

# Decatur Farm Bureau honors area farmers

Four Decatur County operations were honored as Century Farms during the Decatur County Farm Bureau's annual meeting Aug. 17 at The Gateway.

They included Dean and Peggy Groneweg, Ivis Hanson, Gerald and Connie Olson, and Gary Torluemke.

The Gronewegs have farmed as far back as 1902, when George H. Groneweg bought the land in Cook Township. The Hanson land, in Altoy Township, dates back to 1879 when it was settled by Hans A. Hanson. The Olson farm, in Herl Township of Rawlins County, was settled by Erik Olson in 1882 and the Torluemke land's lineage began in 1904 with Henry Torluemke as original owner of the farm in Liberty Township.

A brief history of the four families was given, followed by a slide

presentation of the families throughout the years, including many old pictures. Each owner received a Century Farm sign and license plate.

Jeff Sutton, Kansas Farm Bureau agriculture education and safety manager, presented an ag trivia wheel, a program which has been done at the Oberlin Elementary School in the past. Children and adults were asked to "come on down" and answer agriculture questions, receiving a prize whether or not they had the right answer.

Over 90 members and guests attended the annual dinner meeting.

Farm Bureau officers are Paul Shields, president; Karen Larson, vice president; and Denise Abbey, secretary-treasurer and women's chair. Other board members are Brad Marcuson, Brandon Bryan and Lyn Reynolds.



Grant and Wendy Vollertsen

# Swilley-Vollertsen vows read in Oberlin church

Wendy Swilley and Grant Vollertsen were married at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 3, 2006, at the Oberlin United Methodist Church. Officiating was the Rev. Doug Hasty.

Parents of the couple are Billie and Patricia Swilley of Scott City, and Kurt and Becky Vollertsen of Oberlin. Grandparents of the bride are Geraldine Ribbing, Scott City, and the late Eugene Ribbing; and Florence Swilley, Healy, and the late John Swilley. The bridegroom's grandparents are Harold and Betty Wiltfong, and Don and Willa Vollertsen, Norton.

Danelle Palmer and Megan Montgomery were candlelighters.

Mary Jo Lohofener was pianist and Amy Carman was vocalist. Julie Swilley, sister-in-law of the bride, was reader.

Matron of honor was Theresa Haines, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Kristen Brau, Tia Hoar and Haley Vollertsen, sister of the bridegroom.

Paul Kitzke served as best man. Groomsmen were Brad Moore, Brett Moore and Greg Grafel. Ushers were Mike Swilley, brother of the bride, and Chad Addleman.

Morgan Swilley, niece of the bride, was flower girl. Trevin Haines, nephew of the bride, and Garrhet Swilley were ringbearers.

Nicole Moser was seated at the guest book. Alisha Gillespie, niece of the bride, was program attendant.

A reception followed at The Gateway. Assisting with the serving were MaryJo Ortiz, Kaycie Bogner and Heather Rowe.

The bride has been a dental hygienist in Omaha while the bridegroom was a student at Creighton University School of Dentistry.

After a honeymoon to Maui, Hawaii, they are living in Garden City, where they have joined the dental practice of Dr. Kevin J. Sterling. The bridegroom is a dentist and his wife is a registered dental hygienist.

# Oberlin grad is principal

Pat Reinhardt, a 1967 graduate of Decatur Community High School, became principal at Hoisington Middle School this year.

The daughter of Vera Lindemann of Oberlin and the late Elmer Lindemann, Mrs. Reinhardt said she had been content teaching business classes at Hoisington High School, but when this opportunity knocked, she answered.

"It wasn't something I was consciously thinking about," she said. "It just felt right."

She said she taught business classes in Hoisington for seven years, adding video production last year. She said she was in business management before deciding to change careers and get into education.

"I was a secretary at the high school in Oberlin for about a year prior to going into management," she said, "and I just liked working with kids."

When the family relocated to Hays, she decided to get a teaching certificate and she's been teaching

ever since.

After completing her bachelor's degree, Mrs. Reinhardt said, she returned to college for a master's degree while she taught.

It's been a busy a month for the new principal, who lives in Otis, about 16 miles west of Hoisington, as she moved into the middle school office and began setting priorities.

"State assessments are at the top of my list," she said.

"With the focus the state is placing on them, we'll be spending a lot of time on that."

She said that she has an open-door policy and tends to meet issues head-on.

"I'm way more proactive than reactive," she said. "I believe if you want respect, you have to give respect. I will be there for every student and individual who works for me."

She and her husband Kent, a former extension agent in Decatur County, have two married children, Derek and Allison, and Nelson, who is a senior at Hoisington High.



P. Reinhardt

# Rotary hears about schools

Superintendent Kelly Glodt gave a report on the schools when the Oberlin Rotary Club met Aug. 22 at The Gateway.

He said that the district will get new state money, so staff has been hired by the board to fill vacancies. More students have moved into the district, so that will mean more budget dollars, he said. He thanked Greg Lohofener and the Economic Development Corp. for their efforts. He also said there could be addi-

tional students when the bus company starts operations at Jennings.

Herschel and Jody Betts were honored as members of the Paul Harris Society, which provides annual contributions which benefit this Rotary district.

Janice Shobe of the Atwood Rotary Club was a guest. There are 50 seniors at Decatur Community High School this year and the junior Rotarians will begin visiting the club on Sept. 12.

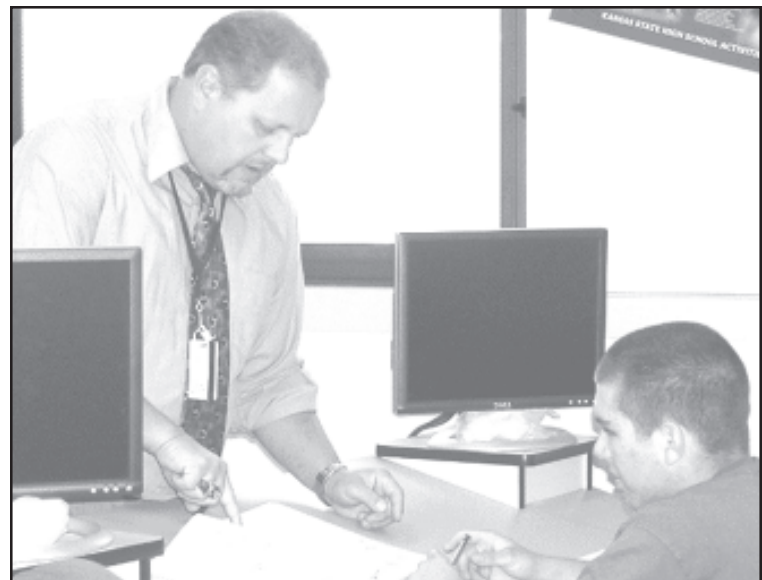
# College offers art trip

Colby Community College is offering a trip to the Chicago Art Institute and the Field Museum this fall as part of the Fine Arts Experience class, which includes a four-day trip to Chicago in October.

Participants will leave by bus on Thursday, Oct. 5. The class will visit the museums on Friday, Oct. 6, to view the Tutankhamen exhibit and others, and tour the art institute on Saturday, Oct. 7.

Tours and theater events will be available on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings.

The bus will return to Colby on



ALAN SHULER (above left), a teacher and coach at Central High in Salina, helped a student in his class.

# Teacher receives honor

Alan Shuler, son of Everett and Dorene Shuler of Oberlin, has been selected as Outstanding High School Teacher by the Kansas Chapter of the Society of Professional Engineers.

He said, "It's a tremendous honor to receive this award. I truly believe I have one of the best jobs anyone could have. Since I teach elective classes, the students who come into my classroom are there because they want to be there. It's very easy to teach those who want to learn. I also have the best building staff and administration a teacher could ask for — bar none."

A 1979 graduate of Decatur Community High School, he teaches drafting technology and is assistant football coach at Salina Central High School. Mr. Shuler and his wife Lesley, daughter of Bob and Amy Jane (Thomsen) Dodson, and their daughters, Genna and Blair, live in Salina. He graduated from Fort Hays State University in 1984 and will receive a Master's Degree in education from Baker University next spring.

Mr. Shuler was featured in a story on Aug. 21, in *The Salina Journal*. The story, by Michael Strand, said that when Mr. Shuler came to the school in Salina, his classroom had 26 drafting desks and four computers. Today, computers dominate, and the slanted drafting tables sport sleek, flag-panel computer displays.

"I think this is one of the best drafting labs I've seen in a high school," he said. "A lot of my kids

go from here off to a college and tell me the equipment there isn't as good.

"The computers get plenty of work, but I still teach paper and pencil drafting, which a lot of people don't anymore. I want students familiar with the older tools of the trade for a number of reasons.

"Pencil and paper is quick. You can't just do a quick sketch on a computer — you have to turn on the computer, wait for it to come on, start the software. If you just want to give somebody a quick idea of what you're talking about, you don't need that. If you're out on a job site you won't have your computer there."

His drafting, engineering and architecture courses attract a variety of students, he said.

"There's the ones who want to be engineers or architects, and kids who want to design video games," he said, "and we get students interested in art. We don't do freehand drawing, but an art student can learn about spatial relationships."

Each year, his class builds bridges spans out of eighth-inch basswood string and paper, then tests them by driving a radio-controlled truck over them. The truck is topped with more and more weight until the bridge fails.

"They design the bridge on the computer, and then print out a full-size design to use in building it," he said. "Last year's bridge weighed 60.6 grams, yet supported 10,800 grams of truck and cargo."

# New Arrivals

## Jonas Allen Letourneau

Ben and Wendi Letourneau of Oberlin are the parents of a son, Jonas Allen, who was born at 9:26 a.m. on Aug. 3, 2006. He weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces and was 20 inches long. He was welcomed home by a sister, Jane Marie, 16 months. Grandparents are Hank and Denise Letourneau, Concordia; Larry Mespelt, Arden, Wash., and Sarah Mespelt, Clarkston, Wash.

His father is the Natural Resource Conservation Service district conservationist in Oberlin.

## Audrey J. Bertman

Gene and Heather Bertman of Norman, Okla., are the parents of a daughter, Audrey Josephine, born Aug. 25, 2006. She weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces and was 20 inches long. She has a brother, Joshua, almost 2. Grandparents are Gary and Pam McClelland, Shawnee, Okla., and Eugene and Theresa Bertman, Long Island, N.Y. Great-grandmothers are Micky Bertman, Oklahoma City, and Alice Shirley, Oberlin.



J. Letourneau

## NOTICE OF CEMETERY BUDGET HEARINGS

The governing body of Decatur County Cemetery Boards will meet on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September, 2006 at 8 pm at the following listed homes for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to be levied. Detailed Budget Information is available at the Office of the Decatur County Clerk and will be available at these hearings.

### BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2007 Expenditures and Amount of 2006 Ad Valorem Tax to establish the maximum limits of the 2007 Budget. Estimated Tax Rate\* is subject to slight change depending on the final assessed valuations.

FUND	2005		2006		Proposed Budget 2007	
	Prior Year Actual	Actual Tax Rate	Current year Estimate of Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate	Amount of 2006 Ad Valorem Tax	Est. Tax Rate*
General	9,526	0.877	13,015	0.877	13,000	0.862
Valuation	DC & NT 3,017,573		DC & NT 2,947,794		DC & NT 3,106,090	
General	1,969	2.087	13,400	2.022	15,500	2.352
Valuation	1,635,170		1,700,014		1,684,317	
General	3,489	1.881	6,700	1.685	6,700	1.879
Valuation	2,073,544		2,314,261		2,076,452	
General	5,689	1.311	10,000	2.075	8,500	1.403
Valuation	DC & SD 2,427,625		DC & SD 2,360,806		DC & SD 2,290,452	
General	2,864	2.637	15,500	2.678	15,500	2.746
Valuation	DC, RA & SD 1,353,485		DC, RA & SD 1,325,628		DC, RA & SD 1,301,272	
General	477	1.338	4,700	1.366	4,700	1.415
Valuation	1,050,560		1,028,790		993,012	
General	85	1.792	4,500	1.849	6,600	1.934
Valuation	850,316		825,850		796,846	
General	1,255	0.916	3,500	0.925	3,500	0.991
Valuation	1,394,344		1,404,629		1,318,043	
General	1,424	2.050	10,000	2.124	10,000	1.306
Valuation	747,420		721,496		1,175,021	
General	1,295	1.562	2,500	1.650	2,500	1.752
Valuation	653,131		621,857		594,080	
General	596	0.578	4,000	0.591	4,000	0.631
Valuation	893,870		876,047		822,871	

Note: Tax Rates are expressed in mills

Published by Marilyn Horn, Decatur County Clerk

# Arts agency plans to close

The Association of Community Arts Agencies of Kansas, which has helped many towns start arts organizations for 33 years, will close Dec. 31.

Executive Director Ellen Morgan of Salina, formerly of Oberlin, said a lack of money and her decision to "move on" are two reasons. She said she is looking to do something else with her life.

Martha Rhea, a founding board member and currently on the advisory board, said the Salina-based association's work is finished. She said the board voted in mid-July to

close the agency and Ms. Morgan said the decision was unanimous.

The agency has helped towns around the state start arts agencies and helped them find grants and other money sources, as well as working with federal and state lawmakers.

Ms. Rhea said that what the group provides is still needed, and how that void will be filled has yet to be determined, but it will be one of the major questions addressed as the Kansas Arts Commission goes through a strategic planning process this fall.

# Grandparents invited to lunch

Decatur Community High and Oberlin Elementary School are inviting all grandparents to have lunch with their grandchild on Friday, Sept. 8, for National Grandparents Day.

"Lunch will be provided that day in honor of your presence," said high

school Principal Charles Haag.

Grandparents should call the school their grandchild attends by Friday to make a reservation and find out what time they will eat. Call Melissa or Judy at the high school at (785) 475-2231 or Carla at Oberlin Elementary at 475-2122.

# Bloodmobile coming here

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will be in Oberlin from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. next Wednesday at The Gateway.

Patients here have used 91 units of blood from January through July, said Suzanne Ahlberg, director of

nursing at Decatur County Hospital.

Everyone who donates will receive a free Red Cross 125th anniversary T-shirt. You can make an appointment by calling 1-800-GIVELIFE, but walk-in donors are welcome.



**DECATUR COUNTY ELECTION NEWS**

For General Election 2006

The November General Election will be held Tuesday the 7th of November, 2006.

Candidates Parties will be listed but affiliation is not necessary at a General Election.

Voter Registration for this General Election will close on Monday the 23rd of October @ 9 p.m... Anyone who will be 18 years of age by Election Day can register to vote. Those who have moved their residence since the last election must reregister to vote.

Please contact your Senators & Representatives to pass the law for Satellite Voting!

August 18, 2006  
Marilyn Horn, Decatur County Election Official

## Truck Drivers Wanted

Now taking applications for full-time, part-time and week-end truck drivers to pull live-bottoms out of Trenton, NE or Phillipsburg, KS

- Local hauling
- Home nightly
- 5 Day work-week
- Average pay \$500-700 weekly plus bonuses and benefits
- Must have Class A CDL and 3 yrs. experience

Call 308-334-5152  
9 a.m. - 8 p.m. or  
308-340-2319 after hours for more info.

Internet tonight! 475-2206