

National Ag Day recognizes farmers

In recognition of National Agriculture Day on Tuesday, Adrian Polansky, state executive director for the U.S. Farm Service Agency, thanked farmers, ranchers and others involved in agriculture for their hard work and commitment to the industry.

"Agriculture is an important part of our daily lives and is often taken for granted," Polansky said, "but in these uncertain times, it should be remembered that American agriculture is not only important for obvious reasons - food, clothing and shelter - but the industry also plays an important part in homeland security."

He referred to American agriculture as "Homegrown Security," adding that the U.S. agriculture sector is almost entirely under private ownership and counts for nearly one-fifth of the nation's economic activity.

"So, when we stop to thank farmers and ranchers who work day in

and day out to provide a safe, abundant and affordable food, fiber and fuel supply," he said, "we should also take a moment to thank these same individuals for serving as first responders and as the front line of defense in the effort to protect our food and water sources."

According to Polansky, his agency's mission is to provide farmers and ranchers with the federal farm commodity and credit support they need to insure they remain viable in an increasingly unpredictable and volatile global market.

"We never want to find ourselves dependent on a foreign food supply," he said, "and as long as farmers and ranchers remain competitive in a global market and remain steadfast in protecting what's theirs, that won't happen. Take time on National Ag Day to show your appreciation for American Agriculture ... our Homegrown Security."

For more about National Ag Day, go to www.agday.org.

Basement play in McCook

The touring cast of "Church Basement Ladies 2: A Second Helping" will bring their production to the Fox Theater in McCook for performances at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 2, and 2 p.m. on Tuesday, May 3.

Because of the popularity of this series, tickets will go on sale this week. Cost is \$25 each for general admission, or \$20 each when purchased in groups of 10, said Charles Coleman of the theater.

General admission tickets may be purchased at Hershberger Music or New Life Christian Books in McCook, and group tickets may be ordered by calling (308) 340-3298.

"The show is especially popular with church organizations, Red Hat societies and community and business groups," Mr. Coleman said. "We encourage groups to make arrangements early."

Naval Academy accepting applications for summer

Applications are being accepted through Thursday, March 31, for the U.S. Naval Academy's Summer Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Program.

The program is held in three sessions: June 6-11 for incoming eighth and ninth graders, June 13-18 for sophomores and June 20-25 for juniors, students interested in math and science.

The program gives students a chance to experience real-life applications of math and science principles through hands-on practi-

cal learning. They will learn from Academy professors in college lab facilities. The academy's current students, or midshipmen, help run the summer program and act as counselors and tutors.

About 375 students will be accepted. There is no fee, but students must provide their own transportation to and from Annapolis, Md.

For information, go to www.usna.edu/Admissions/stem.html or call (410) 293-4361. Applicants will be notified in May.

Honor flights set for veterans

There is still time for World War II veterans to sign up for an Honor Flight to Washington for a tour of all of the veterans' memorials, including the World War II Memorial, and other points of interest.

A guardian will accompany every veteran taking the trip, and doctors and nurses will be available.

The program is sponsored by the Central Prairie Resource Conserva-

tion and Development District. For details, call LeVeta Miller at (620) 792-6224. Flights will go out April 18 and 19.

Couple is honored on 48th year

Jim and Lillian Koger celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary and his 75th birthday with a party Saturday at Sappa Valley Manor.

Guests were their son, Brian Koger, Oberlin, and granddaughter, Larae Bebbe, Denver; Sharla Ritter, Oberlin; Pat and Rodney Crissman, Amelia, Romo and Edward Keller, St. John; Tom and Sharon Keller, Monty and Christine Keller, Alan and Dawn Keller, Colorado Springs; Chris and Jennifer Shankle, Cheyenne, Colton, Coy and Cooper, Pratt; and friends, Pat Chard, Tom and Barbara Mullen and Mike and Deanna Roye, Oberlin.

Bible study to begin

2nd Chances, a Bible Study for high school girls, will begin at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 30, at the Amanda Sowers Studio at 120 S. East Ave.

The book "Lies Young Women Believe" by Nancy Leigh Demoss will be the focus of the discussions. Contact Lisa Paulson at (785) 470-7288 for more information.

Club News

Women hear about Haiti

The Prairie Chapel United Methodist Women met at the home of Phyllis Metcalf on March 2 with Coleen Rippe as co-hostess.

President Cheryl Metcalf opened the meeting by the group singing, "Happy Birthday" to Mrs. Rippe and Angie Wilson, who have March birthdays. The group sang, "Are Ye Able" which was followed by prayer for those mentioned.

Roll call, "Something about Haiti" was answered by seven members and one guest, Delphyn Biggs. President Metcalf read, "Bless My Good Intentions"

for devotions in the absence of Nadene Lafferty. Prayer Calendar Moments were read by Mrs. Rippe and she also said she had a card and gift for Trent Townsend and Jessica Stanley, who were married recently, but will hold it until their reception later.

Anyone interested in going to the Spiritual Retreat on April 15 and 16 should contact one of the Oberlin women.

Nan Zander presented the program on Haiti, using pictures and telling about the orphanage, "House of Hope," which they support, as well as the help they give to other projects in Haiti.

Members plan luncheon

The Zeta Nu Club met on March 10 at Sappa Manor with Joan Larue and Dorothy Moore as hostesses.

Joy Votapka conducted the meeting and Ms. Moore gave devotions. Eleven members answered roll call and repeated the flag salute and club collect.

Gladys Geis reported that the next meeting will a salad luncheon on April 17 at Sappa Manor

and members are to invite guests. Marian Fraker and Charlotte Meints were appointed to review the constitution and have recommendations at the April meeting if any changes need to be made.

Mrs. Larue gave an interesting program on the Supporting Our Schools organization and reviewed projects which it provides for the schools.

Club enjoys Dutch treat

Nora Bearley was hostess for the Pi Alpha Club "Dutch treat" luncheon at the Pizza Hut on Feb. 28. Fourteen members were present, including Pat Wright of Oakley. Montine Alstrom was a guest.

Plans were distributed by Marty Olson, committee chairman,

for the club's 60th anniversary luncheon May 7 at the LandMark Inn. E-mail addresses of club members were collected.

The hostess gift was won by Estella Waldo, who was welcomed back after being gone for several months.

Military identification cards will be available next week

Military retirees and dependents may obtain an updated identification card next week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at the Norton National Guard Armory, 1200 N. State St. in Norton.

Retirees and their dependents from all branches of the service are welcome. Two forms of identification are required. Appointments are required. Call (785) 877-5103 to schedule an appointment.

Sunflower Recreation Sports Bar at
The Bowling Alley

We're the place to watch the Conference Championship Basketball Tournament games on 3 wide screen TV's.




The Mariettas 1951



The Mariettas 2011

Family honors couple on 60th anniversary

Wayne and Odetta Marietta celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Sunday, Feb. 27, with a reception in Russell with family and friends.

Hosts for the reception were their sons, Alan and Judith Marietta, Oberlin, and John and Pam Marietta, Cañon City, Colo., and their families.

Wayne Marietta and Odetta Long exchanged marriage vows in a candlelight ceremony March 2, 1951, in Oberlin. They were both 19. Both are 1949 graduates of Decatur Community High School

and both attended Fort Hays State University.

He was employed by the government Geographical Survey department when they lived in Oberlin. They lived in Hays before moving to Russell, where they owned the United Service Agency as real estate brokers and insurance agents. They sold the insurance portion of the business in 1997, but continued working in real estate.

The Mariettas have five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

In order to facilitate good continuity of care, and hopefully care into the next century in Decatur County, the physicians of Oberlin Medical Arts, P.A. agreed to a sale to Decatur Health Systems.

Patient charts will be held in custodianship by Decatur Health Systems and patients may continue to receive medical care from their Family Practice Clinic.

Oberlin Medical Arts, P.A. patient accounts will be handled by:
Physician Billing Service:
 P.O. Box 3130
 Hutchinson, Ks. 67504-3130
 All billing and payments will be made through this company.

Dr. Sliter has agreed to continue to serve in certain critical positions; including medical director of the Decatur County Ambulance service, Decatur County Good Samaritan Society Nursing Home as well as coroner, Until such time as suitable replacements can be found.

Happy Birthday Mom!

Open house will honor
Bernice Martin
 on her 90th birthday
Saturday, March 19
2-4 p.m.
 at the **Golden Age Center**



Cards may be sent to
116 S. York • Oberlin, KS 67749

CONGRATULATIONS



The junior high league champions scholar bowl team members include (from left, front) Kelly Brown and Daniel Lerew. (second row) Kegan Blau, Jonathon Howland, Kade Grafel, Meghan Davies and Andrew Wade. (third row) Rebecca Wentz, Morgan Jansonius, Catie Shields, Kaine Fredrickson and Molly Jansonius. (back row) Ganon Henningson, Regent Erickson and Garrett Scott.

Junior High Scholar Bowl League Champs — We're PROUD of you!

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Brad & Linda Wade | Ron & Sheila Jansonius | Justin & Wendy Scott |
| Paul & Kelly Shields | Kevin & Carol Brown | Darren & Lois Wentz |
| David & Stephanie Blau | JoAnn Lerew | Megan & Amy |
| Dr. Gary, Sarah Fredrickson & Karli | Caleb & Sarah Howland | Robbie & Jeni Henningson |
| | Dan & Melinda Grafel | Gareth & Lisa Davies |

