



By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

Chase County Schools (CCS) students teamed with school administration and employees from Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department last Wednesday to fill “shelter in place” buckets for the school.

Sixty buckets will be placed in classrooms in case of emergencies, which SWNPHD Emergency Response Coordinator Heidi Wheeler of Imperial explained.

“If something would happen, like a tornado or a chemical spill outside, or students in a lockdown situation due to a gunman, and students are in place, the bucket has the emergency stuff to get them by until first responders come.”

The buckets include rags for blood or to seal doors and windows, masks, toilet paper, duct tape, an emergency blanket, a first aid kit, flashlight, disposable gloves and a biowaste bag.

The school paid SWNPHD for the buckets, but some of the items were provided at no cost.

In 2010, Wheeler donated three buckets to CCS as part of National Preparedness Month. Elementary Principal Susie Stewart thought it was a good idea, and School Nurse Angie Paisley coordinated the latest effort, after the school’s health and safety committee recommended that every classroom have a shelter in place bucket.

CCS students carried in the supplies last week, while SWNPHD employees and school administration filled the buckets.

Those helping included Helena Janousek, Martha Marentes, Wheeler, Myra Stoney and Denise Ringenberg of SWNPHD, and Stewart, Paisley, Mike Sorensen and Dr. Brad Schoeppey of CCS.