



Oberlin sisters release first record

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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Music has always been a part of their lives, whether it has meant singing Christmas carols with the family, praising God or playing instruments.

Sisters Amy Carman and Angie Fortin said they grew up around music. Their mother, Donna, sings, though their father Jack, giggled the women, doesn't sing but loves music. Their sister Anita doesn't sing, either, but the two of them kind of make up for that.

Mrs. Carman said she can remember when Angie, who is seven years younger, was a baby and she would cry. Mrs. Carman said she and Anita and their mother would sing to her and she would stop crying.

Now, the two women have their first CD, "Kindred Flame," ready for sale. The two have been singing together since 1993, at least at family reunions. They would sing, and Miss Fortin said, she would play her drum. She was in grade school at the time and was learning to play the snare drum.

When Mrs. Fortin moved back to this area in 2005, the women started to perform at the local telethon, the county fair and other events in town. They first called themselves "Sweet Prairie Fire," but decided to change their name to "Kindred Flame." The first name, said Miss Fortin, really limited them musically. People think of country music when they hear the word prairie, she said, and that isn't the only kind they sing.

Actually the sisters sing all different kinds of music. Miss Fortin said the CD is kind of on the folk side of acoustic rock with contemporary Christian music and some country. They also do some oldies now and then when people ask for them.

Mostly though, said Mrs. Carman, they sing Christian praise and worship music.



KINDRED FLAME made up of sisters Amy Carman and Angie Fortin (above) performed at the beginning of the year at the LandMark Inn. — Photos by Kimberly Davis and Anita Hirsch

The women said people have been asking when they would make a CD of their songs, so in July they started working on it, going to a recording studio at a man's home in Hays.

The CD has 11 songs, all original pieces, including four or five worship songs, three or four country and a few ballads.

Mrs. Carman said her oldest daughter Patience, 5, also sings during the song "Am I Beautiful."

It has been a challenge to finish the album, said Mrs. Carman, but she added they have had a lot of support. Anita Hirsch did the pictures of the CD of the women for the cover for free and the graphic artist who did the cover worked for baked goods. Some friends babysat, said Mrs. Carman, and others have just lent support and encouragement.

She said her husband Kendal has helped a lot. He took them to Hays and back, took care of the kids, lent an extra ear, she said, and has been cool-headed and just wonderful all the way through the process. The Carmans have four children, including Isaac, 9, Moriah, 2, and Gideon, 8 months.

People can order the CDs, which cost \$17, by contacting either of the women. Mrs. Carman's number is

475-2732.

The two agreed that they didn't do a CD to become famous, but with a deep relationship with God, both believe this is part of their ministry.

"We just love performing and singing together," said Miss Fortin, "and you can reach so many people through music."

"We want God," said Mrs. Carman, "to use us how he sees fit."

Attorney says company should pay

ERIE (AP) — In a struggle he likened to the biblical fight between David and Goliath, the attorney for the city of Neodesha told jurors Tuesday that it would be up to them to decide whether the world's second-largest oil company gets to use a small southeast Kansas town as its toxic waste dump.

Attorney John M. Edgar painted BP Corp. North America Inc. and its predecessors as international megacorporations more concerned with making a profit than cleaning up the pollution they left behind.

"To BP, Neodesha means nothing — except as a place where they have to spend money," he told jurors during closing arguments, which began Tuesday.

Neodesha is seeking more than \$423 million in a class-action lawsuit to recover the costs of cleanup and damage the city says came from an oil refinery that once operated there. The suit was filed on behalf of the 2,700 residents of the town.

BP Products North America contends it already has assumed full responsibility for addressing the contamination caused by the refinery and has committed publicly to remedial actions that the Kansas Department of Health and Environment deemed appropriate.

The trial in Erie began in late August. It may be one of the longest jury trials ever in Kansas, with jurors hearing from 46 witnesses during 69 days of testimony.

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Corn boom threatens gulf

JEFFERSON, Iowa (AP) — Because of rising demand for ethanol, American farmers are growing more corn than at any time since World War II. And sea life in the Gulf of Mexico is paying the price.

The nation's corn crop is fertilized with millions of pounds of nitrogen-based fertilizer. And when that nitrogen runs off fields in Corn Belt states, it makes its way to the Mississippi River and eventually pours into the Gulf, where it contributes to a growing "dead zone" — a 7,900-square-mile patch so depleted of oxygen that fish, crabs and shrimp suffocate.

The dead zone was discovered in 1985 and has grown fairly steadily since then, forcing fishermen to venture farther and farther out to sea to find their catch. For decades, fertilizer has been con-

sidered the prime cause of the lifeless spot.

With demand for corn booming, some researchers fear the dead zone will expand rapidly, with devastating consequences.

"We might be coming close to a tipping point," said Matt Rota, director of the water resources program for the New Orleans-based Gulf Restoration Network, an environmental group. "The ecosystem might change or collapse as opposed to being just impacted."

Environmentalists had hoped to cut nitrogen runoff by encouraging farmers to apply less fertilizer and establish buffers along waterways. But the demand for the corn-based fuel additive ethanol has driven up the price for the crop, which is selling for about \$4 per bushel, up from a little more than \$2 in 2002.



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TASHA WAGONER

Grade: Senior

Parents:
Jeff & Lesley Wagoner



Tasha, a Senior at Colby High School, is the December Student of the Month.

Tasha is involved in Volleyball, Basketball, Track, Singers, Concert Choir, FCA, SADD.

Her honors have been starting point guard for the 2007 State Championship team.

After Colby High School, Tasha plans on attending Colby Community College to play basketball.

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Happy HOLLYdays!

Hope you have a wonderful holiday season!

Our office will be closing
Monday, December 24th at 11 a.m. and
we will be closed all day on Tuesday to
observe the holiday!
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