

# Iraqi bomb kills McCook soldier

A McCook soldier with ties to Oberlin was killed in action last week in Iraq.

The Army said Sgt. Randy J. Matheny, 20, a grandson of Frieda Matheny of Oberlin, was killed Sunday, Feb. 4, by a roadside bomb in Baghdad.

Sgt. Matheny was a gunner in an armored security vehicle hit by an improvised explosive device detonated, the Army said. A 2004 graduate of McCook High School, he joined the Nebraska National Guard on March 28, 2005. He was promoted posthumously to the rank of sergeant.

His parents are Gary Matheny, McCook, and his fiancée, Kay Chambers of Oberlin, and Jan and Duane Collins, McCook. A sister, Karen, 27, is a staff sergeant in the National Guard, and a brother, Paul Matheny, 24, is a private first class in the regular Army. Karen Matheny is on her second tour in Iraq and Paul is preparing to deploy, relatives said.

Sgt. Matheny joined the Guard as a heavy vehicle driver in Detachment 1, 1074th Transportation Company, in Scottsbluff, Neb. He attended basic training at Fort Jack-

son, S.D., in 2005, and advanced individual training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., in 2006.

He transferred to the Sidney detachment of the 1074th in June, and was called up for duty in Iraq on July 15. The 1074th helps provide security for truck convoys in Iraq.

At a press conference Friday, the family gathered before cameras and reporters and asked that their son, brother and friend, be remembered as "a hero — a young man who started fear in the eye and still did what his country asked him to do."

"He was always high speed," his father said during the conference at the Nebraska National Guard Armory in McCook.

"He didn't talk about much except the military," his sister, Karen, said. "Randy never had a bad word to say about anyone," said an aunt, Jan Matheny of Oberlin. "He was a quiet, loving guy."

Funeral services are pending. Memorials may be given in his name in care of the Carpenter-Breland Funeral Home, 308 West C, McCook, Neb., 69001.



Sgt. Matheny



MELINDA ENFIELD TALKED about being Mrs. Decatur County with Janice Cundiff during the Seeds of Hope Telethon. Mrs. Enfield will compete in the Mrs. Kansas pageant next month. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

## Woman seeking state Mrs. crown

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Talking to organizations, volunteering, finding the perfect swimsuit and getting ready for a statewide pageant have kept Oberlin's Melinda Enfield pretty busy lately.

Many people may have seen Mrs. Enfield wearing her "Mrs. Decatur County" sash the county and city meetings or while she was volunteering at the annual Seeds of Hope Telethon.

She said she applied for the post and was selected to represent the county in the Mrs. Kansas pageant by the Crist Co., which runs the competition.

Mrs. Enfield said an aunt encouraged her to participate in the pageant years ago, but she was pregnant. Still, beauty pageants run in the family, she said; a cousin won the Miss Kansas title and went on to the national Miss America competition, while a cousin on the other side of the family was Little Miss Oklahoma.

The Mrs. America event started in the 1920s, she said, fizzled out, then started up again in the 1970s. Contestants have to be married, 18 or older, a resident of their state and U.S. citizen.

The state competition, said Mrs. Enfield, includes an interview, which is 50 percent of the judging; fitness and health (the swimsuit section), 25 percent; and the evening gown competition, another 25 percent.

"Influencing my decision to enter the pageant this year," the prospective queen said, "is the fact that I have two teenage daughters for whom I desire to set a pristine example of a well-rounded balance of career and family."

"The role models young women need today are strong yet feminine, one who can prepare a meal while teleconferencing with the accountant, who can read the latest Wall Street figures while changing diapers, and who can successfully manage the home as and a business."

"I am also blessed with three terrific sons, and I know they will be choosing their future wives based closely upon my example."

Mrs. Enfield she moved here in August 2005 with her husband Will and their five children, Taylor, 15; Chloe, 13; Teigan, 10; William, 7; and Nathaniel, 3. She lived in Oberlin from 1985 to 1989 and graduated from Decatur Community High School, she said, adding that she lived at the former Cookson Hills ranch and then later with Rusty and Sharon Addleman.

She said it has always been in the back of her mind to compete in the pageant since her aunt mentioned it. This year, though, it was really the Lord's timing. All last year, she said, she argued with Him about competing, but finally she started to listen.

Mrs. Enfield said her husband Will is a driver for Wittig Trucking of McPherson. He was raised in Atwood, where his parents still live. The couple home school Chloe, William and

Nathaniel, she said, while Taylor and Tiegian attend public schools.

They are members of the Christian Family Educators home school association and attend the Assembly of God Church, where she directs the prayer ministry. Mrs. Enfield also serves as the vice chair of the McCook Christian Women's Club, volunteers for the Decatur County Food Pantry and is seeking a seat on the Oberlin City Council.

The prospective queen said when she speaks to organizations, she has to tell them that she isn't there to talk about chickens. She said she does have chickens as pets and has talked with the Oberlin City Council about allowing people to keep chickens in town on less than an acre.

Since she was selected as Mrs. Decatur County, she said, she has been busy preparing for the pageant and recruiting sponsors, which now include Shear Creations West and Day Spa, Myra's Bridal Boutique of McDonald, First National Bank and Elizabeth Enfield, her mother-in-law and an Avon representative.

Mrs. Enfield said she will be escorted on stage by her husband. She said she is still looking for a chaperone for their children, because she thinks they should be at the pageant while their mom is on stage.

If she wins, she said, she'd move on to the Mrs. America competition and then maybe to Mrs. World.

## Three draw high poker hands to claim prizes in card contest

Two men and one woman took home gift certificates for dinner for two or bouquets of flowers just in time for Valentine's Day when they won Oberlin merchants' Don't Gamble with Love giveaway.

Participants brought in playing cards they received at sponsoring businesses, including Golt Home Planning Center, Stanley Hardware, Shear Creations West and Day Spa, the Dresser, Prairie Petals, Ward Drug Store, Flowers by Lee, Addleman Drug Store, the LandMark Inn and R&M Service Center by 5 p.m. on Friday.

The Oberlin Herald received seven poker hands, and the three highest poker hands won.

Rocky Diederich took first with four sixes. He picked up the gift certificate for the dinner for two at the LandMark Inn. John Milnes took second with a full house, three aces and two kings. He chose a \$50 flower bouquet from Flowers by Lee. Martha Fringer took third with a full house, three nines and two jacks. She received the \$50 bouquet from Prairie Petals.

Check out the winners in the ad on Page 6A.

## Mayor asks for shelter gear

The mayor of Jennings asked Decatur County commissioners last Tuesday why the city hadn't received emergency medical boxes, blankets and shelter supplies he requested about a year ago.

Mayor Bob Jones said after the Thanksgiving blizzard in November 2005, the city requested a generator and other supplies in case they needed to run an emergency shelter again.

He said he talked with Deputy Patti Skubal, the assistant emergency preparedness officer, about whether money the county receives from the Department of Homeland

Security could be used for those supplies. Mayor Jones said Deputy Skubal said she thought that would work. Later, he said, he got a phone call and said she got her butt chewed out and that she couldn't help him.

By whom? asked Commissioner Doyle Brown. The person she works under for emergency preparedness, said Mayor Jones.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch said he was glad that the mayor brought this up. He said he saw a letter from Chris Dempewolf, Norcatour city clerk, asking some of the same questions.

Is this an appropriate way to spend

that money? asked Mayor Jones. Has the city waited long enough?

This is the last year the county will receive the money from Homeland Security, said Mr. Hirsch.

Last year during the storm, said Mayor Jones, there was a pregnant woman at the shelter in Jennings. What if she would have gone into labor? he asked. The city didn't have any medical supplies.

It would be nice to have medical boxes and extra blankets on hand in case of another emergency, the mayor said. Mr. Hirsch told the commissioners he would get the letter from Norcatour for them.

## Banks, mail to skip day for holiday

Banks and financial institutions, as well as county and federal offices and the county landfill, will be closed on Monday for Presidents' Day.

Most businesses will be open, including The Oberlin Herald, as will city and state offices.

There will be no mail service, so news and advertising copy should be left at the newspaper office. The paper will be printed and mailed on the regular schedule.

## Medical student here to work with doctors

The staff at the Oberlin Clinic has grown by one, a fourth-year student from the University of Kansas School of Medicine who is shadowing Dr. Richard May this month.

Kirk McCullough will be here until the end of the month, helping Dr. May, who is a volunteer mentor through the university's Rural Preceptor Program.

The program places all fourth-year medical students in communities across the state to learn about practice in rural areas. The students are able to use their diagnostic and clinical skills in real-life scenarios under the guidance of their mentors.

Mr. McCullough will be here until Saturday, Feb. 24, the clinic says, but he was out of town Monday.

## Feed will help fund new van

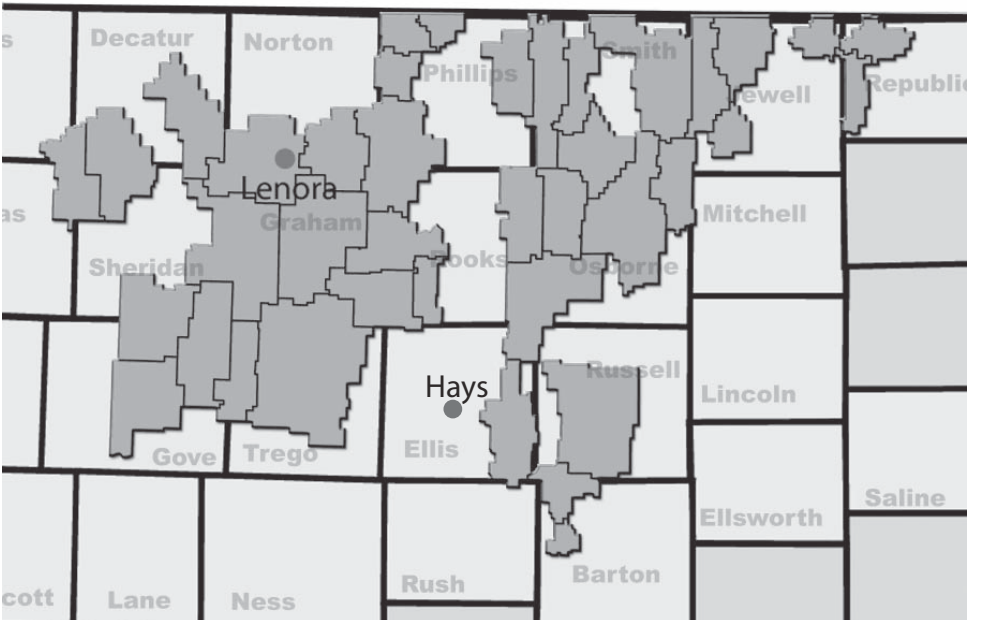
The Decatur County Good Samaritan Center and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will join forces for a soup supper at the high school Thursday to help raise money for a new van for the center.

They will serve chili and chicken-noodle soup from 5 to 7 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

All money will go to Project Van, and Thrivent will match up to \$1,000 two-to-one.

# PROPERTY TAX REPORT

At Rural Telephone and Nex-Tech, we aim to be good corporate citizens of the region. We understand the need for property taxes to help support our schools and other public resources. For the year 2006, we paid **OVER \$3.2 MILLION** in property taxes in the following counties.



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Barton	\$33,888	Keary	\$8	Rush	\$441
Brown	\$16	Kingman	\$8	Russell	\$7,144
Cheyenne	\$114	Labette	\$34	Saline	\$458
Clark	\$42	Lane	\$16	Scott	\$73
Decatur	\$16,438	Logan	\$4,637	Seward	\$109
Ellis	\$260,743	Neosho	\$17	Sheridan	\$26,083
Ford	\$766	Ness	\$34	Smith	\$137,163
Franklin	\$17	Norton	\$442,586	Stanton	\$10
Gove	\$93,354	Osborne	\$153,226	Stevens	\$7
Graham	\$215,592	Phillips	\$155,019	Thomas	\$9,445
Grant	\$7	Rawlins	\$7,035	Trego	\$137,037
Hamilton	\$123	Reno	\$6	Wallace	\$27
Haskell	\$8	Rice	\$9	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,255,452</b>

These property taxes, together with the dollars we spend on services, payroll and upgrading our plant facilities, help support the local economy.

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