

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

Lee Nichols of St. Francis was honored by her family on her 80th birthday with an open house on Saturday afternoon. She is a former Oberlin resident and a former employee of *The Oberlin Herald*. Hosts for the reception were her children, Lorna Jo, Loyall and Barbara Nichols and Dawn Nichols, Colby; Denise Packard, Grainfield, and Dru and Tracey Nichols, Laramie, Wyo. Her address is 123 E. First Street, St. Francis, Kan., 67756-3503.

survivors are his wife, Roberta; a son, Brad and Alice Klima, two grandsons, and seven great-grandchildren.

Winning highs in pinochle at the Golden Age Center last week were Max Carman, Henry Edgett, Ardis Roe, Kelva Dryden and Ivis Hanson. Lows went to Neil Marshall, Kelva Dryden, Norma Anderson, Dorothy Moore, Max Carman and Veanna Carman. Pitch highs went to Henry Edgett and Max Carman with lows going to Neil Marshall and Veanna Carman. Bridge winners were Cynthia Matson, Marie McKisson and Charlotte Meints.

Alene Scott, Theresa Krizek, Lee Don and Melanie Scott, and Charles Haag of Oberlin, and Roger and Corky Krizek of McCook were in Kearney, Neb., last week to visit Jack and Lelia Ann Benton, who are recuperating from surgery at the Good Samaritan Hospital.

Gabe Moore is among 13 members students at Bethany College who have been selected for the Kansas Intercollegiate Band. Conducted by Joseph Hebert of Loyola University, the ensemble will rehearse for 14 hours Thursday and Friday, then will present a concert at 2:45 p.m. Friday at Century II in Wichita. He plays the euphonium. His parents are Monte and Kelly Moore of Oberlin.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. today at the United Methodist Church in Scandia for Charles Klima, 74, of Scandia, who died Sunday. He was a brother of Melvin Klima of Oberlin. Among other

Five teenagers from Oberlin Teens for Christ plan to participate in a mission trip this summer. They are Britta and David Noren, Katie and Matt Glading and Joe Hirsch.

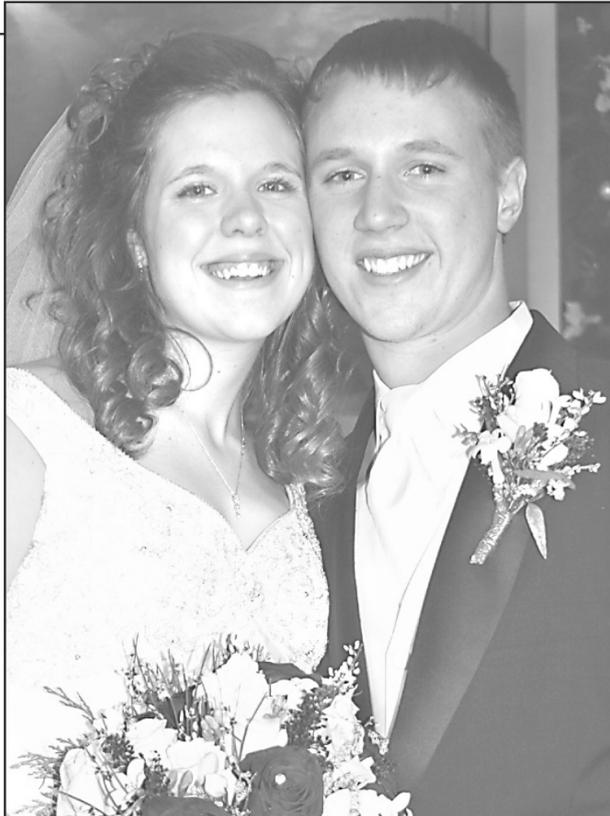
**Center changes meal time**

The time for lunch at the Oberlin senior "meal site" changed to noon as of Monday, says Helen Gee, manager. The meal is served for those over 60 for \$2.75 and under 60 \$5 at the Golden Age Center. "People have indicated they would come and eat at the center if we changed the serving time to noon," she said. "I took a vote of those eating there and it was the feeling that it would be better." The time had been 11:30 a.m. Delivery of home-bound meals will now begin at 11:30 a.m., followed by the meal at noon at the center.

The site is supported by money from the Area Agency on Aging. Meals are cooked at a central kitchen in Atwood and brought to Oberlin by Mrs. Gee.

"We invite those who work to come and join us Monday through Friday," Mrs. Gee said, "especially if they have a lunch break from noon to 1 p.m. The menus are listed on Channel 7 television, as well as in *The Oberlin Herald*."

They presently serve around 20 meals daily at the center with 20 delivered to those who are home bound.



Luke and Holly VanSkike

**Couple exchange vows in double-ring nuptials**

Holly Ann Poe and Luke Vincent VanSkike were married in a double-ring ceremony at the Norton Christian Church on Saturday, Jan. 2. Officiating were Pastor Jason Schmidt and Pastor Michael Sander.

Parents of the couple are Ed and Debbie Poe, Oakley, and Keith and Karen VanSkike, Norton. Grandparents of the bride are Jim and Shirley Hundley, Muscotah, and Marvin and Ruby Poe, Oberlin. The bridegroom's grandparents are William and Grace VanSkike, Great Bend, and the late Charles and Dorothy Thomas.

Diane Poe, sister of the bride, was maid of honor. Bridemaids were Elizabeth Dyche, Amy Hoff, Maleen Michel, and Laura Wolters, cousin of the bride.

Christopher Maddy served as best man. Groomsman were Joshua VanSkike and Jacob VanSkike, brothers of the bridegroom, and Zach Bainter and Jason Dinkel. Serving as ush-

ers were Craig Poe and David Poe, brothers of the bride, and Aaron Traffas.

Gabriella Poe, niece of the bride, was the flower girl and Lincoln Sander was the ringbearer.

Candlelighters were Marissa and Molly Maddy.

The reception, dinner and dance were held at the Norton County 4-H Building.

The bride is a 2007 graduate of Oakley High School, a 2009 graduate of Butler Community College and is a student, majoring in secondary math education at Kansas State University.

The bridegroom is a 2008 graduate of Norton Community High School and is majoring in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology at Kansas State University.

After a honeymoon in Florida, the newlyweds are at home in Manhattan.

**Council says OK to airport oil lease**

The Oberlin City Council approved an agreement with Blue-ridge Petroleum Corp. to lease land at the airport for oil and gas exploration.

The lease is for 134.56 acres for three years at \$5 an acre a year, or \$15 per "net mineral acre."

If the company chooses to drill, said City Administrator Austin Gilley, they will need permission beforehand. If the company earns any royalties, he said, the city will get a one-eighth share.

Mr. Gilley called the Federal Aviation Administration, but the person he needed to talk to was out sick that day. The person he did talk with said they thought it was OK if it was just seismic testing.

A rider included in lease agreement says that any exploration work won't interfere with the airport project.

The firm came to the city, he said, but he's not sure if the council wants to put the lease up for bids. It seems that \$15 an acre for the minerals is a fair market value.

Mayor Joe Stanley asked if the company hit oil, could they put a pump in. The company would need permission to put in a pump and it would have to meet Federal Aviation Administration regulations, Mr. Gilley said.

Councilwoman Rhonda May asked if anyone knew where the closest oil and gas activity is. Between the council and audience, some said there were wells on the Sappa Creek Road southwest of town and some said southeast of town.

Councilwoman Marcia Lohoefer made a motion to approve the lease, which passed without a no vote.

**City puts off decision on code enforcer offer**

By KIMBERLY DAVIS  
 k.davis@nwkansas.com

The Oberlin City Council agreed during the meeting at the beginning of the month to table a decision on hiring a code enforcer to help owners remove or upgrade blighted properties, leaving the task with the city staff for now.

At the meeting Thursday, Jan. 21, Jan Ackerman of Hoxie, owner of White Barn Solutions, talked with the council about hiring her for code enforcement. She left a letter with the council to be signed if they wanted to enter into an agreement.

Mrs. Ackerman said she charges \$40 an hour and 50 cents a mile.

In the past, the city has sent out letters to property owners about violations of city rules on junk vehicles, dilapidated buildings, weeds or other problems. Mayor Joe Stanley said at the meeting Thursday, Feb. 4, the city has a Minimum Housing Authority board, although City Attorney Steve Hirsch said he didn't know if the city had ever used that board for code enforcement.

Councilman Bill Riedel asked if the city had ever done the code enforcement based on complaints it received? Mayor Stanley said it has, and some of the properties have since been torn down.

Hiring a code enforcement person, said Mr. Riedel, might just be streamlining the job or just take the city off the hook.

Mayor Stanley said his opinion is that the city is "passing the buck and paying the bucks." He said he doesn't think this will take the

heat off of the council, because this person will be working for the city. If the property owner is going to complain, said Mayor Stanley, that person will still come to the city.

If the city doesn't hire a code enforcement officer, said Councilwoman Marcia Lohoefer, then it's time to put the staff's nose to the grindstone and work on blighted properties.

Mayor Stanley asked what the current procedure is. It's been pretty hit and miss, said Mr. Hirsch, depending on the volume.

If the city hires a code enforcer, asked Councilman Rob McFee, would the person drive around town and say what a person can and can't do with their property?

Mrs. Ackerman said she can either wait for complaints or look around town. Either way, she said, it goes through the city office and the council.

Mayor Stanley said he thought the council could keep this proposal in mind, but see what the staff can get done.

There are problems around town with vacant houses that people haven't lived in for years, said Mrs. Lohoefer.

Yes, said Mr. McFee, but the city is still getting property taxes off of them.

If the homes are torn down, she said, the city would still get taxes off the empty lots. Not on the ones that he owns, replied Mr. McFee.

The council agreed to look at the offer again at budget time.

**Club News**

**Club views scrapbook**

The Calico Gals Club met Feb. 17 at the LandMark Inn with Mary Waldo as hostess.

Those present were Detta Anderson, Phyllis Screen, Donna Kelley, Shirley Shields, Millie Lippelmann, Marylu Brown, Bette Grout and Margaret McEvoy. The club collect and flag salute were repeated. Roll call was a quote or a poem on love.

A card was signed by members for Mary Waldo. New books for the new year were distributed and dues paid. An amount was decided for memorials on deaths,

a card will be sent and food furnished to the family.

Mrs. Grout brought the club scrapbook which she had compiled through the years. Mrs. Lippelmann and Mrs. Screen won the hostess gifts.

The next meeting will be on March 17 at the home of Shirley Shields. Members are to wear something green since it will be St. Patrick's Day. Mrs. Shields will show pictures of her trip to Germany and Mrs. Brown will furnish the hostess gift.

**Auxiliary adds member**

Carolyn Hackney was welcomed as a new member when the Oberlin American Legion Auxiliary met for a potluck supper on Feb. 10.

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated by five officers and five members, followed by prayer by Lois Lamb, chaplain. Since there were no applicants for Girls State, there was no program.

President Angela Corcoran conducted the meeting. Cor-

respondence was read from the families of Alice May and Keith Sauvage. Valentine cards were signed for Edna Mott and Jerry Chambers, who is serving in Iraq. Criteria for scholarships will state that a student must be in good standing instead of requiring a 3.0 grade average. There are 26 members who have not paid their dues, and this must be done soon.

**Children's theater to perform March 5**

A live musical adaptation of the Brothers Grimm story "Little Red Riding Hood" will be presented at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 5, at The Gateway in Oberlin by the Wichita Children's Theater Professional Touring Company.

The program had to be rescheduled due to bad weather in October. The company will also perform at 10 a.m. at Cedar Living Center and at 2:30 p.m. at the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center.

This retelling of the Brothers Grimm story introduces the audience to the endearing yet capricious Little Red Riding Hood, her understanding mother, her dotting yet wise grandmother, the brave and kindly woodsman, and the silly, bumbling

wolf who is more interested in Little Red Riding Hood's basket of goodies than he is of her. This show, by Kevin Reese, is written to educate as well as entertain the audience.

This company performs from September through March in Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas. It travels with storybook sets, costumes and props appropriate for each production, said Mary Henzel of the Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission.

Admission is by Arts and Humanities season ticket or \$10 for adults and \$5 for children at the door. For information, call Ella Betts (785) 475-3557 or Mrs. Henzel at (785) 470-0218.

**Student signs letter of intent**

Alix Richards, daughter of Rick and Shelly Richards of Overland Park, signed a National Letter of Intent for track and field with Colorado State University on Feb. 4.



A. Richards

She will compete in the discus, shot put and hammer at the university. Among all juniors in the nation, she had the 10th best discus throw for 2009 and finished second in the discus at the Kansas state meet. She also received scholarship offers

from Notre Dame, the University of Minnesota, University of Washington, and University of Kansas.

She is a senior at Shawnee Mission South high school.

Her grandparents, Johnnie and Christine Richards of Olathe, are former Oberlin residents and he is a 1942 graduate of Decatur Community High School.

**New Arrival**

**Kamrie Hazen Wood**  
 Kamrie Hazen Wood, daughter of Lane Wood and Lakin Lahe of Colby, was born Jan. 11, 2010, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. She weighed 8 pounds, 7 ounces and was 20 inches long. Grandparents are Tab and Lisa Wood, Imperial, Neb.; Jackie Mayberry, Oberlin; and Chuck Lahe, Grand Junction, Colo. Great-grandmother is Pat Cozad, Oberlin.



K. Wood

**World Day of Prayer coming**

A World Day of Prayer service will begin at 2 p.m. on Friday, March 5, at the United Church of Oberlin.

The country of Cameroon in Africa will be featured and women from that area have written the program

for the service, which will be read by women of the various churches. There also will be musical numbers and prayer.

The public is invited and a coffee hour will follow.

*Wedding Dance*  
 Come help celebrate the marriage of  
*Brandon and Koriann Metcalf*  
 at the Gateway, Saturday,  
 Feb. 27, 7 p.m. to midnight

*Ladies,*  
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