

People in Our Community

Mary Lou Olson, society editor mlolson@nwkans.com

Word was received of the death of Theona "Toni" O'Toole, 74, of Tampa, Fla., on Sunday. The former Toni Machamer, she was a 1947 graduate of Decatur Community High School. Her husband, James O'Toole, and a son, Gary, preceded her in death. She is survived by a son, Mr. and Mrs. Kevin O'Toole, Tampa; three grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. She was a sister-in-law of Jack O'Toole, Martha Munson and Mary Horney of Oberlin.

Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Ufford returned Monday from the Topeka area, where they visited their son, Richard, and daughter, Janie, and families over Christmas.

JoAnn Kennedy and daughter, Julie Munden, Great Bend, enjoyed a Christmas trip to New York City. They flew from Wichita and stayed with their son and brother, Joe, who lives near midtown, New York City. They visited the Empire State Building, Rockefeller Center, the Today Show studio, Ellis Island, Central Park, St. Patrick's Cathedral where they attended Mass, New York Public Library and General Electric Building. They enjoyed "Little Shop of Horrors" at Broadway Theater, 5th Avenue shops, Battery Park and Times Square. They had supper at Olive's Restaurant in the West Hotel with Joe and his friends on Christmas Eve and he also hosted a Christmas party for the women and several friends on Christmas Day. They returned to Wichita on Dec. 27.

Cheryl and Sid Metcalf entertained with a Christmas dinner on Dec. 24. Guests were Shad, Jody and Seanna Metcalf, Colorado Springs; Eileene Grose, and Shannon and Chris Metcalf.

April Ann Wolters was a last Friday afternoon visitor of Elsie Wolters. Mr. and Mrs. Fernanda Peña and Ian were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Gus Wolters from Wednesday to Saturday.

Brad and Elaine Marcuson, Leslie, Sarah and Jared, and Corey Fortin, left Wednesday for Tucson, Ariz., where they attended the Fiesta Bowl. They spent two nights with David and Mary Anderson in Tucson and also visited with their son, Matt Anderson of Tucson, and their daughter, Heather Anderson of Los Angeles. The Marcusons returned home Sunday night.

A belated birthday observance was hosted on Jan. 3 for Kade Grafel, 6, by his parents, Dan and Melinda Grafel, and his sister, Isabel, at the Grafels' rural home. Other guests were Rich Grafel; Connie Grafel; Greg and Amanda Grafel, Kel and Reece; Jay and Annetta Ketterl, Colton, Riley and Morgan; Gaye Leitner, Caitlin and Courtney; Drs. Randy and Shannon Leska; Sam O'Toole, McCook; Jason and Jean Shamburg and Clair, Alma, Kan., and Harlan and Norma Grafel, Herndon.

On Christmas Eve, Bill and Carol

Duncan went to Salina to visit at the Greg and Kathleen Norris home for the holidays. Greg Duncan, Lubbock, Texas, arrived that evening and Mr. and Mrs. Brandon Norris were also visiting from Oklahoma City. On the following Saturday, they all went to Enid, Okla., to attend the 50th wedding anniversary celebration of Carol's sister and husband, Marilyn and Don Myers. They were able to visit with 41 members of their extended family. The Duncans returned home on Monday.

Phillip Reid Jackson, 84, Atwood, a retired house painter, died Thursday at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. He was the father of Doug Jackson, advertising salesman for *The Goodland News*. Funeral services were held Tuesday morning at the Christian Church in Atwood with burial at Fairview Cemetery at Atwood. Dave Bergling attended the funeral services.

Winning highs in pinocle at Golden Age Center the past week were Dorothy Moore, Kenneth Van Vleet, Wilma May, Henry Edgett, Veanna Orr and Max Carman. Lows went to Aleen Van Vleet, Wilma May, Elsie Goodnight, Doris Miller and Floyd Edgett. Pitch highs were won by Floyd Edgett and Dorothy Moore with lows going to Aleen Van Vleet and Wilma May. Bridge winners were Phyllis Lohofener and Dorothy Cochran.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Orr, and Christy Finstad and three daughters, El Dorado; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rutherford, Crowley, Texas; D.J. Rutherford, Olathe; and Susan Orr, Colby, spent the Christmas holiday weekend with their mother and grandmother, Veanna Orr and Aleen Van Vleet.

Gary and Deanna Grose of Berthoud, Colo., and Pam Van Vleet, Raven and Alicia of Waverly, Mo., were guests of Eileene Grose on Friday. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Montgomery of Enid, Okla., were evening visitors.

Mr. and Mrs. Herb Shirley and Mrs. Alice Shirley spent several days after Christmas in St. Joseph, Mo., with Pat and Mandy Moran. Over the weekend, additional guests were Robbie and Jeni Henningson, Nolan and Gannon. On Christmas Day, the Shirleys and Henningsons were guests at the home of Sam and Tiffanie O'Toole in McCook.

Barb Castor spent Christmas with her daughter and family, Ronda and Bob Haskins, and Alison, of Broomfield, Colo. Mr. Haskins brought her home on Monday and Mrs. Haskins and Alison came on New Year's Day, then they went to Formosa to visit his relatives before returning home Sunday.

Holiday guests of Rick and Deb Klima were their daughter, Gina Nelson, and Elyssa, Saginaw, Texas, and their son, Jeff Klima, Overland Park.

Lloyd Shields, a 1971 graduate of

Decatur Community High School, has been promoted to production manager of *The McCook Daily Gazette*, following the recent death of Roger Schmidt. He formerly worked at *The Oberlin Herald* and is the son of Catherine Neal of Oberlin and the late Delbert Shields. His wife, Clarice, is employed in the food service department at the Work Ethic Camp; their daughter, Heather, works in McCook, and their other daughter, Amber and her husband, Mark Shepherd, and son, Izaiah, live in Evans, Colo.

Glema Macy of Lebanon, Neb., visited last Monday afternoon with Fern Jording. On Tuesday, Susan Dier, Jessica and Elisa, Lincoln, Neb., visited her father, Duane Jording, and her grandmother, Fern Jording.

Holiday guests of Arlo and Bonnie Wurm were Stanton and Michelle Wurm, Alexandria and Victoria, Lebo; Mike and Shawna Karl, Todd and Scott, Brighton, Colo.; Shane and Christy Wurm, Kattie and Valerie, St. Francis; Keane Wurm, Hays; and Kevin and Kayla Wurm, Cody, Cade and Cory, Dresden.

Martha Nemeth spent Christmas and New Year's Day in Topeka with her daughter and family, Mary and Tom Heald, Adam and Rachel. They celebrated Mary's birthday on New Year's Day. Mrs. Nemeth was accompanied to Topeka by Amy Rehm, who was met by her daughter, Carol Sloan. She spent the Christmas and New Year's holidays with the Steve and Carol Sloan family in Lawrence.

Attending the KSU-OSU watch party at the home of Connie Grafel on Jan. 2 were Mr. and Mrs. Sid Metcalf; Chris Metcalf; Dan and Melinda Grafel, Kade and Isabel; Greg and Amanda Grafel, Kel and Reece; Mr. and Mrs. Brad Uehlin and Gavin; Mr. and Mrs. Darren Fortin; Sam and Tiffani O'Toole and Peyton of McCook; Mr. and Mrs. Ron Beims, Herndon; Mr. and Mrs. Todd Sumner, Norcat; Mr. and Mrs. Chad Stanley, Denver, and Mr. and Mrs. Jason Shamburg and Clair, Alma.

Mark and Kim McConville, Britany and Dylan of Indianola, Neb., entertained to dinner on Saturday, Pam Van Vleet, Raven and Alicia, Waverly, Mo.; Gary and Deanna Grose, Berthoud, Colo.; Ann and Junior Schageck, Hoxie; Brooke McConville, Lincoln, Neb.; Mitchell Neilm, Salina; Cheryl, Sid and Shannon Metcalf, and Eileene, Grose, Oberlin.

Mr. and Mrs. Tim Wolters, April Ann, Ashley, and Levi James were New Year's dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Gus Wolters.

Sunday visitors at the home of Gene and Marcella Leitner after a weekend of skiing in Colorado were their daughters, Donna Wilson and Desiree, Wichita, and Patricia and Dave Tongish, Jarrett and John, Newton; Ashley Tongish, Wichita; Britt Houser, Hays; and Lesley Tongish and friend Richard, Hays.



JIM KEENAN OF OAKLEY discusses scheduling issues with his 14-member entrepreneurship class at Oakley High School, which manages the Palace movie theater in downtown Oakley. —Hays Daily News photo

Jennings high graduate teaches business firsthand

Jim Keenan, a 1973 graduate of Jennings High School, is teaching students in his entrepreneurship class at Oakley High School how to operate a business firsthand.

A story in *The Hays Daily News*, written by Jan Katz Ackerman, says that after Mr. Keenan's class been through the first chapter of the text, they tossed the book and dove into managing the 230-seat Palace Theater in Oakley.

After having no theater in town for nearly two years, businessman Bruce Campbell took the idea of a community-based, student-managed theater to Mr. Keenan, who jumped at the offer.

He and other members of the theater board oversee the teen-agers' operation of the theater. The class, which is in its fourth year, had until this semester managed only fictitious companies.

Mr. Keenan and his students believe there is no comparison be-

tween managing a company on paper to managing a real one.

"While there's been a tremendous amount of volunteer labor," he said, "the kids do a tremendous amount of work, including finding an organization to volunteer for the week-end and cleaning up."

"Our kids keep records on the movie that has been ordered by the board and the kids manage the theater."

With his day-to-day guidance, students are in charge of making sure all aspects of the business are ready each week to show movies Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights.

During the first month, the students, along with volunteers and sponsors, entertained 1,488 people.

"The opening weekend they had 447 people attend," Mr. Keenan said, "and Thanksgiving weekend that jumped to 603."

All of the students agree it has been a wonderful learning experi-

ence for them, even though it takes a lot of time and commitment.

"Help from the community has been overwhelming," said Mr. Campbell. "Almost all our local contractors and businesses have helped. We put on a new roof with the help of local contractors who donated their time and tools and we just paid for the materials."

Mr. Campbell, who oversees the project from the upstairs projection room, said he is pleased the idea has been so well-accepted.

"We are by no means professional, but we haven't heard any boos from downstairs," he said.

Mr. Keenan is the son of Imogene (Johnston) Keenan of Jennings, a 1945 graduate of Decatur Community High School, and the late Neil Keenan. He is a brother of John Keenan, and a nephew of Loyd Keenan, both of Oberlin.

River project meeting set for Jan. 15

A meeting on the Republican River Riparian Project is scheduled at 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, at the Fish Hatchery, west of Wray, Colo.

The agenda includes a presentation from Jim Goeke, a hydrogeologist from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, who will talk about the relationship between the Ogallala Aquifer and the river. It will include a business meeting, lunch and a tour of the headwaters of the Republican.

A study shows that woody vegetation area in the Republican River has increased 1,153 percent from 1937 to 1998. Rich Mullaney, with

Southwest Nebraska Resource Conservation and Development, said trees use a lot more water than other native vegetation, so the change means an increase water use by plants along the river and its tributaries.

The group wants to look at the river bottom area, also known as the riparian area, and push changes in land management along the river in Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska.

Some of the goals include pushing the three states to develop a regional plan for the watershed, increasing economic development throughout the area, increasing the

quantity and quality of the water in the basin and making people aware of the issues. The group hopes to foster an interest in natural resources along the river, and form a permanent organization to address these goals.

Cooperating partners include Western Prairie, Southwest Nebraska and Northeast Colorado Resource Conservation and Development groups; federal, state and local agencies, organizations and districts, and private organizations and landowners.

Make reservations by calling (785) 462-2602.

Young farmer and rancher program set

A "Planning for Success" program will be held for beginning farmers and ranchers on Thursday, Jan. 29, at the City Limits Convention Center in Colby. Registration is at 9:30 a.m.

Speakers will include: Barry Flinchbaugh, Kansas State Univer-

sity professor, on agricultural policy; Mark Wood, Farm Management Association; Greg Lohofener, Market Data; Mark Winger, Farm Credit; Dwight Jury, of the U.S. Farm Service Agency; Roger McEowen, K-State law specialist; Fred and Jeanne Schields,

Sherman County farmers; and area extension agents. There will be "informal" displays.

Registration may be sent to Thomas County Extension Office, 350 S. Range, Suite 16, Colby, Kan., 67701. The meal will be provided by Farm Credit of Western Kansas.

Profitability conference set

The 2004 Ag Profitability Conference will be Thursday, Feb. 5, at the City Limits Convention Center, 2227 S. Range Ave., in Colby.

Registration is scheduled at 9:15 p.m., followed by a talk by Kevin Dhuyvetter on land values and cash rents. Two breakout sessions will follow.

Following lunch, Sara Fogleman will speak on attracting and keeping farm employees with breakout ses-

sions to follow. Among subjects will be: tax issues, machinery costs, own vs. lease, hunting leases, livestock and crop insurance, water issues in western Kansas and livestock insurance.

Registration is due by Jan. 29 and the cost is \$25. Late registration is \$35. Send to Dana Belshe, 350 S. Range, Suite 16, Colby, Kan., 67701.

You're Invited

25th

Wedding Anniversary



Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Olson

The public is invited to help celebrate the 25th Wedding Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Olson on January 11.

A noon potluck dinner and 2 to 4 p.m. reception will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church.

The public is invited to a Birthday Open House for Eugene Wurm

on January 10, 2004 from 2 to 4 p.m.

at the Golden Age Center in Oberlin, Ks.

Happy 75th Birthday, Gene!

Please come join us to wish them well

Wedding Reception-Open House

Bryan & Megan (Corbett) Kempt

Saturday, Jan. 10, 2004


2 to 5 p.m.

502 East Commercial

Oberlin, Ks

Bryan and Megan were married Dec. 19, 2003

Look who's



50

on

January 11!!

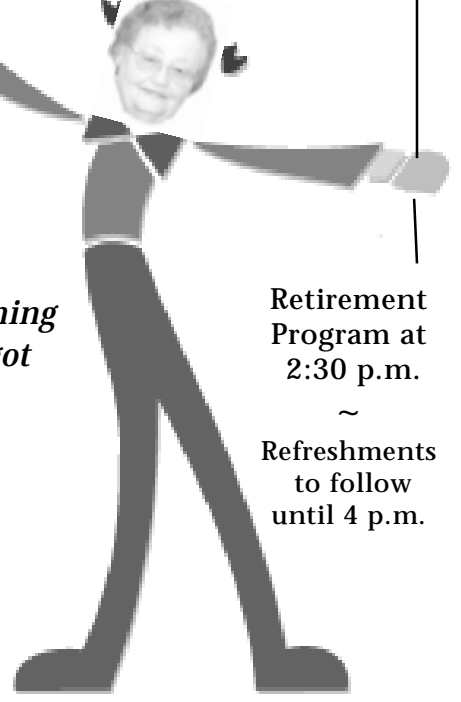
With love from your

Parents, Sister and Family

Retirement Open House

Thursday, January 8 • 2:30 - 4 p.m.


for Joyce Ploussard



She's not clowning around, she's got cabin fever!

Retirement Program at 2:30 p.m.

~ Refreshments to follow until 4 p.m.



Decatur County Good Samaritan Center

In Christ's Love, Everyone Is Someone.

108 E. Ash St. — Oberlin, KS 67749

785-475-2245