

# Marine gets hurrah on return from Iraq

Spec. Ryan Diederich, who has been serving the past year in Iraq, was given a hero's welcome on Saturday when he flew into the airport at McCook.



R. Diederich

Meeting him were friends and relatives who took him to the Coppe-mill Restaurant where a surprise party was held. He joined the 443rd Transportation Company of the U.S. Marines for

eight years on the delayed entry program on Oct. 31, 2000, when he was a senior at Decatur Community High School. He attended training once a month after graduating in the spring of 2001, and also as a freshman at Kansas State University.

His unit was mobilized on Jan. 21, 2003, and he arrived in Iraq on April 3, 2003. His job was to haul fuel, including gas, diesel and jet fuel, as a humanitarian effort, as well as for the U.S. Army. He spent a total of 370 days there.

He said one of the trucks he was driving in Iraq was blown up, but he escaped injury. The temperature climbed as high as 156 degrees, he said, and there were always high winds. They slept in tents, but he

said the food was good. Letters and food packages from home usually took two to three weeks.

His plans are to attend summer school at K-State, where he is majoring in construction science.

Those attending the party on Saturday included: Gary and Marsha Richards, Steve and Marilyn Diederich, Colt and Brandi, Lucile Davis, Norma Richards, Cody and LaDawna Rich-

ards, Elizabeth Boyd and Landen Richards, Aden Glaze, Kevin Unger, Brandon Bryan, Andy Chambers, Jim and Tammy Sporn, David Sporn and Arica Gould, Anna and Rich Shaw and Isaac, Ron and Dawn Diederich, Rex and Max, Vernon and Jeanette Diederich, all of Oberlin; Laurrie Rodgers, Limon, Colo.; Breanna Davis, Greeley, Colo.; Brady and Jamie Richards, Hays; Vi Foster and Pat Hall, Brighton, Colo.; Stean Olson, Salina; Carol Young and Jim, Heather and Mike Bethke and Allysa, Ben and Rose Desmond, and Louis and Laveeta McFarland, McCook; and Alvin and Ardis Kaus, Colby.

## Cyclones host tournament

Over 70 teams participated in the Sappa Valley Shootout 3-on-3 Tournament on Saturday in the junior and senior high gyms at Decatur Community High School.

The event was sponsored by the Oberlin Cyclones Mid-America Youth Boys Basketball team. Plans are to hold a tournament again next year on the third weekend of April.

Winners include: **3rd and 4th grade girls:** Trenton — Green Machine: Laura Miller, Laramey Lewis, Jacee Kershaw, first; Oakley — Shooters: Brooke Hemmert, Kaylen Rath, MaKenzie Weiser, second.

**3rd and 4th grade boys:** Goodland — Mustangs: Reed Bellamy, Dallas DeLaRosa, Blaine Luth, first; Alma — Ghost Trotters: Kai Wolfe, Brady Molzahn, Tanner Hays, second.

**5th and 6th grade girls:** Oberlin — No Blood, No Glory: Sara Cope-land, Ashley Horton, Kira Meitl,

first; Oberlin — Basketball Blondes with Attitude: Adrienne Pauls, Stephanie Bruggeman, Mary Olson, second.

**5th and 6th grade boys:** Colby — JayCats: Gray Henry, Brandon Kraus, Brandon Gordon, first; Eagles No. 1: Garrett Rogers, Dylan Stithem, Ryley Haas, second.

**7th and 8th grade girls:** Alma — And 3: Cristee Norris, Tara Monahan, Danielle Shaffer, first; Phillipsburg — Panthers: Emilie Coca, Alex Orr, Lindsay Dusin, second.

**7th and 8th grade boys:** Benkelman — Tigers: Shawn Bernard, Kyle Glidden, Jared Shillington, first; McCook — Bison: Chance Unger, J.D. Stone, Michael Knott, second.

**9th grade boys:** Oakley — T-Birds: Brandon Ahrens, MyKel Rodriguez, Brent Pettay, first; Norton — BlueJays: Heath Vincent, Nathan Morse, Brian Juennemann, second.

## Sports banquet is Monday

Tinker Keck will be the keynote speaker for the "D" Club 2004 Decatur Community High School All-Sports Banquet and Awards on Monday.

Mr. Keck is a former University of Cincinnati and XFL football player.

The evening will begin with a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. This year the Oberlin Booster Club will be supplying the meat dish for the meal. A ceremony will follow in the auditorium which will recognize all stu-

dents who participated in Red Devil athletic programs. There is no charge, but donations will be accepted.

Those attending are to bring their own table service. Senior families are asked to furnish a dessert; junior families, a side dish; sophomore families, a salad; freshman families, a side dish. Beverages will be provided.

Coaches, athletes and staff are urging families to attend the evening of recognition for the efforts and achievements of the athletes.

## Business degree offered

Bellevue University will offer an accelerated Business Administration Degree at McCook Community College beginning Thursday.

The program makes it possible for students to earn their Bachelor's Degree in as little as 15 months if they have an Associate's Degree or a minimum of 60 credit hours. Stu-

dents attend class one night a week from 6-10 p.m. for 15 months in a classroom at McMillen Hall with a local instructor.

For details, contact Janet Fear, at the college each Thursday from 3 to 7 p.m. or phone (308) 345-8967. Calls are answered anytime at (800) 508-9043.

## Club News

### Widows and Friends meet

Widows and Friends met on April 14 at the Tea Rose Parlor for an afternoon tea party.

Doris Sloan, coordinator, greeted the guests with a reading, "Priorities."

Those present included: Pat Abbey, Ruby Wennihan, Elaine Bryan, Alice Bobbitt, Cecil Hess, Norma Richards, Nadean Stoney, Millie Lippelmann, Doris Sloan,

Eileene Grose, Connie Olson, Luella Sloan, Virginia Spratling, Bertha Schwisow, Wilma May, Esther Carlson and the hostess, Judy Davis.

The group will meet on May 12 for an 8:30 a.m. breakfast at the newly-opened Keeno's Roadhouse at the Highway 83 and 36 junction in Oberlin.

### Members enjoy games

Janette Votapka hosted the April 12 meeting of Pi Alpha Club at her country home, assisted by Gerry Neff.

"A Cup of Coffee" and "Troubles with an Old-fashioned Lady" were read for devotions. An evening of fun and games was

enjoyed, including "Polish Poker." Eleven members were present and Fern Wenger received the hostess gift.

The final meeting of the club year will be on Monday at the home of Doris Sloan with Virginia Spratling assisting.

### Club installs new officers

New officers were installed by Mary Waldo following a salad supper enjoyed by Zeta Nu Club members on April 15.

They include: Kay Marcuson,

president; Eloise Smith, vice president; Janice Winters, secretary; and Mary Henzel, treasurer. Marie Zimmermann won the hostess gift.

### Student receives scholarship

Allie Moore, a senior at Decatur Community High School, was awarded a \$4,500 Putnam Scholarship at Kansas State University during ceremonies held recently at the university.



Allie Moore

Associate Vice President of Institutional Advance and Dean of Student Life Pat Bosco presented the award. During K-State's

annual Scholarship Day, students and their parents were guests of the university at a banquet. Throughout the day, they attended meetings with academic deans and student life officials.

She is the daughter of Monte and Kelly Moore of Oberlin. Her grandparents are Loyd and Fern Moore, Oberlin; and Evan and Judy Goltz, Hill City.

### Piano students perform

Sixty-three regional piano students attended Music Progressions, sponsored by Kansas Music Teachers Association, on Saturday at Decatur Community High School.

Adjudicators were Pat Ziegelmeier, Gem; Sharon Kress, Colby; Kathy Jamison, Quinter; and Joy Russell, Oberlin.

Decatur County students partici-

pating included: Heath Glodt, Mary Olson, Kira Meitl, Zach May, Samantha Anderson, Britta and David Noren, Brittany, Melissa and Angela Ritter, Nolan Henningson, Jessica Bremer, Hunter and Elizabeth Nedland, Taylor Young, Denae Andersen, Ryan May and Miki Dorshorst.

### Stardust trio to give show

Stardust, a female vocal trio, will perform at 2 p.m. on Sunday at the Goodland High School Auditorium.

Admission is by Western Plains

Arts Association season ticket; \$20 for adults and \$5 for students at the door.

## Ralph Moody Day starts with luncheon

Ralph Moody Day will begin with a chuck wagon lunch at 12:15 p.m. on Sunday at The Gateway. Mr. Moody wrote several books on his life, including "The Dry Divide" which includes memories when he lived at Cedar Bluffs.



R. Moody

Included in the menu will be barbecued brisket, chips, beverage and peach cobbler. It will be cooked and served by Larry Hannon of Garden City at the concrete slab east of The Gateway. Golf carts will be used for transportation, if needed. In case of inclement weather, the meal will be served inside.

The event, sponsored by the Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission, Oberlin Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Decatur County Museum, will feature a program presented by John Stansfield, storyteller, writer, teacher and Ralph Moody historian, at 2 p.m., which will feature Mr. Moody's

early years. Following his presentation, Sharleen Wurm of the Decatur County Museum, will present a Power Point presentation of early Oberlin photos. Among those attending will be relatives of characters featured in Mr. Moody's books about the area.

The day's activities are geared for families. 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.

Tickets will be \$6 for Oberlin Arts and Humanities season ticket holders; \$10 for individuals; or \$25 for families (parents and their immediate family through grade 12). Reservations are encouraged and they may be made by contacting Connie at (785) 475-2400; Mary at (785) 475-3329; or Ella at (785) 475-3557. Tickets will include both the meal and program and will also be available on site.

### Sister holds bridal shower

Jeanette Brandt of Omaha hosted a bridal shower on Saturday, April 3, to honor her sister, Kimberly Brandt of Oberlin, at the home of Eve'va Kolar in Oberlin.

She will be married to Tim Davis of Oberlin on July 30 in Colorado Springs.

Guests were the bride-to-be's mother, Nancy Brandt; her grandmother, Ginny Bodemann, and an

aunt, Louise Kirkland, also Nikki Dawdy, all of Colorado; her fiancé's mother, Brenda Davis, Oberlin; Julie Kennedy Munden, Great Bend; Andrea Burmaster and Jonathan, Jewell; and Jan Badsky, Eve'va and Ky'Lee Kolar, Pat Cozad, Karla Jones, and Cynthia Haynes, Oberlin; and Mary Lou Olson, Herndon.

### Woman gets volunteer award

Penny Fringer of Oberlin was honored with an Outstanding Volunteer Award at the annual meeting of Girl Scouts of Sunflower Council on Saturday at Sternberg Museum in Hays.

The award recognizes outstanding service beyond the expectations of the position that benefits the geographic/service unit and warrants area-wide recognition.

An election of the Board of Directors and nominating committee was held and those elected were: Sue Strohkirch, Hays, president; Martha Brewer, Colby, 2nd vice president; Judy Rohr, Hays, treasurer; Carroll Haggard and Noalee Augustine, Hays; Linda Taylor, Daniel Morris, Janell Griffin, and Michelle Morris, Colby, members-at-large; and Rose Smith, Hill City, Carol Barta, La Crosse, Stacey Canfield, Hill City, Penny Fringer, Oberlin, and Vallerie Karl, Hays, nominating

committee. Also serving on the Board of Directors in unexpired terms are: Kris Harper, Winona, 1st vice president; Marilyn Leiker, Hoxie, secretary; Russ Ingle, Hill City, John Allen, Hays, Cheryl Edmundson, Colby, members-at-large; and Dixie Horton, Hays, and Linda Taylor, Colby, nominating committee.

Janell Griffin, Colby, was awarded the Thanks Badge, which recognizes outstanding service that benefits the total council or the entire Girl Scout organization. Jan Deenihan, Hill City, and Mrs. Fringer, Oberlin, both received the Outstanding Volunteer Award. Suenell Koerner, City of Hays Mayor, gave the welcome. Presentations on Girl Scout trips and awards were given by three area Girl Scouts: Spring Blackwell, Hays, Sarah Fringer, Oberlin and Jenna Smith, Hill City.

39-39-39---GOING ONCE  
**NOW 40**

**Happy Birthday**

from your fan club  
M-D-R-K-L-etc.

**Happy 18th Birthday!**

Love,  
Mom & Ward

## New Arrival

### Jack Allen Huerter

Drs. Pam and Eric Huerter of Lawrence are the parents of a son, Jack Allen Huerter, born April 8, 2004. He weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces and was 20 inches long. He has two brothers, Finnegan, 4, and Maxwell, 2. Grandparents include Mr. and Mrs. Dale Votapka, Oberlin; and Dr. and Mrs. David Huerter, Pittsburg. Great-grandmothers are Mrs. Odene Koehler, Oberlin; and Mrs. Beverly Corcoran, Pittsburg.



J. Huerter

### The family of Verna Mae Anderson

is hosting an open house in honor of her

### 80th Birthday

Saturday, April 24, 2004 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the United Church of Oberlin located at 109 North Griffith

She was born April 22, 1924



## Arbor Day Proclamation

Whereas, In 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees and

Whereas, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and

Whereas, trees reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife, and

Whereas, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and

Whereas, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and

Whereas, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal, and

Whereas, Oberlin has been recognized as a Tree City USA by The National Arbor Day Foundation and desires to continue its tree-planting practices

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kenneth Shobe, Mayor of the City of Oberlin, do hereby proclaim April 30, 2004 as

### Arbor Day

in the City of Oberlin, and urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and

Further, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

Dated this 15th day of April, 2004 Mayor, Kenneth Shobe, Mayor.