

People in Our Community

Mary Lou Olson, society editor
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Evan and Judy Golt of Hill City, formerly of Oberlin, are living in their East Texas home prior to his upcoming surgery. He is scheduled to undergo surgery at M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston on April 6. Mail will reach them at Box 182, Chireño, Texas, 75937. They are the parents of Kelly Moore of Oberlin.

Dick and Linda Weber and Doris Fringer were among guests who attended a party at the home of Dan and Anita Mumm, Mason, Jack and Collin Mumm, Shawn Baker and Ryan and Taylor Ketterl which honored Ryan on his seventh birthday on Friday evening, March 11.

Bob and Joyce Hartzog and Kyle attended the Special Olympics Tournament held at Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays from Thursday evening to Saturday. Cheryl Hartzog competed with the cheerleaders and J. Lynn Lohofener was on the Northwest Winds basketball team. A quartet, which included Jay Wilson, formerly of Oberlin, sang during the opening ceremonies.

Sid and Cheryl Metcalf spent the last two weeks of February visiting their son, Chris Metcalf in Austin, Texas, and also enjoyed other points of interest around Port Aransas and Corpus Christi. They visited the Lexington Aircraft Carrier and the Texas State Marina. Chris recently purchased some new property where he will be able to house his lawn and landscaping equipment and business offices, plus his home.

Randy and Sharon Olson, Eunice Martin, Randy and Judy Ostmeyer, Nick and Kerrie Wahlmeier and Trenton, and Brent Olson and Mollie Coleman, Oberlin; Toby Ostmeyer, Hays; Darlene Feikert, St. Francis; Callie and Zachary Moore, Topeka, and Brian and Michelle Frickey and family and Brad and Stacy Frickey and family attended the party at the home of Matt and Kristy Ostmeyer, Jace and Tyler in Ellis on Sunday afternoon, which honored Jace on his fifth birthday. Callie and Zachary Moore accompanied their grandparents, Randy and Judy Ostmeyer, home to visit a few days.

Vesta Gilbert of McCook, formerly of Oberlin, fell and broke her hip on March 12. She was transferred to Great Plains Medical Center in North Platte, Neb., and was in the intensive care unit for three days due to complications. She returned home on Friday. She will be recuperating for the next four weeks at the home of her granddaughter, Kristal. Mail may be sent to P.O. Box 121, Indianola, Neb., 69034.

Mr. and Mrs. Fernando Peña were hosts for a birthday dinner honoring her mother, Elsie Wolters, on her 80th birthday. Those in attendance at the home of Gus and Elsie Wolters were Timothy Wolters, Ludell; Lacy Wolters, Kansas City; Ashley Wolters, Hays; April Wolters and Jared Dunker, Atwood; and Fernando and Becky Pena, Ian and Ella, Wichita. April Wolters was also honored on her 26th birthday.

Joshua White of Goddard, a grandson of Frances Vacura of Oberlin, participated in the Heritage Instrumental Musicians competition in San Antonio on Friday and Saturday. The competition included concert and jazz bands and orchestra made up of high school students. Award ceremonies were held at Six Flags where the Goddard High

School musicians received eight awards, including three of the rarest awards given at this competition, the Adjudicator and two Maestro Awards. Their concert band received a Silver rating and earned first place in their division overall. Among others, the musicians also earned the Sweepstakes Award, which is presented for the most outstanding overall music program of all participating bands.

Winning highs in pinochle at the Golden Age Center last week were Doris Fringer, Kelva Dryden, Max Carman, Henry Edgett and Dewaine Stapp. Lows went to Dorothy Moore, John Cederberg, Doris Fringer, Neil Marshall, Veanna Carman and Henry Edgett. Chicken foot winners were Doris Fringer and Marjorie Olson. Winning highs at bridge were Cynthia Matson, Merle Shirley and Charlotte Meints.

Greg and Amanda Grafel, Kel and Reece traveled to Pratt on Friday for Sub-District Kids Wrestling held on Saturday at the Pratt High School. They were accompanied by Coach Shane Bird. On Friday evening, the group was joined by Connie Grafel and Ray Rome for dinner at Club D'Est in Pratt. Kel placed third and will participate in State Kids Wrestling in Topeka this weekend.

Sid and Cheryl Metcalf spent last weekend with Shad and Jody Metcalf, Bryson, Seanna and Jude in Winter Park, Colo.

—Surf and Turf Buffet Friday, March 28, 6-8 p.m. LandMark Inn. 475-2340 for reservations.

Among those who attended the wedding reception honoring Dan and Anita Mumm at their home in Selden on Saturday, March 12, were her aunt, Doris Fringer, and her parents, Dick and Linda Weber of Oberlin, and their children, Mason, Jack and Collin Mumm, Shawn Baker, and Ryan and Taylor Ketterl. They were married on Feb. 26 in Las Vegas.

Roxie Erickson, Dru Martin, and Dr. Kenyon Erickson, Gavin and Corbin, Manhattan; Kris and Farah Erickson and Christian, and Wyatt and Lindsay Wendelin, Lindsborg; Ron and Carol Martin, Littleton, Colo.; L'Marie Robertson, and Leann Taylor and Brianna, Goodland. and Janice Winters, Jennings, were out-of-town guests who attended the reception honoring Bernice Martin on her 90th birthday on Saturday at the Golden Age Center. All of Mrs. Martin's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren attended, except Erica Martin, who called her from China, where she was on an assignment with her job.

Herschel Betts underwent rotator cuff surgery on March 15 at Hays Medical Center in Hays.

Gayle White, Amanda and Megan, Goddard, were weekend guests of Frances Vacura while Jeff White and Joshua attended the Heritage Instrumental Musicians music competition for high school students in San Antonio. Mr. White was one of the adults who accompanied the students.

Brenda Eason of Gillette, Wyo., was a guest last weekend of her parents, Dick and Linda Weber. Doris Fringer was an additional dinner guest on Sunday, after which they enjoyed playing pinochle.

Oberlin man has new lease on life

By MARY LOU OLSON
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It's the size of a golf ball. It contains a "magnetically levitated impellent." And it's keeping Ron McDougal of Oberlin alive.



R. McDougal

Mr. McDougal, 66, says he got a new lease on life after he underwent a new type of heart surgery in Denver, using the experimental device.

He is home and doing well after receiving the HeartWare left ventricular assist system at the University of Colorado Hospital in Aurora.

"While still experimental," said Dr. Joseph Cleveland, "it already appears to be on track for Federal Drug Administration approval as a bridge for patients who would otherwise die while waiting for a heart transplant."

Dr. Cleveland did the surgery as part of a nationwide clinical trial testing the effectiveness of the device. It does the job of pumping blood for patients with advanced heart failure and dim prospects for a quick heart transplant.

Mr. McDougal said he started having heart problems about three years ago after he retired from Decatur Co-op. He underwent surgery in Kearney, Neb., for a pacemaker and a defibrillator, but his heart just continued to get worse.

"It got to the place I was spending lots of time in the hospital," he said, "so I decided to go to Kearney and see Dr. McGowan, the heart specialist who comes to the Specialty Clinic at the Decatur County Hospital in Oberlin."

"He told me my heart was worn out and he felt I needed a heart transplant. He sent me to Denver, where I was told about the device."

"We went out in December, and after it was decided I could have the surgery, they told us to go home for Christmas and then come back."

After pre-operative procedures, he was scheduled for the surgery on Jan. 19 as just the second patient implanted with the HeartWare device.

"The gentle name for it is 'destination therapy,'" said Dr. Andreas Brieke, a cardiologist specializing in heart failure. "Destination therapy patients live with this pump for the rest of their lives."

"The device, called UCH Insider, is a tiny heart pump which is implanted into the heart. HeartWare submitted premarket approval information to the Food and Drug Administration in December 2010 for a completed bridge-to-transplant trial, which involved 140 patients at 30 centers. That means the device could be approved for bridge to transplant as soon as late 2011."

Those in the program hope the devices will last as long as the patients need them.

"While it's too early to know for sure, the HeartWare device's ab-

sence of mechanical friction could lead to longer working life for the devices," said Ann Cannon, a registered nurse with the program. "They are already built to last."

The HeartWare pumps up to 10 liters of blood per minute with an impeller (a propeller used to move fluid through a tube) held in place with magnetic force rather than mechanical bearings. The patient's blood itself acts as a lubricant, the company says.

"It's still a serious surgery — six to eight hours on the operating table — and patients are obviously very ill even before they undergo it," said Dr. Brieke.

The doctor said that Mr. McDougal's decline in heart-muscle function had progressed to Class IV heart failure, rendering him unable to perform any physical activities without discomfort and risk of death.

"With Dad, there was really never any question about whether he wanted it or not," said his son, Garrett McDougal. "He's got grandkids, and that's all he has in mind anymore. He wasn't ready to let go."

Mr. McDougal's wife Dee, the former Deanna Woodside, is on kidney dialysis in McCook, so his son and his daughters, Nora Urban and Amy Haas, all of Oberlin, and a step-daughter, Gail Smith of Atwood, were with him for the surgery.

"Two weeks after the surgery," he said, "I was walking down the halls!"

He has been doing well, although after just two months, he is still rebuilding his strength after surgery. He's off oxygen and he has his color back, but there are adjustments. The blood thinners he takes mean nosebleeds that can take hours to stanch.

"It's a good thing my son and two daughters live only a few minutes away," he added.

"I don't think families fully understand how life-changing it is," Garret said. "It's great to get those extra years, but you have to have some dedicated family and support-group help to go through with it."

"The LVAD has been a good thing. It's a great machine, and I think the whole family would make the same decision over and over again to do it."

Mr. McDougal emphasized that he and his family appreciate all the support, concerns and encouragement from family and friends throughout the whole process. As he feels better, he continues to look at new possibilities.

"When I go back to Denver for a check-up on Thursday," he said, "I hope they will turn me loose to drive."

School carnival set

The Oberlin Elementary School Carnival will be held from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Monday at the school.

Anyone interested in donating something or working at the carnival should call Carrie Morford at

475-3628 or 475-8308. Shifts will run from 5:15 to 6:45 p.m. and 6:45 to 8:15 p.m.

The carnival is sponsored by Supporting Our Schools, a parent-teacher organization.

Photo exhibit coming

The Dane G. Hansen Memorial Museum at Logan will present "Red Desert, Green Prairie, Blue Sky: Photographing the West," through Sunday, May 8.

The exhibit is provided by eight photographers, Martin Stupich,

George Jerkovich, Peter Brown, Rick Dingus, Steve Fitch, Miguel Gandert, Tony Gleaton and Andrew John Liccardo, and will feature 45 color and black-and-white photographs.

Club News

Club learns garden tips

Monday Evening Club members arrived at the home of Gaylord and Shirley Shields on March 14, bringing garden gloves, prepared to learn what's new in landscaping, plants and flowers.

Vice President Cindi Sauder conducted the business meeting in the absence of the president, Sue May. Donations were voted to the Good Samaritan Center-sponsored "Hoedown" and the Golden Age Center.

Members were told that the Wichita Garden Show, which Mr. and Mrs. Shields recently attended, is the second largest in size next to the one in Philadelphia and that each year there is a different theme and featured plants. He shared information about recommended trees and fertilizers for this area and treat-

ment of diseases, noting that pine trees are not a good choice.

New varieties of flowers and plants were listed by Mrs. Shields, who said that the recommended soil temperature for planting tomatoes is 55 degrees. She noted that changes in landscaping have caused gardeners to become decorators in grouping plants to get a "Wow" effect.

Refreshments were served by co-hostesses, Ann Anderson, and Kelly and Laurie Wasson, using some food products which are now available at Prairie Petals.

The next meeting will be on April 11 at the fellowship hall of the Oberlin Covenant Church with Barbara Dehlinger as hostess. Mary Henzel will give a program entitled, "The Art of the Cuisinart."

Members pack for Haiti

The Calico Gals Club met on March 16 at the home of Shirley Shields with the following members present: Jan Hackney, Barbara Duell, Phyllis Screen, Mrs. Shields, Millie Lippelmann, Donna Kelley, Bette Grout, Sandy Counter, Marylu Brown and Delta Anderson.

The club collect and flag salute were repeated. Roll call was to wear green. Millie Lippelmann read an article on Leprechauns and other trivia items. Several members have Irish ancestry. A thank you note from Nan Zander was read for the Christmas donation given for the Haiti children's school. Mrs. Shields reported that several helped her pack clothes, toys, bedding and other supplies in duffle bags which held 50 pounds each. Each person going

to Haiti was allowed 100 pounds. Thanks to all who donated, another trip is planned.

New club books were distributed. Mrs. Kelley said that Lisa Paulson, activities director at the Good Samaritan Center, had asked about the club and wanted her to speak about it sometime, since several members live there.

Mrs. Shields told about the garden clubs that sponsor beautiful exhibits at the Wichita Garden Show, as well as many other things that are on display. Mrs. Duell won the hostess gift.

The next meeting will be April 20 at the home of Mrs. Grout. The group will meet at Park Hill in Atwood for lunch, then go to her home for the meeting. Roll call will be an Easter memory.

Women enjoy scrapbooks

Joyce Ploussard was hostess for the Pi Alpha Club meeting on March 14 at the Sappa Valley Manor and gave devotionals titled, "Wouldn't it be Better?" Margaret McEvoy was co-hostess.

President Gerry Neff conducted the business meeting with 12 members present, as well as a guest, Brittani Farr. Get-well cards were signed for Margaret Lund and Eris Young. Mrs. Neff won the hostess gift.

For the program, 60 years of club scrapbooks were displayed and Mrs. Ploussard asked members to look through them for club activities and highlights in preparation of the May 7 anniversary celebration. Invitations will be sent to former members and charter members, Nora Bearley and Eris Young, will be honored.

A social meeting will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 30, at the Frontier Cafe with Rachelle Lytle as hostess.

Lions official to visit club

District Gov.-elect Ralph Rodgers of Hugoton will conduct an official visit to the Rexford Lions Club at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the Selden Cafe.

He was elevated to district gover-

nor-elect at the district convention Feb. 19 in Hays. He will become governor upon returning from the Lions International Convention in Seattle in July.

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 14, 2011.

Decatur County Health Department

Will be doing

Blood Draws

on

Tuesday, March 29th and

Wednesday, March 30th

From 7:30am to 9:30am

MUST BE FASTING

Tests offered will be Chem 27, CBC, TSH, and PSA. Also available is a HgA1C for our Diabetics

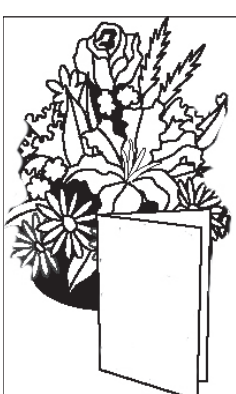
For more information or to make an appointment call (785) 475-8118

Happy 90th Birthday

ON MARCH 27

DOROTHY JACKSON

CARDS WILL REACH HER AT:
715 WEST ASH, APT. III, OBERLIN, KS 67749



Happy 60th birthday

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