

# Christian conference planned at Rexford

Looking for new ideas for Sunday school? Or maybe a creative way to lead a Bible study? The Christian Workers Conference at Shepherd's Staff in Rexford may be what you're looking for.

The conference will run all day Saturday, Feb. 19, at Shepherd's Staff, 240 Main St. in Rexford. Director of Ministry Development Tim Griffiths said the conference will include Christian vendors from Kansas and Nebraska and speakers from around the Midwest on subjects such as youth ministry and missions trips.

Vendors' booths will open at 8 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$25 through Tuesday, Feb. 1, or \$35 on the day of the conference. Lunch is included, and if you buy six tickets, you get one free. For tickets and information, call Mr. Griffiths at (888) 687-2565.

Mr. Griffiths said he intends the conference to be for any church member, including vacation Bible school and Sunday school teach-

ers, worship-team members and lay members.

"This is not just for pastors," he said.

The original idea for the conference, Mr. Griffiths said, was to bring Christian publishing companies that develop vacation Bible school curriculum to Rexford so that rural churches from this area could see them.

"It's not every day you have these vendors come to a small town," he said, "but then I thought, 'why not also have workshops?'"

Keynote speaker will be Phil Mitchell, a professor at Colorado Christian University. Mr. Griffiths said Mitchell will speak on rural churches and encouraging workers who feel alone or overwhelmed in ministry.

Mr. Griffiths said his wife Gwen, who is the manager and webmaster for Shepherd's Staff, handled the vendor side of the conference while he arranged the workshops.

# Administrator gives program

Program Chairperson Lee Gilliam introduced City Administrator Karen Larson who presented the program at the Jan. 25 meeting of the Oberlin Rotary Club when they met at The Gateway.

She said that Jan. 25 was the final day for candidates to file for the offices of city council, school board and city mayor. She also spoke of the rescheduled airport meeting which will be Thursday, Feb. 3. She is receiving bids from different electric companies for lower service costs and spoke about the proposed work for the water treatment plant., which will likely cause water rates

to increase.

She reported that the old gas station at the Oberlin Inn has been demolished and removed as was the agreement made to the new owners. Karen also spoke about the decline in Oberlin's population and commented that we all need to get involved "again" in introducing our city to others.

A card was signed for Rusty Addleman, who is rehabilitating at home from recent surgery. Volunteers are needed for this year's post prom. Rotary Radio Day is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on KFNF 101.1.

# Sorghum checkoff dates set

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has finalized procedures for the upcoming referendum on the continuation of the Sorghum Checkoff Program and given the dates it will conduct the referendum, said Diane Barrett, chief executive officer at the Decatur County Farm Service Agency.

For the program to continue, the sorghum promotion, research, and information order requires that a referendum be conducted no later than three years after the start of assessments, which began on July 1, 2008. The order requires a simple majority vote in the referendum for the program to continue.

The referendum will be conducted from Tuesday, Feb. 1, through Monday, Feb. 28, at the local office. Ballots may be obtained in person, by mail or facsimile at the county office or by Internet at [www.ams.usda.gov/sorghumpage](http://www.ams.usda.gov/sorghumpage).

Any eligible person engaged in the production or importation of sorghum from July 1, 2008, to Dec. 31, 2010, is eligible to participate. Individuals are required to provide documentation such as a sales receipt or remittance form that shows they engaged in the production or

importation of sorghum.

The Sorghum Checkoff Program, and its 13-member board, is authorized by the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996. The mandatory program is funded at the rate of 0.6 percent of the net market value on grain sorghum and 0.35 percent of the net market value of sorghum forage.

Sorghum Checkoff is a national, coordinated, self-help marketing program designed to strengthen the position of sorghum in the marketplace, maintain and expand existing domestic and foreign markets and uses for sorghum, and develop new markets and uses for sorghum.

The final procedures were published in the Nov. 18, 2010, Federal Register. The notice of the dates of the referendum were published in the Jan. 4, 2011, Federal Register.

For more information, contact Kenneth R. Payne, Chief, Marketing Programs, Livestock and Seed Program, AMS, USDA, Room 2628-S, STOP 0251, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0251; by calling (202) 720-1115; or faxing (202) 720-1125.

# Singers to offer Valentines

The DCHS Singers will deliver Singing Valentines from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Monday, Feb. 14, in Oberlin.

Cost will be \$10 per performance,

according to Susan Nelson, director. To reserve a time, call the school at (785) 475-2231, or contact any member of the group.

# Alzheimer's program set

Mrs. Lois Morelock of McDonald will be at the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 12, to help families understand the facts about Alzheimer's disease.

It is a fact that more than 50 percent of individuals living in nursing homes and assisted living residences have some form of dementia. The percentage is expected to increase

in the coming years due to the advanced age people now live.

Those who have a loved one living with this disease or any other form of dementia you will greatly benefit by attending. Bring your questions as there will be time allotted for her to address them.

There is no cost for the program and refreshments will be served.

# People in Our Community

Mary Lou Olson, society editor

ml.olson@nwkansas.com

Vena Walters recently moved to an assisted living center. Her new address is Hidden Pines, P.O. Box 1087, McCook, Neb., 69001.

Memorial services were held on Jan. 24, at Ryan Mortuary in Salina for Robert Bledsoe, 84, of Ellsworth, who died Jan. 20, in Salina. He and his late wife, Ramah, and their family lived in Jennings when he owned a music store there.

Gary Hunziker of Selden recently won third place in the irrigated division of the 2010 National Corn Growers' Association's Corn Yield Contest in Kansas with Pioneer brand hybrid P1395X, which yielded 244 bushels per acre. He earned one of the 359 state titles won by growers planting Pioneer hybrids. He is the son of the late Don and Alice (Emerson) Hunziker.

— All Winter Merchandise slashed 50% off at The Dresser.

Dinner was served at the Dennis and Judy Shirley home on Saturday, Jan. 29, to celebrate their 50th anniversary. Those attending were: PT and Cindy Shirley, Shelbi McKenna, Norcatuar, Ryan May, Doris Sloan, Merle Shirley, Cindi Sauder and Hannes Geyser, Oberlin, and Tom, Leanna, Matt, and Jaylei Sloan, Hoxie. Dinner was prepared and served by Leanna and Cindi.

Michelle Luttrell of Centennial, Colo., has spent the past week visiting her mother, Marty Munson. Her husband, David, came on Saturday and they plan to return home today.

Rod Steinmetz of Two Buttes, Colo., has returned home after being hospitalized in Denver.

# Schools plan conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences for Oberlin Elementary School students will be held from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 9, and again on Thursday, Feb. 10, from 4 to 7 p.m. Students will not have school on Friday, Feb. 11.

Letters were sent to parents with assigned time to meet with their child's teacher on Jan. 26 and they should plan to meet at assigned times.

All kindergarten conferences will be held in the kindergarten room with Mrs. Steinmetz and Mrs. Buchholz.

There will be no assigned times for parents of fifth and sixth grade students. Parents will have the opportunity to meet with Miss Dixon, Mrs. Ketterl and Mrs. Jones in the gym on Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 9 and 10, during the above

— Tickets on sale for Philadelphia Orchestra social event, Feb. 27, Sunflower Cinema. Call 475-2901

Roger and Angie Wilson returned home Saturday from a three-week vacation trip. They visited his sister, Joyce and Russell Magaw in Punta, Fla., and their friends in Dunellon, Fla.; Everglades City and Saint Augustine, Fla. They also toured the Vanderbilt House in Asheville, N.C., and the Quilt Museum in Paducah, Ky.

Tom and Maxine Smith returned home last week from a Southern Caribbean Cruise to St. Maarten, St. Lucia and St. Kitts Islands to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. They were accompanied by George and Linda Ross of Hutchinson.

— New Spring Jewelry and Clothing arriving daily at The Dresser.

Weekend guests at the Calvin Ufford home were Richard and Wendy Ufford of Stockton and Janie and Rob Rutherford of Topeka. They also visited their mother, JoAnn Ufford, who is hospitalized in Oberlin.

Winning highs in pinocle at the Golden Age Center last week were Kelva Dryden, Ivis Hanson, Max Carman, Doris Fringer, Norma Anderson, Ardis Roe and Dewaine Stapp. Lows went to John Cederberg, Ardythe Cederberg, Dorothy Moore, Ivis Hanson and Neil Marshall. Pitch highs were won Max Carman and Dorothy Moore with lows going to Kelva Dryden and Neil Marshall. Bridge winners were Cynthia Matson and Annette Miller.

listed time. Parents are urged to limit their conference time to 10 minutes to give all parents an opportunity to meet with these teachers. Enter the gym at the west door and pick up your child's grade card.

Mrs. Lohofener, Mrs. Wasson and Mrs. Jansonius will not have scheduled times for the parents of their students, but will be available for conferences in their rooms on Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 9 and 10 during the same times.

Mr. Jones, Mrs. Woolsey, Mrs. Nelson and Mrs. Bricker will be available for conferences for their students from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 10.

Purpose of the conferences is to keep the lines of communication between the homes and your schools open, according to Principal Duane Dorshorst.

# Kindergarten roundup set

Parents of children who will be attending kindergarten at Oberlin Elementary School in 2011-12 should register their children at the school office, said Principal Duane Dorshorst.

Registrations will be held from Monday, Feb. 7, through Thursday, Feb. 10. Parental cooperation will be appreciated by the unified district

personel.

Parents who are unable to come may call the office at (785)475-2122.

A child must be five years old before Aug. 31, 2011, to be eligible for kindergarten next school year. Parents with questions may also call the office.

# Benefit supper to help family

A pancake and sausage benefit supper will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. next Wednesday, Feb. 9, at St. John's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall to help Shelley Humes with medical expenses.

She is the wife of Michael Humes, a 1987 graduate of Decatur Commu-

nity High School, and daughter-in-law of Gisela Humes of Oberlin.

She has been undergoing medical treatment at the Kansas University Medical Center in Kansas City and has been in the intensive care unit for a month.

# Decatur graduate to help students

Andrew Dempewolf, a 2008 graduate of Decatur Community High School, is one of three Fort Hays State University students with a plan to help first-generation college students stay in school.



Dempewolf

They will join approximately 1,000 other students from around the world to attend the Clinton Global Initiative University from April 1 to April 3 at San Diego State University, hosted by former President Bill Clinton.

He and two other juniors, Tyler Thompson and Jessica Tormey, Derby, submitted a "Commitment to Action" to the university after receiving information from Dr. Mark Bannister, dean of the College of Business and Leadership, who suggested that the association participate in some way.

The trio's "Commitment to Action" focuses on creating a support network for first-generation college students, known as the first Generation College Student Leadership Network. It would be made up of current college students, Fort Hays professionals, and educators and support personnel from across Kansas.

"The Commitment to Action" is

a way for students to help solve a problem plaguing higher education across the country, asking ourselves how we can help our peers be successful," said Thompson.

"First-generation college students are much less likely to complete a college degree. Typically, this is attributed to students not having the support base at home to help prepare them for college life. Our commitment asks students, staff and administrators to collaborate to create a flexible support system in our campus community.

"If our model works, we believe it can be extended to other institutions in the Regents system and across the nation to address the problem on a large scale," he said.

All three noted President's Clinton's keynote address as one of the things they most look forward to.

"Coming from a small, rural town myself, I admire President Clinton's rise in the political world," said Dempewolf. "Although I disagree with some of his policies, his work after leaving office has been admirable."

Andrew is the son of Mike Dempewolf of Oberlin and LeAnna Schwab of McCook.

# Seventh grader is top speller

Kade Grafel, a seventh grader at Decatur Community Junior High School, captured top honors at the Decatur County Spelling Bee on Monday at the Oberlin Elementary School cafeteria.

He spelled "vicious" to take top honors. Runnerup Tyler McHugh, a fourth grader at Oberlin Elementary School, went down on "sentimental," which was then spelled correctly by Kade. The

words were pronounced by Principal Duane Dorshorst.

The winner will take part in the Great Bend Tribune Sunflower

Spelling Bee on Saturday, March 12. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., with competition at 1 p.m. at Barton County Community College in Great Bend. Their parents are Dan and Melinda Grafel, and Randy and Kristin McHugh.



K. Grafel



T. McHugh

# Piano students perform

Piano students of Cheryl Metcalf participated in the Northwest Kansas League Piano Clinic/Multi-piano concert on Saturday at the Cultural Arts Center in Colby.

Adjudicators were Dr. Sylvia Coats and Paul Reed of Wichita State University. Dr. Virginia Houser of Kansas State University was the conductor for the afternoon concert. The students had private auditions and multi-piano rehearsals throughout the day.

Those participating were Caleb and Luke Koerperich, Kade and Isabel Grafel, David and Michael

Noren, Elizabeth Nedland, Gavin Lytle, and Daniel Lerew.

On Saturday, the following high school students will participate in the Regional Piano Contest at Fort Hays State University in Hays: Nolan Henningson, Caleb Koerperich, Elizabeth Nedland, and Hannah May, students of Cheryl Metcalf; and Darbi Rouse, student of Joy Russell.

Those who receive a I rating will proceed on to the State Piano Contest to be held in Hillsboro on Saturday, Feb. 19.

# Day of Prayer is observed

Oberlin United Methodist Women met at noon on Jan. 5 to observe the annual Day of Prayer and Self-Denial with a soup luncheon prepared by Laune Van Otterloo.

Devotions based on the book of Romans were given by Violet Shaw on the theme of excuses as the New Year begins.

The lesson on the Brooks-Powell retirement home located at Asheville, N. C., was given by Joan Betts and statements about the facility from retired missionaries and deaconesses who had served worldwide were read. The offering taken at each Day of Prayer meeting in 2011 will go toward upkeep of this facility.

**Sell it in**  
**The Oberlin Herald**  
**Classifieds**  
**Call**  
**785-475-2206**

**DCHS ALUMNI BANQUET RESERVATION COUPON**  
The DCHS Alumni Banquet will be held at The Gateway in Oberlin, Saturday, May 28, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. Doors open for Social Hour at 5:30. Mail reservations and remittance to Alumni Assn., P.O. Box 201, Oberlin, KS 67749. Price per plate is \$20.00 - This includes dinner and 50 cents for the Smick Memorial Loan Fund.

Alumni's Name	Class	Year to be seated with
Guest	Class	Year to be seated with
Is guest a DCHS Grad?	Y	N

Space allows for alumnus and one guest each. Include maiden name if DCHS alumnus. Deadline for reservations is May 12, 2011.

# Creative Movements Gymnastics



Would like to thank

**Midwest Energy**

For the grand donation to buy new equipment. Come see our next performance on February 11th at the high school home basketball game.



# It is not too early to plan and place your TREE ORDERS.

Please call the Decatur County Conservation District Office at 785-475-3131 Ext. 101

OR stop by our office, located on South U.S. Hwy. 83 in Oberlin, Kansas.

**(Order deadline is March 18)**

