

# Two students attend leadership conference

Sarah Marcuson and Quintin Cundiff of Oberlin attended the Kansas Farm Bureau's Leadership America 2003 from June 3-6 at Barton County Community College in Great Bend. They were sponsored by Decatur County Farm Bureau.



S. Marcuson

training tool used to vividly demonstrate the concept of impairment and the dangers of impaired driving, was also presented.

Conferees completed the Adventure Based Leadership Education (ABLES) course at Camp Aldrich, enjoyed a

pool party, dance and prepared and performed skits. One hour of college credit was available to seminar participants.

Over 8,000 Kansas youth have participated since Farm Bureau began the annual leadership seminar in 1962. County Farm Bureau associations select and sponsor the conferees.

# Farmers can sign up for crop disaster loans

Sign up for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Crop Disaster Program is underway at the Decatur County Farm Service Agency office.

Diane Barrett, director of the county office, said under the program, farmers will be reimbursed for qualifying crop production and quality losses for either the 2001 or 2002 crops. Payments will be issued for losses exceeding 35 percent of expected production at:

- 50 percent of the established price for crops that were covered by crop insurance.
- 50 percent of the established price for crops for which crop insurance was not available.
- 45 percent of the established price to producers for crops that could have been insured but were not.

The closing date for sign-up will be announced later, but farmers will be given plenty of time to complete the process. Payments are expected to provide some \$2 billion in aid nationwide for producers suffering

from natural disasters. They are limited to \$80,000 per producer.

The Agricultural Assistance Act of 2003, which authorized the program, requires 2001 and 2002 crop disaster payments be calculated by the same formula and loss thresholds used for the 2000 crop disaster program. That means the prices used to calculate disaster payments for crops under the Federal Crop Insurance Program will be the Actual Production History prices. For crops not insured, five-year average market prices will be used.

The law also requires the 2001 or 2002 crop disaster payments be reduced if the sum of the disaster payment, the net crop insurance indemnity and the value of the crop that was not lost, exceeds 95 percent of what the value of the crop would have been in the absence of a loss.

The Farm Service Agency has developed a Web site that provides producers with one convenient location for details on new and existing disaster assistance at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

# Thomas County rodeo looking for queen candidates

Entrants for the Thomas County Rodeo Queen and Princess Contest are being sought. Contestants may be residents from anywhere in northwestern Kansas, according to Marie Skolout, coordinator.

Contestants will be judged in horsemanship, interview, speech and modeling, and must be ages 17-23 for queen, or 10-16 for princess, by Jan. 1, 2003, to be eligible.

A trophy saddle will be awarded to the queen, along with belt buck-

les for the queen and princess. Additional prizes will be awarded for horsemanship, ticket sales and people's choice award.

The queen and princess will be crowned on July 29 at the PRCA Rodeo during the Thomas County Fair. Deadline for entries is Friday, July 18. Those interested may contact Marie Skolout at (785) 586-2228 for details or e-mail [june@stel.net](mailto:june@stel.net) for entry forms or information.

# Annual antique show set

The Tri-State Antique Engine and Threshers Association and Tri-State Antique Auto Club will sponsor the 50th Annual Antique Show in Bird City from Thursday, July 31, through Sunday, Aug. 3.

They are encouraging those who had a tractor, car, machinery, etc. at the show in the past 50 years to bring it back for display to help celebrate the Golden Jubilee.

Special recognition is planned for all former Thresher Queens on Saturday, Aug. 2.

The four-day event will include

an antique parade at 1:15 p.m. each day; exhibits; a barbecue served by the McDonald Lions Club from 5-7 p.m. on Saturday, with entertainment provided; quilt show, car museum, country kitchen, sod house, print shop, blacksmith shop, country schoolhouse, country church, tractor pull, stationary engines, steam engines, entertainment and more.

For details, Ken Beougher, (785) 734-2555; Al Kirmer (785) 862-7490; or Ned and Deb Smith, (785) 734-2517.

# Council will meet in July 10

The Oberlin City Council will hold its first meeting of the month Thursday, July 10, because of the Fourth of July holiday weekend. The council will meet again at

6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 24. All meetings are open to the public. They are held in the upstairs meeting room at The Gateway.

# Youth chosen for committee

Kelsey Strickler, a 2003 graduate of Colby High School, has been chosen to serve as one of the first youth members on the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, a national group which represents more than 5,000 local anti-drug coalitions.

She was nominated by Janet Worthy of Atwood, project director for Community Awareness Team in Colby. Mrs. Worthy said Kelsey has been an active voice in Colby for the past four years as a youth leader and has been responsible for the conception of many of its youth activities. She has served as an officer of Colby High School Students Against Destruction Decisions.

As a youth member, she will help the coalitions develop and expand its youth outreach efforts.

**60th Wedding Anniversary**  
**Joy and Hilaria Huff**

Invite friends and relatives to their 60th Anniversary Open House from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, July 5 at the Norton County 4-H Building, 126 Park, Norton  
*NO GIFTS PLEASE*

# Club News

## Unit plans birthday party

Hearth and Home Unit met June 16 with Henrietta Van Vleet as hostess. The meeting opened with the flag salute and the Kansas Association Family, Community and Education creed.

Plans were made to serve the

birthday party at the Good Samaritan Center in July. The unit purchased a Prairie crab apple tree for the fairgrounds.

Laurene Van Otterloo presented the lesson, "How's the Beef."

## Keith family holds reunion

The eighth annual Keith family reunion was held June 14 and 15 at the Emery Kathka home in McCook.

Everyone enjoyed games, picture taking, visiting and getting acquainted with new family members. A family rummage and craft sale were held for the first time.

A family dinner was held at a local business on Sunday, after which the group went to the Kathka home for a white elephant exchange followed by games.

Those present included: Elmer and Le Ardis Frerichs, Lexington, Neb.; Anna Marie Yuetter, Cozad, Neb.; Glen and Noreen Jumps, McCook; Norman and Bonnie Keith, Grand Junction, Colo.; Le Verna Petersen, Grand Island, Neb.; Arnold Petersen, Denver; Anita and Edward Surber, Bainbridge, Ind.; Steve and Judy Norton, Ladoga, Ind.; Howard Kenfield, Ogallala, Neb.; Mike and Carrie, Andrea and Adam Keith, Ogallala, Neb.; Jackie Miller, Grand Island, Neb.; Judy

Weiand, Shawnee; Randy, Bonnie, Melissa, Justin and Bradley Stoppkotte, Alda, Neb.; Kenny Kirkpatrick, Wood River, Neb.; Connie Scott and Brooklyn Pazarena, Harper Woods, Mich.; Zack Arms, Hastings, Neb.; Jimmy and Jeanne Keith, Phoenix, Ariz.; Susan and MaKaila Averill, Overbrook; Shaile Kathke, Columbus, Mo.; Dennis Kathke, Danbury; Duane Kathka, North Platte, Neb.; Nettie Schneider, Ogallala, Neb., and Emery and Delores Kathka, McCook.

The traveling picture of the home place was taken home by Jimmy and Jeannene Keith of Phoenix, to be brought back next year to someone else for another year. The traveling white elephant was given to Bonnie Stoppkotte, Alda, Neb., to be brought back next year for another person.

It was decided to have the annual Keith reunion at the home of Emery and Delores Kathka of McCook on the second weekend of June 2004.

## Area graduates receive Fort Hays scholarships

Several area students have accepted scholarships from Fort Hays State University for the 2003-2004 academic year.

Christina Coiner, 2003 Jennings High School graduate, accepted an \$800 Hays City Silver Academic Award. She is the daughter of Matthew and Sarah Coiner, Jennings, and plans to major in psychology.

Ryan Miller, also a 2003 Jennings High School graduate, accepted a \$500 award of Excellence in Technology Studies and a \$400 Fort Hays Bronze Academic Award. The son of Greg and Marie Miller, Dresden, he plans to major in technology studies or architecture.

Eric Vahling, who graduated from Jennings High School in 2000, accepted an \$800 Rodney and Lois Scott scholarship. He is the son of Dick and Betty Vahling, Dresden, and is majoring in computer information systems.

Tyler Cook, 2003 Decatur Community High School graduate, accepted a \$400 Fort Hays Bronze Academic Award. He is the son of Gale and Kendra Cook, Oberlin.

Janna Stef, also a 2003 Decatur Community High School graduate,

accepted a \$1,200 Miller Black and Gold Academic Award. The daughter of Rick Stef, Aurora, Colo., and Lisa Stacy, Oberlin, she plans to major in art.

Natasha Weishapl, a 2003 Decatur Community High School graduate, accepted a \$400 Fort Hays Bronze Academic Award. She is the daughter of Thomas and Kimberly Weishapl, Oberlin, and plans to major in radiology.

Lynn Fossum, of Hays but formerly of Oberlin, accepted a \$500 Nursing Scholarship. The granddaughter of Jerry and Marcia Lohofener, Oberlin, Lynn is majoring in nursing.

Danielle Hickert, 2003 Golden Plains High School graduate, accepted a \$400 Fort Hays Bronze Academic Award. The daughter of Rick and Betty Hickert of Selden, she plans a career in sociology or law enforcement.

Jami Shaw, also a 2003 Golden Plains High School graduate, accepted an \$800 Hays City Silver Academic Award. She is the daughter of Steve and Joni Shaw of Selden, and plans to major in agriculture.

## Automotive class added

Northwest Kansas Technical College at Goodland has received certification by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation and the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence, according to President Kenneth Clouse.

He said, "During the past several months we have worked closely with them to make certain that our automotive training program con-

tinues to meet industry standards."

The college received certification in the areas of brakes, electrical/electronic systems, heating and air conditioning, engine performance, engine repair, suspension and steering, automatic transmissions and transaxles, and manual drive trains and axles.

For details, contact Tom Purvis, automotive technology instructor, at (785) 899-3781.

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# Couple celebrates 60th anniversary

Joy and Hilaria Huff of Goodland will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary with a reception from 3:30 to 5 p.m. on July 5 at the 4-H Building in Norton. The Hickert family reunion is also scheduled for that day.



Mr. and Mrs. Huff

Hilaria Hickert and Joy Huff were married July 7, 1943, at St. Joseph's Church in New Almelo. They had been married for only six months before he went into the Air Force and spent the next year in the European Theater. The new bride went to nurse's training at Concordia, but left school when her husband returned from the war. She later became a licensed practical nurse and was the Director of Respiratory Therapy at Mercy Medical Center in Denver, where she worked for 27 1/2 years.

After his discharge from the service in 1944, the Huffs were engaged in farming. They lived in Jennings until moving to Clayton in 1946. In 1954 the family moved to Denver, where he worked for Massey Harris as parts manager. Later he worked for Clark Lift Truck as parts manager, then as their pub-

lic relations manager, a position he held for 18 years. Their next career move led him to be a mail carrier for the United States Postal Service, retiring from that in 1982.

Following retirement, the Huffs moved to Casper, Wyo., where they lived for 11 years. In 1994 they moved to Goodland to be more centrally located.

The Huffs have one daughter, Arlene. She and her husband, Roy Hohn, live in Littleton, Colo. They have four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Of special pride to the Huffs is the fact that one granddaughter is in the Peace Corps.

**Home Time**

By **Tranda Watts**  
Multi-county Extension Agent

# Brown recluse spiders can cause problems

Brown recluse spiders are present year-around, but they're more active in warm weather. They can be seen between dusk and dawn.

Discovering that you're sharing space with brown recluse spiders is no reason to panic. Still, it may be a reason to do some repairs, furniture rearranging and extra housecleaning. A brown recluse spider bite can be a problem.

These spiders try to avoid people. The number of people bitten each year is extremely low. In one home, 2,000 brown recluses were found, with no one ever reporting a bite.

The spiders attack only when they're surprised. That isn't an everyday happening because they hide in dark, preferably small places in daytime. Look before reaching into the bathroom cabinet corner, under the kitchen sink, or grabbing shoes stored in the back of the closet. Be careful working in and around stacks of stuff in your home or garage.

The most common bite site may be beds. A brown recluse may wander onto the sheets at night. If a sleeper rolls over and surprises the spider, it reacts. The sleeper may wake up feeling a sharp pain, but in many cases, people don't feel the bite and don't develop any symptoms for six to 12 hours.

The severity of symptoms depends on the person's sensitivity

and on the amount of venom the spider manages to inject. For the one person in 10 who is sensitive, the common symptoms are blisters and swelling around the bite area. Rare cases include deep ulcers. Sometimes reactions bring chills, fever, nausea, vomiting and/or stiffness.

Waking up with a bite mark doesn't automatically mean a spider's been around. Spider fangs leave two marks. Those who are bitten while awake should try to save the spider, even if it's smashed. Not all brown spiders are recluses.

The next steps are to clean the wound with cold water, apply an ice pack and elevate the bite area. Then if you think you were bitten by a brown recluse, see the doctor right away.

The best control is to seal cracks, remove clutter and vacuum up any insects you find.

Move the bed so it doesn't touch the wall and make sure bedding doesn't touch the floor. Inspect your shoes before you put them on, and shake out any clothing you haven't worn in a long time.

Tranda Watts is multi-county extension specialist in food, nutrition, health and safety for Decatur, Gove, Norton, Sheridan, and Trego counties. Call her at 785-443-3663 or e-mail [twatts@oznet.ksu.edu](mailto:twatts@oznet.ksu.edu). For more information, contact the county extension office, 475-8121.

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- Italian Steak Salad
- Red-White & Blue Steak Salad
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