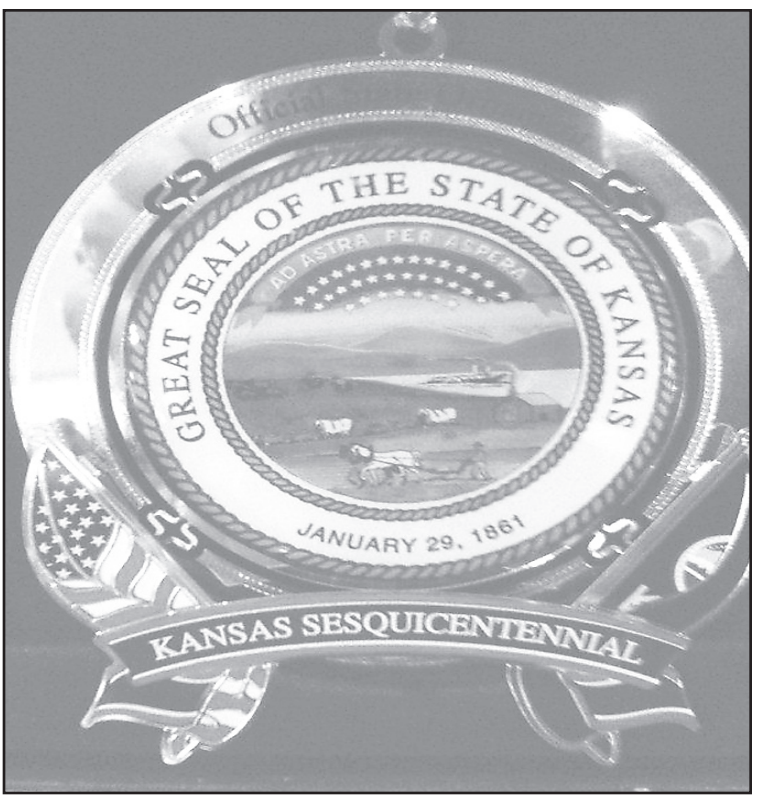

THE ORNAMENT FOR THE Kansas Christmas tree in Washington was designed by Anita (Torluemke) Wolgast of Topeka, a 1957 graduate of Decatur Community High School.

Decatur graduate makes ornaments

Visitors to the Ellipse in Washington this December will see the National Tree and decorated state trees lighted each evening through this month.

The ornaments decorating the Kansas Tree were designed by Anita (Torluemke) Wolgast of Topeka. She is the daughter of the late Walter and Louise Torluemke of Oberlin and a 1957 graduate of Decatur Community High School.

A. Wolgast

The ornaments feature the great seal of the State of Kansas on a brass ornament, with flags of the United States and of Kansas flanking the seal. The theme of the ornaments is the Kansas Sesquicentennial which kicks off next month on Jan. 29. The back of the ornament includes the official sesquicentennial logo and wording to explain the significance of the ornament. Thirty ornaments decorate the Kansas Tree and one ornament from each state is also displayed on a tree in the White House Visitor Center.

This is the 30th year that Mrs. Wolgast has provided all the ornaments to decorate the Kansas Tree, starting in 1981 when she owned and operated the Carousel Gift Shop.

"I was teaching wheat weaving classes and also selling the finished product in the area of the shop called, 'The Kansas Collection.' I received a call, asking me to provide 75 wheat weavings to decorate the Kansas Tree on the ellipse between the White House and the Washington monument. I created three designs of wheat weaving. I asked approval to include real sunflowers which my mother had preserved and that was approved with enthusiasm. That ornament was featured by Willard Scott on NBC's Today Show.

"We have provided ornaments every year since, totaling over 1,500 ornaments. Themes reflected events of historic significance happening in the state the current year, including the Eisenhower Centennial where I worked with the U.S. Mint, the 125th anniversary of the statehood of Kansas, the Greensburg tornado, represented by a tattered flag in the yard of a tornado victim, and the University of Kansas NCAA champion,"

Every year since that first year of providing sunflowers, her mother created ornaments to complement the theme ornaments using flowers she grew, preserved and then arranged into delicate ornaments. In 1983, one of her ornaments, pressed flowers in beveled glass, was selected to be sent with four other state ornaments for a national television feature on the state trees and the ornaments sent to hang on them.

"I had a call from the White House Visitor's Office to inform me of this. What a thrill to be able to call Mother to tell her of this honor. She had an amazing number of collectors each year waiting for ornaments like she sent to Washington. Her last ornaments were created just five months before she died from cancer in 2002.

The ornaments are available for $30 for collectors at the Museum Store of the Kansas Museum of History in Topeka and online at www.kshs.org.

Club hears of mission trip

Joe Hirsch presented a program about his trip to Doctor Arroya, Mexico, with Teens for Christ for the Dec. 7 meeting of the Oberlin Rotary Club at The Gateway. He was introduced by Principal Charles Haag. Program chair was Martin Burton.

Mr. Hirsch said that the town has a population of 80,000 residents and is quite poor, with many people not having the basic facilities. The roads are rough and it is a risky place to drive. Others making the trip from Oberlin were Britta Noren and Pastor Doug Mason, he said. They drove for 32 hours to get there.

He said the food was great and they found that music was important, as they could minister through it. Bible school was held for 30 Mexican children in a small church building. He said this mission trip changed his life and maybe his career possibilities, as he said he would like to work as a missionary and with youths.

Guests were Erin Jeffrey and Layshia Medina, junior Rotarians from the high school, and Christie Morris.

Hospice has memorial tree

A Hospice Memorial Christmas Tree has been set up at United Northwest Federal Credit Union, 117 S Penn, in Oberlin.

Individuals interested in remembering someone special or providing light and hope for terminally ill patients and their families are invited to place an ornament on the tree for a donation for any amount. The person does not have to be a hospice patient, but donations may be given in memory or in honor of a loved one. The emphasis is on remembrance, as losing a loved one is always hard.

Hospice Service has bereavement material available for anyone in the community. Call Hospice Services at (785) 543-2900 or (800) 315-5122 for bereavement resources or questions.

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Ronnie Milsap Jan. 21
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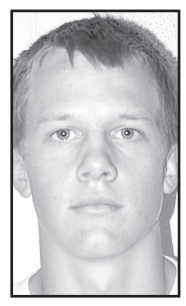
Arlo Guthrie Mar. 17
Shemekia Copeland Apr. 16
Wichita Grand Opera May 5
The Stiefel Theatre for the Performing Arts
151 S. Santa Fe, Salina Buy by phone: 785-827-1998
www.stiefeltheatre.org facebook ticketmaster

Oberlin senior gets nomination

Jacob Helm, a senior at Decatur Community High School, is one of 10 Kansas students nominated by Sen. Pat Roberts for appointments to the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. He is the son of Mike and Deb Helm of Norcatur.


Jacob Helm

"These men and women are outstanding representatives of Kansas in every way," Sen. Roberts said, "and I wish them the best of luck."

In making the nominations, the senator followed the recommendations of his nonpartisan academy screening board, composed of seven volunteers from across Kansas and overseen by Karin Wisdom, his district director in Wichita.

As part of the decision-making process, board members conduct personal interviews with the applicants, and look at their written applications, grade average and test scores.

Once nominated, the applicants must meet the individual admission requirements of each academy. The academies will make the final decision. Not every nominee will receive an appointment. The academies will announce appointments for the class entering in July some time this spring.

Man honored on 95th year

Edwin Black was honored with an open house at the Golden Age Center on Saturday afternoon marking his 95th birthday. Hosts were his son, Lyle Black, and daughter, Sharon Stevenson.

Mr. Black lived in Oberlin until recently, when he moved to McCook. His address is 1500 E. 11th, Apt. 110, Willow Ridge Retirement Center, McCook, Neb., 69001.

Those attending included Donna Mockry, Randy and Wanda Mockry, Marilyn Matson and Link, Owen Beneda, Stan and Jeannine Reynolds, Karen Hodson, Gary and Carolyn Leitner, Leona Nelson, Susan McKillip, Eleanor Berndt, John and Dorothy Corder, Lindsi Smith, Pastor Eddie and Tracy McElhannon, Molly and Andy, Gloria McKenna, Tom and Karen Anderson, McCook; Vivan Heisel, Fort Morgan, Colo.; Lorena Taylor, Veda Heisel, Reta Barlow, Karen Carpenter, Lenora; Verle Heisel, Log Lane, Colo.; Jay, Diana and Cody Jolly, Hugo, Colo.; Vince and Kay Clemens, Marcia and Rick Seip, Wallace, Neb.; Curtis and Connie Meixner, Arkansas City; Albert Miller, Cambridge, Neb.; Doris Clemens, North Platte, Neb.; Marci and Lyn Reynolds, LeRoy and Sharon Stevenson, Cedar Bluffs; Lyle Black, Beverly Hills, Calif.;

Mildred Black, Lyman and Sharon Black, Jim and Leanna Bryan and Kelli Ann, Kevin and Jackie Brown, Florine Vernon, David and Carla Depperschmidt, Marion Wenger, Norma Brown, Frances Vacura, Deb Brown, Hannah, Morgan and Kacie Jones, Donna

Retirees meet in Norton

The Oberlin Chapter of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees met Sunday, Dec. 5, at the 4-H building in Norton with 11 members and guests present.

Pam Maxwell of Blue Cross and Blue Shield provided a program about the federal employees' health benefits plan.

David Swank spoke about preparations to hold a garage sale in Oberlin in May to raise money for the Alzheimer's research fund. Anyone who wants to donate items for the sale should contact him in Oberlin at 475-2550.

The next meeting will be at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 3, in Oberlin.

Reunion in Arizona Feb. 15

Present and former residents of Decatur County will meet at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 15, at the home of Max and Marlene Miller, 11124 Sugar Creek Drive, Gold Canyon, Ariz.

Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. and reservations, which are $10, may be paid on arrival. Send reservations by Feb. 7 to Rex and Billie Morton, (520) 625-9130, email rbmorton2@gmail.com or write to them at 1223 W. Calle Macillo, Sahuarita, Ariz., 85629.

The planning committee, besides the Millers and Mortons, includes: Denny and Betty Campbell, Oro Valley, Ariz.; Dwayne and Betty Jones, Green Valley, Ariz.; and Duane and Marilyn Waldo, Saddlebrook, Ariz.

New Arrivals

Isaiah David White

Aaron and Sarah White of Norton are the parents of a son, Isaiah David White, born at 8 a.m. on Nov. 24, 2010, at the Norton County Hospital. He weighed 6 pounds, 8 ounces and was 20 inches long. He is welcomed home by a brother, Gideon Ritchey, 3. Maternal grandparents are David and Judy Ketterl, Herndon, and paternal grandparents are Hal and Marilyn White, Kingsdown. Great-grandparents are the late Clarence and Anna Mae Ketterl, the late John and Maxine Howard, McDonald; the late Kenneth and Avis White, and the late Ritchey and Laura Stewart.

Isaiah White

Jade Elizabeth Tuttle

Jade Elizabeth Tuttle was born to Mr. and Mrs. Casey Tuttle of El Dorado, at Susan B. Allen Memorial Hospital in El Dorado on Dec. 10, 2010. She weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces and was 20 inches long. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Stan Miller, Norcatur, and Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Tuttle, Quinter. Great-grandparents are Lila Rule, Norton; Mr. and Mrs. Gary Miller, Oberlin; Mr. and Mrs. Cloyd Ikenberry, Quinter; and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tuttle, Quinter.

Jade Tuttle

Statewide Career Fair
Visit over 80 employers and find a great career.
Tuesday, February 1, 2011
2:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Salina Bicentennial Center
Salina, KS
KANSASWORKS
KEDA Kansas Economic Development Alliance

THE OBERLIN HERALD —

People in Our Community

Mary Lou Olson, society editor

ml.olson@nwkansas.com

Word was received of the death of Don W. Eicher, 77, a resident of Los Lunas, N.M., on Thursday, Dec. 2, 2010. He is survived by his three children, Cheri Eicher, Corrales, N.M.; and Dirk Eicher and Kris and Jay Hamilton, all of Los Lunas. No services will be held at this time. Arrangements were by Direct Funeral Services, 2919 4th St., NW, Albuquerque, N.M., 87107. He was the son of the late Frank and Ruth (Traxler) and was a cousin of Robert, Paul and Ray Corcoran, and Frances Nothdurft of Oberlin. He was a 1951 graduate of Decatur Community High School.

—Christmas Brunch Buffet Sunday, Dec. 19, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. LandMark Inn. Call 475-2340 for reservations.

Winning highs in pinochle at the Golden Age Center last week were Doris Fringer, Max Carman, Ardis Roe, Henry Edgett and Dewaine Stapp. Lows went to Elden Haas, Henry Edgett, John Cederberg and Neil Marshall. Pitch highs were won by Elden Haas and Dewaine Stapp with lows going to Dorothy Moore and Henry Edgett. Martha Fringer and Zane Geis were chicken-foot domino winners. Highs at bridge were Carol Shirley, Merle Shirley, Annette Miller and Dorothy Cochran. Senior Christmas potluck, 12:15 p.m. Sunday at Golden Age Center.

—Invisibelts and footzyrolls have arrived at The Dresser!

The Northwest Kansas Haughty Hatters enjoyed meeting at the LandMark Inn for the Victorian Tea Sunday afternoon, Dec. 5, for tea and all the delicious treats. Attending were Karen Bruning, Jeri Buchholz, Carol Morford, Willa Urban, Marty Olson, Sherri Shuler, Janet Rorick, Barbara Mullen and Charlotte Meints.

—Cookie Party Sat., 9:30-1, Golden Age Center, $6 a pound, free coffee. Sponsored by Methodist Church.

Cecil Hess spent Sunday in St. Francis, where she visited Steve and Jean Ann Confer, Jenna and Jessica and helped Jessica celebrate her 10th birthday. They all attended the girls' dance recital in the afternoon.

Development Services of Northwest Kansas was recently presented the 2010 Employer of the Older Worker Award by the Kansas Department of Commerce and the Kansas Department to Aging. Jerry Michaud, president, accepted the award in a ceremony held to celebrate older workers lifelong contribution to the Kansas economy.

—Oberlin Mercantile Co. Holiday Shopping Spree: Register w/ purchase for a $250 Shopping Spree now thru Dec. 24. 48-50

Lacy Wolters was a last Monday luncheon guest of her grandparents, Gus and Elsie Wolters.

Kimberly Davis and daughters visited over the weekend with her parents, Marty and Nancy Brandt, in Colorado Springs, and her grandmother, Ginny Bodemann, in Denver. Mrs. Brandt accompanied them home to spend a few days.

—All jewelry 15% off; candles and bath and body products, 15% off during "Ladies Night Out" Thursday evening @ Oberlin Mercantile Company. Open until 11 p.m.

Club enjoys luncheon treat

Zeta Nu Club members enjoyed a Christmas luncheon at noon Thursday, served by Eloise Smith and Joy Votapka at the Smith home.

Mrs. Votapka conducted the meeting and roll call was answered by 13 members and one associate. A letter was read from Kay Marcuson requesting that she become an associate member.

Contributions were sent to the Veterans Association and the Angel Tree. Mrs. Votapka concluded the meeting with a beautiful story of the birth of Christ.

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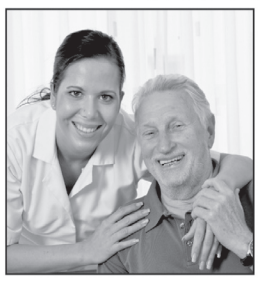
25% off Specials

Are You A Nurse Leader or Do You Know Someone Who Is?



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