



WITH A BIG SMILE, Foster Schwarz of Hoxie tried out his new tricycle, which was purchased for him by the Oberlin Shrine Club.

Shrine Club buys tricycle for boy, 3, with special needs

When the Oberlin Shrine Club learned about a Hoxie boy who needed a special tricycle to get around, they swung into action. Foster Schwarz, son of Tony and Cheryl Schwarz of rural Hoxie, was born several weeks prematurely on March 10, 2002, with a birth defect called schizencephaly. The condition basically manifests itself as cerebral palsy. He can sit up by himself and crawl, but needs a gait trainer to walk. He does some sign language and is learning to speak more words. He is a smart child and understands everything, his parents say, but is just unable to verbalize at this point. "At the present time, he is just stuck in a body that does not work well," his mother said. "From the

time of his birth, he has been prone to seizures, which also can stop his breathing. He is on daily medication for the seizures and is attached to a monitor at night. . . . Since he was born, she added, the family has had four traumatic trips to Wichita by air ambulance. His family says Foster always has a wonderful smile and happy disposition and immediately captivates the heart of everyone who meets him. The Shriners learned about Foster when his mother wrote asking for money for a tricycle. She said the family knew the Shriners care, and the Schwarzes were not disappointed. The Oberlin Shrine Club gave over \$1,000 to buy the specially-made tricycle for Foster.

When his grandfather, Ed Conrad of Hoxie, first set him on the tricycle, he said the boy had "absolutely the biggest smile you can imagine" and kept saying over and over, "I like it, I like it!" Schizencephaly is a rare developmental disorder characterized by abnormal slits, or clefts, in the brain's cerebral hemispheres, his parents said. It is a form of porencephaly, in which there is a cyst or cavity in the cerebral hemispheres. Treatment generally includes physical therapy, treatment for seizures and, in cases that are complicated by hydrocephalus, a shunt is implanted to divert fluid from one pathway to another. The couple also has a son, Latham, age 6.

Woman has heart transplant in Denver

By MARY LOU OLSON
Brenda Fought of Oberlin said she feels that she has received a special gift from God after undergoing a heart transplant at the University of Colorado Hospital in Denver. A native of Lenora, she was born with a congenital heart disease. She said she got along fine with medication until September 1999, when she became ill. Her husband Larry took her to Decatur County Hospital, where doctors found she had a blood clot. She went into cardiac arrest and was air lifted to Via Christi-St. Francis Hospital in Wichita. The doctors treated the clot, gave an electrical shock to her heart to bring it back into rhythm, and changed her medication. She was sent home with a heart defibrillator, and by November, she was able to return to her work as a bookkeeper at the Decatur Co-op Association in Oberlin. "I only worked half days for a while," she said, "and the doctors told me not to lift more than 10 pounds." She had another setback on June



B. Fought

29, 2002, when she suffered a stroke and was flown to Wichita again for treatment. She got along well until September 2003, when she started having shortness of breath. She consulted Dr. Daniel McGowan, a heart specialist from Kearney, Neb., who sees patients in Oberlin. He recommended that she have her heart defibrillator changed in Lincoln, Neb., which she did. She said her main symptom the past year has been a hoarse voice, and she consulted an ear, nose and throat specialist, but it did not improve. She made an appointment with Dr. McGowan for a check-up last June. He told her that the only option left for her was to have a heart transplant and advised her to go to Denver, where she underwent extensive testing. "When we went back on Nov. 14, I just thought it was for a routine checkup," she said. "They didn't tell us that a healthy heart had been found that was a perfect match, so we were thrilled. We felt the Lord was really with us, because by 11:30 p.m., I was heading for surgery and my husband began the long night of waiting. He has been my rock through it all. "The surgeon came out at 6:30 a.m. and told Larry that things had

gone well with no complications." The couple remained in Denver for several weeks following the surgery, but were able to spend Christmas at home. They returned to Denver, but were back home on Dec. 31. "We feel very comfortable being in Oberlin," she said, "as we know we have an excellent team of doctors here." She has returned to work half days at the Co-op and said she feels wonderful. The couple attends the Oberlin Covenant Church and she said that Pastor Heidi Wiebe and the congregation have been great. Her husband, also a native of Lenora, operates a lawn service in Oberlin. "I know God has something for me to do," she said of her recovery. "I just have to figure out what it is."

Club elects new officers

Thirty-three members of the Mini Sappa Antique Club met on Dec. 11 for finger food snacks and a gift exchange. New officers elected include: Penny Fringer, president; Elden

Huff, vice president; Reva Marshall, secretary; and Maxine Wright, treasurer. The club is still looking for a tractor to fix for the raffle this year.



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Brent Smith T. Smith

College sets concert Sunday

Theresa and Brent Smith will perform at 3 p.m. on Sunday with the Emporia State Singers at the Decatur Community High School auditorium. Both graduates of Decatur Community High School, their parents are Larry and Karen Smith of Oberlin. The group of five students from the college is touring Kansas to help raise money for an upcoming tour to Europe with the Emporia State Acappella Choir.

Blood drive set for Jan. 18

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 18, at The Gateway. "January is National Volunteer Blood Donor Month," said Kim Talkington, Red Cross donor recruitment representative. "Stressing the importance of blood donation is very important as a new year begins. It is an excellent time for people to resolve to make giving blood a regular habit." To donate blood, volunteers must be at least 17, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in general good health. All who donate will receive a free Red Cross T-shirt. For details or to schedule an appointment, call (800) GIVELIFE. Walk-ins are welcome.

New Arrival

Corbin John Luck
Mark and Jessica Luck of Wichita are the parents of a son, Corbin John Luck, born Dec. 30, 2005, at Via Christi-St. Joseph Hospital in Wichita. He weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. Grandparents are Jerry and Montine Alstrom and Larry Long, Oberlin, and Bob and Lynnette Luck, Colby. Great-grandparents are Nora Bearley, Oberlin, and the late John Bearley; Kieth and Dorothy Alstrom, Oberlin; Dale and Agnes Lyon, Hill City; Helen Luck, Brighton, Colo.; and the late Don Long, Shirley Long, Phyllis Lyon and Vincent Luck.



Corbin Luck

THE OBERLIN HERALD —
People in Our Community
Mary Lou Olson, society editor
mlolson@nwkansas.com

Ray Lohofener received word of the death of his cousin, Don Lohofener of Rockport, Texas, on Monday. He was a grandson of the late August and Louisa Lohofener. Montine Alstrom returned home Wednesday from Wichita, where she had been visiting since Dec. 30 with her daughter and husband, Jessica and Mark Luck, and helping care for their infant son, Corbin John, who was born Dec. 30. Jerry Alstrom also spent New Year's weekend with them. Rita Pollnow and Norman Tilton of Davis, Calif., left on Friday after spending a week with her mother, Louise Pollnow, who had been hospitalized at Decatur County Hospital with pneumonia.

Jay and Ann Anderson returned home Sunday from Tucson, Ariz., where they had spent a month. Among those they visited while there were Phyll and Connie Cramer, Dennis and Betty Campbell, Gaylord and Shirley Shield, Dale and Cheryl Votapka, Rex and Billie Morton, and Bob and Amy Jane Dodson. Word was received by Phyllis Lohofener on Sunday of the death of Betty (Brown) McCullough, 90, of Cederberg, Wis., on Dec. 14. She was the daughter of the late Rev. O.G. and Ethel Brown. Survivors include four children. She was a cousin of Mrs. Lohofener and Herschel Betts. Phyll and Connie Cramer have returned home after spending several weeks in Green Valley, Ariz.

Grant Reichert is among 125 new members of the Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society at Kansas State University. Founded in 1987, the society is the nation's oldest, largest and most selective all-discipline honor society. Those elected to membership include the upper 7.5 percent second-semester juniors and the upper 10 percent of seniors, along with outstanding graduate students. His parents are Wilbur and Jill Reichert of Dresden.

Elaine Thomas returned home Thursday from Midwest City, Okla., where she had visited her son and wife, Leland and Peggy Cody. She accompanied her daughter, Connie Hogg, of Hays to Oklahoma in November and they attended the wedding of Mrs. Thomas' grandson, Todd Davenport and his wife, on Nov. 27. Mrs. Hogg spent the holiday with her daughter, Michelle and husband, Ralph Strada, in Phoenix, then returned to Oklahoma and Mrs. Thomas accompanied her home. Larry and Judy Bearley of Oakley spent the weekend with his mother, Nora Bearley. Additional Sunday dinner guests were Jerry and Montine Alstrom.

Winning highs in pinocle at Golden Age Center the past week were Doris Fringer, Henry Edgett, Wilma May, Aleen Van Vleet and Dewaine Stapp. Lows went to Dewaine Stapp, Aleen Van Vleet, Floyd Edgett, Henry Edgett and Helena Bruggeman. Pitch highs were won by Floyd Edgett and Barb Solko with lows going to Juanita Eckhart and Aleen Van Vleet. Bridge winners were Beth Sebaugh and Dorothy Cochran.

Ron and Linda Wenger of Dayton, Tenn., spent the holidays with his mother and sister, Fern Wenger and Jodie Wenger. Additional Christmas Day dinner guests were Randall and Karen Medlock of Norton and Pastor Heidi Wiebe.

Grief support group to meet for eight sessions

Adults who have lost a loved one are invited to join Community Hospital's grief support group, which begins this month. The group will meet for eight Tuesdays beginning Jan. 17 from 7-8:30 p.m. Sessions are on Jan. 31; Feb. 7 and 21; March 7 and 21; and April 4 and 18. The hospital considers this a closed support group, meaning attendees preregister and are encouraged to attend all eight sessions.

Once the group begins, new members will not be added, but the program will be repeated in the fall. Facilitators are Becky Mai, social services director at the hospital, and Cathy Nichols, a registered nurse with Community HealthCare and Hospice. The group will be limited to 10 to 12 people and there is no charge to attend. For details, call (308) 345-2240.

Norton Livestock Norton, Kansas
Special Bred Cow/Bred Heifer Sale
Jan. 19 — 1 p.m.

Heifers
36 Black Hfns. A1 Bred to calve Feb. 10 Preg. checked by Ultrasound Black Angus bull was New Design breeding
65 Black Hfns. Bred to LBW Black Angus Bulls Calve Feb. 15
40 Red & Black Hfns. Feb. 20 calving 2/3 Bred Red Angus 1/3 Bred Black Angus

Cows
4 Red Angus Cows Bred to Red Angus bulls Calve Mar. 1 3 yr. to older

Dispersion of 41 Black Cows Solid Mouth Bred to Black Angus Bulls Calve Feb. 1

Dispersion of 200 Black Cows Solid Mouth to older. One ranch raising, Bred to Black Angus Bulls calve Feb. 15

Dispersion of 45 Char x cows, 17 with fall calves Balance bred Red Angus calve Feb. 10 young to older for age

Dispersion 28 Black cows All 5 yr. olds Bred Black Angus Mar. 1 calving

Dispersion of 80 Red Angus - Red Angus Gelv x cows 3 to 6 yrs. old Bred Red Angus calve Feb. 15

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