

Oberlin teen has been missing over three weeks

A 16-year-old Oberlin girl has been missing for over three weeks now.

Although the family has notified authorities and Chantelle Beneda's picture has been published and posted across the state, officials say there has been no word from the girl.

She is the daughter of Terese and Greg Vontz and Ron Beneda, all of Oberlin.

Mrs. Vontz said her daughter was last seen on Friday, May 26, heading south on U.S. 83 in her yellow 2004 Dodge Neon. She said they believe she is with Sean G. Fife, 21, whom she became acquainted with in February.

Although Miss Beneda's parents didn't agree with her relationship



with Mr. Fife, her mother said, the couple apparently stayed in contact.



Chantelle Beneda, 16, (left) has been missing for over a week. She was last seen in her 2004 yellow Dodge Neon (above) heading south from Oberlin on U.S. 83 on Friday, May 26.

Mr. Fife is on probation in Decatur County for felony forgery, said Police Chief Wade Lockhart, basically for using his brother's identity. Mrs.

Vontz said he also had some run-ins with the law in Tennessee.

She said her daughter, who will be a junior at Decatur Community

High School next year, has never done anything like this before.

Both Miss Beneda and Mr. Fife had a little money on them, said Mrs. Vontz. Her daughter had just received a paycheck and cashed it Thursday night, and he had gotten some money, too.

Mr. Fife has family in Tennessee, said Mrs. Vontz, so the two might be heading there or possibly to Texas, but she really doesn't know much.

She said the National Crime Information Center has been notified. If the two are pulled over, they will be picked up, the chief said. There is also a report on the car, so police will get a "hit" if they run the tag.

Mrs. Vontz said her daughter is about 135 pounds, 5 foot, 6 inches

tall and has long, straight blonde hair, blue eyes and braces.

Mr. Fife weighs about 150 pounds, is 5 foot, 9 inches tall and has short brown hair.

She asks that if anyone sees either one of them or the car that they call 911 or Decatur County dispatch at (785) 475-8100.

The car, said Mrs. Vontz, has a sunroof, a spoiler on the trunk, a yellow front license plate with a smiley face and flower decals on the back windows. The back license plate, from Kansas, has the number UQU808.

As of last week, Mrs. Vontz said, none of her daughter's family or friends had heard from her. Mr. Fife's family in Tennessee said they have had no contact either.

Accident claims Nebraskan

By Tisha Cox Colby Free Press

A car wreck that took the life of an Atwood woman Sunday has claimed another.

The Kansas Highway Patrol reported that the driver of the second car, Josefa Alanis, 46, of Lexington, Neb., died Monday in flight to a Wichita hospital.

The patrol said Alanis was driving a 1995 Chevrolet sport utility south on U.S. 83 when she failed to stop at a stop sign at the intersection with U.S. 24, known as Nine Mile Corner. Alanis' vehicle hit a 2000 Buick driven by Constance S. Lillich, 50, Atwood.

Lillich died in the wreck. Alanis and a passenger, Selena Martinez, 24, also of Lexington, were ejected. Neither was wearing a seatbelt, the patrol said.

All three were taken to Citizens Medical Center in Colby. Martinez and Alanis were later transferred.

Kristin Brands, public affairs manager with the Kansas Department of Transportation in Norton, said Tuesday the last fatal accident at that intersection was May 31, 2002, not in early 2005 as initially reported.

Nancy D. Irion, 49, of Ponca City, Okla., died in a two-vehicle accident. She was driving 2002 Honda north on U.S. 83 and didn't stop at a stop sign. Irion was hit by another vehicle, a 1995 Jeep, driven by Joshua Ellis, 22, of Lawrence.

The intersection has a reputation for accidents.

Stan Witley, an information specialist with the Department of Transportation in Topeka, said according to their records, 13 accidents happened at or near the intersection between 1995 and 2005.

"We went back 10 years because it gives you a better perspective," he said.

Of the 13 accidents, six involved deaths. Five of the deaths were in 1996 and the other in 2002. Those 13 crashes also resulted in 24 injuries.

Witley added the department doesn't have all the data for this year because there is a lag between when the accidents happen and when they are reported by law enforcement.

Program on children with cancer to be on public television

Independent Television Services has information on its web site on a public television miniseries to air this month. It will show the struggles of five young people with cancer, their families and their caregivers and explore questions such as how many experimental treatments a child should face and what constitutes the difference between "giving up" and "letting go."

"A Lion in the House" is an intimate, four-hour, two-part series which spans six years, showing how families respond to crises, how courage is found in unlikely places and how the humor and energy of youth can be powerful medicine. The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization is one of the national outreach partners and advisors for the project.

The miniseries will premier Wednesday and Thursday, June 21 and 22, on the Public Broadcasting System. The first part will be at 7



sandy kuhlman

• hospice services inc.

p.m. and 11 p.m. Wednesday, June 21, and at 2 a.m. Thursday, June 22, on "The Independent Lens" on Smoky Hills Public Television, Channel 9 on both Eagle and S&T cable. Part 2 will be on at 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. Thursday, June 22, and at 2 a.m. Friday, June 23. The miniseries has been selected for the Sundance Film Festival.

An article on the web site says the reason for the campaign is to galvanize public attention around childhood cancer. Each year in the United States, the article says, about 12,500 children and adolescents are diagnosed with cancer. That translates into two average-sized

classrooms of young people diagnosed each school day.

Unlike many other childhood illnesses, another article on the site says, cancer leaves an indelible mark on the life of a family. The series offers an unprecedented look at the cancer journeys of five young people, their families and caregivers over a six-year period. These five stories unfold with intimacy, compassion and honesty as audiences witness their struggles, their despair and their triumphs.

The miniseries raises many complex and difficult issues. While one family grapples with heart-rending questions about when to stop fighting the disease, another faces the dilemma of how to feel "normal" again when treatment succeeds but

fear still lurks in the background.

The series has broad-ranging relevance, because technologically advanced medicine creates ethical dilemmas for overwhelming numbers of families today.

During the program's five cancer journeys, it also becomes apparent that disparities in diagnosis, support services and outcomes are often linked to socioeconomic status and other factors that have little to do with the disease.

The film makers look beyond examining rooms and hospital corridors to let viewers see the whole child, the entire family and the physicians, nurses, teachers and other caregivers who become key players in the battle for the life of a child.

This ground-breaking PBS miniseries event, airing on the Emmy-award winning series Independent Lens, takes viewers face-to-face with challenging questions such as, the effect of late diagnosis on out-

comes, how many experimental treatments a child should face, why one parent can be a full-time caregiver to her child while another struggles to hold onto a job with medical benefits and what constitutes the difference between giving up and letting go.

The series was initiated by Dr. Robert Arcenci, then chief oncologist at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. He invited award-winning film makers Steven Bognar and Julia Reichert (whose daughter is a childhood cancer survivor) into the hospital and gave them total access to make an independent film. Five remarkable and courageous families opened their lives and homes to the film makers.

Over the course of the series, viewers will experience the same uncertainty faced by these families. Ultimately, each of the five journeys depicted offers lessons and challenges that demand a response.

Democrats, Republicans work together at Aspen leadership class

Some months ago, I was honored to be selected into the Aspen Institute-Rodel Fellowships in Public Leadership inaugural class.

The class, I discovered, was comprised of 12 Democrats and 12 Republicans, to which I thought, "Oh, my. The meeting room will have a distinct line down the center — Republicans on the right and Democrats on the left. We are going to accomplish nothing!"

Much to my surprise, the assigned seating required that no two members of the same political party be seated side by side. And more importantly, the meeting was cordial, productive and fascinating.

Democrats and Republicans shared their views in a candid, calm and open environment. We spoke about the underlying values and ideals that drive us as Americans and as political leaders. Many of us agreed that it provided an opportunity for introspection and affirmation of purpose.

The goal of the Aspen Institute-Rodel Fellowship in Public Lead-



lynn jenkins

• state treasurer

ership (www.AspenInstitute.org) is to enhance democracy by bringing together the nation's most promising young political leaders.

As a group, we exam the underlying values and principles of western democracy, how we affect our communities with our actions, and the responsibilities we have as political leaders in our cities and states. But perhaps, most importantly, we discuss sustaining the vision of a political system based on thoughtful and civil bipartisan dialogue.

The timing of the fellowship is perfect, as Kansas enters into the "Silly Season," otherwise known as a political campaign year. Soon our airwaves, newspapers and mailboxes will be filled with informa-

tion from different candidates asking for your vote on Aug. 1 and Nov. 7, and naturally, I will be among the group asking.

However, being a Rodel Fellow has reminded me about the true focus of politics — serving you, the common good and making sure that the basic needs of Kansans are being met. My focus as State Treasurer is to do what I can within state government to meet our short-term and long-term financial needs.

As you listen to the Republicans and Democrats who are running for governor, secretary of state, attorney general, insurance commissioner, state treasurer, U.S. and Kansas House of Representatives and a number of other races, try to remember to vote on the issues that matter most to you.

What are your concerns? How do you want the state to be shaped? What are your priorities? What is best for the state and its people?

Once you have answered these questions, find a candidate who supports those views.

Become involved in the political process. Vote. Assist the candidates you believe in through any means possible — by making a donation, volunteering your time, walking in parades, by offering to knock on doors and pass out literature.

The director of the Aspen Institute-Rodel Fellowships in Public Leadership class said: "In a nation

of 300 million people, democracy itself and the very principles of self-government depend on the willingness of people who disagree with each other to sit down and work together for the common good."

I am pleased to be a part of this learning experience and hope to bring what I learn home to Kansas to apply.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you. It is my great honor to be your Kansas State Treasurer.

Sunflower Contest

RULES

- Write down as many words (at least 3 letters) that you can think of using the word "Nutrient"
- Do not use proper names
- Bring your completed list to The Goodland Star- News office at 1205 Main or at our booth at the Fair by 12:00 p.m. by Monday, August 14th

Winner will be announced in the Friday, August 18th edition

1. _____	26. _____
2. _____	27. _____
3. _____	28. _____
4. _____	29. _____
5. _____	30. _____
6. _____	31. _____
7. _____	32. _____
8. _____	33. _____
9. _____	34. _____
10. _____	35. _____
11. _____	36. _____
12. _____	37. _____
13. _____	38. _____
14. _____	39. _____
15. _____	40. _____
16. _____	41. _____
17. _____	42. _____
18. _____	43. _____
19. _____	44. _____
20. _____	45. _____
21. _____	46. _____
22. _____	47. _____
23. _____	48. _____
24. _____	49. _____
25. _____	50. _____

(If you have more than 50, please attach an additional sheet)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Age _____

Winner of the Sunflower Contest will receive a FREE 1 year subscription to:

The Goodland Star-News

Classified ads work! 899-2338

Don't let this be the last picture you have of your child.....



Get involved.....learn how to protect your family...

Internet Safety is up to you and you alone!

FREE TO ANYONE

Dates: June 20 or June 27 or every Tuesday in July (you pick the Tuesday that works best for you)

Time: 5-7 pm

Location: S&T, 755 Davis Ave, Colby KS - 785.460.7300

Class Highlights: Tips of keeping children safe; filtering and tracking online chat and internet use; the danger signs to look for; questions and answer time

Who Should Attend: Any parent or grandparent or guardian



755 Davis Ave
Colby KS 67701
785.460.7300
Local People - Services - Solutions - Go Local!



The Goodland Star-News SUBSCRIBER

Lois Cossman

You receive two free passes to see

Cars

Clip and bring to the show. Non Transferable

Sherman
1203 MAIN - Phone 899-6103

Internet tonight!
899-2338