

Leitner family meets for reunion in McCook

The 58th annual Leitner reunion, hosted by the Louise Leitner Kelly family, was held on Saturday, Aug. 4, at the Republican River Valley Event Center in McCook.

There are 12 branch family groups of descendants of Lawrence (Lorentz) and Theresia Leitner, who came to America from Gols, Austria, in 1884. The Kansas Homestead Act brought them to Herndon, where they constructed their first home, a three-room dugout. Six children were born in the dugout: Math, Lorenz, John, Susie, Paul and Bill. Their first child, a daughter named Theresia, was born in Lincoln, Neb., before their move to Kansas. A sixth son, Henry, was born on the Crichton place prior to the move to a four-room sod house one mile north of Traer, where they had purchased a quarter section of land for \$250. Four more children, George, Edward, Louise and Fred, were born in the soddy, where the entire family lived until 1907. The family was able to enjoy a third new home, a 2-story frame house, on the same land.

Laney Leitner of North Platte, Neb., gave the invocation before the covered dish meal. An afternoon program followed with Peggy (Kelly) Poore extending the greeting. There were 62 family members present, in addition to two guests. Gifts were presented by Patricia (Kelly) Hoehner to Elmer Leitner, oldest; Lily Brown, youngest; Don Leitner, Boulder, Colo., coming the farthest; and Fred Leitner, who had 12 members present and the most grandchildren. The Louise (Leitner) Kelly family had 23 family members present and one guest. Minutes from the 2006 reunion were read by Connie Grove.

Family members shared happenings and events. Jon Leitner was lauded for his work on the life-size sculpture of George Norris which

will be commemorated in September during McCook's Heritage Days. Group pictures of families and generations were taken and will be shared and placed in an album to be viewed in 2008. The next reunion will be held Aug. 2, 2008 with the location to be determined later. Hosts will be the Fred Leitner family.

Those present by families included:

John Leitner family: Elmer Leitner and guest, Pat McConville, Jon Leitner, Larry and Jacki Rathbun, McCook; Roger Leitner, Greenwood Village, Colo.; Stephen, Blair and Lily Brown, Indian Hills, Colo.; Roger Leitner, Greenwood Village, Colo.

Paul Leitner family: Gene and Marcella Leitner, Jerald and Elaine Leitner, Oberlin; Danny and Jean Leitner, Herndon.

George Leitner family: Kevin, Julie, Chris and Haley Schiessler, Herndon.

Ed Leitner family: Barnett and Lola Leitner, Don and Karen Hodson, McCook; Laney and Judy Leitner, North Platte, Neb.; Royce and Vicky Leitner, Oberlin; Connie Grove, Edison, Neb.

Fred Leitner family: Gary and Carolyn Leitner, Deon, Cheryl, Rachel and Spencer Leitner, Alicia Berry and Lilly Rose, McCook; Don Leitner, Boulder, Colo.; Keri and Clayton Root, Omaha; Chandra Berry, North Platte, Neb.

Louise Leitner Kelly family: Dale and Peggy Poore, Jeremy and Elizabeth Yilk, Randall, Carrie, Dillon, Cody, Rachel and Hannah Goltl, McCook; Patricia Hoehner, Chris, Sarah, Kelsey and Trevor Hoehner, Kyle and Michelle Hoehner, Kearney, Neb.; Dan, Anne, Ashley and Amanda Poore, Omaha; David, Mary Anne and Caleb Poore, Cozad, Neb.; and Caleb's guest, Trish Rickell, Lexington, Neb.

Krizeks meet at The Gateway

The seventh annual Krizek family reunion was held at The Gateway in Oberlin on Saturday, Aug. 11, with some 40 people present. A potluck dinner was followed by a social afternoon.

Those attending were Dale and Ardell Krizek, North Platte, Neb.; Michael Krizek, Chandler, Kayle and Tanner Krizek, Fort Collins, Colo.; Neal, Lee, Tanner and Riley Krizek, Scott and Kayla Smalley, Lincoln, Neb.; Luke Krizek, Oma-

ha; Murlin and Luella Krizek, Lyle and Peg Smalley, Roger Krizek, Missy and Olivia Nelson, all of McCook; Christina Skidmore, Aurora, Neb.; Dan and Greg Shuler, Jetmore;

Kenny and Violet Krizek, Jennings; Brian, Kim and Kourtney Brumley, Inman; and Theresa Krizek, Rod and Pat Fringer, Jack and Lelia Benton, Nadean Stoney, Gerold and Lucille Kolsky, and Don and Rita Barratt, all of Oberlin.

Club hears history program

Program chairman Ralph Unger presented an interesting program about the Bill of Rights for members of the Oberlin Rotary Club when it met on Tuesday, Aug. 14.

He explained these first 10 amendments to the Constitution, which were ratified on Dec. 15, 1791.

The amendments were written in short paragraphs as opposed to the

many pages in which laws are written today, he said. He asked members to read the Bill of Rights so they could understand how they are intended to protect all of us.

Dr. Pat Cullen was a guest. District Gov. Bob Steimel of Concordia will visit the club on Tuesday. A thank-you card was read from Annamarie Larue for sponsoring her to the Youth Leadership Camp.

Preschool music planned at Fort Hays State University

Trumpets, violins, flutes, drums and a funny guy waving his arms around are just a few of the characters children will encounter in the "Meet the Orchestra" preschool music class offered this fall through the Fort Hays State University Western Kansas String Academy.

Four- and 5-year-olds will be introduced to basic concepts such as pitch, tempo, dynamics, rhythm and tone-color as they learn about the four families of instruments and the orchestra's leader, the conductor.

"We've been wanting to do this for a while," said Cathy Drabkin, executive director of the academy. "Music is such a wonderful way for kids to express themselves and experience the world around them — and musical instruments are fasci-

nating to kids this age. It'll be a fun exploration for the kids, but we also hope to be planting the seeds for future musicians."

Games, singing and movement will be led by instructor JoAnn Jordan, who has a degree in music therapy from the University of Kansas.

Jordan taught music at St. Mary Elementary School in Ellis and has led preschool music classes through the Hays Recreation Commission.

The 10-week class costs \$60. Sessions will be from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. on Saturdays in Malloy Hall on the university campus starting Sept. 15. Registration deadline is Friday, Sept. 7. For details or a form, contact Ms. Drabkin at (785) 623-4187 or cadrabkin@fhsu.edu.



Adam and Megan Pray

Couple exchange vows at Hays Catholic church

Megan Kinser and Adam Pray were married on Saturday, July 7, 2007, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Hays.

Parents of the couple are Mary Kinser, Jennings, and the late Tim Kinser, and Larry and Marci Pray, Victoria.

The bride was escorted down the aisle by her brother, Kyle Kinser.

Ashley Green, sister of the bride, was maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Elise Kinser, sister of the bride; Mandy Frohling; and Hilary Garrison.

Alanna Meitl, cousin of the bride, was flower girl. Dylan Green,

nephew of the bride, was ringbearer.

Sam Pray served his brother as best man. Groomsmen were Nate Musick, Patrick Green and David Spady. The couple's brothers, Matt Pray, Luke Pray and Kyle Kinser, were ushers.

The bride is a graduate of Jennings High School and Fort Hays State University. She works for Nex-Tech Wireless.

Her husband graduated from Hays High School and works for Kansas for Platinum Services.

After a honeymoon to Punta Caña, Dominican Republic, they are at home at 2221 Centennial in Hays.

Music classes set in Hays

Parents and students in kindergarten to third grade interested in learning to play violin, viola or cello are invited to a pre-orchestra information night hosted by the Fort Hays State University's Western Kansas String Academy at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 30, in Malloy Hall, room 115, on the Fort Hays campus.

The staff will explain the pre-orchestra philosophy and program, provide information on securing instruments and answer parents' questions. Students will be able to try out instruments and be measured for size. Students and parents will talk about their experiences.

This year's class will be led by Cody Custer, a Hays sophomore, who helped last year. A music education major and violist, he took 10 days of training at the Ottawa

Suzuki Institute this summer in preparation for his role.

He will be assisted by Cathy Drabkin, executive director and an amateur cellist.

The Suzuki method focuses on teaching children to play instruments using a variety of approaches, including parent involvement, daily listening to music, learning by ear and group participation. Skills develop by incremental steps, instructors say.

Registration deadline for the 12-week fall session is Tuesday, Sept. 4. The first meeting for fall will be Saturday, Sept. 15. Students or parents who want more information may contact Drabkin at (785) 623-4187 or cadrabkin@fhsu.edu. Some financial assistance is available for qualified families.

Scout sign-up begins Aug. 30

Parents who are interested in getting their children involved in Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are encouraged to attend a meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 30, at the Oberlin Elementary School.

This is the first year that Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are teaming

up to sponsor a Sign Up for Scouting Night in Oberlin.

For details, parents may call Girl Scouts at (785) 259-6743; Boy Scouts at (785) 545-7047; or Monica Legleiter, Girl Scouts membership specialist at (785) 625-5671.

122 family members attend Grafel reunion

Descendants of the John and Susanna (Goltl) Grafel family met at the Red Willow County Community Building on Sunday, Aug. 5, for their 24th family reunion. There were 122 family members and several guests present.

A cooperative dinner was served at noon with the August and Mary Grafel, and John and Theresa Thiringer families as hosts. Milestone birthdays and anniversaries were acknowledged with Hilda Morthole being the oldest present and Harley and Hilda Morthole, the longest-married couple present at 59 years.

A business meeting was held, conducted by Donna Hoxie. The next reunion will be held the first Sunday of August 2009 and hosts will be the Henry and Mertie Grafel family.

Those present included: Harley and Hilda Morthole, Wayne and Betty Grafel, Elmore, Beverly and Scott Grafel, Richard and Rona Sensel, Riley and Karen Morthole, Kent Grafel and Kristyn Clapp, Culbertson, Neb.; Gary and Elaine Sallans, Laverna Sallans, Aurora, Neb.; Don and Charlotte Meints, Elaine Bryan, Keith, Roma, Rusty, Egan, Teryn, Sydney and Saegar Grafel, Oberlin; Karolyn Grafel Martin, Kearney, Neb.; Wayne and

Darlene Schild, Austin, Texas; Leah and Emily Atchley, Knoxville, Tenn.;

Bill and Shirley Jones, Quinter; Lynn and Betty Grafel, Austin, Texas; Wayne and Hannah Grafel, Lafayette, Colo.; Alan, Tina, Miranda and Krystin Aschoff, Mike Elgene, Stacy and Joel Grafel, Hastings, Neb.;

Danielle Bohme, Atwood; Curtis and Connie Meixner, Arkansas City; Lee and Sue Imig, Seward, Neb.; Don and Kate Grafel Sousek, Beth and Al Imig, Stan Brenning, Donna Hoxie, Lincoln, Neb.; Beulah Brown, Fort Morgan, Colo.; Lucille Grassmeyer, Lexington, Neb.; Mike Harmon, Holbrook, Neb.; David and April Sattler, Norton; Charlotte Smith, Topeka; Debbie Steier, Indianola, Neb.; Teena Steier, Alda, Neb.; Patty Grafel, Trenton, Neb.;

Kurt, Kris, Keaston, Kayle and Kourtney Grafel, Utica; Danny, Jean and Jennifer Leitner, Leon and Marita Portschy, Kyle, Cindi, Sarah, Rachel and Ben Grafel, Herndon; and Barbara Grafel, Donna and Randall Grafel, Crystal Day, Bailey and Carson Garcia, Gladys Crocker, Josh, Jessica and Sabrina Vrbas, Jake, Brett and Isaiah Neimeth, and Dean and Vesta Dack, McCook.

Couple plans fall wedding

Sarah Ruf and Brett Smith plan to be married on Saturday, Nov. 10, at the Mustard Seed Christian Fellowship in Lawrence.

Parents of the couple are Robert and Sherri Ruf of Oberlin, and Eric and Judy Smith of Eudora.

The bride-to-be is a 2004 graduate of Decatur Community High School and is a student at Kansas University. She is employed by Boston Financial Data Services.

Her fiancé is a 1999 graduate of Eudora High School and works for Concrete Masonry and Restoration Inc.



Brett Smith and Sarah Ruf

Hansen Foundation offers scholarships to area students

Northwest Kansas students can apply for 265 Dane G. Hansen Foundation scholarships in five categories, with stipends up to \$5,000 renewable for up to three additional years.

Graduates from any accredited high school or registered independent, private or home school can apply. The scholarships are open to students from Sherman, Wallace, Cheyenne, Thomas, Rawlins, Norton, Decatur, Sheridan, Cloud, Ellis, Ellsworth, Gove, Graham, Jewell, Lincoln, Logan, Mitchell, Osborne, Ottawa, Phillips, Republic, Rooks, Russell, Saline, Smith and Trego counties.

Scholarships include: Ten Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarships with annual awards of \$5,000 renewable for three years at a four-year Kansas college.

Fifty Hansen Scholar Scholarships of \$3,000 renewable for one year and 100 Hansen Student Scholarships of \$2,000 each, renewable

for one year.

Applicants must have at least a 3.5 grade average, participate in extra-curricular school and community activities and display good citizenship, leadership and moral integrity, register at their schools and take the qualifying test set for Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 12 and 13.

Ninety one-time Vocational Education Scholarships of \$2,000 are available also.

Fifteen Community College Scholarships of \$2,000 each are available for Kansas community college graduates who plan to move to a four-year Kansas college. Applicants must be graduates of a high school in one of the northwest Kansas counties, have completed college work with a 3.0 grade average or better and possess good character and leadership qualities.

Applications are available from the dean of student services at any community college or from hansenfoundationscholarships.com.

New Arrival



Sage Bryan

Sage Clarence Bryan

Brandon and Laura Bryan of Oberlin are the parents of a son, Sage Clarence Bryan, born Aug. 15, 2007, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby.

He weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. Grandparents are Rex and Pat Hinrichs, Bruning, Neb., and Rod and Kem Bryan, Oberlin. Great-grandparents are Bernard and Ruby Hinrichs, Bruning, Neb.; Bernadine and Bud Mumm, Hebron, Neb.; Bob and Sally Henningson, Oberlin; and the late Gaylord and Maxine Bryan.

Benefit set for senior center

The Oberlin Royal Neighbors will sponsor a matching-fund benefit for the Golden Age Center building fund from 6 to 9 p.m. on

Saturday, Sept. 1, at the center. Taco salad, desserts and beverages will be served.

102 Years Young!!!!
The family of **Lula Thieler** would like to honor her with a card shower for her **102nd Birthday on Sept. 1st.**
Mail will reach her at:
Prairie Senior Living Complex
1625 S. Franklin Ave, Room 303
Colby, KS 67701

Happy Birthday
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