

Bill and Bee Nelson report that this radiation treatments will begin Feb. 4 through March 1.

Kenneth and Dorothy Ward enjoyed a weekend visit from their son, Doug and Paula Ward of Denver, recently.

Kenneth Ward was honored with the "Outstanding Community Builder" award at the Decatur Area Chamber of Commerce banquet.

ciative and very much surprised.

Birthdays and anniversaries: Jason Gallentine - Jan. 20; Rebecca Helm, K.G. Ward - Jan. 21; David and Retta Hare - Jan. 23.

Saturday, Jan. 18, lunch guests of Donna Warren, Oberlin, were Fern Mapes, Goldie Brewer and Mike Mapes.

Fern Mapes spent a couple of days visiting her sister, Bernice Crossfield, in Ellinwood. Her nephew, Carrol Crossfield, came from Clafin and took her down.

Glenn and Pearl Alexander are with their daughter, Beverly and her family in Syracuse, Ind., while Pearl is undergoing medical tests.

The Norcatu News Volunteers hosted a birthday party for K.G. Ward on Tuesday, Jan. 21. The cake was brought by Loretta Carter and ice cream furnished by Betty Reid.

Claire and Mary Leslie left for Omaha early on Jan. 21 to meet her sister and husband, Donna and Paul Slaybaugh of Coon Rapids, Iowa and their daughter, Jan Slaybaugh.

Nineteen senior citizens attended the Jan. 17 meeting. Winners were LaVerne Milner, June Jolly and Margaret Magers.

Winter has descended upon us and now we are starting a heat wave. The sun is shining, the snow is melting, and the chamber banquet is over.

The steaks were delicious, the DCHS Singers did a dazzling job, as usual, and the award winners were very surprised.

Oberlin Business Alliance is hosting the Fifth Wednesday on Jan. 29. There will be snacks in all stores with a sign showing "OBA" on the door.

Chamber News

By Glenva Nichols

Things are starting to slow down a bit here in the office and it's time to catch up on the paper work.

Oberlin Business Alliance will meet Feb. 5, at the LandMark at noon. If you have any ideas for things that need to be done to promote Oberlin and Decatur County,

Bring your brown bag lunch to the next chamber board meeting on Feb. 13, at noon in the Decatur Cop board room. We will welcome Eric McMurtrey, LeAnna Dempewolf and Marilyn Horn, and

say good-bye to Doug Brown, Sara Seller and LaMoine Wolfram.

There will be an election of officers for the coming year as well as ideas discussed for projects to be accomplished in the upcoming year.

Cedar Living News

The Oberlin United Church was in charge of the worship service on Jan. 18.

Maxine Chambers won the first bingo and Hank Wolfram, the blackout game.

Monday Evening Club hosted the January birthday party on Wednesday, which honored Darlene Stanley and Charley Vavroch.

Loretta Nelson played pinocle with Dean Gallatin on Friday afternoon.

Marie Jean Vavroch hosted the Coffee Club on Saturday.

provided the worship service on Jan. 26.

Recent visitors: Don Ashley, Bob and Pat Wessel, Selden; Paul and Kathy Nauer, Pastor Glenn and Betty Krebs, Rosa Brock, Jennings; Marj Law, Lakewood, Colo.;

Carol Witt, Karen Bennett, Carol Allen, Esther Noren, Fern Jording, Elaine Bryan, Wilbur May, Rachel Gallatin, Dolores Koerperich, Betty Jenik, Elvin Beneda, Orlin Beneda, Eula Juenemann, Bob Keenan, Wendell Frickey, Vayle Rohan, Esther Lindquist, Alvina Gamblin, Donald Stapp, Alice Shirley, Ila Ray, Oberlin.

Good Samaritan News

A memorial service was held Wednesday for Irene Powell, mother of Coleen Rippe, director of Social Services. The Good Sam choir shared "Spirit Song."

Lutheran worship and communion were led by Pastor Charlotte.

Little Sam's Day Care children made tissue paper flowers with residents Elfie Brown, Agnes Chambers, Lorna Bishop, Helen Styles, Marilyn St. Clair, Dorothy Wolters, Ruby McKenna, Pauline Zander, and Dena Gillespie.

A Bible trivia contest was held, attended by Dena Gillespie, Pauline Zander, Helen Styles, and Hattie Olson. The reminisee topic was "What was your first?"

dch discussed grain markets, weather and the future crop situation and was attended by Harold Demmer, Fred Helmkamp, and Lester Chambers.

Drawing was attended by Bonnie Weskamp, Hattie Olson, Marilyn St. Clair, Dena Gillespie, and Helen Styles.

Ann Leitner baked cookies, served by Ellen Horn. Peggy Pratt, director of the Northwest Kansas Juvenile Service, was guest speaker.

Dennis Brown led devotions, and ball exercises were led by Chyanne Lahe on Saturday.

The United Methodist Church of Dresden and Jennings led church services.

A birthday party with family and friends was held Sunday afternoon for Neva Campbell. They were assisted by Chyanne Lahe and Florence Vavroch.

June Vavroch visited Dena Gillespie.

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Voice of Decatur Community High School



By the DCHS Dictator Staff

A secretary and more

By JANNASTEUF

She's the welcoming smile behind the counter, refreshing after you've been sick.

She's the helpful voice on the other end of the telephone line when you have a question. She's the gentle piano instructor, bringing the gift of music. She's the ambitious student, and she's the talented performer. She's the dependable daughter, the sincere sister and the faithful friend.

She's Elisabeth Orr, and she's back in town.

Miss Orr was born and reared on a farm just east of Oberlin. Her parents are Gary and Sarah Orr, and she has three brothers, Gary, Jade and David. Some of her fondest memories are of she and David playing outside in the barn or in her play-house.

She graduated from Decatur Community High School in 1998 and attended Sterling College, graduating in 2002 with a bachelor of arts degree in behavioral science. She minored in music and family studies.

Then she came home. She says she wanted to be near her family and around for David's senior year of high school.

"Elisabeth and I have always been pretty close, and it's nice that we don't have to go to Sterling to see her," said David.

Now she's the high school secretary.

"I like to work one-on-one with people, and I like that I'm busy all the time," she said.

"She's cool. She's more laid back than other secretaries but still keeps the office within guidelines," said senior Ryan Ruf, student council president.

Miss Orr also gives piano lessons and has five students, but she would like up to 10. She is also choir director at the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center.

She also enjoys singing and acting and has taken part in the Decatur Area Theater Association plays.

She has a fascination with severe weather.

"Storms have never scared me. I used to go outside and watch them when I was little," she said. "Understanding the power of God through a storm is very humbling."

She would like to go to graduate school and earn her master's in public relations.

"She's really nice and personable, a good people-person," said senior Adam Spanier.

"We are so blessed to have Elisabeth with us again. Everyone adored her when she was in high school, and it's fun to work with her on a different level," said English teacher Brenda Breth. "We are also blessed to have her back in our church because of the work she does with our children. My sons love her — everyone loves Elisabeth."

'Is it too late for a flu shot?'

By Pastor Charlotte Strecker-Baseler, Faith Lutheran Church, Oberlin

In the midst of the recent cold snap, I wondered if it was too late to get that flu shot I'd been putting off since October. I'm not sure why I'd put it off. Maybe I was afraid of getting the flu or perhaps it was just procrastination.

My concern about the possibility of sickness can be applied to our current economic health. We can focus on worrying about our rural economic woes without doing anything about it, or we can choose to prevent the spread of its inevitable destruction.

Instead of focusing on fear, why not focus on positive, future-looking assets that rural communities, small towns and family farms have to offer? It is time to join together to take back our lives, our communities and our family farms.

Perhaps the image of vaccines can help to illustrate my point. A vaccination that would help to produce a healthier community would include the following: hope, peace, faith, love, generosity, looking forward, community spirit, 20/20 vision, wisdom, cooperation, endurance, persistence, ethics and a good dose of entrepreneurship. A transfusion of fresh/new blood is also key to health and for the health of the community there would also need to be inoculations against apathy, helplessness, greed, denial, lust, sabotage, addictions, violence, abuse, unethical practices, and the mind-set that "we've always done it that way."

ness, greed, denial, lust, sabotage, addictions, violence, abuse, unethical practices, and the mind-set that "we've always done it that way."

In the early church the community practiced Christian cooperation. "All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. They spent much time together in the temple, broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved." (Acts 2:44-47)

A rural way of life has much to offer. I believe it is not too late to inoculate against those things that destroy life in rural communities. Theologian Jurgen Moltmann wrote "Faith, wherever it develops into hope, causes not rest but unrest, not patience but impatience. It does not calm the unquiet heart..."

This kind of hope stirs us into action. Let us join together to "encourage one another and build up each other..." as we "always seek to do good to one another and to all." (1 Thessalonians 5:11,15) Maybe it's not too late to get that flu shot after all.



Schedule of Oberlin and area church services:

OBERLIN SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 785-475-3103 The Rev. Matthew Vazhappilly, The Rev. Mr. Stan Chapin, MASS: 8 a.m. Sunday

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC, LEVILLE The Rev. Matthew Vazhappilly MASS: 8 a.m. Sunday.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC, SELDEN The Rev. Matthew Vazhappilly MASS: 10 a.m. Sunday

OBERLIN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH Arlin Cochran, Minister 539 E. 2nd St., St. Francis SATURDAY: Sabbath School, 9:15 a.m.; Saturday Worship, 11 a.m.

JENNINGS-DRESDEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH JENNINGS Glenn Krebs, pastor SUNDAY: Church School, 10 a.m. Morning Worship, 11 a.m. DRESDEN SUNDAY: Morning Worship, 9:30 a.m.

PRAIRIE CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST The Rev. Doug Hasty SUNDAY: Church Services, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 8:30 a.m.

HERNDON IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST The Rev. Nolan and Barbara Pierce SUNDAY: Morning Worship, 10 a.m.

UNITED CHURCH OF OBERLIN 109 North Griffith-American Baptist, Disciples of Christ, Presbyterian USA Rev. Barbara and/or Nolan Pierce SUNDAY: Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:30 a.m. Choir practice every Wed. at 7:30 p.m. Holy Communion, 1st Sun. United Church Women, 2nd Wed at 2 p.m. Parish Council, 2nd Wed. at 8 p.m.

OBERLIN COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP (Southern Baptist) Pastor: Bobby Cornelius SUNDAY: Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m. Evening Service, 7 p.m.. WEDNESDAY: Service, 7 p.m.

OBERLIN UNITED METHODIST 102 North Cass — 785-475-3067 The Rev. Doug Hasty SUNDAY: Church School, 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m. (Nursery provided.) WEDNESDAY: Choir practice, 7:30 p.m.

CLAYTON UNITED METHODIST Pastor: Charles Keller 785-693-4339 SUNDAY: Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service, 11 a.m.

PIONEER BAPTIST CHURCH Meeting Temporarily at 119 S. Cass Ave., Oberlin Pastor Steve Smith Phone 785-475-3844 SUNDAY: Sunday School, 10:00 a.m.; Morning Service, 11:00 a.m.; Evening Service, 6:00 p.m. WEDNESDAY: Bible Study & Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Visit us on the web at www.pioneerbaptist.org

OBERLIN ASSEMBLY OF GOD The Rev. Royce Leitner SUNDAY: Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Morning Worship, 11 a.m.; Evening Worship, 7 p.m. WEDNESDAY: Adult Bible study, 7 p.m. King's Kids, 6:30 p.m.; Youth, 8 p.m. Women's Group, 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 2 p.m.

OBERLIN CHURCH OF CHRIST Beaver and Mill Bill Duncan — Phone 785-475-3259 SUNDAY: Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship Hour, 10:45 a.m. Junior Worship, grade 3 & down; 2nd Sundays: All-church dinner. WEDNESDAY: Ladies Home Bible Study, 9 a.m.; Home Bible Studies, 7:30 p.m.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC, HERNDON The Rev. Damian Richards Phone 785-322-5560 MASS: SUNDAY, 8 a.m.

HERNDON COVENANT CHURCH Keith Reuther, Pastor Phone 785-322-5316 SUNDAY: Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Morning Worship, 11 a.m.; Bible study, 7 p.m.

NORCATUR UNITED METHODIST Pastor: Charles Keller 785-693-4339 SUNDAY: Worship Service, 9:30 a.m.; Church School, 10:30 a.m.

LYLE UNITED METHODIST Pastor: Charles Keller 785-693-4339 SUNDAY: Morning Worship 8 a.m.

EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH OF OBERLIN The Rev. Heidi Wiebe 810 West Cedar, Oberlin Office Phone 785-475-2769

SUNDAY: Worship Service, 9:30 a.m.; Fellowship Time, 10 a.m.; Sunday School, 11 a.m. TUESDAY: Bible Study, 7 p.m.; WEDNESDAY: Worship Celebration, 7:30 P.M.

LUND COVENANT CHURCH Pastor: Tom Smith 10 miles south, 4 miles west of Oberlin SUNDAY: Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m. SATURDAY: Men's breakfast & Bible Study, 7 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH The Rev. Chad M. Eckels, Pastor 785-475-2333

Share the Faith — as for me and my household we will serve the Lord! SUNDAY: Sunday School and Bible class, 9:15 a.m.; Worship, 10:30 a.m.; Adult Bible Study, 6:30 p.m. WEDNESDAY: Quilters 9 a.m.; Midweek School, 4-7 p.m. THURSDAY: Information Class, 7 p.m.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 404 North York Avenue Oberlin, Kansas

Pastor Charlotte Strecker-Baseler Church Office Phone: 785-475-2053 SUNDAY: Worship, 9:30 a.m.; Fellowship and Educational Hour, 10:45 a.m. Holy Communion first and third Sundays. Congregation Council, third Sunday, 10:45 a.m. Youth Group, first and third Sundays, 10:45 a.m. WEDNESDAY: Confirmation class, 6:30 p.m.; Women's Bible Study second Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.

Meet the Seniors

Natasha Weishapl

Natasha is the daughter of Tom and Kim Weishapl. Some of Natasha's hobbies include hanging out with her friends, reading books, and collecting shoes.

She is in both Kayettes and Science Club. Natasha is also in track.

Natasha's plans for the future are to either attend Kansas University or Emporia to study Pre-Optometry. Following this she plans to go to an optometry school.

Joni Diederich

Joni Diederich is the daughter of Pat Diederich and Brenda Diederich. She has one brother, John, a sophomore.

She was this year's manager of

the volleyball team. One of Joni's hobbies is working on her scrapbook.

One accomplishment Joni is proud of is being a Certified Nurse Aide.

Next year, she hopes to go to Colby Community College.

Daniel Dempewolf

Daniel Dempewolf is the son of Mike and LeAnna Dempewolf. He has two brothers, James, who is currently in the Navy, and Andrew, a seventh-grader.

Dan's hobbies include drawing and running. He was on the cross-country team and is a letterman.

Dan works at Raye's Grocery. He plans to work in auto body repair.

These sponsors urge you to attend church regularly:

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