

NEW ALMELO NEWS

By Betty Otter

On May 19, Francis and Phyllis Otter attended the graduation of their grandson, Alberto Hernandez from Garden City High School. He is the son of Val and Kerri Hernandez of Garden City. Others also attending were Tammy Garcia and daughters, Alyssa and Alaina of Pueblo, Colo.; David Otter of Hays; Joan and Vic Winter and family of Ellis; Judy and Kirby Garrison and family

of Scott City; Pat and Garret Otter of Norton.

Janice and Steven Richards of Sandra Park N.M. visited family and friends in the area for several days in the middle of May.

On May 20, Alfred and Betty Otter attended the high school graduation of their granddaughter, Alisha Otter, from Ulysses High School. Alisha is the daughter of Mark and Sheila Otter of Ulysses.

Alisha's grandmother, Lorena Taylor of Lenora, also attended. Others attending were Jim and Jolene Moss and Aaron of Smith Center; Karl Otter of Great Bend; Charles Otter of Salina; Shawn Taylor and boys of Lenora; Travis Redeker and Ashley Otter of Kearney, Neb.

On May 20, Russ and Marcia Aumiller left to visit their son, Josh and Sarah Vahling and boys in Chula Vista, Calif. They also visited Jim and Christine

Vahling in Mesa, Ariz. They returned with grapefruit from trees in Jim's yard.

Alfred and Betty Otter attended Alfred's 60th class reunion at the Clayton Alumni held at the American Legion in Norton.

Family members home for the Memorial weekend at the home of Alfred and Betty Otter were Tom Otter of DeSoto; and Karl Otter of Great Bend. Mark and Sheila Otter visited on Saturday afternoon after attending the funeral of a classmate, Chris Khulman, in Oberlin.

Father Vincent Thu Laing said Mass at the St. Joseph Cemetery on Memorial Day. The brisk wind made the avenue of flags and the small flags at the veterans graves wave. Father Vincent blessed the graves in the cemetery.

On May 29, Roger and JoAnn Long joined a group from Hill City to go on a tour of Italy. They flew from Denver to Atlanta, then on to Italy. Their daughters, Renee Cella of Denver, Colo., and Stephanie Kirk of Lafayette, La., were also on the tour.

On June 3, Alfred and Betty Otter attended the Selden Anique Show where Betty's brother, Rod Bates of Oakley, displayed 20 kick start motors and also

met up with their son, Mark and grandson, Marshall Otter of Ulysses, who had skated the first leg of their skateboarding across Kansas from the Nebraska line to the Oklahoma line, which was completed on Friday afternoon. They raised money for the Grant County Relay for Life.

Marion and Marilyn Otter attended the jubilee celebration at St. Joseph Sisters Motherhouse in Concordia on June 10. Their sisters were celebrating 60 years as a Sister of St. Joseph for Sister Mary Esther Otter and 50 years as a Sister St. Joseph for Sister Donna Otter, who was home

from her assignment in Brazil. A cousin, Sister Rose Marie Dwyer, celebrated 60 years as a Sister of St. Joseph as well. Her brother, Jim and June Dwyer of Glasco, and a sister, Della and Larry Simoneau of Salina were also in attendance.

The Parish Hall was open with bathrooms, water and Kool-Pops for the riders of Biking Across Kansas on Monday, June 11. It had been 35 miles since the last bathrooms were available, so the service was appreciated.

BB Gun

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cade the company had dropped the windmills and shifted its focus entirely to BB guns. The company changed their name to Daisy Manufacturing and moved to Rogers, Ark., in 1958.

Shoot schedule

Opening ceremonies are scheduled from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Sunday.

On Monday morning, marksmanship from the prone and standing positions will be held. In the afternoon, the written test on gun safety will be taken by all shooters.

Firing from the sitting and kneeling positions will take place on Tuesday morning.

The Barter Bar, during which marksmen, parents and coaches exchange gifts from their respective states, will be held Monday afternoon from 2:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

The Awards Ceremony will be held from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

Having won the championship eight times and finished high in the running many, many more times, the Norton County Rotary BB Gun Team is well known in national shooting circles.

Norton BB Gun Museum

Since assuming sponsorship following the dissolution of the original sponsor, the Norton Jaycees, the Rotary Club has established a Norton BB Gun Museum on East U.S. 36 Highway. The museum displays the rich history of the Norton shooting education and marksmanship program.

Norton has won the state championship 38 times, more than any other Kansas community. The young Blue Jay shooters placed fourth in this year's Kansas State Rifle Association State Shoot in Alma on March 20. Then, on April 20, they finished runner-up in the 4-H State Shoot in Alma. In their third state competition on May 4, the American Legion Shoot in Alma, they placed runner-up as well.

The top three teams in each state shoot qualify for the national championships.

In recent history, Norton won the international title in 1990, 1991, 1998 and 2000, placed second in 2003 and third in 1996. In 2008, Norton finished runner-up in shooting and fifth overall.

The Norton County shooting team has placed ninth in the national competition the past two years.

The young marksmen must be between 8 and 15 years of age. The written test will contain questions on information from the Daisy 10-Lesson Curriculum and the National Rifle Association BB Gun Rule Book.

Team members

Norton's team members and their ages are: Erin Archer, 15; James Berry, 13; Stacie Elliott, 11; Dylan Goss, 11 and Colton Mulder, 10. Alternates are Miles Harrington, 11 and Nick Davis, 11.

The only members of the team with previous

national shoot experience are Erin Archer and James Berry.

As in the past, Norton has been involved in the BB gun program long enough that several shooters are second generation marksmen.

Erin Archer's father, Cameron, and Dylan Goss's mother, Shannon, are former Norton shooters.

The Norton team's final pre-shoot practice was Wednesday evening in the Norton BB Gun Museum building. The team has been practicing twice a week since May 23 and the marksmen have also been practicing shooting at home.

Coach's comments

"If we shoot what we are capable of in the national shoot, we should be fine," said Norton head coach Cameron Archer, who has been in the program for 20 years and is in his seventh year as head coach.

"We should be able to be in the top 10.

"We are doing well on the written test. They know the material and will just need to concentrate so they understand each test question.

"We are happy to still have Chandra McKenna teaching in the classroom. She went through our program and was an outstanding shooter for us. She also shot competitively in college.

"We appreciate all Chandra's hard work in preparing the shooters for the written test. We also appreciate the other adults who have helped with our practices."

A perfect score on the written test would be 20 percent of the total possible points in the shoot. The written test can make or break a team. Norton always concentrates on the written test during practices.

Norton's assistant coach at the national shoot will be Jeff Elliott. In charge of grading targets for Norton will be Joni Berry.

Began in October

Norton's preparation for regional, state and national shoots began in October when the shooters entered the gun safety program, sponsored by Daisy and the National Rifle Association. They began with classroom instruction using the Daisy 10-Lesson Curriculum Book for reference. After passing the course, they began practicing marksmanship and studying for the written test.

The shooting education program was designed to introduce young shooters to the basics of safe gun handling and marksmanship. About 250,000 young people take part in the program each year.

"The community has supported this program because they know it passes on to the children and parents the proper safety knowledge of hunting," said coach Archer.

"These youngsters have stepped it up in both the classroom and shooting since the state shoots. They'll do the best they can and will make a strong showing."

Fair

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youth and adults who work with model crafts. Models will be entered from noon until 2 p.m. and judged at 2:30 p.m. on Monday. Monday's entries include 4-H Rockets (4:30-5 p.m.), 4-H and Open Class Art, Sketches, and Drawings (10 a.m.-noon). 4-H Woodworking will be entered and judged at 4 p.m. Entry day for most Open Class exhibits in the 4-H Building is Tuesday, July 24 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. 4-H and Open Class livestock are entered on Tuesday by noon with a health check-in (Swine 8-9:30 a.m., Beef 9:30-10:30 a.m., Goats and Lambs 10:30-11:30 a.m.). No animals are to be stalled until given a health check approval. 4-H and Open Class Poultry and Rabbits will be entered in by Tuesday at noon. Open Class Textiles, Handicrafts, and Culinary can be entered from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will be judged at 1 p.m. on Tuesday. Don't forget to check out the Culinary Canned Goods. Judging of Coverlets, Home Sewing, and Consultation Judging of Open Class Quilts will be Tuesday afternoon starting at 1:30 p.m. 4-H Entomology, Electric, Geology and Small Engines will be entered and judged at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

4-H Fiber Arts includes articles such as crochet, knitting, needle arts, quilting, macramé

and weaving. These will be entered Tuesday and judged from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. by 4-H club schedule. The 4-H Crafts and other Skill Arts will be entered and judged Tuesday by schedule from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Open Class and 4-H Horticulture and Flowers are entered on Wednesday morning from 8-10 a.m.


Look again this year for the special School Children Division. All youth up to 17 years of age can enter exhibits in foods, textiles and handicrafts, quilts, Afghans, flowers, plants, collections, sewing, woodworking, photography, and gardening and models.

Special programs along with the 4-H Foods Sale include local talent on Tuesday evening sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance. A free will offering will be taken. Also on Tuesday evening, there will be Youth Team Penning, sponsored by Norton Saddle Club, after the Swine Show. Wednesday evening will be the Ranch Rodeo, sponsored by Norton Horse Council, Porkburger Special - co-sponsored by the 4-H council and Husky Hogs, and a free Watermelon Feed - sponsored by Jamboree Foods and the Political Candidates Meet and Greet sponsored by Norton County Republican Central Committee and Norton County Farm Bureau and Three Jacksinging. Thursday morning the Norton County Fair Associ-

ation will hold the 4-H and FFA Challenge of Champions which offers a \$250 scholarship award sponsored by Kowpoke Supply. There will also be Crops Judging and Entomology Judging. The Round Robin Champion Showmanship and 4-H and FFA Livestock Sale and the Jackpot Team Roping Event, sponsored by Norton County Horse Council, will also be on Thursday. Friday evening's schedule has on tap the youth Pedal Power Pull and Celebrity Pull, sponsored by Landmark Implement of Phillipsburg. In addition, there will be Mutton Busting and Norton Idol, both sponsored by area businesses and coordinated by Norton County Farm Bureau and on Saturday night, July 28 car races sponsored by NEPRA.

Also each night (Tuesday-Saturday) the Home Owned Carnival will be in full swing from 6:30 - 11:30 p.m. with a special kiddie armband night (1 ticket rides) on Friday and regular arm band night on Saturday. There will be concessions booth from the 4-H Food Stand, Norton County Horse Council, American Legion, and amusement groups. The carnival rides and games are all a volunteer service and anyone wishing to offer assistance may contact a member of the Norton County Community Service Association at 877-5452.

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