

Volunteer and qualify for food

If your New Years Resolution is to volunteer more this year and to eat a balanced diet, then Prairie Land Food is for you.

Prairie Land Food can help you with your New Year's resolutions.

We would like to see each and every one of you volunteer at least a couple of hours a month in your community. This is a great way to make you feel better and it will be appreciated by the organization or individual you decide to help.

By volunteering, you qualify to participate in the Prairie Land Food Program.

We would like to see everyone be more aware of the food they eat and have a balanced diet.

With Prairie Land Food you will receive meat, fresh fruits and vegetables and a grocery item at low cost and volunteer hours.

Prairie Land Food is not a gov-



Healthy Hints

*By Marilyn Gamblin
Decatur County Health Department*

ernment program and there is no income guideline for participation.

The program is paid for by participants.

You can pay with check, cash, food stamps or bank draft.

This is not a club, so you only participate the months that your family decides to order.

By teaming together with other communities this will help you save money on food.

Our mission is to give back to the

community in the form of scholarships for volunteering youth, and for adults trying to further their education to better their family. We also will be offering grants to sites for community projects.

To find out more about Prairie Land Food in your area, call Marilyn Gamblin, (785) 475-3730; Diana Gamblin, (785) 475-2567; Charlotte Strecker-Baseler, 475-3055; or Linda Hagan, (800) 298-1989 or clkhagan@ruraltel.net.

Fountain hit in storm



THIS OLD FOUNTAIN, which had been part of the Benton Mansion and hospital, fell victim to the ice storm last week. The relic, on the south side of the Fair Chiropractic building, is believed to be nearly 100 years old. One of the oldest pine trees in town, which was near the fountain, also was damaged by the ice.
— Photo by Sandy Fair

Jennings News

By Louise Cressler

The big news for western Kansas is the snow and ice storm. Everyone is digging out from it.

We were without electricity for about 12 hours here in Jennings, but many in the country are still without power. The Emergency Center was open Saturday. If someone needs to use it, call (785) 678-2233 or 678-2636.

Dan and Charlene Mangus, Micheal, Steve, Devin and Dani of Goodland came Tuesday, Dec. 26, to pick up all the broken tree branches from the storm for their grandparents, Meme and Galen Carper.

Jean Lee and Roland Hallagin and Ashley, Goodland; J.D. and Angie Brumbaugh and Brennan, Owasso, Okla.; Josh and Michelle Ivans and Brooklan, Shawnee; Ann and Rex Rowh, Cimmaron; Raymond and Jody Inguanza, Meagan,

Samantha and Christopher, Kalvesta; Jason Rowh, Brecken and Drake; Kerri Schippi, Kollan, Mark and Luke; Sue Long; and Lori Schiefin and Katlyn of Overland Park enjoyed Christmas with Mary Votapka and Tom.

Ann and Dick Graner, Bethany, Mo., spent part of the Christmas holidays with her parents, William and Rachel Carter. Post-Christmas dinner on Wednesday at the William Carter home was enjoyed by the Jess and Megan Carter family, Oberlin; Jane and Jim Wahlmeier and Amanda, Phillipsburg; Ken and Julie Carter, and Becky Carter.

The Naomi Carter family held their Christmas dinner at the Sunflower Senior Center on Sunday, Dec. 24.

Imogene Kennan is visiting at the home of her son, Jim, and family of

Oakley.

Tony LaRue continues to improve and is very glad to be at home.

Rexford women get help in storm

By JANKATZ ACKERMAN
Colby Free Press

Two elderly Rexford sisters weathered the New Year's weekend storm in Selden after a relative in eastern Kansas learned their homes were without electricity.

Power went out in Rexford about 3:30 a.m. Friday, and it was not restored until shortly before 10 p.m. Monday.

Vesta Roth, 76, and Jean Hawkins, 81, spent two nights in Selden after Roth's son, Dan, learned his mother and aunt were without heat in their homes. Not able to get to the women because Interstate 70 was closed from Salina to Denver, he called another relative to help them.

"Dan called and found out I was without electricity, so he called Rodney and Rodney came and got my sister and me," Mrs. Roth said.

Since Dan Roth and his wife Janice, who live in Abilene, could not get to his mother and aunt, they asked Janice's brother, Rodney Brantley of Selden, to look after the two.

"Rodney came and got us and took us to his house," Vesta Roth said. "His house is large and we had plenty of room and it was warm."

Both said they are used to riding out Kansas winters. They left water running slightly to keep their

pipes from freezing, and they turned the thermostats on their forced-air furnaces down, not knowing when the electricity would come back on.

Once I-70 opened, Dan Roth was able to make it to Rexford on Monday. He placed small space heaters in the women's homes so when electricity came back on, they would have instant heat. Because he had to work Tuesday, Mrs. Roth said, her son returned to Abilene and Mr. Brantley took the women home Tuesday morning.

"I'm really thankful for all they did," she said. "Everything seems to be OK."

Mrs. Hawkins said she and her sister grew up on a farm which did not have electric service. Their parents had a refrigerator and freezer powered by propane.

"Dad had a power plant, and as long as we were careful, we had power," Hawkins said.

She said the weekend's storm is unlike any she can remember in the past 40 years. Mrs. Hawkins said she moved from a farm to Rexford in 1989.

"We had a bad storm in 1960, but we haven't had one like this in a long time," she said.

Glad to be home and have the power back on, she said both her freezer and home were fine.

Heavy snow causes firehouse roof to cave

By JOHN VANNOSTRAND
Colby Free Press

Heavy snow from last weekend's winter storm collapsed part of the roof of the Colby fire station about 2:30 p.m. Sunday. There were no injuries, though the fire department is manned 24 hours a day.

Two trucks, still stuck in the building Tuesday, suffered cosmetic damage, firemen said. Firefighters removed the other five trucks to prevent more damage.

"It's still settling," Fire Chief Robert McLemore said Tuesday. "The cracks are getting wider."

The roof over the north bays collapsed and landed on top of the rescue truck and rural pumper. The chief said he expects to know more about the trucks' condition after the snow and roof have been removed.

Firemen relocated the five other fire trucks to the National Guard Armory at 470 S. Range Ave.

City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said officials are talking with two construction companies about how the roof and building can be shored up to remove the two trucks. An architect has declared the entire building unsafe to use.

McLemore said the firehouse was built in the 1940s after construction of the adjacent city hall. The firehouse has had several additions since, he said, and the section with the collapsed roof was built about 30 years ago.

Armstrong said the city and armory officials have had a long, cooperative relationship.

No one could say how long the fire trucks will be at the armory. Both Armstrong and McLemore said it will be temporary.

McLemore said the fire department responded to two auto accidents during the weekend, one before the collapse and one after. He said having equipment and fire trucks at the armory did not change the department's procedures.

Armstrong said she expects the future of the fire station to be on a City Council agenda. The manager said it is too early to tell if the city will fix the current building or build a new one. The city owns land near Country Club Drive and Hill Street on the east side of Colby, Armstrong said, and that land has always been thought of as the site of a new firehouse.

'Contemplate the season within'

By Pastor Carrie Buhler of Jennings and Dresden United Methodist churches

I love the weather today! The wind is blowing, snow is falling and the sky is a muted gray. When I tell people that I love this kind of weather, they look at me as if I were nuts. Who could love this stuff?!

But I do, and I'll tell you why. Because it forces me to slow down, curl up inside in front of the fire in the woodstove and spend some much-needed quality time with my family. There's nothing quite as rejuvenating as cuddling with my kids on the couch under a blanket, sipping hot chocolate and reading stories, as the fire pops and sizzles.

This is the perfect time of year for all of us to think not just about the season going on outside our windows, but also the season going on within our hearts. I believe for most of us, by this time we are having a spiritual experience.

The garden of our hearts has been harvested and the garden is bare. We all know what that looks and feels like. Spiritually, we feel empty and cold. Maybe we feel a little depressed and lonely. But we don't have to feel this way.

I Corinthians 12:24-27 tells us, "God Himself has put the body together in such a way as to give greater honor to those parts that need it. And so there is no division in the body, but all its different parts have the same concern for one another. If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness. All of you are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it."

It is so easy for us to get caught up in the hectic pace of life, our commitments and meetings, our schedules and activities, and we strip the bounty from our spiritual garden each day. When we don't take the time to rejuvenate ourselves, we feel empty and alone.

To paraphrase the Apostle Paul, we are the family of God. God made us to be one body. When things are good, we should be a community of joy. When things are bad, we should be a community of support for one another, dividing the sorrow and pain.

We need to come together with our friends and families, faith communities and our towns in this time of winter. We need to support each other and be happy for and with each other. We are God's children and therefore, His family here on earth. It is about time that we started acting that way with each other.

I can imagine the disciples of the early church gathering together on a cold, windy day like today. A house has been chosen to meet at. They arrive, their cloaks wrapped tightly around them, and are greeted with a smile and a hug. They know they are welcome here. A fire is glowing and the smell of food cooking fills the house. Eventually all arrive.

As twilight settles everyone gathers around the table, laughing, telling stories, sharing problems. The room is filled with warmth, love, belonging and hope. They feel rejuvenated. There is no more loneliness. The only coldness is the weather outside. They have slowed down the pace of their lives, if only for one evening. They have reconnected with their family of God, and in doing so, reconnected with God.

We need to do the same. Gather with family and friends. Take time out of life to actually live life. Slow down. Reconnect with your family. Reconnect with your family of God.

Let us support each other in our sorrows, and rejoice in each other's joys. Let us warm our hearts with the fire of the Holy Spirit, and wrap God around us as our cloak against the coldness of the world.

Now is the time for us to become the loving community that we are meant to be. Amen.

Schedule of Oberlin and area church services:

OBERLIN SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
785-475-3103
Fr. Henry Saw Lone,
MASS: 10:30 a.m., Sunday

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC, LEOVILLE
Fr. Henry Saw Lone
MASS: 8 a.m., Sunday.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC, SELDEN
Fr. Henry Saw Lone
MASS: 5:30 p.m., Saturday

OBERLIN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
Jim Martin
120 South East, Oberlin
SATURDAY: Sabbath School, 9:15 a.m.; Saturday Worship, 11 a.m.

JENNINGS-DRESDEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH JENNINGS
Carrie Buhler, pastor
SUNDAY: Church School, 10 a.m. Morning Worship, 11 a.m.

DRESDEN
SUNDAY: Morning Worship, 9:30 a.m.

PRAIRIE CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST
The Rev. Doug Hasty
SUNDAY: Church Services, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 8:30 a.m.

HERNDON IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Pastor: Dennis Brown
SUNDAY: Morning Worship, 9 a.m.

UNITED CHURCH OF OBERLIN
Pastor: Judy Stricker
109 North Griffith-American Baptist, Disciples of Christ, Presbyterian USA
SUNDAY: Adult Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Coffee: 10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m. Choir practice every Wed. at 6:30 p.m. Holy Communion, 1st Sun. United Church Women, 2nd Wed at 2 p.m. Parish Council, 2nd Wed. at 8 p.m.

OBERLIN COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP (Southern Baptist)
Pastor: Fred Dycus
SUNDAY: Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m., AWANA Club 4-6 p.m. WEDNESDAY: Service, 7 p.m.

OBERLIN UNITED METHODIST
102 North Cass — 785-475-3067
The Rev. Doug Hasty
SUNDAY: Church School, 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m. (Nursery provided.) WEDNESDAY: Choir practice, 7:30 p.m.

CLAYTON UNITED METHODIST
Pastor: Ray Gilstrap
Almena
SUNDAY: Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Worship Service, 11 a.m.

OBERLIN ASSEMBLY OF GOD
The Rev. Royce Leitner
SUNDAY: Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Morning Worship, 11 a.m.; Evening Worship, 7 p.m. WEDNESDAY: Adult Bible study, 7 p.m. King's Kids, 6:30

p.m.; Youth, 8 p.m. Women's Group, 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 2 p.m.

OBERLIN CHURCH OF CHRIST
South Beaver Street - Oberlin
Bill Duncan — Phone 785-475-3259
SUNDAY: Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship Hour, 10:45 a.m. WEDNESDAY: Ladies Home Bible Study, 9 a.m.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC, HERNDON
The Rev. Damian Richards
Phone 785-322-5560
MASS: SUNDAY, 8 a.m.

HERNDON COVENANT CHURCH
Keith Reuther, Pastor
Phone 785-322-5316
SUNDAY: Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship, 11 a.m.; Bible study, 7 p.m.

NORCATUR UNITED METHODIST
Pastor: Ray Gilstrap
Almena
SUNDAY: Worship Service, 10 a.m.; Church School, 10:30 a.m.

LYLE UNITED METHODIST
Carol Woodmanee, Almena
Lyle Lay Speaker
SUNDAY: Morning Worship 8 a.m.

EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH OF OBERLIN
The Rev. Heidi Wiebe
810 West Cedar, Oberlin
Office Phone 785-475-2769
SUNDAY: Worship Service, 9:30 a.m.; Fellowship Time, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 11 a.m. WEDNESDAY: Bible Study, 7 p.m.

LUND COVENANT CHURCH
Pastor: Doug Mason
10 miles south, 4 miles west of Oberlin
SUNDAY: Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.; WEDNESDAY: Bible Study and prayer, 7:30 p.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 North Wilson
Pastor: Rev. Rick Langness
Secretary: Norma Unger
785-475-2333

SUNDAY: Sunday School and Bible class, 9:15 a.m.; Divine Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.; Holy Communion: 1st and 3rd Sundays; KICK, 3:45-5:30 p.m. each Wednesday. Foundations Bible Class, Thursday, 7-9 p.m.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
404 North York Avenue
Oberlin, Kansas
Rev. Charlotte Strecker-Baseler
Church Office Phone: 785-475-2053
SUNDAY: Worship, 9:30 a.m.; Fellowship and Educational Hour, 10:45 a.m. Holy Communion first and third Sundays. THURSDAY: Women's Bible Study second Thursday at 9:30 a.m.

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These sponsors urge you to attend church regularly:

Herndon Insurance Agency
Ron Beims, Agent
785-322-5331
9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

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