

# People in Our Community

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Ty Gerlitz, who has worked as an agronomist for Decatur Co-op for over 11 years, will be relocating to the Colby/Brewster area around Feb. 11 to a new position with Land O' Lakes organization. He will become a Research Technician for CropGen Genetics Answer Plots and will be involved with eight different Answer Plots in Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska and Texas.

Chris and Sharon Nelson, pastors of the Oberlin Covenant Church, and Doug Mason, pastor of the Lund Covenant Church, attended the Mid-Winter Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Churches in Denver last week.

Out-of-town guests of Pam, Ravyn and Alyssa Van Vleet for the funeral of Bernice Van Vleet were Karen (VanVleet) Carter, and Kelli, Scott and Caleb Carter, Wichita, and Dan and Heidi Sidwell, Atwood.

Last weekend Bob and Kay Gaskill were hosts to many members of his family: John and Marian Gaskill, Carbondale, Colo.; Guy Gaskill, and Jesse Gaskill, Winona; Antoine Kirstetter, France; Jody and Shad Metcalf, Bryson, Seanna and Jude, Colby; and Lori Gaskill, Max and Orion and husband Ray Kriegbaum, Lakewood, Colo.

Among students at Colby Community College who were named to the President's Honor Roll (4.0) for the fall semester included Cherish Manning, Oberlin; Melissa Rall, Rexford; Jay Wessel, Dresden, and Todd Ziegelmeier, Gem. Tate Bruggeman, Rexford, was on the Dean's Honor Roll (3.75-3.99).

Classmates of Gloria (Larreau) Messinger who attended her funeral services on Saturday at Memorial United Methodist Church in McCook were Charlotte Meints, Dorothy Moore, Eloise Smith, Detta Anderson, Joy Votapka and Mary Lou Olson. She was a former resident of Oberlin and attended school here through her freshman year. Mrs. Meints was a classmate in McCook. Mrs. Messinger died on Jan. 24.

Winning highs in pinochle at the Golden Age Center last week were Doris Fringer, Elden Haas, Henry Edgett, Dorothy Moore, Max Car-

man and Kelva Dryden. Lows went to Henry Edgett, Max Carman, Ardis Roe, Veanna Carman, Ivis Hanson, Doris Gilbert and Neil Marshall. Pitch highs were won by Henry Edgett and Dorothy Moore with lows going to Elden Haas and Neil Marshall. Bridge winners were Merle Shirley and Marty Munson. Commodities will be distributed at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9, at the Golden Age Center.

Tripp Raile, son of Travis and Valisha Raile, was baptized on Sunday during morning worship services at the Oberlin United Methodist Church. Officiating was the Rev. Doug Hasty. Following the baptism, guests for a dinner to honor Tripp and also his sister, Alana, on her seventh birthday were Travis, Valisha, Kariah and Trenton Raile, Doris Fringer, Carolyn Shirley, Shelby, Dayton and Dawson Kempt, all of Oberlin; Sophia Harris, Colby; Devan, Sarah, Rebekah, Mariah and Dane Castle, Hoxie; Kandee, Treighton and Tyden Hoss, Goodland; Pete, Kay and Trent Raile, St. Francis; and Ed and Wanda Raile, Ozark, Mo.

—Call your news to The Oberlin Herald at 475-2206.

Greg Unger was named to the fall semester All-A Scholastic Honor Roll at Pittsburg State University. He is a senior and is enrolled in Vocational-Technical Education. His parents are Evan and Sheryl Unger of Oberlin.

Emma and Ethan Merrill visited friends during the past week.

Weekend guests of Walt and Donna Fortin were Dan and Melissa Nelson of Stockton, and Ryan and Amanda Fortin and Channing of Oberlin. Donna Fortin was honored by the United Methodist Women with a Special Mission recognition during worship services on Sunday.

Don and Lois Fredrickson visited last Saturday with her sister, Doris McKenzie, in Hays. Mrs. McKenzie is moving to a retirement center in Wichita to be near her son and his wife, Kirk and Sue Wasson.

Gabe Moore, a student at Bethany College in Lindsborg, is a member of the handbell ensemble. The group performs at the annual Yuletide concert and Christmas Vespers service as well as area churches. He is the son of Monte and Kelly Moore of Oberlin.

Oberlin, 50 percent are on Medicare. The federal government is dictating large changes and he said that Oberlin has two skilled nursing facilities and both are full with a waiting list. He noted that the Good Samaritan Center is grateful to have a supporting hospital, doctors and support staff for their residents. Oberlin is also grateful to have a Good Samaritan Center as it is a good economical development resource that provides 75 jobs and provides great care for its residents.

Guests were Janice Shobe of the Atwood Rotary Club, Marty Melia of the Goodland Rotary Club, as well as Judy Wenger, Vince Carwell and Jona Freel.

## Director speaks to Rotarians

Randy Fitzgerald, Regional Director for Good Samaritan Society since 1992, spoke about the future of health care in the community at the Jan. 26 meeting of the Oberlin Rotary Club when it met at The Gateway. He told about the changes in program care as there are less dollars being allocated for the care of persons in skilled nursing facilities. Facilities are looking into in-home care, utilizing technology for monitoring purposes and joining other care facilities for the purpose of sharing services such as laundry, transportation, food preparation, etc. He said that nationally, two-thirds of skilled nursing facility patients are on Medicare, where in

## Group offers scholarship

Farm Credit of Western Kansas is offering a \$500 per year scholarship to one student, which is renewable for up to four years of post-secondary education. Eligible applicants are area high school seniors who are the children or grandchildren of Farm Credit of

Western Kansas members. Interested applicants may contact their high school counselor or Cathy Hawk at the office in Colby at (785) 462-6714 for an application or visit their website at www.farmcredit-kansas.com. Applications are due by Feb. 15.

## Eighth grader wins county spelling bee

Nick Ashley, an eighth grader at Decatur Community Junior High, correctly spelled the word "eclipse" to capture first place in the Decatur County Spelling Bee held Monday morning at the library at the Oberlin Elementary School. His parents are Robert and Jody Ashley of Oberlin.



Nick Ashley Kade Grafel

Runner-up was Kade Grafel, a sixth grader at Oberlin Elementary School. He went down on the word, "committee." He is the son of Dan and Melinda Grafel.

Baron Green, son of Gail and Bill Cathcart, Oberlin, and Dave Green, Herndon, placed third. He is also a sixth grader.

Coming in fourth was Evan Shobe, son of Sara and Jake Weyeneth, Cedar Bluffs, and Mark Shobe,

Arkansas. Principal Duane Dorshorst, who pronounced the words, said that it took 26 words before the champion won the contest.

The winner will participate at the state spelling contest in Great Bend in March.

## Northwinds to play firemen and teachers

Northwinds Special Olympics basketball team will challenge the local firemen and teachers in a game at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Oberlin Elementary School gym. The Northwinds cheer team will also participate.

Local participants are J Lynn Lohoefer, Cheryl Hartzog and Kyle Hartzog. The team holds practice every Saturday in Atwood.

Fundraiser tickets are available to help Northwest Special Olympics with expenses for \$1 each. Winners

will be drawn on March 7.

Prizes include a \$100 gift certificate from Williams Brothers Grocery; jerky master from the Great Outdoors; portable battery charger from Frontier Ag; binoculars from "The Gun Shop" \$100 value; two \$25 gift certificates from Atwood Conoco; \$20 gift certificate from Park Hill in Atwood; and two drawings for one-half processed hogs.

For details, call Joyce Hartzog at (785) 475-3355.

## Norton, Lenora schools make plans to merge

The West Solomon Valley School District in Lenora, which has only 17 students in its elementary school, plans to disorganize at the end of the school year and merge with the Norton district.

The agreement to disorganize the district and attach it to the Norton Community Schools will mean students at Lenora will attend Norton schools. The school in Lenora will be closed and the districts will combine their budgets.

The move will increase Norton's school budget by an estimated \$400,000 a year, as well as protect it from further state cuts under a state law meant to encourage consolidation of districts.

Norton Superintendent Greg Mann said the state Board of Education approved the agreement during its Jan. 12 meeting. Both boards had approved the agreement during the December meetings. Gary Baxter is the superintendent at Lenora.

## Benefit set Saturday

A benefit potato bar with all the trimmings will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday at Golden Age Center for a new retaining wall to be built south of the new Golden Age Center. Desserts will be served.

The wall will be built at the front entrances on the south side of the

building and steps will be added with rails at both doors. This addition was not included in the contract for the building. Donations will be accepted for the project.

For questions, call Dorothy Moore at the center at (785) 475-3322.

## Painting program set

T.R. Mathews and Sandy Seamone of Arriba, Colo., will be at the Hansen Museum on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 20 and 21, to teach step-by-step how to paint the Bob Ross way. No previous experience is necessary.

The class will paint "Grandpa's Barn" on Saturday, and "The Magic Bridge," on Sunday from 9 a.m. to

noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. both days. Those participating are asked to bring a roll of paper towels; all other supplies are provided.

It is brought to Logan through the Hansen Museum Continued Education Program and offered to the public at a reduced rate. For details, call (785) 689-4846 or go to www.hansenmuseum.org.



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# City office staff send out letters for positions

The city office staff recently sent 34 letters to people who serve in city-appointed positions on boards and organizations, but have only heard from eight of those people.

City Administrator Austin Gilley said four said they would continue to serve while four said no, and 26 haven't responded. Mr. Gilley told the Oberlin City Council at the meeting on Thursday, Jan. 21, that these are positions where the term has expired.

Mr. Gilley said he received a call about someone wanting to build a hangar at the airport. There aren't legal descriptions for the land nor are there any policies in place about building hangars.

There are six planes based at the airport, said Mr. Gilley, but most of the hangars are used for inexpensive storage. It costs \$40 to \$187 a year.

He said they found out the city isn't going to receive any stimulus money so the \$500,000 that was in the budget in case this happened has been removed from the totals.

The final draft of the environmental assessment is being worked on by the engineers. The public hearing is set for 5 p.m. Wednesday, March

17, in the Morgan Theater. There are three budget violations, said Mr. Gilley, with some payroll not posting to the general ledger. He said it's just part of having new software for that department.

Those include \$77,000 in general, \$5,000 in library and \$24,000 in The Gateway funds.

Some good news, said Mr. Gilley, is that The Gateway made \$2,621 on the recent Cover Your Acres winter conference.

On the other hand, The Gateway has continued to lose events to the new Golden Age Center, including the gymnastic group.

The Golden Age is a great facility and will compliment The Gateway, he said.

After looking at the bills, Councilwoman Rhonda May asked why the city is paying insurance for an antique fire truck and if it's being used to put out fires.

Councilman Bill Riedel said the antique truck is used for parades.

Ms. May also noticed the \$28,000 for workers comp, which is used if someone is injured on the job.

Mayor Joe Stanley swore in Jan Elliott, who is the new treasurer.

## Golden Age Center to hold open house

The new Golden Age Center members plan to hold an open house, but haven't yet scheduled a date.

Dewaine Stapp talked with the Decatur County commissioners last Tuesday about the idea. He said the board would like to hold an open house, but wanted to see if the county was planning one or not.

The commissioners agreed that the Golden Age Center board could hold one and they would just participate in it.

The men asked about a sprin-

kler head on the outside of the center that recently was broken and cost \$806 to replace.

Commissioner Ralph Unger called Kevin Brown, with Sappa Valley Construction, who said that they can replace the heads if the company had one here. Mr. Brown asked for the company to send an extra sprinkler head to him. That way it would cost less, since they wouldn't have to travel.

The commissioners discussed whether someone intentionally broke it.

## Lions clubs to gather for rally at Fort Hays

Lions from the 71 clubs in the Western half of Kansas will rally in support of improving Community Service to their hometown communities on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 19 and 20 at Memorial Union on the Fort Hays State University Campus in Hays.

Special guests will be International Director Douglas Lozier and wife Kathy from Indiana, who will serve as guests speakers and representatives of the International Association of Lions Clubs.

Lions District Governor Bill Fairchild and wife Janis of Fort Larned Lions Club will serve as hosts for the 1,600+ Western Kansas Lions and special guests from all points of Kansas, including International guests. Past Council Chairman Les Herrman of the Hays Lions Club serves as Convention Chairman and Manager.

Other Kansas Lions will serve as instructors and presenters for

various workshops and information seminars. These are designed to assist local club officers and members develop leadership skills and general knowledge of Lions Club benefits to improve service to their home towns in Western Kansas.

Included in the seminars will be information on the Leader Dog Program which provides free guide dogs for the blind. Peace Poster student winners will also be honored with their parents at a special Youth Luncheon.

The International Association of Lions Clubs is the world's largest service organization with over 1.35 million Lions in 45,300 plus clubs in 205 countries. Western Kansas Lions number 1,600 plus members in 71 Lions and Branch Clubs covering the entire western half of Kansas.

**Classifieds work**  
**475-2206**

**Martha Fringer**  
*is celebrating her 80th birthday on Sunday, February 7, 2-4 p.m.*

*Her family is hosting an open house in her honor at the United Church of Oberlin, 109 Griffith Street*

**On behalf of the youth of Oberlin, we'd like to thank the community and all of the volunteers for the theater and recreation center. A special thanks to Greg Lohoefer for his tireless efforts in making it all possible.**

**The 2010 DCBS Student Council**