

Ralph Moody Day set for April 25 at Gateway

Plans are underway for Ralph Moody Day on Sunday, April 25, at The Gateway, celebrating the author of several books including "The Dry Divide," which includes memories from when he lived at Cedar Bluffs in Decatur County.

Sponsors include the Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission, the Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Decatur County Museum.

The day's activities, geared for families, will begin with a chuck wagon lunch of barbecued brisket, chips, beverages and peach cobbler at 12:15 p.m. The meal will be cooked and served by Larry Hannon of Garden City at the concrete slab east of The Gateway. Golf carts will be available for anyone who needs a ride from the parking lot. In case of wet weather, the meal will be served inside.

Children (and maybe adults) will have the opportunity to try to rope "Woody," the steer. Prizes will be awarded and wagon rides will be

available. John Stansfield of Monument, Colo., a storyteller, writer, teacher and Ralph Moody historian, will talk at 2 p.m. in Morgan Theater on Mr. Moody's early years. Following his presentation, Sharleen Wurm of the Decatur County Museum will show early Oberlin photos. Those attending will include some relatives of people featured in Moody's books about the area.

Tickets for the afternoon events will be available on site. Prices will be \$6 for Oberlin Arts and Humanities season ticket holders, \$10 for individuals or \$25 for families (parents and their children through high school). Tickets will include both the lunch and program.

Reservations are encouraged. For details or reservations, call Connie at (785) 475-2400, Mary at (785) 475-3329, or Ella at (785) 475-3557. This is the second Ralph Moody program sponsored by these groups.

Program sign-ups continue

Enrollment for the 2004 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program, which began on Oct. 1, will continue through June 1 in the second year of the 2002 Farm Bill.

Farmers must sign contracts each year under the program, which is a change from the last farm bill.

Farmers have until June 1 to enroll for the 2004 program. Late ap-

plications will be accepted through Sept. 30, if accompanied by a \$100 late fee. Farmers can opt out of the program any year if they choose. However, for both 2002 and 2003, more than 98 percent of eligible base acres were enrolled.

For details, call the Farm Service Agency county office at 475-3131.

Acres reports put off

The Decatur County office of the U.S. Farm Service Agency has put off the deadline for taking 2004 crop acreage reports until April 1, due to the changeover to digital photography. Deadline to report wheat, barley and oats acreage is June 1.

However, farmers who have a

non-insured assistance program policy on native grass or alfalfa must report those acreages 15 days before harvest or grazing.

All other crops and land uses must be reported by Aug. 1. For complete details, contact the Farm Service office at 475-3131.

Jump Rope for Heart



CODY WRIGHT, (CENTER), a fifth-grade student at Herndon Elementary School, smiled as he participated in the annual Jump Rope for Heart program. Herndon elementary students generated over \$900 in donations for the Ameri-

can Heart Association. Students prepared and participated in grade-level jump rope routines, which were presented on Wednesday for the public.

—Herndon School photo

Club News

Neighbors plan fund raiser

Oberlin Royal Neighbors made plans for a matching-funds taco supper to help the Sunflower Cinema when they met on March 12 at Golden Age Center.

The project will include a taco, dessert and beverage benefit supper from 1-5 p.m. on Thursday, April 1, at Golden Age Center. Any funds raised up to \$1,000 will be matched by the Royal Neighbors Society. A donation will be taken.

Lois Lamb conducted the meeting in the absence of the oracle and vice oracle. Millie Lippelmann gave the prayer. Penny Fringer, representing the Girl Scouts, met with the group to discuss the food sale which the Royal Neighbors and Girl Scouts will have on "Join Hands Day" on May 1, to benefit the Girl Scouts.

The next meeting will be at 4 p.m. on April 9 at Golden Age Center.

Maverick 4-H Club meets

By **KADEN MACFEE**
The Maverick 4-H Club met March 14 at Faith Lutheran Church.

Fourteen members answered roll call with their favorite spring break activity. Old business includes dates to work in the theater. New business included

work at the upcoming races, and livestock weigh-in.

A project talk was given by Andrew Dempewolf. Refreshments were served by the Met-calfs. The next meeting will be April 18 at the Good Samaritan Center.

Calico Gals enjoy music

Calico Gals met at Wheat Ridge Terrace on St. Patrick's Day with 10 members, six guests, and five children present.

Roll call was answered with a funny story. Entertainment included with piano music by

Samantha and Chris Anderson and Edla Olson.

Lunch of green finger foods were served by Lora Zwickle and Detta Anderson. The next meeting will be at 2 p.m. on April 21 at the home of Barbara Young.

Stick-To-It 4-H meets

By **NOLAN WASSON**
On March 14, the Stick-To-It 4-H Club met in the grade school lunchroom with 28 members present.

After our meeting, we practiced our skit. Cassidy Shields and Caitie Shields gave the program. Refreshments were furnished by the Marietta and Shields families.

Rural towns can get money

Rural communities are eligible for part of the \$325 million available through the Department of Agriculture Rural Development Agency's distance learning and telemedicine programs.

"Bringing specialized health care and expanded educational programs to rural areas will save lives and improve the quality of health care

for residents who live in more sparsely populated areas of the country," said Gilbert Gonzalez, acting undersecretary for rural development.

Applications must be submitted by April 30 and will be scored and awarded on a competitive basis. Information is available at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.



Extension Lines

By **Byron Hale**
Decatur County Extension Agent

It's time to plant trees

Before you begin spring landscaping, here are some tips on planting trees:

1. Select the right tree for the site. To avoid serious problems, choose trees that are adapted to your location. Consider whether the tree produces nuisance fruit or if there are disease-resistant varieties available. Also consider the mature size of the tree to be sure you have enough room.

2. Keep the tree well-watered and in a shady location until planting. When moving the tree, lift it by the root or pot and not by the trunk.

3. Before planting remove all wires, labels, cords, or anything else tied to the plant. If left on, they may eventually girdle the branch to which they are attached.

4. Dig a proper hole. Make the hole deep enough so the tree sits slightly above nursery level. Be sure not to dig the hole too deep and then put soil back into the hole before placing the tree. The root flare (point where trunk and roots meet) should be visible. If it isn't, remove enough soil or media so that it is.

The width of the planting hole is also very important. It should be three times the width of the root ball. Loosening the soil outside the hole up to five times the diameter of the root ball will allow the tree to spread its roots faster.

5. Remove all containers from the root ball. Cut away plastic and peat pots; roll burlap and wire baskets back into the hole, cutting as much

of the excess away as possible. If roots have been circling around in the container, cut them and spread them out so they do not continue growing this way inside the hole and become girdling roots later in the life of the tree.

6. Backfill the hole with the same soil that was removed. Additions such as peat moss likely do more harm than good. Make sure the soil that goes back is loosened — no clods or clumps. Add water as you fill to insure good root-to-soil contact and prevent air pockets. There is no need to fertilize at planting.

7. Don't cut back the branches of a tree after planting except those that are damaged. The leaf buds release a hormone that encourages root growth.

8. Water the tree thoroughly and then once a week for the first season if there is insufficient rainfall.

9. Mulch around the tree. Mulch should be two- to four-inches deep and cover an area two to three times the diameter of the root ball. Mulching reduces competition from other plants, conserves moisture and keeps soil temperature closer to what the plants' roots prefer.

10. Stake only when necessary. Trees will establish more quickly and grow faster if they are not staked. Movement is necessary for the trunk to become strong.

However, larger trees or those in windy locations may need to be staked the first year.

Bully!



Theater of the American West

Presents...

"An Adventure With Teddy Roosevelt"

Tickets \$10 Adults • \$7 Students
\$5 Children 12 & Under

Saturday • April 3 - 7:30 p.m.
at The Gateway

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR

Herndon to observe 125th anniversary

The U.S. Postal Service is offering a special pictorial cancellation to commemorate Herndon's 125th anniversary.

The design will feature an illustration of the old Beaver Valley Roller Mill, along with a windmill and wheat stalks. The Herndon Chamber of Commerce is taking prepaid orders for a framed postcard featuring the cancellation for \$5. The framed cards may be picked up at the Chamber table the day of the Herndon Ox Roast on Saturday, June 12.

Anyone interested in ordering a framed cancellation may send a

check for \$5 each to Jayne Niernmeyer, The Bank, Box 217, Herndon, Kan., 67739, or to Krystal Huffles, Box 115, Herndon, Kan., 67739. Checks should be made to the Herndon Chamber of Commerce.

Lexie Basgall, officer in charge of the Herndon post office, said the 125th pictorial cancellation also will be performed from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on June 12 at the Herndon City Park.

The cancellation will be available at the post office during regular window hours, 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on June 12.

Prayer service set for Sunday

The Decatur County Ministerial Association will hold a community prayer service at 7 p.m. Sunday at the Bohemian Hall at the Decatur

County Museum in Oberlin. There will be prayers for rain, as well as other community needs. Everyone is invited.



Happy #63


JO & DON

March 23, 2004

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The first recording artist ever honored on genuine U.S. mint coinage, loyal fans and wise collectors are snapping up these limited production Elvis Presley TN state quarters. Each carries Elvis' full color portrait, Graceland's official 25th Anniversary logo and a faithful reproduction of his unique signature. Each coin has a certificate of authenticity and is protected in a clear capsule for you and future generations to enjoy.



Just \$9.95 each + (\$3 S&H for 1st coin. \$1 S&H each additional). Limit 5 per order. Mail payment to Oxford Collectibles, Dept. KSLEQ1, 26 Constantine Dr, Phoenix, MD 21131. Or call toll free 1-800-345-7060.

Please clip out this ad and save for handy reference.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The burning of vegetation, limbs and other organic material will be permitted (no rubber tires).

Saturday, March 27

through

Sunday, May 9

provided adequate safety measures are taken, and being mindful of wind conditions.



By Order of
City Mayor
Ken Shobe

Please Help
Keep Oberlin
LOOKING CLEAN!

* WE HAVE A NEW SHIPMENT OF COLLEGE AND RACING MEMORABILIA, MORE ARRIVING DAILY

* CHECK OUT OUR BARGAIN ISLE

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