

# Teen's organs donated

By PATTY DECKER  
Colby Free Press

For 19 years, Jordan Harris was a gift to his family and now, a year after his death in a car accident, he has become a gift to many others.

Harris was like any teenage boy, his mother, Eileen, said. He loved his car — a 1996 black Blazer, his friends, KU basketball, Denver Broncos football and most high school sports.

Jordan was a grandson of the late Don Harris and Irmadene (Johnston) Harris of Oberlin, and a great-nephew of Imogene Keenan of Jennings. His father, Doug Harris, is a 1974 graduate of Decatur Community High School.

Considered shy and quiet around teachers and acquaintances, Jordan was known to be a witty, energetic guy with his close friends — showing compassion when it came to helping other students.

When Jordan was a junior and playing basketball for the Colby Eagles in the 2002-2003 season, his mom said, a freshman was promoted to the varsity.

"It is really tough making that move when I was a freshman," said Matt Augustine, who graduated from Colby High School last year. "If it hadn't been for Jordan, I don't think I would have made it."

He said Jordan took him under his wing and made him feel like he was part of the team.

It's been a year since then. His mother said the thing that's helped her the most was something her son volunteered to do three years prior.

Eileen, 49, recalled talking with Jordan about being an organ donor when he applied for his driver's license at age 16. The two of them discussed that option in the event of his death.

"She remembers Jordan saying, 'Sure, definitely I will do that.'"

Because of the way he treated others, she said, it wasn't surprising that Jordan's compassion would carry over in deciding to be an organ donor.

From that decision, she said, the Harris family, which includes sister, Angie, and father, Doug, is beginning to see something they can hang on to.

The family isn't sure exactly who benefited from Jordan's organ donations.

Family members attended an event in December in Kansas City hosted by Midwest Transplant, which took Jordan's donations.

This "life celebration" brought families of donors and recipients together.

Eileen said she spoke with one man who had received a kidney and others who, without donated muscles, cartilage and ligaments, could have never walked again.

She donated a quilt square paying tribute to Jordan that will help make up a traveling quilt used by the Midwest Transplant organization.

"This has helped me more than anything," she said, "and even though the people I spoke with didn't have Jordan's donations, it still meant a lot."

The exchange of friendships and seeing how many people could have hope again was important to her, she said.

"I want to know the people and build a bond with them one day," she said. "Becoming an organ donor is a good thing, and if there is a way I can help get the word out, I want to do that."



DECATUR COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS put out flames in Millard Kyte's shop last Tuesday after a leak in the chimney of a wood-burning stove started a fire. Damage was heavy inside the shop. — Photo by Randy McHugh

## Fires keep county volunteers hopping

Fires kept the Decatur County volunteer firemen busy last month.

On Thursday, Feb. 9, the city fire department was called out to a house fire at 607 S. Cheyenne when a leak in the chimney of a wood-burning stove caught the attic on fire.

The house, said Fire Chief Bill Cathcart, is owned by Eugene Jernigan and rented by Ron Beachel and his family.

Chief Cathcart said they got the call around 11:10 a.m. When the firefighters showed up, the attic

was full of smoke and flames.

The Beachels had a wood-burning stove going in the house.

The chimney on the stove, said Chief Cathcart, was older and unlined.

He estimated damage at \$20,000. The entire attic was pretty much destroyed, the chief said, and there was water damage.

The renters have moved out of the house, he said.

Around 4 p.m. last Tuesday, the rural fire department received a call to Millard and Sherri Kyte's farm

three miles north of U.S. 36 on the Traer Road.

Chief Cathcart said Mr. Kyte had a wood-burning stove going in his shop. A leak in the chimney caused that fire, too, he said.

The fire burned the entire east wall of the shop. Chief Cathcart estimated damage at \$10,000.

Around 9:23 p.m. Friday, the city crew was called to a firewood fire on West Commercial Avenue at the city limits on property owned by Richard Rude.

Chief Cathcart said someone had

been cutting firewood that afternoon with permission. Next to the saw was a bunch of tree stumps and a huge pile of wood. That wood caught on fire and no one noticed it until that evening, he said.

Around 5 p.m. Monday, he said, the crew received the call that a golf cart at the Oberlin Golf Club was on fire. The firefighters got called back shortly after the initial call when the dispatcher said the fire was out.

## Booths still available for home show here

Only a week and a half are left to book a booth for the annual home show sponsored by the Decatur County Chamber of Commerce and KFN Radio.

The show will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 18, and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 19, at The Gateway.

Booths are \$125 for a space 10-foot-by-10-foot, or \$175 for a 10-by-20-foot space. Each booth will have one table and two chairs.

Electricity will be provided, but extension cords are not. The booth fee includes mentions on KFN and a live interview on both days of the show.

Chamber Manager Glenva Nichols said so far there are 15 booths reserved and the Chamber has room for around 40 booths.

Anyone who wants a booth should call the Chamber at (785) 475-3441 or write with your name, address, phone, booth size, a brief description and money to 102 S.

Penn Ave, Oberlin, Kan., 67749.

The last day to reserve a booth is Friday, March 3.

During the show, the Master Gardeners will offer seminars throughout the day on Saturday at The Gateway.

## Storm spotter classes March 22

With the storm season quickly approaching, the National Weather Service office in Goodland is getting ready to hold spotter classes.

Each class is open to the public, is free and will last a little over two hours. The classes will cover everything from storm structure to safety to how to report the storm.

The class in Oberlin will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 22, at The Gateway.

Other classes in the area will be

held at 7 p.m. Monday, March 27, at the Atwood Prairie Development Center; at 7 p.m. Monday, March 20 in Norton County at the Prairie Land

Electric Cooperative office; and at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 18, in Red Willow County at the McCook Medical Clinic.

## student of the week



**Name:** Jordan Tally  
**Parents:** Eugene and Tonya Tally  
**Grade:** 9th  
**Age:** 15  
**We've nominated this student because:** He works hard every day in his classes. He even goes above and beyond the normal school day by having other activities after school including the play, FFA, Tech Club,

Wrestling, etc. Jordan's hard work and dedication are a model for other students to follow.

**Student Comment:** It's a great honor to be nominated for this award. It's a great pleasure.

**Activities involved in at school:** FFA, music, wrestling, drama and speech.

**My choice of movies, books and games:** Action movies.

**After I leave Decatur Community High School I intend to:** Attend either an agriculture school or vo-tech school.

**And 10 years from now, I think I'll be:** Running my own farm with a family.

# Groups to receive \$625 each

All of the bills have been paid and the numbers have been crunched to show that the 2006 Seeds of Hope Telethon raised over \$11,000 at the beginning of February.

That means each of the 17 organizations chosen last year by the Telethon committee will receive \$625 for their projects. Those recipients include the livestock building project working through the Decatur County Fair Foundation, Kansans for Life, the Norcatar Museum, Teens for Christ, the Oberlin Area Concert Band, Cardinal Kids Connection, Stand Against Violence, Relay for Life, the Oberlin Lions Club, Creative Movement Gymnastics, the Jennings Czech Museum, the Oberlin Pool Project, the Decatur County Museum, Special Olympics, the Decatur County Ministerial Association, the Tripple Creek Riders and the Salvation Army.

In the last 11 years, said Jack Benton, a committee member, the group has been able to give over \$102,000 to organizations in the county.

The committee will not meet again until fall to get ready for the 2007 telethon, tentatively scheduled for the first Saturday in February.

# Benefit planned for man

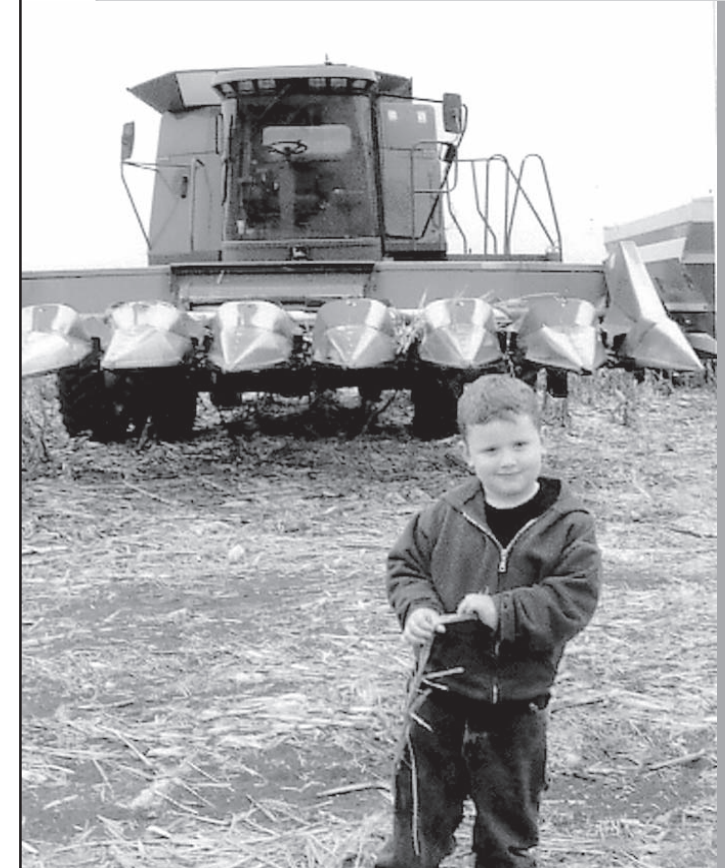
The Royal Neighbors of America will sponsor a whole-hog roast to help raise money for a Norcatar man who has leukemia.

The benefit for Jim and Teresa Arnold will start at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 18, at the Norcatar school cafeteria.

Mr. Arnold is at the University of Colorado Hospital in Denver for treatment.

The benefit will help offset his medical expenses. All donations can be made to the Royal Neighbors of America, which will also take donations through the mail for those who are unable to attend. Mail checks to Lora Arnold, Route 1, Box 119, Clayton, Kan. 67629.

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