

THE OBERLIN HERALD —
People in
Our Community
Mary Lou Olson, society editor
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Lisa Jo Smith, daughter of Wesley and Carol Smith of Oberlin, received a Bachelor of Music Education Degree during commencement on Saturday at W.L. White Auditorium at Emporia State University on Saturday. She plays the saxophone and is a 1999 graduate of Decatur Community High School. Relatives attending her graduation were Wesley and Carol Smith, and Leland and Eloise Smith, Oberlin; Brian Smith, Hays; and Jason Warren, Aurora, Colo.

Peggy Wurm of Eaton, Colo., mother of Randy Peters of Oberlin, fell and suffered a broken shoulder on Sunday. Mail will reach her at the home of her daughter, Bobby Jo Bond, 324 N. 4th Street, LaSalle, Colo., 80645.

Mrs. Eldred (Lorraine) Wurm of Atwood is undergoing medical treatment. Mail will reach her at 1880 Reservoir Road, Castle Rock, Colo.

Duane and Phyllis Berry left Monday for their home in Grand Junction, Colo., after spending several weeks in Oberlin.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. today at Carpenter Breland Funeral Home in McCook for Walter R. Warburton, 71, who died Sunday at Hillcrest Nursing Home in McCook. He was a former Oberlin resident and the son of the late Walter and Goldie (Larreau) Warburton. Jerry Beckenhauer will officiate and burial will be in Memorial Park Cemetery at McCook.

Guests for an early Christmas dinner on Saturday at the home of Steve and Marilyn Horn were Diana and Wes Wilson and Hannah, Denver; Darren and Cynthia Horn, Dustin and Kyle, Kersey, Colo.; Myrtle Ross, and Douglas and Ellen Horn, Oberlin.

Greg and Amanda Grafel, Kel and Reece returned home Friday from Jacksonville, Fla., where they visited her brother, Bud Steinmetz. His ship, the USS John F. Kennedy aircraft carrier, which has been in Iraq, came in last Monday and they were there to see it dock. He will be stationed at Jacksonville for six months on the ship.

Dan and Kathleen Kelling of Fountain, Colo., visited over the weekend with her sister, Marianna Bendon, and niece, Karla Jones.

Winning highs in pinochle at Golden Age Center the past week were Henry Edgett, Donna Kent, Merle Shirley, Elden Haas, Kelva Swindler, Doris Miller, Dorothy Moore and Max Carman. Lows were won by Lawrence Wenger, Aleen Van Vleet, Doris Miller, Veanna Orr, Henry Edgett, Donna Kent and Elden Haas. Pitch highs went to Aleen Van Vleet and Henry Edgett with lows going to Dorothy Moore and Doris Miller. Annette Miller and Charlotte Meints were bridge winners.

Mr. and Mrs. Gus Wolters were Friday and Saturday visitors of Dorothy Wolters at the Good Samaritan Center in Atwood.

Couple plans January vows

Rayanne Leah Fraker and Gavis Lee Sorenson plan to be married on Jan. 22 at the Lake Ridge Golf Course in Reno, Nev.

Parents of the couple are Steve and Kathy Fraker, and Brett and Teri Sorenson, all of Fallon, Nev. She is a granddaughter of Bob and Marian Fraker of Oberlin.

The bride-to-be is a 2004 graduate of Churchill County High School. She is attending Truckee



G. Sorenson and R. Fraker

Meadows Community College and is majoring in Medical Imaging.

Her fiancé graduated from Churchill County High School in 1999. He earned a degree in Dairy Science from Utah State University.

Relatives attend baptism

Jackson Neil Winter, infant son of Cade and Jill Winter of Clay Center, received the sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, Dec. 12, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Palmer. The Rev. Nile Buch officiated and baptismal sponsors were Ron and Stephanie Girard of Clyde.

Guests for the services and dinner which followed were: Dennis and Adene Winter, Manhattan; Sybil Winter, Linn; Bryan and Amy Winter, Aubrey and Maya, Salina; Trent and Connie Winter, Barrett and Blade, Clifton; Cade and Jill Win-

ter and Jackson, Clay Center; Ron and Stephanie Girard and Quin, Clyde; Bob Wurm, Roberta Johnson, Shelli Fortin and Jackie Votapka, Oberlin; Barry and Janeil Baxter, Brock and Jordan Ann, Smith Center; and Brett and Jodi White, Braden and Briley, Wichita.

Jackson was the guest of honor at a baby shower and luncheon on Monday, Dec. 13, at Barnes, hosted by the staff of the Infant-Toddler Program. His grandmother, Jackie Votapka, also attended.

Club News

Club enjoys Christmas trees

Monday Evening Club met on Dec. 13 at the Decatur County Museum for a tour of the Christmas trees decorated by various clubs, businesses and organizations for the Christmas opening.

Members were told that the Teddy bears, which decorated the Monday Evening Club tree, will be given to Decatur Health Systems for children who are patients.

A business meeting followed at the home of Barbara Dehlinger, who was assisted by Roxie Erickson. A photo was taken of club members by the Christmas tree to be sent to associate members unable to attend.

Three members, who had belonged to the club for 50 years or

more, were honored and presented gifts of small crystal clocks engraved with the year they had joined. They included Irel Lohofener, who joined in 1954; Dottie Lotker, 1947; and Marjorie Nitsch of Manhattan, who joined in 1941. Using the club scrapbook which Mrs. Lohofener has compiled over the years for information, Jody Betts told items of interest about the club year in which each became a member.

The next meeting has been changed to Jan. 3 at the home of Karen Metcalf with Diane Frickey as co-hostess. Gisela Fisher will give the program.

Members hold taste tea

The annual Christmas taste tea of Pi Alpha Club was held at the festive home of Gerry Neff on Dec. 13 with Elaine Bryn assisting. Mrs. Neff read "Perspective" for devotions.

Seventeen members were present and it was reported that \$60 was collected for the Angel Tree. The hostess read a holiday story, "The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey," after which members enjoyed the tasting tea goodies furnished by the host-

esses and first half of the alphabet. A gift exchange with a flower theme was held and each guest received a surprise gift bag from the hostesses.

Election of officers will be held when the club meets on Jan. 10 at the home of Marty Olson with Eunice Martin as co-hostess.

The club entertained at Cedar Living Center on Dec. 9 for the December birthdays. They served pie and coffee and presented gifts to those honored with birthdays.

Calico Gals enjoy dessert

Eleven Calico Gal members met at the LandMark Inn on Jan. 15 for their Christmas meeting.

Roll call was each member's choice. After a gift exchange, a Dutch Treat dessert was enjoyed.

The next meeting will be held at noon at the Pizza Hut on Jan. 19, then members will go to the home of Margaret McEvoy to work on club books for 2005.

Maverick 4-H Club meets

By JESSICA SODERLUND
 Maverick 4-H Club met on Dec. 12 at the YMCA in McCook for their Christmas party.

President Marci Metcalf suggested that the club give \$75 to

the Angel Tree, which was approved by the club. While members said the pledge of allegiance, gifts were pushed around the table, then opened. A swimming party followed.

Golden Plains Schools receive state awards

Golden Plains Elementary School in Selden has been recognized for having attained the Standard of Excellence on the 2004 statewide assessment in fifth-grade writing, and Golden Plains Middle School in seventh-grade mathematics.

The schools received certificates from the state Board of Education.

The honor requires having a significant portion of the student body scoring in the proficient and advanced levels on the tests. Statewide, 146 out of 829 schools, or 17.6 percent, reached the Standard of Excellence in writing for the fifth grade, and 131 out of 511, or 25.6 percent, met it in mathematics for the seventh grade.

"Attaining the Standard of Excellence is the mark of a school where student learning has been made a high priority," said Janet Waugh, chairman of the state board. "This accomplishment is something in which the entire community can take pride."

School officials are quick to credit the efforts of students and faculty. Dr. Robert Baskerville, Golden Plains superintendent and principal, credited his teachers.

"Our faculty takes the statewide School Improvement Plan and the No Child Left Behind mandate very seriously," he said. "We hope to use this success, and past Standard of Excellence successes at Golden Plains, as a solid foundation for additional achievement."

He said the elementary school's writing program had played a key role in the achievement.

"We positively reinforce the academic efforts of our students by recognizing their outstanding work with monthly medals and year-end plaques," he said. "Short-term goals are invaluable in reaching long-term objectives. The Golden Plains Board of Education recognizes this and supports our monthly awards program."



Extension Lines

By Brian Olson
 Extension Agronomist

Skip-row corn planting may produce better crop

Over the last five years, dryland corn production has been anything but consistent.

Most farmers have experienced complete crop failures most of these years. These failures led us to question whether there are better ways to grow dryland corn that minimize the risk of crop failure.

One method being evaluated today is to plant corn skipping a row or rows. Skip-row practices were used years ago with grain sorghum. However weed control in the skip-row was a big problem without a broad spectrum postemergence herbicide. Now, with the advent of Roundup Ready corn, a treatment method is available.

Skip-row corn, when compared to the same crop planted every row at the same population, will likely yield less in years when moisture is OK. In a skip-row scenario, young plants are spaced closer together. This will cause an increase in plant competition early in the growing season, decreasing how robust the plants become. However, the skip-planted row will not have a crop growing in that space, and if kept clean of weeds, it will likely have more moisture at the end of the growing season when corn is filling out the kernels.

In 2003, research from the University of Nebraska North Platte Research Center indicated skip-row dryland corn produced 32 percent better yields than did conventional planting. In these trials, two rows were planted and two skipped.

Another treatment, where every other row was skipped, produced 17 percent better yields than the traditionally planted field. The treatments yielded 54 and 48 bushels per acre respectively compared with 41 bushels per acre for the conventional planting. The area around North Platte was dry that year, similar to northwest Kansas.

In 2004, three Kansas sites evaluating skip-row corn, Tribune, Quinter, and Belleville, were established in Kansas. Unfortunately for the study, rainfall was sufficient for

crop growth, with yields of over 115 bushels per acre recorded at each site. As you might expect in these conditions, corn planted every row, at the same population, typically did better.

All in all, there is some research suggesting a benefit for corn planted as skip-row in dry conditions, whereas with sufficient moisture, corn planted every row should do better.

Skip-row corn comparisons will continue at sites throughout western Kansas next year. As of right now, there are no results from Kansas that would suggest a benefit. However, farmers should keep in mind that moisture was sufficient for optimum crop growth this past year.

If you want to try skip-row corn, there are a couple of suggestions to keep in mind. If one row is planted and one skipped, half the rate of corn indicated on the seeding chart of the planter is being planted. If two rows are planted and one is skipped, then two-thirds the rate of the seed as indicated by the seeding chart is being planted.

A post emerge application will be needed to control weeds in the skipped row. I would strongly suggest using a Roundup Ready corn hybrid so glyphosate can be applied at this stage. For fields where a post emerge application will not be needed, though, a glyphosate application will just add to the cost.

Results of the skip-row corn at Quinter, Tribune, and Belleville can be viewed by going to the website www.oznet.ksu.edu/agronomy-block2/ and clicking on the skip-row icon, or visit your county extension office to pick up a copy.

Brian Olson is Kansas State University 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.

New Arrival

Gabrielle Baylee Vontz

Greg and Terese Vontz of Oberlin are the parents of a daughter, Gabrielle Baylee Vontz, born Nov. 2, 2004, at Community Hospital in McCook. She weighed 7 pounds, 9.6 ounces and was 20 inches long. Her siblings are Canaan, Chantelle, and Gracie Ann. Grandparents are Steve and Bethine Vontz, McCook; Elaine Bishop, Glendale, Ariz; and Derry Bishop, Dresden.



G. Vontz

Home Time
 By Tranda Watts
 Multi-county Extension Agent

Before holiday rush freeze pies to save time

The kitchen can be a flurry of activity preparing the holiday meal. One way to spread out activity is to freeze pies, baked or unbaked, and serve later.

Fruit pies tend to withstand freezing better than custard pies. They can be frozen baked or unbaked.

To freeze unbaked pies, make the crust and filling as usual. The filling can be frozen separately from the crust or it can be added to the crust.

To freeze filling without the crust, line a pie pan with freezer-safe wrap. Put in the filling and place in the freezer. Once frozen, remove the filling from the pan, wrap well and freeze.

Crusts can also be frozen unbaked. When ready to bake, simply remove both from the freezer, assemble and put in the oven. Bake at 450 degrees Fahrenheit for 15-20 minutes, then reduce the temperature to 375 for 20-30 minutes.

For custard pies, try freezing the filling and crust separately. Chill the prepared filling, pour into a freezer container and freeze. The day before

baking, place the frozen filling in the refrigerator to thaw. Stir well, pour into the pie crust and bake as usual.

To achieve a crisper crust, try baking pies on a heated baking sheet or stone. This helps radiate more heat to crisp the crust and gives a nice golden brown color.

Pie is a traditional dessert in American culture. It can be consumed at any time of day, from breakfast pies such as quiche to meat pies to the many dessert pies. We consume the most pie on Thanksgiving, with 70 million sold each year. This number does not include pies that are prepared at home.

For more tips on freezing pies and other prepared foods, contact your county extension office.

Tranda Watts is Kansas State University 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. For more information, contact the county extension office, 475-8121.

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Happy 80th Birthday, Emma
 Help wish Emma Desilet, Cynthia Haynes' mother, a Very Happy Birthday with a Card Shower to her at 1110 W. 11th - Concordia, Ks 66901

Internet Tonight!
475-2206

We will be closed Friday, Dec. 24 TO GO CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY AND CHRISTMAS WITH GRANDKIDS AND KIDS. IN EMERGENCY YOU MAY CALL: CYNTHIA HAYNES AT HOME 475-3048 OR WORK 475-2206 FROM 6 P.M. THE 24TH THROUGH SUNDAY, 26TH.

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