

THE OBERLIN HERALD — People in Our Community

Mary Lou Olson, society editor mlolson@nwkanas.com

Word was received of the death of Donis (Willcoxon) Railsback of Lakewood, Colo., on Monday. She was a 1942 graduate of Decatur Community High School. Among survivors are her husband, Warren Railsback, and two daughters.

Visitors of Jerald and Elaine Leitner for lunch and supper on Wednesday were Twila Baker, Ten Mile, Tenn.; and Jack and Paula Hunt, Ozawkie. The women and Mrs. Leitner are cousins. Karla Sullivan was an afternoon guest. Twila and Elaine celebrated their belated 80th birthdays, which were in June. They had breakfast at the Frontier Restaurant Thursday morning.

Lee Don and Melanie Scott, Chanelle and Rachelle visited over the weekend with Justin and Danielle Becker of Scottsbluff, Neb., to make the acquaintance of their infant daughter, Teagan Lee, born Oct. 25. Melanie Scott also spent a week helping her daughter after Teagan was born.

Stuart Henzel is recovering at home after spending several days in the hospital in Kearney, Neb., following a horseback riding accident.

Greg Sayer, Tyson, Dillon and Amelia of Cambridge, Neb., spent a recent day with his grandmother, Edna Mott.

Jeanette and Gene Hutfles of Arvada, Colo., were Tuesday and Wednesday houseguests of their sister-in-law, Luetta Pollnow.

Winning highs in pinochle at Golden Age Center the past week were Henry Edgett, Doris Miller, Dewaine Stapp, Merle Shirley, Donna Kent, Aleen Van Vleet and Veanna Carman. Lows went to Veanna Carman, Aleen Van Vleet, Henry Edgett, Floyd Edgett, Wilma May, Barb Solko and Max Carman. Pitch highs went to Aleen Van Vleet and Barb Solko with lows going to Juanita Eckhart and Floyd Edgett. Winners at bridge were Leone Purton, Phyllis Lohofener and Ila Ray.

Word has been received of the death of Mary Marie (Bradley) Jeffus of Chula Vista, Calif. She was the daughter of the late Orvin and Marie Bradley and graduated in 1957 from Decatur Community High School.

Aleen Van Vleet was honored by

her family on her 95th birthday on Oct. 21. Those who took her out for supper were Max and Veanna Carman of Oberlin and Susan Orr of Colby. Leo and Josie Van Vleet, Phoenix, Ariz., came earlier to help his mother celebrate.

Funeral services were held Oct. 25 at Mickey-Leopold Chapel in Hoxie for Edith Mae Gilliland, 87, of Hoxie, who died Oct. 20. The former Edith Schrock, she was born near Selden on June 7, 1918. Burial was at the Hoxie Cemetery. Among survivors are a son, Darel, Hoxie; two brothers, Loren Schrock, Hoxie, and Eldon Schrock, Salina; two sisters, Jennie Smith, Hoxie; and Mary Caywood, Hutchinson.

Don and Goldie Stapp spent the weekend in Garden City, where they attended a surprise party honoring their son, Larry Stapp, on his 60th birthday, which was that day. Among other relatives present were his wife, Marcia; Shannon and Michael Young, Lyons; and Trevor Stapp, and Monty and Heather Stapp and family, Garden City. Larry's twin, Garry Stapp of Ord, Neb., and his family, which included his wife, Barb; Kyle and Kevin Stapp, and Kellie and Justin Eppeneach and girls, Lincoln, Neb.; and Kim and Chris Admire and family, and Kari and Kerry Dodd, Greenwood, helped him celebrate his 60th birthday the previous weekend in Kansas City. They also honored his twins, Kyle and Kevin, who had a birthday on Oct. 22.

Deanne Spanier is recuperating well from recent surgery in Denver. She is a former band teacher at Decatur Community High School. Mail will reach her c/o Marcell Sloan, Apt. B, 2805 Avenue A, Dodge City, Kan., 67801.

L. Marie Robertson will undergo knee surgery next Tuesday in Denver. Mail will reach her at Presbyterian/St. Luke's Hospital, 1719 E. 19th Ave., Denver, Colo., 80218.

Dan and Melinda Grafel and Kade hosted a birthday dinner for their daughter and sister Isabel's fifth birthday on Sunday at their home. Guests were Connie Grafel, Rich Grafel, Jerry and Barb Boettcher of Beloit, Greg Grafel, Kel and Reece, Norma Grafel of Herndon, Jay and Annetta Ketterl, Colton, Morgan and Riley, Drs. Randy and Shannon Leska, and Tiffany O'Toole, Peyton and Parker, McCook. Amanda Grafel was

working the style show so was unable to attend.

Herschel and Jody Betts attended the K-State-Colorado football game in Manhattan on Saturday as guests of Billie Woodward. On Friday afternoon they visited Marjorie Nitsch. Additional guests at the Woodward home for brunch on Saturday prior to the game were Rolland and Irene (Henningson) Parr of Rossville.

Dane Anderson, a sophomore at Washburn University, was a quarterfinalist and earned eighth place in parliamentary debate in the junior varsity category at Creighton University recently. He is the son of Kary and Jackie Anderson of Oberlin.

Scouting knowledge saves life in jungle

Jeff Runyan, 24, a great-nephew of Elaine Leitner of Oberlin and the late Don Roe, had a harrowing experience when he found himself lost in the jungle in South America.

He is going to college on a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship in Chile.

He is a grandson of Claude and Doris (Roe) Runyan of Greeley, Colo., both natives of Oberlin, and his parents are Rick and Kathy Runyan of Greeley.

An Eagle Scout, Mr. Runyan said he knew that Boy Scouts was a good organization, but he didn't know that someday the things he learned with his troop at Greeley would save his life.

It was those lessons in survival that came into play one night when he, a guide, and another Rotary scholar, David Silver of Virginia, were lost in the jungle of Brazil.

"The guide was only 19, and he took us out to the jungles, where we were supposed to have a hut and food. We left the camp to go on a one-hour tour," he said. However, the one-hour tour turned into 15

hours as they found themselves lost overnight in the Brazilian jungle.

They had been warned earlier about the poisonous spiders, tarantulas and jaguars that came out at night.

After the tour, the guide took a wrong turn and three hours later, with night falling, they knew they were lost. It was pitch dark, but Runyan had brought along a flashlight and they found a small clearing.

"That is when David's and my Boy Scout training seemed to kick in and we started remembering our survivor training," he said.

They cleared a small area, avoiding areas where spiders and snakes might gather. There were huge ant-hills built by army ants, and Jeff said they could hear the ants in the dark.

"We cut some palm leaves to cover the ground for a pad, then more palm leaves for covers so we could sleep," he said.

But there was no sleep that night, he said, because the noises of animals hunting in the jungle kept them awake and alert.

They hadn't eaten that day and had no water, so they cut vines that contained water for drinking and kept watch.

At sunrise, they kept an eye out for the sun and got directions from that. They finally came to a hut and a clearing and met a Portuguese man who loaned them a canoe. With that, they followed the river and found their camp.

Jeff will be home in December, ending his one-year scholarship. He'll be talking to Rotary Clubs about his time in South America.

And his mother said, "He'll have quite a story."

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Medicare drug program set

Smoky Hills Public Television will broadcast a special one-hour panel discussion of the new Medicare Part D prescription drug program at 7 p.m. tonight.

"Medicare Part D: What does it mean for Kansas?" will be led by Congressman Jerry Moran and mediator Bryan Dennett. Panelists will be Bud Nylker of the Social Security Administration; Nancy Schmidt of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; and Mary Lou Odle of the Senior Health Insurance Counselors of Kansas.

The Medicare prescription drug program will be available beginning Jan. 1. Anyone eligible for Medicare will have access to new plans to help offset prescription drug costs. Private health insurance companies are

offering 40 different drug plans in Kansas, according to Congressman Moran's office.

Enrollment for the program begins Nov. 15, and continues through May 15, 2006.

The panel will take a close-up look at the program, including its history, eligibility criteria, how to compare plans, the application procedure for extra help and resources available for further information.

"Prescription drugs are a huge expense for Kansas seniors," Congressman Moran said. "As this new benefit is implemented, seniors need to know what their choices are so they can get the drug coverage that best meets their needs."

The station can be found on Oberlin cable channel 12.

Veterans Day program Nov. 11

The Oberlin Elementary School will sponsor a Veterans Day program at 10 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 11, at the school gymnasium.

All veterans are urged to attend. They will be honored during the program, which will also include music. The public is invited.

Planning a Wedding?
The Oberlin Herald is happy to run pictures and stories of weddings. However, we need the information within five weeks of the marriage. Write-ups received after this date require a \$10 charge for each month past the deadline date. Stop by our office for a wedding form.

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