

THE OBERLIN HERALD —

People in Our Community

Mary Lou Olson, society editor

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Gary Zodrow and Steve Nelson have returned home after visiting Dale and Judy (Blickenstaff) Du-frene in Coderette, La., and enjoying fishing in the Gulf of Mexico.

Marie McKisson attended funeral services last Monday at the Penwell-Gabel-Johnson Funeral Home in Junction City for a longtime friend, Phylis Johnston, 75, who died Nov. 2 in Dadeville, Ala. Burial was at the Milford Cemetery.

Robert Corcoran and Anthony, and a friend, Ron Sheller, Tarentum, Pa., came Thursday to visit a week with his brothers, Bernard Corcoran, and Paul and Angela Corcoran, and his sister, Frances Nothdurft. They are also enjoying bow and arrow deer hunting and pheasant hunting.

Lori Ayers, Jordan and Caiden of Kearney, Neb., were weekend houseguests of Mike and Janeil Jensen.

The Dr. Roger E. Cody Music Scholarship at Truman State University at Kirksville, Mo., was recently awarded to Justin Bartz of O'Fallon, Mo., in the amount of \$400. This scholarship was established by friends and colleagues to honor Dr. Roger E. Cody, professor emeritus of music, who retired in 1995 after teaching nearly 30 years. He is remembered fondly as the long-time director of jazz ensembles. Justin is a sophomore music major at Truman. Dr. Cody is the son of the late Elden and Elaine Cody and a 1956 graduate of Decatur Community High School.

Bob and Marie Berls attended the musical, "The Wizard of Oz"

Alumni challenge classes for new alley

Has your Decatur Community High School Alumni class made a donation yet to help complete construction on the new bowling alley in Oberlin?

The Classes of 1968 and 1973 have challenged other alumni classes to donate \$150 for a bowling-pin set, according to members of those classes, Vicky Ray and Mary Jo Lohofener, respectively.

The Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp. and the Decatur Area Develop-

ment Fund sent letters to alumni class representatives and a plaque will be placed at the new facility recognizing each class that makes a donation.

As of Monday, \$104,900 had been received, leaving \$45,100 to complete the \$150,000 needed to finish the facility.

Contributions may be sent to the Decatur Area Development Fund, 104 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan., 67749.

Winning highs in pinochle at the Golden Age Center last week were Norma Anderson, Dorothy Moore, Dewaine Stapp, Ardis Roe and Doris Fringer. Lows went to Doris Fringer, Neil Marshall, Dorothy Moore, Elden Haas, Ivis Hanson and Max Carman. There was no pitch. Bridge winners were Annette Miller and Alice Shirley. Thanksgiving potluck at 12:15 p.m. Sunday at the Golden Age Center

Ren Lohofener of Sacramento, Calif., visited from Thursday to Saturday with his mother, Mary Lohofener. He had been to Washington, D.C., on business, then flew to Denver and then drove to Oberlin. He works as regional director of the California and Nevada Region for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. His brother, Bill Lohofener of North Platte, Neb., spent Friday with them.

Doris Fringer accompanied Bob and Deanna Castle to Two Buttes, Colo., where they spent the weekend visiting Rod and Patty Steinmetz. Rod will go for a medical check-up on Thursday in Denver.

When the family asked him what he would like for Christmas, he said, "I just want shoes for these little children."

He has served in the National Guard for over 25 years and deployed to Africa in May to serve a year.

His wife Kara and their children, Katherine and Zachary, live in Hays.

Thanksgiving service Sunday

The annual community Thanksgiving service will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center, sponsored by the Decatur County Ministerial Association.

Father Mark Berland of Sacred Heart Catholic Church will deliver the message, and the Praise Team of the Oberlin United Methodist will provide music.

Members include Lonnie Mc Evoy, Sid Metcalf, Charlie Haag,

Phil Erickson, Mick Barth, Bob Castle, Joel Shaw, Cindy Shirley, Donna Fortin, Mary Ann Amack and Cheryl Metcalf.

Baskets will be available at the door for anyone who would like to bring something for the Decatur County Food Pantry. Cookies and coffee will follow.

Faith Lutheran Church will hold its annual congregational Thanksgiving dinner at 11:30 a.m., following morning worship on Sunday.

Rotarian presents gun rules

Program Chair Warren Bainter spoke about concealed-carry handgun licenses and rules for Kansas at the Nov. 9 meeting of the Oberlin Rotary Club at The Gateway.

He said license requirements include eight hours of training approved by the Kansas attorney general, National Rifle Association or law enforcement. This covers safe storage of handguns, the handgun and laws regarding use of deadly force. The instructor provides a certificate on completion of the course.

Application is made to the county sheriff, who forwards everything to the attorney general's office in Topeka. It includes fees totaling \$132.50, the applicant's fingerprints and a record check using the national police computer network.

Licenses, if granted, are valid for four years. Concealed weapons are prohibited in many places, including police stations, prisons and jails, courthouses, public schools and colleges, or any other place where prohibited by federal law.

Persons not eligible for a concealed carry license include unlawful users and persons addicted to controlled substances, he said, plus anyone convicted of a person felony, persons convicted of any felony over a period of years, anyone committed involuntarily for treatment of mental illness, and anyone under a restraining order.

Woman to be honored

Deanna Castle will be honored by the Oberlin Modern Woodmen of America as "Outstanding Citizen of the Year" at a dinner and program beginning at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Oberlin United Methodist Church.

The public is invited. Cost for the meal, which will be served by the United Methodist Women, is \$4 for adults, \$3 for kids 6 and under. For reservations, call Marie McKisson at (785) 475-2927 today.

New Arrivals

Keenan Tibirius Cantu

Matt and Lacey Cantu of Evans, Colo., are the parents of a son, Keenan Tibirius Cantu, born Nov. 2, 2010. He weighed 9 pounds, 2 ounces. Maternal grandparents are, Lorri Gerdes, Oberlin; and Don and Kim Wilson, Loveland, Colo. Maternal great-grandparents are Everett and Nell Gerdes, Oberlin.

Oberlin woman, mother plan trip to Europe

National Heritage Award Winner Sonia Domsch of Atwood will be sharing her rare lacemaking skill with a European audience this fall, accompanied by her daughter, Judy Cochran of Oberlin, according to a story by Kathy Davis-Vrba in *The Rawlins County Square Deal* newspaper in Atwood.

Mrs. Domsch plans to fly overseas later this month to demonstrate Czech bobbin lacemaking at a festival in Bruges, Belgium. As the invited guests of the Flanders lace organization, she will demonstrate and lecture about her delicate handwork there for three days.

Her lacemaking won her the National Heritage Award designation in 1986 through the National Endowment for the Arts, a designation that has since brought her international recognition.

By invitation, she demonstrated twice at the Smithsonian Folk Life Festival in Washington and was invited to be part of former President Bill Clinton's preinaugural



AT THE HIGH SCHOOL last Wednesday, students, teachers and community members gave blood during an American Red Cross drive. Jori Diederich was one of the students who donated. The drive was held in the gym and several students volunteered to help.

— Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

Former Oberlin resident writes tribute to father after his death

The following was written by Sam van Almen, a son of Paul and Lotus van Almen, formerly of Oberlin. His father was lab administrator at the Decatur County Hospital when the family lived here from 1962 to 1970. His brother Monty graduated from Decatur Community High School.

He reports that his mother is in an extended care facility in Fairland, Okla., and he has lived in East Tennessee for 20 plus years. He is a Vietnam-era disabled veteran with four daughters and eight grandkids.

Tears for Ritual, Final Journey

I sat in the pew stunned, outside myself and empty. People moved all around me, but I was unaware. Even the sounds were muted as if coming through the glass wall of a bell jar.

I had known for months that it was coming. My father's cancer had a horrible and predicted outcome. I had seen him just a few weeks ago, when it looked like he was so near the end. Something inside him caused him to rally and sent me back to work and family.

The call came just a few days after my return home. The rally had burnt itself out and my father was fading

fast. I packed up my daughters and headed to his final destination. We were all in the room with him as he breathed his last.

My mother held her arms outstretched, his pallid hand in hers. I could not raise a tear as she gave him permission to go. Inadequate words remained frozen in my throat as a final grimace passed over his face. A last ragged breath. . . . and he was gone.

I wondered why I had led my girls into that room just before he died. Part of me wanted to protect them from seeing this cruel but natural end to life. It was as if something had touched me and let me know that it was important for them to see this final passing. When the moment came, they dissolved into tears and I stood there, mute, holding them in my arms, eyes misty . . . but still unable to cry.

Time passed. It could have been hours, days or even weeks, but I found myself sitting in the church, surrounded by family and friends but feeling so lost and alone. The duality of the funeral ritual struck me. On one hand, it was a family reunion, with all the handshaking and backslapping and questions about how you have been. But there was an inner circle of quiet grief,

centered for the most part in the first pew, consisting of the widow, sons, a daughter, and their children. People move into this circle to weep or to give condolences, and move out again to re-engage with old friends. It seems everyone is allowed this movement except for one, the widow, my mother. She was the beautiful girl who, as a teenager, fell for a dashing soldier, and saw him off to war. The young mother who welcomed him home only to send him off for a second round of battle in another far-off land. The dutiful, faithful, woman who then followed him around the world as he finished his distinguished military career, and who finally settled down with him 30 miles from the place they met so many years ago.

During the war in Korea, my father was awarded the Bronze Star. Now it had passed into the hands of this heroic woman. She deserved it as much as he. For 20 years, she had delayed building their common, small-town life because of a love I envy to this day. My father had lived a long and exemplary life, and now she must go on without him. When my own tears finally came, they were for her. I hope they have not stained this page.

festivities.

She has demonstrated her lacemaking in cities throughout the area to teach the art to others.

Mrs. Cochran, who will accompany her mother to Europe and help her on the travels, said she is looking forward to visiting with an exchange student she and her husband Roger were hosts for some years ago in their Oberlin home.

The first leg of the trip calls for a stop in Frankfurt, Germany, where they will visit with this former student, as well as one of their

Czech relatives from Prague and a lacemaking student Mrs. Domsch studied with in Germany.

Lacemaking is a family tradition in her family. Her grandmother, Mary Dostal Beck, taught the skill to Sonia's great-aunt Anna, who passed on the teaching to Sonia — when she was only 4.

Sonia says she looks at her own young great-granddaughter and marvels that Anna would have taken the time and effort to instruct such a young girl in the delicate handwork.

"She had to have had the patience of Job," she said, adding with a twinkle, "She was hard of hearing, so she couldn't hear me babbling."

Mrs. Domsch she she's excited that her granddaughter Shakia, an Atwood sixth grader, is learning the family art. Shakia even won a grand champion ribbon for her bobbin lace at the county fair, she said.

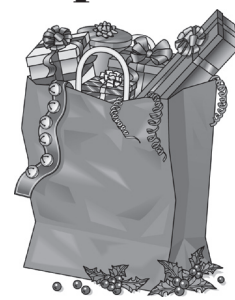
"In fact, I am taking her (lacemaking) pillow with me to Belgium because it's light and easy to transport," she said.

MALL in the HALL

1st Annual Christmas Shopping Spree featuring Home-Based Businesses

Friday, Nov. 26, from 5-8 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 27, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Bohemian Hall
Decatur County Museum
258 S. Penn
Oberlin, KS 67749



Come do your Christmas Shopping from:

Mary Kay, Celebrating Home, UpperCase Living, Willow House, Scentsy, Tastefully Simple, Jockey, Computers ETC, Stanley and Fuller Brush, The Satisfiers, Thirty-One Handbags, Premere, Silks, Prairie Fire Candles, Concrete Statuary and Oberlin Historical items.

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