire was under control.

Yurk said the fire got out of control because of a 15-mph wind blowing from the southwest Thursday afternoon, which pushed the fire to the northeast.

BRENT McCOWN/
Tribune

Top: Glenvil Rural Fire District firefighters monitor a large brush pile on fire Thursday afternoon east of Hastings after a controlled burn spread to a nearby field, burning at least three acres. **Left:** Glenvil rural firefighters spray water on a fence post that was burned in a grass fire Thursday afternoon.



Yurk said the dry conditions also contributed to the fire.

"It's just so terribly, terribly dry," he said. "If we'd had three inches of snow, it wouldn't have been a big deal."

In Hastings, anyone acquiring a burn permit must start the fire during the specified time. In rural Adams County, Yurk said permit holders are given more leeway as far as when they will start a controlled fire.

HPS: Board discusses swelling 4th-grade class

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Kautz assured the board members that all options had been carefully considered, but that ultimately, the recommendation from the teachers themselves was to hire an additional paraeducator.

"I asked for full consideration by teachers and administration," Kautz said. "They're recommending that we serve this large group of students with two F.T.E. teachers and 1.5 F.T.E. paraeducators. My bias from the very beginning was for a third section."

Kautz also warned the board that some action must be taken, because otherwise the students' education could be in jeopardy.

"If this motion fails, we'll come right back around, because something has to hap-

pen," Kautz said. "If this recommendation fails, we will come back on the third section."

Board member Nick Valle said the Longfellow fourth-grade teachers are highly respected and are known to be good teachers who can handle this number of students. Superintendent Gene Cosby agreed, but Deal said she still needed to consider the proposal before voting on Monday.

"These are very large classes," Deal said. "This might be the least disruptive for the teachers, but are the kids going to have another six months of crowded classrooms when we could move them into another section? I really have to think about this."

The HPS board will meet for its regular monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Monday in the City Council Chambers, 220 N. Hastings Ave.

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