

Called upon to pray



PRAYING FOR THEIR SCHOOL, their town and their country, high school students gathered at the flag pole at dawn last Wednesday before school. About 50 students and parents showed up for the prayer circle, clasping hands and sharing hope.

— Herald staff photo by Stephanie DeCamp

Youth group meets at dawn to pray for school, country

By **STEPHANIE DeCAMP**
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Almost 50 high school kids came together at dawn last Wednesday, gathering around the flag pole out front to pray for each other, their school, the town and the world at large.

The event was organized by youth minister Doug Mason, who works with the Oberlin chapter of Teens for Christ, as well as the youth groups from the United Methodist, St. John's Lutheran and Sacred Heart churches.

Mr. Mason said that Teens for Christ is the only youth group in town that meets weekly, and the group tries to have an event every month. This month, he said, on Saturday, Oct. 13, the regional teen group will have a pumpkin toss in Scott City, about two hours south of Oberlin.

"We're even building a catapult for it," he said with a smile. From his engagement with the kids and joy at the crowd, one could tell he was just one of the gang.

"I think it's a really neat deal for kids to participate in," said high school Principal Ben Jimenez about the prayer meeting. "Obviously, it's a kid-sponsored activity, and if they want to lead themselves in prayer, that's a really neat thing."

Caleb Koerperich, 16, led the assembled teens first in a song, "I Can Only Imagine," by the band Mercy Me, and then in a group prayer. In it, they

asked Christ to look over their friends and family, to help them move the hearts of those who have not yet been saved, and to thank Him for the privilege of holding such an event at their school, as many schools have banned religion on their campuses.

From there, the kids took turns saying a personal prayer out loud. If they didn't want to speak in front of so many parents and peers, they squeezed the hand of the next person in line. All the while, their hands were joined as they heard each others' reflections.

After this, they split into small groups around the flag pole to pray in a more intimate manner, four to six people in a group. Once the kids were done, doughnuts, fresh orange juice and milk awaited them at the entrance to the school.

"I was shooting for a record," said Mr. Mason later, "but we didn't even get close. We had 67 students last year, and this year we had 47 kids and 13 adults. But we've never had that many adults, so that's cool."

"This is actually a worldwide event," he continued. "It was started by one youth group in Texas many years ago, who thought they should pray for the school, and it grew nationwide and then worldwide. So at the same time we were praying, there were millions of other kids around the world praying, too."

'Welcome wagon' to return

The Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce plans to start up a "welcome wagon" program so new residents can get a personal welcome to the county, along with a handy packet of information and maybe even some gifts.

The Chamber board decided to restart the program after hearing that some newcomers felt a little lost when they first got here. The packets will include everything from a directory of businesses and clubs to coupons and a community

calendar.

The board also decided that Chamber members will call the new residents a week after their welcome packet is delivered to see if they can be of any further help.

To find new residents, the board decided to go through the city (when new residents set up utilities), those who own rentals and any other tips they receive.

Chamber Manager Carolyn Hackney said that the packets will also have hunting information,

maps, a list of churches, schools and medical facilities, and of course, incentives to shop in the county.

"We'll talk to most businesses to see if they want to include something," she said.

If you would like your business included in the packet, have suggestions or would like to volunteer to help the Chamber, call Ms. Hackney at the Chamber office, (785) 475-3441.

County cuts new hire, keeps fire ban

Two people applied for a part-time recycling position with the county, but commissioners decided at their meeting last Tuesday to hold off hiring someone until spring.

"Winter's coming on and things are starting to slow down," said Commissioner Stan McEvoy. "We don't want to hire someone just to stand around until things pick up again."

Mr. Huntley said workers are finishing up on the county roads, and

are starting in on the trees. Whether they will be able to cover all of them before the first frost remains to be seen, he said.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Decided to keep the county's burn ban in place, despite falling temperatures.

- "It only takes one person to accidentally start a fire," said Mr. McEvoy, "and before you know it, we have another disaster on our

hands. Better safe than sorry."

- Heard that those residents who have received a letter regarding musk thistle should wait to treat the weed until after their land has received some moisture so the treatment will be effective.

- Signed a contract with Thomson Reuters Tax and Accounting out of Colby for an IBM AS400 computer system. The upgrade will include 3 years of maintenance, a firewall and two printers for \$21,866.

Family starts business for oil-rig maintenance

By **STEPHANIE DeCAMP**
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Eric and Christina (Chris) Green grew up in Jennings and Oberlin. They now live in Jennings with their four children, who go to school in Selden, and they just started their own company from scratch, after working in the oil industry for over a decade.

The Greens know oil, and more than that, they know oil-industry maintenance. Their new company, Green Oil Field Services, LLC, will operate in north and southeast Kansas, eastern Colorado, and Nebraska. It opened its doors for business the first of the month.

"We're excited to have our own business, make our own money and provide for ourselves by ourselves — not to have to work for someone else," Mrs. Green said. "It was very scary at first. We were very nervous to get things started, to take off work and hope that everything goes well ... but you jump in with both feet or you don't."

"We got involved (with the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic

Development Corp. and Network Kansas Program) just for extra startup money. We heard about them through the Kansas Small Business Development Center."

The company has three employees, she said, one from Oklahoma, one from Florida and one from this area.

"The business will grow, in Decatur County for sure, because they're drilling a lot of wells. Oil will always be here; that's how we get the fuel to run the country. It's hard work; it's dirty and busy. They're long hours and long days, but excellent money."

That money isn't just hard work to get, she added; it can be dangerous, too.

"You have to constantly be paying attention to what you're doing," Mrs. Green said. "The risks ... it's a dangerous line of work because of all of the equipment you use. There's the heavy machinery, and the possibility of hydrogen sulfide gas that can cause explosions. But things like that rarely happen."

"We're not too concerned about

competition, because my husband knows what he's doing. Everyone that knows him knows that. He's good at what he does, people know him and he understands what's going on underground. He knows how it works."

And how does all of the work to get started compare to that?

"It's a lot of work, I mean, a LOT of paperwork," Mrs. Green said. "It takes time and effort and making sure you have everything in order. Having someone to help you do it is the main thing; you can't do it yourself. I have an accountant and others in the business who can help me with the business end and budget, but you have to ask a lot of questions and make a lot of phone calls to make sure you have it all in order, because if you don't, it can come back to bite you."

Mr. Green is a graduate of Jennings High School and is the son of Kerry Green of Jennings and Laura Washburn of Norton. Mrs. Green is a Decatur Community High School graduate and is a daughter of John and Linda Stanley of Oberlin.

Group sets dates for holidays

The Oberlin Business Alliance held its holiday planning meeting last Wednesday, trading some new ideas for this year and setting dates and times for classic events.

The "Spook Parade," which is coming up this month, will be at 4 p.m. on Halloween afternoon, Wednesday, Oct. 31. The business group exchanged ideas on how to make the event a little less chaotic this year, including handing out candy only at the fire truck, at the end of the parade, and grouping kids by age. Nothing was decided, however.

Next will be the annual Business-to-Business Tour, which the alliance set tentatively for Sunday, Nov. 11, or if it snows that day, Sunday, Nov. 18. The Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce volunteered to serve soup and desserts at 1 p.m. while one of the 4-H clubs decorates Main Street.

The alliance also discussed this year's Christmas events, which will include the parade of lights, men's

and women's shopping nights and of course, Mr. Santa Claus himself.

In other business, the alliance:

- Took ideas for this year's Christmas opening and Parade of Lights, which will be held at 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 23. Members discussed ways to encourage people to stay afterward and shop. Ideas included a "hot sale" and vouchers of some sort.

- Decided that Ladies' Shopping Night will be from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 12, and that Mens' Shopping Night will be the same time Friday, Dec. 21.

- Heard that Santa will be making an appearance at the Parade of Lights.

- Heard that the "Santa Bucks" program drew \$17,000 last year, and will be offered this year, though not through the Chamber. It will work through The Bank and possibly others.

Pigskin Pick'em all shook up

Fort Hays State University's defeat of Truman State from Missouri caught most of this week's contestants in the Pigskin Pick'em contest unprepared.

Tyler Bruggeman of Oberlin, however, got all eight games correct to win first place and gets the \$15 prize.

Four people came up with seven right.

Ryan Leitner, Oberlin, got seven right and came closest to the tie-breaker score as Phillipsburg downed Hoisington, 27-6. He wins the \$10 second prize.

Tim Hrnchir of Oberlin was next, and he wins the \$5 third prize.

Others coming up with seven out of eight were Zach May, Oberlin,

and Megan Carter, Jennings.

Getting six out of eight were Gary Anderson, Jordan Davenport, Kelly Brown and Rusty Adleman of Oberlin and Wilbur Reichert of Dresden.

Clayton Carter, Jennings, was the only one to have five out of the eight right.

Those who guessed four correct were Anna Carter, Jennings, and Tom Martin, Oberlin.

All eligible scores are entered on a spread sheet. At the end of the contest, the contestant picking the most correct games will receive a trophy and \$50 in scrip money.

Winnings are paid in scrip, which can be spent only at the sponsors: Ward Drug Store, the LandMark

Inn, Fredrickson Insurance Agency, Decatur Co-op, Hanson Mueller, Creative Collision and *The Oberlin Herald*.



Other scores this week were:

- Norton over Ellis, 39-8.
- Holcomb over Colby, 31-3.
- Ulysses over Goodland, 48-13.
- Nebraska over Wisconsin, 30-27.

- Rawlins County over Hill City, 64-18.

- Oberlin over St. Francis, 33-8.
- Hoxie over WaKeeney, 34-28 (3 overtimes).

- Phillipsburg over Hoisington, 27-6, in the tiebreaker.

 <p>Rawlins County Health Center</p> <p>RAWLINS COUNTY HEALTH CENTER COMMUNITY CALENDAR</p> <p>707 Grant Atwood, KS 67730 (785) 626-3211</p> <p>Bringing Specialized Healthcare To Your Community</p> <p>October 2012</p>	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		1 Dr. Rubinstein Oncology	2	3	4 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	5	6	Cardiac Rehab MRI's
	7	8	9	10 Dr. Frankum Surgery	11 Dr. Reeves Podiatry	12 Dr. Reeves Podiatry	13	Nuclear Medicine Cardiac Rehab MRI's
	14	15	16 Dr. Frederick C. Miller Cardiology	17 Dr. Curtis Cardiology	18	19	20	Dietitian Cardiac Rehab MRI's
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	Nuclear Medicine Cardiac Rehab MRI'S
	28	29	30 Dr. Frederick C. Miller Cardiology	31				
		Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	Mammograms	Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic				
	<p>To schedule an appointment with a visiting physician, PLEASE CALL (785) 626-3211 Cheryl Banister, RN Specialty Clinic Director</p>							