

THE OBERLIN HERALD —

# People in Our Community

Mary Lou Olson, society editor mlolson@nwkansas.com

Oberlin students who completed requirements at Fort Hays State University for bachelor's and associate's degrees during the 2007 summer term included: Lindsay Fortin, bachelor of science, elementary education; Rusty Grafel, bachelor of science, health and human performance; Jennifer Schissler, bachelor of general studies; Natasha Weishapl, bachelor of science, organizational leadership; Doug Williby, bachelor of science, justice studies.

Mary Henzel recently met her son, Brian Henzel, and her sister, Mona Zumwalt, in Reno, Nev., after which they drove to Monroe, Ore., for a family reunion. She was one of 10 of the 13 first cousins at the reunion of her dad's family. They spent time in Klamath Falls, Ore., and the surrounding area where they formerly lived. They also spent two days with Mrs. Henzel's sister-in-law and family, the Wayne Bucks, in Corvallis, Ore.

1951 met for an impromptu luncheon on Wednesday at the LandMark Inn as a farewell for Shirley (Unger) Gaede, who will be returning to Texas with her husband, Bob, after spending the summer in Oberlin. Others present were Detta Anderson, Marjorie Olson, Joyce Ploussard, Shirley Shields, Dorothy Moore, Enid Anderson, Eloise Smith, Veanna Carman and Joy Votapka.

Tom and Candace Williams of Boulder, Colo., were weekend guests of her parents, Kenneth and Jody Merrill, Emma and Ethan. The couple will be leaving this week for Canada, where they will spend the winter months at their condominium.

Larry Screen of Salina was a Labor Day weekend guest of his mother, Phyllis Screen.

Rick and Grady Marcuson, Overland Park, and Mark, Julie and Brandon Hubbard, Lakewood, Colo., were houseguests over Labor Day weekend of Gail and Kay Marcuson. Additional guests included Brad, Elaine, Sarah and Jared Marcuson, Buzz and Cynthia Matson, and Jane Broadwater, Rochester, Minn.

Several members of the Decatur Community High School class of

Winning highs in pinocle at Golden Age Center the past week were Doris Fringer, Barb Solko, Henry Edgett, Wilma May, Dorothy Moore and Dewaine Stapp. Lows went to Aleen Van Vleet, Henry Edgett, Floyd Edgett, Donna Kent, Merle Shirley and Wilma May. Pitch highs were won by Henry Edgett and Floyd Edgett with lows going to Elden Haas and Dorothy Moore. Bridge highs were won by Mary Horney, Merle Shirley, Charlotte Meints and Phyllis Lohoefer.

Mary Anderson of Osborne and Joy Votapka spent Labor Day weekend at Johnson's Lake and went to the Lexington "Extravaganza."

Joe and Chris Mines, Jared and Cori of McPherson were Labor Day weekend guests of his parents, Don and Ann Mines.

Chris and Curtis Walston and Doris Fringer spent Labor Day weekend with Patty and Rod Steinmetz at Two Buttes, Colo. Additional guests were Ryan Steinmetz and friend, Tammie, and Kellie Steinmetz and friend, Eric, Fort Collins, Colo.

Mike and Mary Dicke of Wichita were Aug. 24 overnight guests of her mother, Ethel Railsback. The next day she accompanied them to Fort Collins, Colo., to visit Marian Railsback. They all went to Denver, where they were overnight guests of the Dickes' daughter, Anne and Jack Griffin and Jude. After they returned to Fort Collins, they attended a retirement party honoring Marian, given by several friends. They returned to Oberlin on Aug. 27.

## Norcatur school needs money

The Norcatur City Building, the old Norcatur school, is in a dilemma after the insurance company told the city that the roof must be replaced.

Early this spring, a bad leak appeared at the west end of the elementary school part of the roof. That leak has been repaired, but is only a temporary fix, school Dennis Leichliter.

The high school roof had a similar problem five years ago, but it was replaced with money donated to the Alumni Fund.

However, money in this fund is only designated for maintenance of the high school portion of the building.

A new fund has been established within the Norcatur Alliance spe-

cifically for maintaining the elementary school and city building.

Mr. Leichliter said flooring tiles in the hall and all-purpose room are crumbling, leaving rough places in the floor.

Serious electrical updates are needed and ceiling tiles have fallen throughout the building.

"Our community is a small one with very limited funds and we cannot afford the costs of the needed repairs," he said.

"The three estimates on roof repair alone will cost between \$43,000 and \$56,000, so we are asking help from our Norcatur citizens and friends as well as our alumni."

He said that the city cannot go back to the old city building, as it is

in bad repair itself and would cost a lot to clean and update. It is not handicap accessible nor is it large enough to house the city offices, library and museum.

Some people have asked about selling the school building. An information meeting was held in May to get opinions but the consensus was to keep the building, even though many repairs would need to be done.

Anyone interested in making a donation for the project may send it to: Norcatur Alliance, c/o Dennis Leichliter, HC1 Box 113, Clayton, Kan., 67629.

All donations should be tax deductible since the Norcatur Alliance is a nonprofit organization, he said.



ENJOYING A FROZEN TREAT at the Jennings Firemen's Fun Day were Alana Raile (left) and Kylie Farr of Oberlin. Among other delicacies served were the famous Czech kolaches made by Jennings area women and hot funnel cakes. —Herald photo by Kimberly Davis

## Winners named at Fun Day

The Jennings Firemen's Fun Day on Saturday, Aug. 25, was deemed a huge success by both workers and participants, said Marge Hartzog, one of the coordinators.

Winners in the big raffle, sponsored by the Jennings firemen, were Marilyn Horn, a television set; Brett McKenna, a stereo; and Byron Hale, a DVD player.

The health-fair nurses took blood from more than 60 people, with even more participating in the free blood-sugar and blood-pressure checks and electrocardiograph readings. Tests were interpreted by Dr. Stellan Andrecia, who also performed skin cancer checks, Mrs. Vacura said.

Pony rides were a big hit with the children and herpetologist David Nievens gave three presentations with his collection of snakes. He gave several autographed copies of his books which were auctioned off during the evening.

Greg Otter, chief engineer of the Otter train rides, was busy throughout the morning giving rides to the children and many enjoyed the cake walk and the bingo games.

More than 30 children participated in the mini-tractor pull. Winners included Alyson Vahling, Kennedy Yeager, Brandon Vacura, Kyler Niblock, Dawson Kempt, Christopher Lowry, Berckon Rowh,

Jean Soderlund, Oren Rhea, Seth Otter, Ashley and Matt Vacura, Justin Fleckenstein, Drake Rowh, Dayton Kempt, Jamie Soderlund, Jordan Baker, Skylar Carter and Zach Bird and Gabe Bird. The mini-tractor pull is a project of the Decatur County Farm Bureau, and all winners are eligible to compete at the Kansas State Fair, Mrs. Hartzog said.

Over 200 people visited the Czech Museum, with many expressing appreciation for the new displays of Jennings school items, as well as other memorabilia. More than 110 dozen kolaches were sold out by 2 p.m.

Wobble Trap Shoot winners included Gary Gawith, Eric Fleckenstein, Dave Wagoner and Richard Wicker. Bicycles and helmets, donated by the Jennings Fire department and the Jennings Ambulance, were won by Kylie Farr and Maddix Green.

The Jennings American Legion color guard led the parade. A former yellow Jennings School bus with the sign, "Welcome BCI" and "Thanks for saving our school" was followed by one of the Bus and Coach International buses, a new Falcon 45 driven by Phillip Oldridge, an owner of the company.

Theme for this year's event was

"Welcome BCI" and many of the firm's employees spent the day getting acquainted with area citizens and some competed in the Firemen's Team Barrel competition. A large crowd enjoyed the noon and evening meals, prepared by the firemen, as well as the auction and street dance. Over \$600 was raised from the community garage sale, Mrs. Hartzog said.

Firemen's Fun Day was started 16 years ago when Fire Chief Kerry Green decided he wanted to provide a day of fun and games for area children and it has grown in popularity over the years.

Proceeds this year will be used by the Jennings Fire Department toward the purchase of a 4,000-gallon tanker to use for rural fires.

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## Man to teach English in Japan

Jordan Condit, son of Bill and Bonnie (Larson) Condit of Winfield, has accepted a position as an assistant language teacher for the Japan Exchange and Teaching program.

He is a 2002 graduate of Winfield High School and a 2007 graduate of the University of Kansas with a Bachelor of Arts in East Asian languages and culture.

The program, one of the world's largest international exchange pro-

grams, was started in 1987 to increase mutual understanding between the people of Japan and those of other nations. It aims to promote international awareness in Japanese communities by helping to improve foreign language education and developing international exchange.

Over the past 20 years, it has seen significant growth from its original

848 participants from four countries in 1987 to 5,508 from 44 countries in 2006.

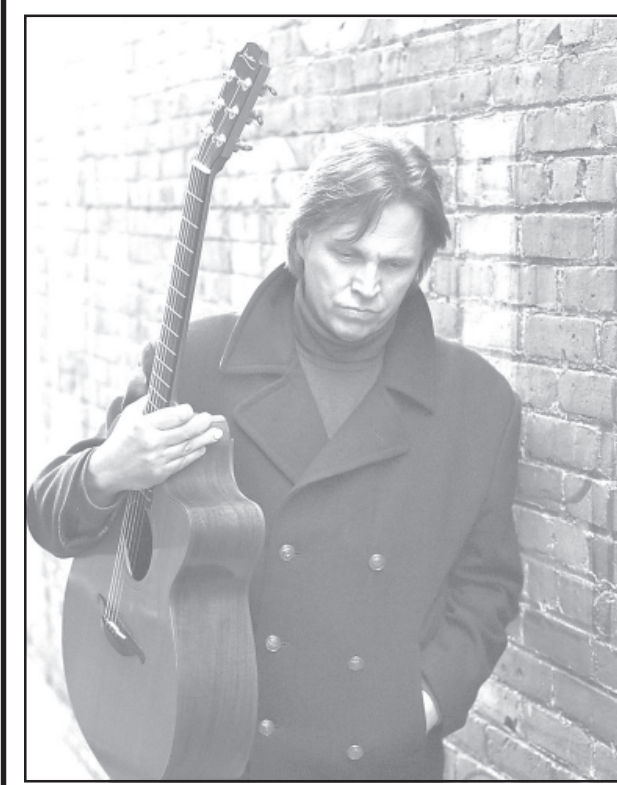
Mr. Condit will be teaching English at middle and elementary schools in the city of Nagaoka, in the prefecture of Niigata, about 250 miles north of Tokyo. He is a grandson of Wayne and Lois Larson of Oberlin.



J. Condit

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Sponsored by Oberlin Arts & Humanities Commission

Season Ticket Event or \$10/adults, \$5/students grades 1-12.  
For information call Mary Henzel (785-470-0218 cell)  
or Ella Betts (785-475-3557)

This program is presented in part by the Kansas Arts Commission, a State agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a Federal agency which believes that a great nation deserves great art, Oberlin Arts & Humanities Commission, Hansen Foundation.



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