



AN APACHE KNIFE FIGHTER and decorated veteran, Snake Blocker is in the process of setting up his academy here in Oberlin to teach his combat techniques. He will appear on National Geographic's "Doomsday Preppers" show at 10 p.m. on Tuesday.

- Photo by National Geographic

# Knife fighter to appear on National Geographic

By STEPHANIE DeCAMP  
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SNAKE BLOCKER, the Apache knife-fighting instructor who is slowly but surely setting up his self-defense academy here in Oberlin, says he will be appearing on the National Geographic Channel's "Doomsday Preppers" show at 10 p.m. Tuesday.

"There was a 'Self Reliance Expo' in Colorado Springs earlier this year," said Mr. Blocker. "I was one of the special guest speakers there, and National Geographic had a booth as well. I did mini workshops on Apache knife fighting at the event, and National Geographic's booth was all about the Doomsday Preppers show, so I did a mini audition. They called me up a few weeks later and after several more phone interviews, they decided to film my wife and I for the show. It was filmed in June in Colorado, but is airing next week."

Mr. Blocker said that he's been coming to Oberlin about once every three weeks, slowly bringing his collections and materials to the building he's leasing at 118 E. Commercial St. He said that as well

as traveling to speak and setting up the academy here, he's also coming out with a Snake Blocker Survival Arms line. The first item, he said, is an AR15-type rifle that will be available in March.

Mr. Blocker said that the National Geographic filming took place over two days and that he and his wife had a lot of fun doing it.

"Some filming was done at my house in Denver," he said, "and some was done at Tall Bull Memorial in Douglas County. The County of Denver leases our Native American community several acres that we call Tall Bull Memorial, for \$1 for a 50 year lease. We saw bison on Friday, the day before the filming, but the weather was changing on Saturday and the bison left the area. We filmed on Saturday and Sunday, but it rained for part of it, so we had to stop filming outdoors."

"I killed a rabbit for the filming and built a fire, then skinned the rabbit; cooked it over the built fire and ate it with my wife. Even the eyes late. It was very tasty. I also cut cactus and ate it with my wife. We also eat live red fire ants. I showed some animal tracks and found a nest

of yellow-jacket wasps under a log, and killed one and ate the larva. I also drove my Harley with my wife in and out of traffic to show how to get through traffic quickly if you have to "bug out." My wife sang some opera for the show too; she has a degree in music and sings opera very well."

While his tale sounds more like a decent weekend camping than an apocalypse survival tutorial, National Geographic's website spiced up the introduction to the episode:

"Not all preppers are relying on their nuclear family to survive the end of time," the site reads. "To some, creating a tight-knit community of like-minded individuals is the difference between death and survival. Guided by his intuition and his Apache heritage, a prepper known as Snake Blocker is convinced a coming economic collapse will result in social chaos. To protect himself against social unrest, Snake is building a community of people with strong self-defense skills by teaching his own knife-throwing clan."

# Self-defense academy getting started in Oberlin

By STEPHANIE DeCAMP  
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THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC channel may be offering some national coverage for Snake Blocker, but what has he been up to here in Oberlin?

The Blocker Academy is set up at 118 E. Commercial Street, he said, and classes started in October but are still not running on a set schedule.

Officer Beau Downing, Mr. Blocker said, is the local instructor, and he holds classes three times a week. Due to his work schedule, however, there are no set hours, and instead, Mr. Downing just calls those signed up whichever nights he is available. Once you join the academy, Mr. Blocker said, you can attend the classes three to four times a week.

"I come up about every three weeks to paint and fix the place up," he said. "I'm bringing more martial arts stuff every time I come, little by little. I used to have a studio in California, and since I moved to Colorado and overseas since then, a lot is in storage."

The Blocker Academy of Martial Arts, he said, teaches Bruce Lee's martial arts concepts.

"The techniques incorporate the best martial arts you can study," he said. "Kick boxing, knife and sword fighting, ground and pound. I've tied it into self defense and preservation. The concept is that it's not so much about tournaments, which is what most classes are all about. But if you're in a back alley or whatever, it will usually be two or more people

attacking, not just one guy in a controlled environment.

"So when we talk to students about multiple attackers, it's a whole different animal. We train for real, situational self-defense. The first thing you learn is tackling, then choke holds, then the concept that if you do end up on the ground, you get up as soon as you can to run or finish the fight."

"For a female or smaller person, we need to incorporate some weapons training too, because a 115-pound woman is not going to be able to take on three men. My money is going to go on the three big guys, but if she knows how to use a knife or stick, my money is on the girl - because she has a knife and they don't."

Mr. Blocker explained that it's a concept he teaches, not a particular martial-arts style.

"It's called jeet (to intercept) kune (fist) do (the way): the way of the intercepting fist, because you don't just want to punch or block, you want to do it at the same time," he explained. "You need to intercept and counter at the same moment. It's a lot about speed; we won't sit there and have five minutes of hitting a brick. We react, react, react. They're simple but quick and reactive drills."

While Mr. Blocker said that he doesn't intend to live in Oberlin full-time, he wants to keep a second home here.

"I want to set up a home there," he said, "but not a permanent home. I travel too much. I'll be going to Australia this May, for example. I've

been to Pittsburgh, Africa, Houston, Los Angeles, everywhere. I'm always traveling and teaching."

When asked if he was worried that might rub people the wrong way, he said he wasn't.

"I wouldn't say (I'm worried about my reception in Oberlin) because small towns tend to be military friendly. I'm very centered with Biblical principles, and I come from a very Biblical and traditional upbringing. I relate to the small-town mentality, for sure. A lot of my relatives are in Texas, and that's where I'm from, so it's very similar."

When all is said and done, Mr. Blocker said that the upstairs part of the building will be used for classes, and the main level will be for Snake Blocker Survival, set up for offices and to display his signature survival products. The basement, he said, he hopes to turn into a gym. "Executive World Fitness," late next year.

Mr. Blocker said he will come in to teach classes one to two weeks ends a month, including his Apache Knife Fighting and Battle Tactics techniques.

As the classes fill up, he said, there will be more available hours and classes. There will also be special seminars with him and other guest instructors every quarter, and those tournaments? They'll still happen twice a year.

"Every month, I will be fixing the studio up more," he said, "and plan to have it opened full time by summer. The more the community supports the programs, the more we will offer."

# Auto thefts on the rise with winter

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR when people like to warm up their vehicles before heading out, and while that's good for the car and you, said Police Chief Troy Haas, you should still try and be smart about it.

"When you warm up your vehicle," he said, "you need to keep it locked, with a spare set of keys in the house. There's always an increased number of vehicle thefts this time of year, mostly because a

running car with the keys in it is an easy target. We've received numerous notifications from surrounding areas of attempts to locate stolen vehicles, and we'd much rather have the public aware of the increased risk than have people needlessly go through the frustration of filing a stolen vehicle report."

Chief Haas also said that because of the ice, minor accidents are up, and cautioned people to always be

sure their windows are completely clear of ice and fog before driving. He also said to always be sure to check your blind spots, as people can accidentally slide into them when slowing to make a turn or pull out of a lot.

**MEATLOAF!**

# County needs volunteers to serve on several boards

By STEPHANIE DeCAMP  
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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS discussed at their meeting last Tuesday that the county still has many openings on boards and committees.

"I don't think there's really a deadline," said County Clerk Colleen Geihlsler. "We'll just keep taking applications until we get them filled."

"If people want these programs," said Commissioner Ralph Unger, "then we need people on these advisory boards."

"These are some pretty important programs, too," agreed Commissioner Gene Gallentine.

"And it's hard to have a meeting without a board to work with," said Commissioner Stan McEvoy.

The openings include one for the Hospital Board, to be filled by someone representing District 1 in the east half of Oberlin, and two spots on the Fair Board, which needs people from District 2 (Finley, Logan, Liberty, Sappa and Bassettville townships) and District 3, which includes all other townships not in District 2 or in the City of Oberlin.

The fair board, said Mr. McEvoy, pretty much operates the fair,

whereas the Amusement Authority is in charge of the games and rides at the carnival. There are also openings for two people on the Health Advisory Board, two on the High Plains Mental Health board and five on the summer recreation board.

If you are already serving on a board, you can always apply to remain on it after your appointment is up, said Mr. McEvoy.

Mr. Unger said that most boards have two- or three-year appointments, but that people shouldn't be scared off by the lengthy commitment. Some boards have monthly meetings, he said, but others are only quarterly.

"It's really easy, actually," County Health Administrator Marilyn Gamblin. "You just sit down and eat. They're always lunch meetings."

If you're interested in applying for a position or want to find out more, stop by the clerk's office on the second floor of the courthouse.

In other business, commissioners:

- Heard from Ms. Gamblin that the Health Department still has 70 flu vaccinations left, if anyone still needs to get one, they should call her at 475-8118.

- Heard from Road Supervisor Tim Stallman that the whole county has received anywhere from two to five solid inches of snowfall in the last few weeks, a good sign for the coming wheat crop.

"With the snow and all, we're shop bound now," he said, "so we're just bumper to bumper with the machines."

- Accepted the resignation of Brad Marcuson from the Summit Township Board before he is sworn in as a commissioner on Tuesday. The commissioners also approved appointment of Lacy Tally to take Mr. Marcuson's spot on the board.

- Heard from Noxious Weed Control Director Gaylen Huntley that the final number of people invited to the county's annual banquet at the American Legion is 134. The commissioners reminded everyone that the banquet will start early this year, at 5:30 p.m. Saturday.

- Heard from Ms. Gamblin that at 2 p.m. Friday at the Decatur County Health Department, United Health-care will hold a public meeting. United is one of three companies which the state contracts with for KanCare, the state's new replacement for Medicaid services.


NOTICE OF 64th  
**Annual Meeting**  
**Monday, January 21, 2013**  
11:30 a.m.  
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Please R.S.V.P. by Friday, January 14

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**2013 SEMINARS**  
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Thursday, January 17

Norton Public Library  
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- Privacy.** A Trust assures that information about your assets and your estate plan are kept private.
- Others.** Many other advantages will be discussed at the seminar.

**Dan Diederich** is an Attorney and Certified Public Accountant who operates a law practice focused on family estate planning. During his 28 years of practicing law, Mr. Diederich has advised and prepared trust estate plans for residents throughout the state of Kansas. His seminar will provide you with information you need about estate planning in general, and the many advantages of Living Trust estate planning.

Attorney at Law **Daniel K. Diederich**  
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For Free Seminar Reservations, call **1-877-826-9250**

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