

Mount Pleasant News

By Dianne Bremer

Ralph and Norma Unger spent the weekend before Christmas in Branson, Mo., where they met their daughter and family, Rachelle and Bob Gorrell and Conner, and celebrated an early family Christmas. The Ungers returned home Monday, Dec. 22.

Elwood and Elaine Mines left Tuesday to spend Christmas with their daughter, Nancy and Ron Baumfalk, Aurora, Colo. Guests of Chuck and Carol VanErt for a Christmas Eve dinner and gift exchange were Elwood and Elaine, Ron and Nancy, Craig and Vicky Baumfalk, Steven and Sandy VanErt, and Jen Mickelson. The Mines enjoyed Christmas Day dinner with Nancy and Ron.

Warren and Jan Bainter were Tuesday evening guests of the John Bremer family.

Ralph and Violet Shaw, Thelma Spiers, Joel and Tami Shaw and Dante, and Richard and Anna Shaw, Isaac and Jennifer were Christmas Eve guests of Steve and Susan Nelson and Makenzie.

Tim Hrnchir, Paula Gnad, Kenyon Badsy, and Lacey Badsy, all of Hays, spent Christmas with their parents, Ken and Jan Badsy and Regan.

Guests of Craig and Karen Larson before church services on Christmas Eve were Karen's daughter, Kim Duysen, Lincoln; Karen's brother, Kevin and Kathy Geis and family, Ames, Iowa; Zane and Gladys Geis, Lois and Wayne Larson, and Carl Larson.

Christmas Eve guests following church services and Christmas Day guests at the Norman Wendelin home were Wayne and Lois Larson, Karen and Craig Larson, Kimberly Duysen, Karl Wendelin, Bruce Wendelin, and Jay and Suzanne Cooper and Ian Crane, Wichita.

Kim Duysen, Kevin and Kathy Geis and family, Zane and Gladys Geis, and Carl, Colby, and Monica Larson were guests of Craig and Karen Larson for a late afternoon dinner on Christmas Day.

Alvina Unger, Ralph and Norma Unger, Leo Mooty, and Butch and Colleen Rittmann, Christian and Rielly were Christmas Day dinner guests of Duane and Lois Unger, Colby.

Thelma Spiers, the Richard Shaw family, the Joel Shaw family, and the Steve Nelson family were Christmas Day dinner guests of Ralph and Violet Shaw.

Christmas Day dinner guests of Wilma May were Evelyn Olson, Elwood and Jeanie May, Brandon May of Salina, Stephanie May of Kearney, Neb., Jerry and Connie Olson and Kelly, Stean Olson of Salina, and David May of McCook.

Greg and Janice Cundiff and Quintin were Christmas Day dinner guests of Martin and Evelyn May. Christmas Day dinner guests of Jay and Becky Tate, Dakota and Mollie Marie were Becky's father, Patrick Ryan, Pontchatoula, La.; Jaron and Tara Tate, Hot Springs, Ark., Lois Carlson, and John and Edith Tate.

Christmas Day dinner guests at the home of Arthur and Alice May were John and Dianne Bremer, Jessica and Kristen, Herschel and Jody Betts, and Helen Derby.

Ladd Wendelin left Christmas Day for Seward, Neb., where he and 25 other Concordia University students left for the 11th annual London and Europe Literary Study Tour, a two-week tour to visit points of interest in England, Scotland, Denmark, and the Netherlands.

Ernest and Nancy May, Rebecca and Stephen May, and Ashley Jordan, Tonganoxie, arrived to spend a few days visiting his parents, Martin and Evelyn May. They returned home Sunday morning.

Friday evening dinner guests of Evelyn Olson were Wilma May, Jerry and Connie Olson and Kelly, Gary Olson, Justin and Wendy Scott, Garrett and Gage, and Stean Olson, Salina.

Ernest and Nancy May, Rebecca and Stephen May, and Ashley Jordan, Greg and Janice Cundiff and Quintin, Marvin May, Chris and Kasey May, Kaylee, Kelsey, and Hunter, Andy May, and Sarah May of Wichita, were Saturday evening dinner guests of Martin and Evelyn for their May family Christmas.

Zach Shaw, Brooklyn, N.Y., arrived Saturday to visit his father and family, Richard and Anna Shaw, Isaac and Jennifer. He left Monday to return home.

Sunday noon dinner guests of Elwood and Jeanie May were Stephanie May and friend Andrew of Kearney, Neb.; Wilma May, Jerry and Connie Olson and Kelly, Stean Olson of Salina, David May of McCook, and Justin and Wendy Scott, Garrett and Gage, to celebrate their family Christmas.

Dont' put your health at risk



Extension Lines

By Brian Olson
Extension Agronomist

Many area residents are playing an increasingly risky form of health roulette with their well water, says K-State engineer and pollution specialist Jim Tira.

Chemically pure water doesn't exist for long in nature. That's why, by law, water departments must regularly test public supplies for everything from pet waste to insecticides.

"But owners or users of private water supplies remain totally responsible for their well's quality and safety," said Tira, coordinator of the Home-a-syst program with Kansas State University Research and Extension.

Unfortunately, he said, today well owners and users often treat water testing like just another chore — something to do next month. They may even think it's someone else's job.

Tira recommends that in rental and other lease agreements, well owners and users spell out who will be responsible for maintenance, wellhead protection and water tests — all of which are essential.

"Initially, the best indicator of risk is well location and construction," he said, "but well equipment doesn't last forever. Soil shifts. The quality of underground water supplies can change. What you're doing or storing near a well may change, too."

As a result, Tira urges well owners, and users also, to adhere to these minimums:

- Maintain complete records on when and how the well was constructed, when it's inspected, all water testing results and the specific maintenance that both well and pump receive. These records could be important for legal as well as

health decisions.

- Every 10 years, hire a licensed well driller to inspect any well being used for drinking water.

- Every year, draw and within 24 hours deliver a well-temperature or chilled water sample to a certified lab. Have it tested for the four common trouble indicators: bacteria, nitrates, pH and total dissolved solids.

"The first two — bacteria and nitrates — are extremely important," Tira said. "A test that turns up coliform bacteria strains means possible contamination from animal wastes and such disease-causing organisms as bacteria, viruses, cysts and helminth worms. That kind of contamination doesn't happen without a reason, and it's dangerous enough for you to take immediate action."

You can get more information about well-water testing on K-State engineering's Pollution Prevention Institute website (<http://www.sbeap.org>), by clicking on "Home-a-syst."

Extension engineers and safety specialists developed this self-help program, which contains a manual to guide homeowners in assessing, improving and then managing their own environment, covering everything from lawn runoff to hazardous household products.

To make record keeping easier, Kansans can pick up a copy of the Private Water Well Owner/Operator Manual (MF-2409) at the county extension office, Tira said. The office also can supply materials on related topics, ranging from giving private wells an annual 12-point check (MF-2345) to finding a certified water-testing lab (MF-872 or MF-951).

Other titles include Taking a Water Sample (MF-963), Recommended Water Tests for Private Systems (MF-871), Shock Chlorination for Drinking Water Systems (MF-911), Nitrates and Groundwater (MF-857), and Understanding Your Water Test Report (MF-912, which includes the Environmental Protection Agency's standards).

Brian Olson is multi-county extension agronomist for Decatur, Gove, Norton, Sheridan, and Trego counties. E-mail bolson@oznet-ksu.edu if you have any questions or would like to see a newspaper article on a specific crop production topic. For more information, contact the county extension office, 475-8121.



Midway News

By Mary Lou Olson

Congratulations to Curtis and Dawnelle Heim of Tucson, Ariz., on the birth of a son, Christopher Lee Weldon Heim, on Dec. 26, 2003. He weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces, and has two sisters, Karli and Kelsi. Maternal grandparents are Chris and Sherri Schmidt. LeRoy and Daisy Schmidt are his maternal great-grandparents.

Elma Lee Erickson was among dinner guests on Dec. 20 at the home of Don and Em Threlkel of Atwood. She was a Christmas Day dinner guest of Erik and Jean Erickson of Colby. Others present were the Alan Erickson family, Colby; the Bill Lohofener family, North Platte, Neb., and Ryan Lohofener and Cole, of Arizona.

Christmas Day dinner guests of Steve and Arian Arnold were Mike and Nione Rhodin, Loveland, Colo.; Galen and Lynne Olson, McKinney, Texas; Junior and Dorothy Chase, Smith Center; and Edla Olson.

Dinner guests on Christmas Day of Dave and Sherry Bergling were Stephanie Heighton and Wayne Heighton, Hays; Jeremy and Michelle Bergling, Perth, W. Australia; Jason Bergling, Alicia Bergling, and Quentin and Olive Bergling.

Steve Cullen was a dinner guest on Dec. 23 of the Richard and Maureen Anderson family.

Bob and Sally Olson joined David Olson, Swisher, Iowa; Scott Olson, Dallas; Bob and Annette Frenzl and girls, Salina; and Louis and Ava Perkins, Wichita, for Christmas Day dinner at the home of Larry and Deb Marks and family in Mulvane.

Christmas Eve supper guests of Elden and Detta Anderson were Richard and Maureen Anderson and family, and Gary Anderson. The same group had Christmas Day dinner at the Richard Anderson home. They were joined in the afternoon by Dr. Kirk Kelley, Davenport, Iowa, and Dick and Donna Kelley. All enjoyed slides Dr. Kelley had taken while in France.

The Mark Olson family entertained with the Olson Christmas supper on Sunday. Others present were the Rex Olson family, Boulder, Colo.; Hattie Olson, Keith and

Mary Lou Olson, and the James Witt family.

John and Ardythe Cederberg spent Christmas Day with Denise and Larry Pettera and family in North Platte, Neb. Sunday guests at the Cederberg home included Eric Sattler and Marissa Larson, Fort Collins Colo.; Diane, Donny, Adam, Derek and Megan Ruppert, McCook; Ron, Cindy and Dana Sattler, and Chase Juemann.

Robert and Carol Fink, Austin and Ashley of Wamego spent the holidays with her parents, Gordon and Norma Anderson. Additional Christmas supper guests on Saturday were Gayle Anderson, Jason, Clay and Kendra, Jenny Swart, and Brett McKenna.

Christmas Day dinner guests of LeRoy and Daisy Schmidt were Erin Schmidt, Denver; Clint Schmidt, Manhattan, and Danace Maloney and family and friend, T.C., Colby. Sunday dinner guests there were Kathy Frisbie, Monument, Colo.; Kristin Elgston, Larkspur, Colo.; and Joe Schmidt, Barry and Tobina.

Dick and Donna Kelley, and Dr. Kirk Kelley, took dinner to share with Eva Bryan on Christmas Day. They later visited relatives at the Jennifer Auxier home in Oberlin. Dr. Kelley left Sunday for Ancey, France, where he was sponsor for three students from St. Ambrose University on a two-week tour. He is anatomy and biology professor at the university.

Elma Lee Erickson, and Don and Em Threlkel, enjoyed lunch in St. Francis on Dec. 26 with their cousins, Byron Elliott and LaVerne Young, then visited Helene Lanenberger in St. Francis and Dixie Magley in Bird City. Mrs. Erickson joined Larry and Judy Bearley of Oakley, Jim and Sandra Allen of Littleton, Colo., and Jerry and Montine Alstrom for supper at the Nora Bearley home.

Christmas dinner guests on Saturday of Mac and Jeri Ann McPheeters of Colby were Alan and J.J. Gade, Phillipsburg; Casey McPheeters and friend, Jenny, Colby; Quentin and Olive Bergling; Dave and Sherry Bergling; Jeremy and Michelle Bergling, and Jason and Alicia Bergling.

'How Change Is Good'

By Rev. Barbara Pierce, Co-Pastor United Church, Oberlin and Immanuel United Church of Christ, Herndon

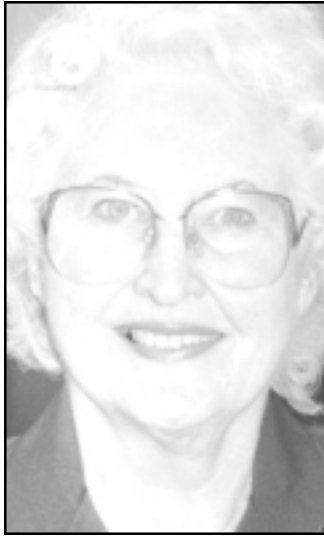
The cold air is here. How wonderful it is! For our part of the world, the seasons change periodically. In some parts of the world they vary only a little, but for us, we either enjoy the changes or have to make the adaptation four times per year. Since we do not live within a few miles of the equator or near the north or south pole, we make the necessary adjustments to the weather. Such living conditions give us proof of the reliability of God. These seasonal forms teach us that the nature of God is dependable. So these words of Psalm 105 have special meaning:

"O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful

works. Glory in his name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually. Remember the wonderful works he has done." (Psalm 105: 1-5a)

These words should be in our thoughts every day, no matter what the season is. Therefore, as the seasons give us vitality, so we should strive every day to revitalize our spirits with scripture, both Old and New Testament texts. Then just changing clothes for the seasons won't be the most important changes we make in our lives.

Changing thought patterns and behaviors in better relationship to God and the people around us will be changes we will enjoy and appreciate, as well as enriching our souls and lives.



Schedule of Oberlin and area church services:

OBERLIN SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
785-475-3103
The Rev. George Kochuvelikkakam, The Rev. Mr. Stan Chapin, MASS: 10 a.m. Sunday

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC, LEVILLE
The Rev. George Kochuvelikkakam
MASS: 8 a.m. Sunday

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC, SELDEN
The Rev. George Kochuvelikkakam
MASS: 6 p.m. Saturday

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.

HIGH PLAINS BAPTIST CHURCH
122 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin
Pastor Steve Smith
Phone 785-475-3844

SUNDAY: Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Morning Service, 11 a.m. and Evening Service 7 p.m.; WEDNESDAY: Bible Study & Prayer Meeting, 7 p.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., AWANA Club 4-7 p.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.

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, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 11 a.m. WEDNESDAY: Bible Study, 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
510 North Wilson
Interim Pastor: Don White
Secretary: Norma Unger
785-475-2333

SUNDAY: Sunday School and Bible class, 9:45 a.m.; Divine Worship Service, 11 a.m.; Holy Communion: 1st and 3rd Sundays; Tuesday: Bible Study, 7:30 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.

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