

THE OBERLIN HERALD —

People in Our Community

Mary Lou Olson, society editor
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Weekend guests of Bob and Kay Gaskill were John and Marian Gaskill, and Jeff Gaskill, Weston, Mo.; Dave and Gudy Gaskill, and Craig Gaskill and Staci, Golden, Colo.; Guy Gaskill, Winona; Shad, Jody, Bryson and Seanna Metcalf, Colby; and Ray Kriegbaum and Lori Gaskill, Denver. They all attended the Bank's staff appreciation dinner at the Gateway, followed by the performance of Sam Greisbaum, stand up comedian, presented by the Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission.

Esther Ready of New York City came Sunday to visit her parents, John and Muriel Ready, for a few days.

Elaine Bryan went to Plainville on Friday to visit her daughter and family, Sue and Kevin Renk. That evening they attended the basketball game and during halftime Plainville High School celebrated its Winter Glacade. Mrs. Bryan's granddaughter, Selby, was one of the candidates for queen.

David Morris, son of Ken and Christie Morris, was named to the Dean's List at Hasting College for the fall semester. He is a freshman there.

Neal Russell attended funeral services on Monday morning for his uncle, Mose Hunter, in Florence, Ala. He died Friday night.

Mary Waldo is recuperating at home from a broken ankle, suffered

in a recent fall. Gerald and Leona Rogers of Newton visited from Thursday to Monday with his mother, Myrtle Warner. They came to attend the funeral service in Selden on Monday for Mrs. Rogers' brother, Richard Koerperich. Mrs. Warner accompanied Eris Wenger to Selden for the service.

Virgil Lafferty is a patient in Community Hospital in McCook. Mail will reach him at the hospital, 1301 East H Street, McCook, Neb., 69001.

Winning highs in pinocle at Golden Age Center the past week were Henry Edgett, Wilma May, Floyd Edgett, Helena Bruggeman and Max Carman. Lows went to Barb Solko, Donna Kent, Wilma May, Dorothy Moore, Max Carman and Aleen Van Vleet. Pitch highs were won by Floyd Edgett and Wilma May with lows going to Henry Edgett and Dorothy Moore. Bridge winners were Dorothy Cochran, Ray Lohofener and Merle Shirley.

Leonard Cochran returned home Sunday from Decatur County Hospital, where he had been a patient for several days with pneumonia.

Weekend guests of Elaine Bryan were Floyd and Dale Marie Bryan of Farlington and Bayley Bryan of McCook. Laurene Van Otterloo took the Floyd Bryans and Elaine Bryan out for supper that evening.

Top speller named at school

Shay McChesney won the Oberlin Elementary School spelling contest on Monday by correctly spelling "apparel" and "occasion." The contest was held in the school cafeteria. He is the son of Don and Julia Ray.



McChesney

Runner-up was Matthew Wittman, son of Gary and Jody Shike. Third-place winner, Matt Glading, will also qualify for the county spelling contest since there are no longer students at the Jennings School, according to Cynthia Matson. Matt's parents are Darrin and Joan Glading.



M. Wittman

The Decatur Community Junior High School spelling bee is scheduled at 9:10 a.m. on Friday in the library. Winners will compete with the Oberlin Elementary winners at the county spelling contest which will begin at 2 p.m. on Monday in the Oberlin Elementary School lunchroom. The winner will compete at the state contest to be held at Topeka in April.



Matt Glading

Rotary hears school update

Superintendent of Schools Kelly Glodt told about the Oberlin school facilities and the need to have roofs repaired or replaced on both the elementary and high school buildings at the Jan. 24 meeting of the Oberlin Rotary Club.

He said that a three-year plan will be put into effect to replace and repair both roofs. He also said that after visiting with the new commissioner of education, he felt the commissioner has backed off some on ideas which he stood for earlier. Many issues were discussed that are concerns of rural and urban schools, including transportation and consolidation.

Herschel Betts also shared highlights of the trip which he and his wife recently took to California to visit their son and daughter and families. He said they enjoyed the Holiday Bowl, which was won by Oklahoma.

Guests were Cordell Svengalis and Duane Tappe, members of the McCook Rotary Club; Darren Miller; and Junior Rotarians Jennifer Shaw and Zeke Ruzicka.

Program set Sunday

Western Plains Arts Association will present Ride Into History at 3 p.m. on Sunday at the high school auditorium in Quinter.

Ride Into History's Joyce Thierier will deliver the historical narrative, "Fighting Beside My Brother," during which she dramatically portrays a composite of five women who fought in the Civil War disguised as men. The program may contain adult themes.

Legislature tackles new issues

To begin the week, Kansas State University was honored to host the President of the United States, George W. Bush, as a speaker at its Landon Lecture Series.

Following the President's visit, the first pieces of legislation of 2006 also reached the House floor this week. Votes were taken to eliminate discriminating covenants in homeowners associations, to extend the reporting period for city treasurers to publish their quarterly reports and to assess certain enhanced 911 (E911) fees for Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) providers.

Committees have also been busy listening to testimony on bills and reporting their recommendations to the Speaker of the House. Also being discussed is a Constitutional Amendment reinforcing that it is the Legislature and not the Courts that decide how tax dollars will be allocated. This is in further response to the Kansas Supreme Court decision on school finance that prompted the special session last year.

Judicial Evaluation
The House Judiciary Committee heard favorable testimony on HB 2612 this week which would establish a system of evaluation for judges. The bill received support from everyone who testified including several judges and the only question appeared to be how to fund such a system. An increase in docket fees was originally suggested, but met with some resistance considering the fees have increased each year for the past several years. Other funding sources will be considered. Proponents would also like to see the evaluations available online and in voters guides to ensure easy access to the information.

Eminent Domain
Several proposals have been suggested to rework the government's power of eminent domain. First and foremost it is my aim to protect personal property rights. With this as the focus, we also recognize that eminent domain is an important tool for a government to acquire property for the public good. However, the taking of personal property must be compensated fairly and only for an overriding public need. The right



Letter from Topeka

By State Rep. John Faber
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of citizens to own personal property is one of the foundations of our society and cannot be compromised.

Powers of Supreme Court
Several members of the Republican Caucus participated in a press conference this week announcing their support of an amendment to the Kansas Constitution reinforcing the Article Two power stating, "No money shall be drawn from the treasury except in pursuance of a specific appropriation made by law."

When the Kansas Supreme Court demanded more money for school finance and then went even farther by specifying exactly how much would be allocated, it is the feeling of many Republicans that the Court overstepped its authority. This amendment would prevent a repeat of this same or similar rulings by the Court in the future.

President Bush at KSU
The Landon Lecture at Kansas State University was honored to host its third sitting President on Monday when George W. Bush spoke before a capacity crowd at Bramlage Coliseum in Manhattan. Senators Brownback and Roberts, Congressmen Ryan, Moran and Moore as well as several State legislators were in attendance.

The President spoke for nearly two hours after his arrival on campus, which was delayed due to heavy fog canceling his helicopter transport from Forbes Field in Topeka. Once on the ground, the President explained his role as a decision maker and insisted that his decisions were based on principle.

"First of all, when you make decisions, you've got to stand on principle. If you're going to make decisions, you've got to know what you believe. I guess the best way to sum-

marize me is I came from Texas and I'm going back to Texas with the exact same values I had when I arrived in Washington, D.C.," the President said.

He also thanked the members of our military who were in attendance and seated to his right, filling two full sections of the coliseum. President Bush fielded multiple questions on topics such as Social Security, border security, international relations, education and family before his departure. He indicated his next appointment was in Washington and he would be attending a retirement dinner for Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan.

The next Landon Lecture will be held Wednesday, Feb. 22, and U.S. Senator Sam Brownback is scheduled to speak.

Upcoming Topics
Appropriations Overview and Discussion of Medicare Part D, Feb. 1.

Commerce and Labor, Workman's Compensation, Feb. 2.

Judiciary, DNA collection for certain crimes, Jan. 31.

Persistent sex offender penalties, Feb. 1.

Taxation, 3 year phase out of the franchise tax, Jan. 31.

Machinery and Equipment tax, Feb. 1.

If you have any additional information or if you would like to offer your opinions or suggestions regarding these issues or any others that may be coming before the Kansas House, I want to hear from you. Please contact my office by phone at (785) 296-7500, by U.S. Mail at State Capitol-513A-S, Topeka Kan., 66612-1504 or by email at Faber@house.state.ks.us during the Legislative session.

Two hospital employees honored at banquet

Decatur Health Systems honored two 30-year employees, Jean Ann Leitner and Cheryl Timm, at its annual Employee Recognition Banquet on Saturday evening, Jan. 7, at The Gateway.



C. Timm

Everett "Butch" Rittman told of his own recent experience of being a reluctant patient at the hospital. A "Battle of the Sexes" game, resulting in a tie between the men and women, was followed by choreographed musical entertainment by the DCHS Singers.

Other employees who were honored for their years of service included: Fern Mosier, Karol Styles, 25 years; Jim Sullivan, Donna Guinn, 20; Shirley Ward, Brenda Peterson, 15; Peggy Gassman, Ona Van Gundy, Jodee Carman, 10; Jan Matheny, Amy McDougal, Glenda Chase, Leola Zodrow, Wanda Dickinson, Jonathan Fick, Richard Kimble, Kay Chambers, Cathy Claussen, 5; Robin Edgett, Jennifer Shaw, 3.



J. Leitner

Company expands to Oberlin

Nex-Tech Wireless, part of the Sprint National Network that offers the largest all-digital wireless network, is now available at a new location in Oberlin.

Customers may visit the Ultimate Fertilizer Company at 139 W. Hall Street, the new dealer for this area. The new retail location will be a dealer/agent store, which will offer greater convenience to consumers. "The incredibly successful launch of Nex-Tech Wireless ser-

vice into the western and northwestern Kansas areas has created a demand of customers who 'gotta have it,'" said Johnie Johnson, chief executive officer and general manager.

To celebrate the expansion, Nex-Tech Wireless is providing special offers to customers who sign up for service. For details, call Gary Juenemann, Jennifer Juenemann or Vickie Sowers at the Ultimate Fertilizer office at (785) 475-2121.

School conferences set

Parent-teacher conferences for Oberlin Elementary School students will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 8, and again on Friday, Feb. 10, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. There will be no school on Friday, Feb. 10.

Letters were sent to parents on Jan. 25 with an assigned time to meet with their child's teachers. Parents are encouraged to meet with the teachers at the assigned time. Parents of fifth-grade students

will meet with Mr. Olson and Mrs. Buchholz together in the classroom of Mrs. Buchholz.

Mrs. Lohofener, Mrs. Matson, and Mrs. Jansonius will not have scheduled times for parents of their students, but they will be available for conferences in their rooms.

The purpose of parent-teacher conferences is to keep the lines of communication between the home and school open.

Grad answers technology questions

Eunice (May) Andrews of Perry, Ga., a 1975 graduate of Decatur Community High School, was interviewed recently for the column, "The Peach Basket," in a Perry newspaper.

Mrs. Andrews is an upper school computer technology instructor at the Westfield Schools in Perry and is the daughter of Wilma May of Oberlin.

In the story, she said she chose the teaching profession because she has a passion for computers and loves to teach others. She feels the most chal-

lenging issue facing education today is keeping students' attention and instilling self-discipline, with so many distractions.

She enjoys living in the south mainly because of the warm weather. She and her husband like to watch football and she does various types of needlework.

She added that three things others may not know about her include winning an award for shooting a rat at a leadership camp in high school, learning how to weld in 4-H and from her father, and taking Spanish

for eight years.

One of her goals is to visit Eunice, N.M., and have her picture taken at the city limit sign, and she also would like to learn to play the violin.

Her advice for today's youth is to not stress out about everything. The best advice she said she ever heard was from her husband, John, who told her when they were first married, "It is only hard if you don't know."

They have a daughter, Jennifer.

Farm Credit scholarships available

The board of directors of Farm Credit of Western Kansas will continue the Farm Credit Scholarship program this year.

Each year, a student is chosen to receive a \$500 per year scholarship

which is renewable for up to four years of post-secondary education. Eligible applicants are area high school seniors who are children or grandchildren of Farm Credit of Western Kansas members.

Interested applicants should contact their high school counselor or Cathy Hawk at (785) 462-2382 for an application or visit their website at www.farmcreditkans.com. Applications are due by Feb. 15.

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