THE OBERLIN HERALD — **People** in **Our Community**

Mary Lou Olson, society editor mlolson@nwkansas.com

Visiting Joy Votapka last week were Nancy Ellis of Topeka; Carmem Correa of Sao Paulo, Brazil, who was a foreign exchange student with the Votapkas in 1976; and Carmem's sister, Carolina. The group and the Dan Votapka family and Nicole Ellis of Chicago joined a Brazilian-American reunion group in Keystone, Colo. Six more members of the Correa family from Brazil were there, along with their host families from the 1970s from Ohio, Arizona, South Dakota, and Oregon. Larry O'Shea and his wife from Pennsylvania also attended. Larry had lived with the Correa family in Brazil in the 1970s.

Caroline Jacobs of Dresden was honored by her family with a surprise supper Saturday evening at the home of Ron and Sheri Jacobs in Dresden in observance of her 70th birthday. The group released 70 balloons in her honor. Those present were Herman and Caroline Jacobs, Todd and Jeri Jacobs, Cody and Hayley, Ron and Sheri Jacobs, KeAnn and KeLynn, all of Dresden; David and Cheri Weber and Joni, Oakley; Loren Jacobs, J.J. Lahanen, Kambre and Randi, Colby; Elmer Jacobs and Charlene, Goodland: John Lahanen, Holdrege, Neb.; Anna Caspersen, Kade and Kylie, St. Lebory, Neb.; and Wilfred Reinert, Seguin.

Ron and Linda Wenger of Dayton, Tenn., left Wednesday after visiting since Sunday with his mother and sister, Fern and Jodie Wenger.

John and Pat Wright visited on Sunday at the home of Lawrence and Betty Stoecker to help their grandson, Mark Stoecker, celebrate his eighth birthday. Others present were his parents, Gary and Mary Stoecker, Michelle and John.

Kelsey and Taryn Manning of Littleton, Colo., left Sunday after spending last week visiting their grandmother, Ila Ray, and aunt, Vicky Ray.

-VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for carnival games and rides Aug. 7-11. Call 475-3715 or 475-3351 or stop by Ray Jewelry.

Visiting Stuart and Mary Henzel many marathons. recently from Troy, Ill., were Jordan and Barb Buck and their children, Andrew, Claire, Jackson and 17month-old Ella, who was recently adopted from China. Jordan, a friend of their son, Brian, lived with the Henzels and worked on their ranch in Oklahoma for a summer during the time he attended Oregon State University.

concert on Friday.

Winning highs in pinochle at Golden Age Center the past week were Max Carman, Wilma May, Dewaine Stapp, Floyd Edgett, Aleen Van Vleet and Doris Gilbert. Lows went to Aleen Van Vleet, Henry Edgett, Veanna Carman, R.D. Thornton, Doris Fringer and Doris Gilbert. Pitch highs were won by Dewaine Stapp and Floyd Edgett with lows going to Henry Edgett and Aleen Van Vleet. Bridge highs were won by Cynthia Matson, Merle Shirley, Marty Munson, Carol Shirley, Annette Miller, Dorothy Cochran and Beth Sebaugh.

Gus and Elsie Wolters attended memorial services for his cousin, Vernon Castens, at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Atwood on Friday. A funeral was held earlier in Colorado. Pastor Dennis Kastens officiated and inurnment was at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery at Ludell following the service.

-Mexican Buffet Tuesday, July 31, 6-8 p.m. LandMark Inn. Call 475-2340 for reservations.

Becky Vollertsen and Karen Metcalf attended the "Sheet of Dreams" event in Omaha on Wednesday of last week. Margaret Schomburg, formerly of Oberlin, was the interior designer/decorator for one of the dozen new homes on the tour. The ladies were overnight guests of Margaret and John Schomburg.

Kimberly Davis spent last week volunteering as a counselor at Camp Lakeside near Scott City. She joined Kristi Smith, who is a dean at the camp for the summer.

-VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for carnival games and rides Aug. 7-11. Call 475-3715 or 475-3351 or stop by Ray Jewelry.

Chris Jennings of Jacksonville, Fla., and his poodle, Izzie, left Sunday after visiting since Wednesday with his parents, James and Delores Jennings. En route he visited his sister, Christina and Terry Coalter, in St. Joseph, Mo. Chris runs eight miles daily and has participated in

Among area students who were Fort Hays State University's spring 2007 graduates are Christopher McKenna, bachelor of business administration in marketing and bachelor of business administration in communication; Abbie Bainter, bachelor of science in nursing; Brent Olson, bachelor of science in agriculture; Kayla Sauvage, bachelor of science in elementary education; Jennifer Thomas, associate of science in radiological technology; Jason Williby, bachelor of general studies; Lacy Jo Hargitt, bachelor of Wessel, bachelor of arts in English they worked with musicians and and bachelor of science in second-

Couple celebrating anniversary

Ralph and Phyllis LaSalle of Oberlin will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday with an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room at The Gateway

Ralph LaSalle and Phyllis Roe were married at the Norton Christian Church by Rex Harman on July 28. 1957. Their attendants were Mack Gregory and Karen Roe. Their parents were Eldon and Wilma LaSalle, and William and Nancy Roe

Mr. LaSalle retired from the Kansas Highway Patrol in 1992. Mrs. LaSalle has been a homemaker and

Reunion held in Atwood

Glenn Ginther, Ed Ginther, Alva Ginther, Effie (Ginther) Gilbert, Hattie (Ginther Hackney) Hodges and Mabel (Ginther) Yoos gathered July 14 for their annual reunion at the Prairie Development Center in Atwood

Gordon Ginther was honored for his recent 90th birthday and also for being the eldest living grandchild of Christopher and Jennie (Fox) Ginther. Plans were made to hold a reunion next year on the second weekend in July with details to be decided later.

Those present by families included:

Glenn and Pearl (Mikesell) Ginther: Carroll and Lola (Jackson) Ginther, Salina.

Roscoe and Susie (Hackney) Ginther: Leroy and Susan (Woodford) Ginther, Belleville, Ill.

Alva and Edith (Brown) Ginther: Harlan and Naida (Arendt) Ginther, Atwood; Bart Ginther, Colorado Springs; Blake Ginther and his fiancee, Tessa, Wichita; J.R. Ginther, Brady Ginther, Gem; Connie (Ginther) Adams and Blaine Ginther, Atwood; Garnett Ginther, Gary Ginther, Cambridge, Neb.

Ed and Ruby (Mikesell) Ginther: Virginia (Ginther) and Lt. Col. (ret.) Willard Clapper, El Paso, Texas; April (Clapper) Thorndike, Aurora, Colo.; Annette (Clapper) Anselman, Chandler, Ariz.; Willard II and ney, Norton.

Family celebrates milestones

Montgomery families met at Howard Johnson's Motel in Grand Island, Neb., from Friday to Sunday for a family reunion.

The group surprised Leland and Bobbie (Shuler) Frakes of Trenton, Neb., who were married at 5:30 p.m. Drew, Derek and Dustin, Omaha; on Friday, June 15, in Casper, Wyo., Dewaine and Denise Knutson, Sara, by the Rev. Dan Carlin, with a wed- Jacob and Vanessa, Palmyra, Neb.; ding cake. Her parents, Bob and Bob and Anita Montgomery, Ober Anita Montgomery, were their at- lin; Leland and Bobbie Frakes and tendants and they all attended the National College Finals Rodeo at Casper, in which Chance Harman of Norcatur participated, following the wedding. Bob and Anita Montgomery were also honored with a belated 50th wedding anniversary cake by the



Ralph and Phyllis LaSalle

a clerk for several Oberlin businesses. They have three children: Roger and Jennifer LaSalle, Garden City; Kim and Kenny Carter, Norton; and Lisa and Jamie Fortin, Oberlin; eight grandchildren; and four great-

Send anniversary greetings to 804 W. Cedar, Oberlin, Kan., 67749.

Descendants of Roscoe Ginther, Terri Clapper, El Paso, Texas; Bryan, Lisa, Steven and Daniel Clapper, Ravensdale, Wash.; Gordon Ginther and Nola (Ginther) Winters, Atwood; Lyle Worthy, Atwood; Jean Snyder, Colby; Deanna (Worthy) Sweeney, Amherst, Va.; Bryce Kisner, Ludell; Cary Worthy, Graham, N.C.

Joyce Meyer, Goodland; Bud and Micki (Ginther) McCain, Ludell; Marsha Lee Ginther, Laramie, Wyo.; Amber Peterson, Abbie (Peterson) Spresser, Maverick and Makalynn, Jason and Ansley Peterson and Ashton, Goodland.

Effie (Ginther) and Eli Gilbert: Bonnie (Bethel) Gilbert, Clifton, Colo.; Karleen (Gilbert) Cooper, Hamlet, Neb.; Ted and Gertie (Wancura) Kastens, Atwood; Lynda (Kastens) Hurst, rural Oberlin; Stanley and Verda (Headrick) Wancura, Colby; Austin Wancura, Pleasant Hill, Mo.

There were none present from the Jesse and Mabel (Ginther) Yoos family.

George and Hattie (Ginther) Hackney: Betty (Lorimer Hackney) Grout, Atwood; Marlin and Betty Hackney, Kansas City, Mo.; Roger and Vickie (Hackney) Houston, Denver; Ross and Sandra (Hackney) VanCuen, Peabody; Wayne and Shelby Hackney and Mika, Oberlin; Erma Hackney and Gladys Minshall, widow of Gerald Hack-

Members of the Knutson and group. The weekend was spent swimming, visiting and playing cards.

> Those attending included Dean and Donna Knutson, Dennis and Jamie Knutson and Kelsev, Council Bluffs, Iowa; David Knutson, Blaine Shuler, Trenton, Neb.; Brady Shuler, Lincoln, Neb.; Blake and ginning this week, replacing Carrol Keegan Shuler, and Amanda Weav-Ginther. er, Bartley, Neb.; Ron and Gina Montgomery and Alyssa, Jennings; Shane Montgomery, Salina; and reared in McCook and met her husband, Cliff Sattler, in Denver. They Renee Harman and Scotty, Nor-

Former resident tells of farm life in county

lisher of "The Edge," an independent newspaper in Hays, inter- Dust Bowl blowing in about the viewed 92-year-old Leona Kaspar, a former Decatur County resident, who now lives in a nursing home in Hays. Here are some of the

highlights of his story: Born, raised and having

spent most of her life on a farm, 92-year-old Leona Kaspar found the hardwork way of life a natural. "That was my happiest

days, running them old tractors," Mrs. Kaspar Mrs. Kaspar said.

Even when her late husband Joe bought a new, fancier tractor for her with an enclosed, air-conditioned cab, she said she declined.

"I said, 'I don't want nothing to do with it," she recalled. "'I'll just take the old Nine.' That was my tractor. It was slow and I could just lay my arm up....

"I can't handle that enclosed stuff. I said he could have it if he wanted it. And oh, he liked that. That air conditioning."

The former Leona Allen was born in 1915 at her parents' rural home in Norton County. She helped milk cows and raise chickens, she said, and the milk and eggs paid for their groceries.

She said that the children helped their dad move bales and he always put money under the last bale.

School and church were an important part of her early life, she said. She attended a one-room country schoolhouse.

"With eight grades, those teachers had to be pretty good to handle all that," she said. "The weather cut my school career short, though. The horseback ride between home and Edmond High School proved too much hassle in winter.

"When the first blizzard came, I said, 'That's it! I'm not riding that horse any more, so I quit.' Didn't like school anyhow."

Modern conveniences were few to none. They didn't have electricity or running water on the farm, but they did have a bathtub.

"We were a little better than some," she said. "We had a wash tub to take baths in, one that was really shaped like a bathtub. We were in high heaven. At least you could sit down in it. You didn't get a bath every day, either, back then. Maybe once a week and that was it."

When the "big crash" came at the start of the Great Depression, she said, it didn't affect her much because her family didn't have any money anyway. She said that while the family still rode horses, she re-

Mrs. Sattler said she was born and

now live on the Barenberg farm.

Their other children are Melodie

Wellington, Colo.; Patti Park, Hays;

Zach Becker, editor and pub- members when her father bought a 1929 sedan. She also recalled the same time.

"I was so scared," she said. "I re-

member being outside and seeing this big old thing coming up from the west, but I didn't know what it was. It was dark and it made the house dark. I think I had the baby then. The dust was so bad, we put a gauze diaper over the baby because it was thin and she could breathe. But her little face

would just be dark with that dust." She said that she and her husband had six children, but did not have electricity or indoor plumbing until 1948

"Boy were we happy," she recalled "It sure made a difference. You didn't have to have lamps."

She said she remembers well the day her husband got hurt, Dec. 19, 1942. She said a zerk (grease fitting) caught his pant leg and started rolling his clothes off of him. She was in the wagon and they were picking corn, so she rushed to the car, where their three little girls were wrapped up in blankets, and pulled the car up next to him. After loading him up, she rushed him to town, then. He was taken by ambulance to the Norton hospital. Her parents tended to the children so she could be with her husband while he recovered.

"After the accident, his arm and hand were never the same," she said. With limited help available, I learned many of the farm duties, which I continued to do even after Joe's recovery.

"I never even drove a car when we got married. Had to learn everything."

She said she persevered through those hard times the only way she knew how — with hard work.

The couple lived on their Decatur County farm for many years before Joe fell ill in 1991 and died shortly thereafter. Even over 15 years later, she said, the loss still stings.

After her husband's death, she sold the farm and moved into a home in Hays. After a serious fall that fractured her backbone, she relocated to Alterra Sterling House, where she's been living for the past six years.

But Mrs. Kaspar has pride in the fact that, even after six years of expensive care, she is still living off her own money that she and her husband earned from years of hard work on the farm.

And her advice to younger generations: "Just keep workin'."

New correspondent named

grandchildren.

Five Decatur Community High School students attended the Butler Show Choir Showcase camp last week in El Dorado. They were Haley Barrett, Annamarie Larue, Jacob Larue, Makenzie Nelson and Jenny Ploussard. During the week choreographers and presented a ary education.

Grad fills Red Cross position

J. Williby

has been named chief executive of- sity. His affiliation with the Red

ficer of the Wyandotte County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Jason Williby, 33, had been interim chief executive since February.

Mr. Williby has worked for the chapter since 2001, when he was hired as the health and safety coordinator, said Chairman Abe

Glaser. Since then he has served in Doug Williby and Theresa Tally of several capacities, including deputy executive director.

"After reviewing several wellqualified candidates, our search committee agreed Jason Williby was the best person to lead the Wyandotte County chapter," Mr. Glaser said. "His experience at almost every level of the American Red Cross combines with his passion and enthusiasm for both Wyandotte County and the mission of the Red Cross.

"Jason's leadership has been further demonstrated as we have continued to provide relief and response to local fire victims, while supporting the needs of those affected by some very serious state disasters, including the Greensburg tornado and the Osawatomie flooding."

Mr. Williby is a 1992 graduate of Decatur Community High and a

A Decatur Community High grad graduate of Fort Hays State Univer-

Cross began in 1999, when he became a volunteer with the Ellis County chapter in Hays. He is a member of Downtown Kiwanis Club Leadership 2000.

Williby and a brother of

Oberlin. He and his wife Jessica party, presented prizes to the winhave been married seven years.

Rotary hears about advocates

Kristal Stanton, director of Court who come into juvenile court. They Appointed Special Advocates for science in nursing; and Robynn the 17th Judicial District, spoke to Oberlin Rotary Club members when they met last Tuesday at The Gateway. She was introduced by Ken Shobe, program chairman.

> Ms. Stanton, Osborn, said the unteers, except for her position. Advocates are assigned to children

PEO holds party at Good Sam

tor.

the board of both the GoodSamaritanCenterat1:30p.m. served. on July 12. Following a short busiof Kansas City, Kan., and ness meeting, the group played "Name That Tune" and sang some He is the son of Juanita old-time favorites, which were Eris Young and Candy Dejmal as-Williby and the late Bob played by Jennifer Hirsch and led by

> Anita Hirsch. Betty Jones was hostess for the ners and danced with several of the

Nominations for Soil Conservation and Windbreak Awards

are now being accepted at K-State Research & Extension Service (785) 475-8121 Decatur County Conservation District (785) 475-3131

> To nominate a Decatur area producer, contact either office by August 3rd.

Awards sponsored by the Kansas Bankers Association

lived in Colorado until 1977, then catur. moved to Herndon to help Harry Barenberg farm. Her husband died in 1993, and their daughter Deanna and her husband, Brad Williams,

work with lawyers report back to the courts.

The group needs volunteers, she said, especially men. For details, call her at (785) 345-4120 in Osborne.

Keith Hooper, founder of the nonprofit organization is run by vol- HELP Foundation, also was a visi-

The P.E.O. Sisterhood met at the residents. Homemade pie was

The next regular meeting will be a 7 a.m. breakfast at the home of Becky Vollertsen on Aug. 9 with sisting



to gather news in Herndon

Voni Sattler of Herndon will be also has 19 grandchildren. writing the news from Herndon be-

Mrs. Sattler said she enjoys art work and crafts and also singing with her children when they get together.

She is a member of the choir at St. Mary's Catholic Church and her daughter, Kathy, has a youth band in Atwood which performs at the Atwood Sacred Heart Church. Mrs. Leitner, a teacher in Atwood, also enjoys photography.

People in the Herndon area are asked to call Mrs. Sattler with their Sattler, Denver; Danny Sattler, news by Sunday evening at (785) 322-5215 or leave a message anyand Kathy Leitner, Atwood. She time during the week

Meetings will explain program

The state Conservation Commission will hold public meetings on a program to buy and retire private water rights on Prairie Dog Creek at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 7, and Wednesday, Aug. 15, at the Norton Sept. 1 through Nov. 15. For details, Public Library.

The idea of the Water Right Transition Pilot Project Program is to promote public interest and awareness, inform the public of possible economic and hydrologic impacts and facilitate participation by potential applicants, the agency says.

The voluntary program offers incentives to permanently retire private water rights in exchange for

payment by the state. The 2006 Legislature approved the plan to help restore aquifers and recover stream flows in critically depleted areas.

The first sign-up period will be call Steve Frost, project manager, at (785) 296-8964 or go to www.scc. ks.gov.

50th Wedding Anniv<u>ers</u>ary Open House Ralph and Phyllis La Salle 2:00-4:00 p.m. Sat., July 28 Gateway in Oberlin Upstairs Meeting Room – No Gifts Please —

Greetings may be sent to: 804 W. Cedar, Oberlin KS 67749



at the

FICK FOSSIL

& HISTORY

MUSEUM

700 W. 3rd — Oakley, KS

June 22 - August 5

A SMITHSONIAN EXHIBIT

Book Talk Series: June 14, July 12 & August 2 ~ Special Speakers: June 30, July 7 & 28

All events held at 2 p.m. at the Oakley Public Library

Between Fences is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration

between the Smithsonian Institution and the Kansas Humanities Council.