

Oberlin graduate is chosen for national television program

When area fans of "The Biggest Loser" click on the weight-loss reality show on NBC for the new season at 7 p.m. tonight, they will see a former Oberlin man chosen as one of the contestants in a special two-hour episode.



Jaron Tate

Jaron Tate, 27, a resident of Hot Springs, Ark., and a 1996 graduate of Decatur Community High School, will be one of 50 contestants, one representing each state.

The network says the season premiere will showcase a surprising twist. Thirty-six contestants will leave the ranch to compete at home after going through an initial fitness and nutrition boot camp, leaving 14 to continue on with the competition at the Biggest Loser Ranch. One man and one woman among the 36 who lose the largest percentage of weight will then rejoin the game at the ranch in a later episode.

Each of the 36 contestants will have access to www.thebiggestloserclub.com, a 24-hour fitness gym, "The Biggest Loser," and the Workout DVD and book while making their lifestyle change at home. The show's medical team will monitor all contestants.

"This season we decided to hold a 50-state competition because of 'The Biggest Loser' weight loss

challenges starting up across the nation in schools, gyms, churches and workplaces," said executive producer Ben Silverman. "We are thrilled that our show has inspired the nation to make a lifestyle change.

"Jaron is the kind of guy that likes to see things through to the end. You put a bag of chips in front of Jaron and he guarantees he'll eat the whole thing. Years of bad diet choices (too many pizzas and too much 'mall Chinese food') have led Jaron to gain over 15 pounds per year since marrying his wife of seven years.

"Jaron wants to put a stop to his slide down the slope of obesity so he can be there for his supportive wife and small daughter for years to come. Jaron's fitness goal is to compete in the Iron Man triathlon, an accomplishment he hopes will inspire not only his extended family, but America as well."

Described as "the first reality series in which everybody loses," "The Biggest Loser," hosted by Caroline Rhea ("Sabrina the Teenage Witch"), challenges overweight participants to undergo physical makeovers, without surgery, in a safe and recommended manner through comprehensive diet and exercise as they compete for a grand

prize of \$250,000. The series has become a worldwide hit, airing in over 65 territories and 20 countries. It has produced a New York Times best-selling book and a burgeoning on-line lifestyle club, www.thebiggestloserclub.com.

"Bob Harper returns as the blue team trainer and new to the show this season is red team trainer Kim Lyons," the network said. "With over a decade of experience in the fitness industry, Lyons brings her positive attitude and winning spirit to all of her clients. Since 2000, Lyons has participated in fitness competitions and won numerous contests nationally and internationally. She has also become one of the fitness industry's most photographed models, appearing on more than 30 covers worldwide."

"We are very proud of Jaron and his family," said his parents, John and Edie Tate of Oberlin. "We've been told 200,000 people applied to be on the show."

He has had top-of-the-art medical monitoring and instruction. It will be interesting to see how they present the contestants on the show."

His wife is the former Tara Dinkle of Colby. Both are graduates of Colby Community College. Their daughter, Abigail, is a year old.

Jaron's only comment was, "Watch the show!"

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THE OBERLIN HERALD —

People in Our Community

Mary Lou Olson, society editor mlolson@nwkansas.com

Kelsie and Tanner Griffith, Clayton, and Alyssa Montgomery, Jennings, will enter market steers in the Kansas Junior Livestock Show from Friday to Monday at the Kansas Coliseum near Wichita.

Lora Randolph of Hutchinson, and Connie Simonsson, Amy Rehm and Alyce Avery returned to Oberlin on Saturday from Estes Park, Colo., where they spent a week vacationing.

Luetta Pollnow, and Kay and Andy Chambers of Oberlin and Gary Matheny of McCook spent Sunday in Dodge City visiting Amanda and Shane Johnson, who recently moved into their new home.

Brad, Elaine and Jared Marcuson, Oberlin; Leslie Marcuson and Ryan Nelson, Topeka, and Sarah Marcuson, Pittsburg, enjoyed the weekend at the Kansas State Fair and watched Jared as he participated in the Fashion Revue.

Recent visitors of Jim and Linda Hollowell were middle school classmates Dick and Gerry Harrison of Kailua-Kona, Hawaii; also Rob Meredith of Kalamazoo, Mich., and Jim's mother, Vera Matthews, of Denver.

Jamie Elwood will be among over 30 competitors who will begin the 2006 season at Garden City Community College Rodeo Team when they go into action Sept. 29 to Oct. 1 at Colby Community College. The Broncbuster Rodeo season will include 10 rodeos across the two-state Central Plains Region of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association. She is on the women's team and will participate in barrel racing, breakaway roping, goat tying and team roping. Her parents are Danny and Judy Elwood of Oberlin.

Mabel McLaughlin of Sturgeon, Mo., came Sunday and is a house-

guest of Laurene Van Otterloo.

Sixty-nine alumni and friends of Kansas State University from Decatur County gave \$38,323 for the fiscal year ending June 30 to the Kansas State University Foundation. A total of \$92.8 million was given overall. The foundation coordinates fundraising efforts with alumni, friends, corporations and foundations to encourage private support for the benefit of the university.

—Brunch Buffet, Sunday, Sept. 24, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. LandMark Inn. Call 475-2340 for reservations.

Funeral services were held on Friday at the United Methodist Church in Atwood for Patricia (Beamgard) Makings, 78, of Longmont, Colo. She was a sister of Rod Beamgard of Atwood and a cousin of the late Atley Muirhead.

Ivis Hanson was among those honored on Friday by the Kansas Farm Bureau at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson as a direct descendant of Hans A. Hanson, who homesteaded in Alton Township over 100 years ago. His father, Otto Hanson, was a son of Hans A. Hanson, and Ivis continued to live on the home place south of Kanona until moving to Wheat Ridge Terrace recently. His nieces, Fern (Lively) Borsheim of Green Cove Springs, Fla., and Linda (Urban) Diamond of Pueblo, Colo., took him to Hutchinson.

Elaine Marcuson spent from Sept. 8 to 10 in Lake of the Ozarks attending the Redenbaugh first cousins reunion. Brad and Jared Marcuson attended the K-State-Florida Atlantic game on Sept. 9, then spent the night with Leslie Marcuson in Topeka. On Sunday, they went to Kansas City to pick up Mrs. Marcuson.

Doris Fringer returned home Sat-

urday from California. She accompanied her daughter, Donna and Shaun Futrell, by plane from Denver on July 31 after they came for the wedding of Valisha Castle and Travis Raile on July 29. She also visited her son, Joe and Chris Shirley, of Livermore and a friend, Kathleen Osborn, of Orangeville, as well as other relatives and friends. Janice (Castle) Ferrada of Denver met her at the airport, and she accompanied her son-in-law, Bob Castle, to Oberlin.

Greg and Amanda Grafel and Kel entertained with a barbecue on Sunday evening to honor their son and brother, Reece, on his third birthday. Guests were Connie Grafel, Dan and Kade Grafel, Samme Steinmetz, Jeanette Miller, Norma Grafel, Bill Steinmetz, Kathy Brainard, Cricket and Terry Steinmetz, Di Solko, Steve Cullen, and Missy and Gavon Uehlin.

—French Buffet, Tuesday, Sept. 26, 6-8 p.m. LandMark Inn. 475-2340 for reservations.

John and Henrietta Juenemann and Gary Juenemann attended funeral services on Monday morning at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays for Charles Budke, 81, who died on Thursday. He was the father of Mrs. Ron (Charlene) Juenemann of Phillipsburg.

Winning highs in pinochle at Golden Age Center the past week were Henry Edgett, Dorothy Moore, Wilma May, Max Carman and Dewaine Stapp. Lows went to Floyd Edgett, Barb Solko, Donna Kent, Marie McKisson, Max Carman, Wilma May and Aleen Van Vleet. Pitch highs were won by Barb Solko and Dorothy Moore with lows going to Floyd Edgett and Henry Edgett. Bridge winners were Charlotte Meints, Carol Shirley, Leone Purton and Shirley Simpson.

and Cheryl Steinert of Lyons, in June 2002. She graduated from Lyons High School and attended Wichita State University.

The couple has purchased a home on East Commercial for them and their children, Lilly, 3, and Michaela, nearly 2.

He said his hobbies are hunting and fishing.

"Everyone in Oberlin has been wonderful to our family and has made us feel so welcome," Mr. Rippe said. "I am looking forward to working with the people of this area in my new position."

Oberlin bank names new loan officer

Kevin Rippe, a native of the Ludell area, began work as a loan officer at The Bank in Oberlin on Sept. 1. He and his family moved to Oberlin from near Bird City, where he worked for Serv-Tech as a crop advisor in Cheyenne, Rawlins and Sherman counties.

His parents are Richard and Theresa Rippe of rural Ludell. Mr. Rippe said he was reared on a farm southeast of Ludell and graduated from Herndon High School in 1995. He earned a degree in general agriculture from Fort Hays State University in 1999.

He married Megan Steinert, daughter of Jim



Kevin Rippe

Childcare training orientation offered in Colby

Smart Start Northwest Kansas and Colby Community College Resource and Referral will be sponsoring an orientation for new childcare providers from 7 to 10 p.m. on Thursday, at the college library,

basement room 253.

This free training is open to anyone interested in becoming a licensed childcare provider in north-west Kansas. It will cover licensing requirements, fire safety regula-

tions, taxes, resource and referral help and Smart Start money available.

For details or to register, call (785) 462-3984, or toll free (888) 634-9350, extension 250.



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