

THE OBERLIN HERALD —

# People in Our Community

Mary Lou Olson, society editor  
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Rachel Wurm received word of the death of Wayne Herzog of Sacramento, Calif. He and his late wife, Nell, were former Oberlin residents and he worked at *The Oberlin Herald*. Among survivors are his wife, Beverly, and a son, David Herzog and family. He was an uncle to Joe Herzog and Bus Wurm of Oberlin.

Ryan Agan, son of Daren Agan, has been moved to a rehabilitation center. Mail will reach him c/o Madonna Rehabilitation Center, 5401 South Street, room 133, Lincoln, Neb., 68506. Any contributions for his medical expenses may be sent to the First National Bank, 101 N. Penn, Oberlin, Kan., 67749, according to his grandfather, Dennis Agan.

Scott and Deb Goltl, Molly, Matthew and Nathan of Wichita were Thanksgiving guests from Wednesday to Friday of his parents, Lairy and Beth Goltl.

Those from this area who attended funeral services for Rita Fortin in Pierce City, Mo., on Nov. 20, were June Fortin, Joyce Juenemann, Anita Mumm, Koriann Fortin, Jay Fortin, Jack Fortin, and Walt Fortin, all of Oberlin, and Jill McCorkle, McCook. She died on Nov. 16.

Thanksgiving Day dinner guests of Rusty and Sharon Addleman were Louise Pollnow, Pat Glenn, Shannon Addleman Gillund, Brynna and Bryant, Michelle and Kevin Rush, Gavin and Gannon, and Chad and Noel Addleman and Kate, Olathe, and Bob Gillund, Orlean Park, Ill.

Sunday dinner guests of Sam and Diana Steinmetz for Thanksgiving were Gary and Kay Matheny, Andy Chambers, and Luetta Pollnow, Oberlin; Karen Matheny, Kearney, Neb., who recently returned home from Iraq; and Paul and Christine Matheny and son, Fort Riley.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Ranz of Fertile, Minn., are visiting this week with the Dole Metcalf family. Joining them for the weekend and a belated Thanksgiving dinner at the Joe

Metcalf home on Sunday were Marci Metcalf, Manhattan, and Dave Renners and Julie Ranz of Denver. Julie is the Ranz's daughter.

Herschel and Jody Betts spent Thanksgiving with their son and family, Gene and Jan Betts and Mary Kate in Leawood. They were joined by Anne, formerly of New York City, who began work Monday as a project analyst with Disney Corporation in Los Angeles, and by Michael, who is a student at the University of Indiana in Bloomington.

Winning highs in pinochle at Golden Age Center the past week were Floyd Edgett, Doris Fringer, Max Carman and Kelva Dryden. Lows went to Barb Solko, Aleen Van Vleet, and Floyd Edgett. Pitch highs were won by Floyd Edgett and Aleen Van Vleet with lows going to Elden Haas and Barb Solko. Bridge highs were won by Leone Purton and Annette Miller.

Thanksgiving Day dinner guests of Alan and Judith Marietta were Wava Williams, Hastings, Neb.; Mark Williams, Brooke and Blake, Aurora, Neb.; Tom and LeAnn Tripp, Zach, Trae and Kristen, Littleton, Colo.; Greg and Mary Long, Ethan and Jenna, Brad and Shanna Long and Miranda, Elden and Marilou Long, Linda Wade and Joselyn, Oberlin; Linda Bunney, Denver; Loni and Jeremy Jensen, Newton; Lora and Leah Marietta, and Travis Carreno, Manhattan; Brett Marietta, Great Bend; Ray and Steffanie Marietta and Shelby, John and Pam Marietta, and Sara Cumbie and Makayla, Canon City, Colo.; and Wayne and Odetta Marietta, Russell.

Thanksgiving evening guests of Terry and Sandy Rush were Jenny and Heather Ploussard, Oberlin; Wade Ploussard, Montrose, Colo.; Trista Ploussard and Mike Dege, Hoxie; Cinda and Vern Flax, Garrett and Morgan, Arnold; Kevin and Michelle Rush, Gavin and Gannon, Olathe; Mark Shobe, Lincoln, Neb.; and Kenny and Janice Shobe, Oberlin.

# Students receive honors

Area graduates were among 6,000 Kansas State University students receiving academic scholarships for the current school year:

**Norcatur:** Denton Bailey — \$400 Lawrence E. and Gertrude E. Kern Family Scholarship in Agriculture, \$700 Mary Lucille and Walter Abmeyer and \$300 Lewis G. Mickelson.

Anthony Marshall — \$3,000 Col. Delbert Townsend.

**Oberlin:** Kellen Doeden — \$2,500 Tomorrow's Teacher.

Kelsey Dorshorst — \$2,250 Arts and Sciences Fund for Excellence, \$3,000 Col. Delbert Townsend, \$2,250 John C. Peterson, \$200 KSU Marching Band.

Karli Fredrickson — \$3,000 Kansas State University Leadership Fund.

Jennifer Hirsch — \$1,500 Achievement Award, \$1,500 Marion H. Pelton Keyboard, \$700 Mila and William R. Kimel Music.

Lora Marietta — \$3,000 Col. Delbert Townsend, \$766 Fern M. Osterhout Scholarship in Human Ecology, \$484 Mary J. Herthel and \$3,000 Dane G. Hansen.

Drew Martin, \$1,500 Col. Delbert Townsend.

Marci Metcalf, \$5,000 Denison, and \$4,250 Col. Delbert Townsend.

Allie Moore — \$1,200 Arts and Sciences Fund for Excellence, \$3,000 Col. Delbert Townsend, \$3,300 Lewis J. and Ernest A. Braun Premedicine.

Cameron Nedland — \$1,000 KSU Activity.

Kelly Olson — \$3,000 Col. Delbert Townsend, \$1,000 Elvon G. and Lydia E. Skeen Education Fund, \$250 Kansas State University Parents Telefund and \$500 Mabel Strong Leadership Award.

Kurt Olson — \$1,000 Engineering, \$3,750 KSU Foundation Campaign General, \$3,000 Dane G. Hansen.

Emmie Pauls — \$2,000 Medalion, \$2,000 Dane G. Hansen.

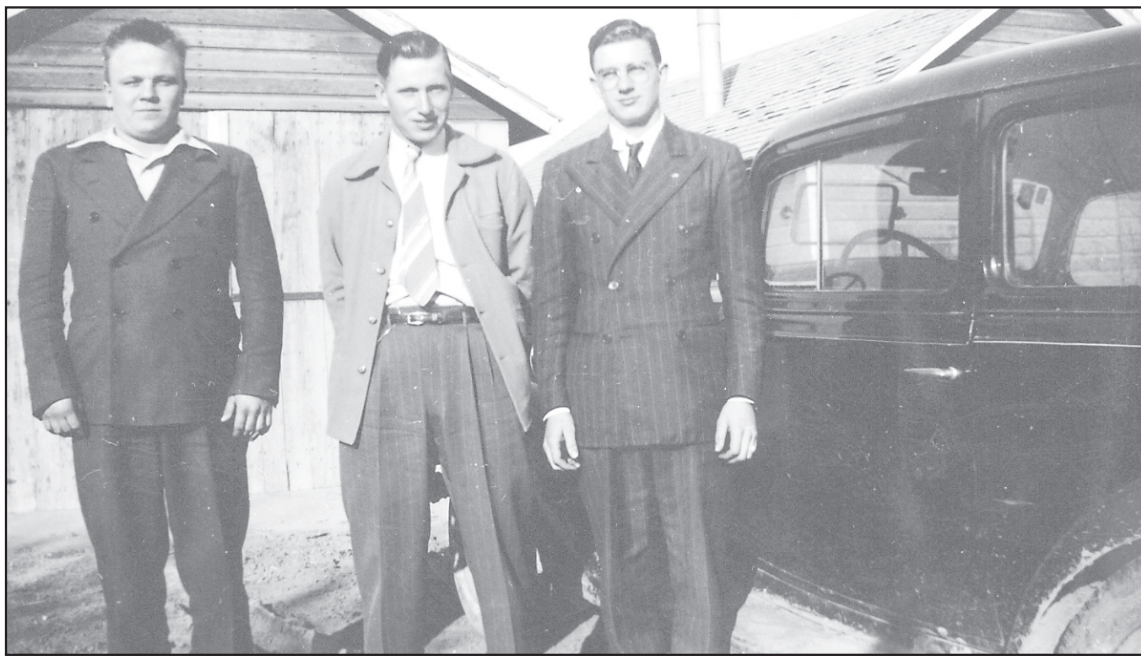
Breck Simonsson: \$4,250 Col. Delbert Townsend, \$3,000 Kansas State University Leadership.

**Herndon:** Lance Basgall — \$2,000 Henry and Florence Ruff.

Anikka Martin — \$3,000 Gladwin A. Read Memorial Fund, \$2,000 William S. May Scholarship for Agricultural Finance.

**Ludell:** Adam Holste, \$1,000 Ronald and Ellen Warren.

Bethany Holste — \$1,500 Charles A. and Nona B. Frankenhoff, \$3,000 Dane G. Hansen Foundation.



**HAROLD 'POOCH' PORTSCHY** (left) remembers the good times he, Clarence Ketterl (center) and Walter Wendelin enjoyed when their parents honored them each year with a birthday dinner. They all were born on Jan. 25, 1923, at their respective farm homes around Herndon with A.P. Fleckenstein as the doctor.

# Center to feature 'Pooch's Pizza'

By MARYLOU OLSON

Fans of Pooch's Pizza will get a chance to taste his delicacy and reminisce on Friday when Harold "Pooch" Portschy, 84, heats up the oven to start serving his famous pizza at 5:30 p.m. at the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center in Oberlin.

A lifetime resident of Herndon, he said he had several occupations over the years before opening up Pooch's Pizza in the former Loren Escher Grocery Store on main street.

He was born on a farm near Herndon and had two brothers, Charles, deceased, and Virgil "Pete" of Herndon, and three sisters, one who died in infancy; Hazel Henderson, deceased; and Martha Korbe of Hays. Their parents were John and Frances Portschy.

"I attended Herndon schools and graduated from high school in 1940. I was always a big baseball fan and served as umpire all over northwest Kansas for many years, but especially at games in Herndon, Ludell and Atwood.

"A highlight every year when I was growing up was the birthday party which was held for me and two classmates, Clarence Ketterl and Walter Wendelin, who were also born on Jan. 25, 1923. We were all delivered at home by Dr. A.P. Fleckenstein. Our families took turns

every year and we would have a big dinner to celebrate," he said.

"One of my first jobs after graduating from high school was driving a fuel truck for Ed Grafel, owner of Service Oil Company in Herndon. I also drove a propane truck later for Loren Fleckenstein, owner of Fleck's Gas Service," he said.

He left for the Navy in 1945, actually reporting for duty the day World War II ended, on Aug. 14, 1945. He took his boot

camp training in San Diego, then was sent by train to Lido Beach, N.Y., at Long Island. Later he completed his year of service in Norman, Okla., where he also umpired baseball games.

His father hauled eggs to Denver for Jesse Matchett of Herndon and when he was no longer able to do it, Pooch said, he took over his route. Often they would deliver to King Soopers. On the return trip he hauled various items, which included pizza ingredients, to Atwood, Oberlin and McCook and also as far as Plainville and Solomon.

When the egg distributor in Denver sold out, he said, he decided to buy the former Escher Grocery Store building, and open up his own pizza place in 1975.

"I opened every morning at 6:30 a.m. for 19 years, serving coffee and rolls, breakfast, lunches at noon, and

then always fired up the oven to start cooking pizza at 5:30 p.m.," he said. "We were one of the first businesses in the area to have pinball machines and they were installed by John Fiala of Oberlin."

He married Irene Hafner in 1973. She had three children, Beth (Hafner) Hraha, and Robert and Richard D. Hafner. His wife was an anesthetist, who worked in hospitals all over northwest Kansas. He said he took her in all kinds of weather when she was needed for surgery. She also helped at Pooch's Pizza. She died in 1994.

"Among others who worked for me were Clara, Agnes, Josephine and Rose Solko, Pete and Eileen Portschy and Sharon Ecker, but I always made the pizza," he emphasized.

After suffering a heart attack in 1994, he finally had to close the business. He moved to the Good Samaritan Center in Oberlin permanently about two years ago.

His niece, Cheri Kastens of Herndon, who eats lunch with him every Thursday, said that one time when he returned home to try it out, he finally said, "I've got to get back to Oberlin to the Good Samaritan Center. I'm missing out on all the fun!"

He said he hopes to see many of his friends at the supper on Friday. Proceeds will go for the mural project in the Town Square at the center.



"Pooch"

# Student takes first in contest

Brett Marietta, a student in the criminal justice program at Barton Community College in Great Bend,

placed first in the physical agility competition for men 19-25 at the Region III Lambda Alpha Epsilon National Criminal Justice competition.



Brett Marietta

Lambda Alpha Epsilon is an association of professional and student practitioners. Mr. Marietta, a 2006 graduate of Decatur Community High School, is the son of Alan and Judith Marietta of Oberlin. He plans to apply for the Kansas Highway Patrol after he finishes school.

# Rotary club hears about insurance

Lynn Doeden was program chair for the Nov. 6 meeting of the Oberlin Rotary Club when it gathered at The Gateway for lunch.

Mrs. Doeden, administrator of Decatur Health Systems, introduced Amanda Fortin, who works with insurance in the hospital office. She and Mrs. Doeden explained hospital billing procedures and how the hospital contracts with difference insurance companies.

They said the hospital accepts what the contracted insurance company pays and the patient cannot be billed for the difference. Mrs. Doeden and Ms. Fortin said 60 percent of the hospital's patients are Medicare patients and 32 percent are on Medicaid. They pointed out the business aspect of Decatur Health Systems and its relationship with insurance companies.

Larry Holden, a member of the Russell Rotary Club, was a visitor at the Nov. 13 meeting. As general manager and chief executive officer of Smoky Hills Public Television, he presented the program.

He said they have been broadcasting for 25 years and provide service in 52 counties with programs of

interest to Kansas residents. He added that analog broadcasting, the current services, will end on Feb. 17, 2009, and high definition television broadcasting will replace it.

Doug Fair gave the program at the Nov. 20 meeting about the seven-day Rotary Caribbean cruise, which he and his wife Sandy enjoyed. The trip began in San Juan, Puerto Rico, where they visited the three forts and a lighthouse at Fort Cristobal.

The capacity of the ship, the Crown Princess, was 3,500, he said, with one crew member for every three passengers. The cruise included 36 Rotarians and their spouses, who also visited St. Lucia and enjoyed the sights there.

Guests were Abbie Bainter and Carol Weibert. Junior Rotarians from Decatur Community High School were Alyssa Montgomery and Shanna Pearce.

# Club News

## Legion Auxiliary meets

The Oberlin American Legion Auxiliary met at the post on Nov. 14. President Angela Corcoran opened the meeting with the preamble and flag salute.

Minutes were read by Phyllis Metcalf, secretary, and the treasurer's report was given by Dolores Koerperich and both were approved.

The pancake supper was discussed with ways of improving it and appreciation was expressed to the American Legion and Sons of the American Legion for their

assistance. A Christmas tree in the military section at the museum will be decorated by the members. A memorial gift was given in memory of Dorothy Machart.

Phyllis Metcalf and Mrs. Corcoran gave a program on Veterans' Day. Hostesses were Edna Mott and Sandra Young.

The Christmas meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 12. It was decided that instead of having a soup supper, members are to bring something for snacks. All members and guests are welcome

## Women send relief items

Karen Eskew led devotions at the Nov. 14 meeting of Lutheran Women's Missionary League at St. John's Lutheran Church. Her topic was "To walk humbly with our God."

Dorothy Moore presented "Extreme Makeover." A thank you was read from Chuck Harms for the dinner which was served following his wife's funeral services.

Martin and Evelyn May delivered 120 quilts and blankets and 35 layettes to Hays to be taken to

a World Relief warehouse for distributions worldwide as needed. The group decided to give a money gift to the Oberlin Food Pantry, KRNV Lutheran Radio at McCook, Children Christian Concern for schools in foreign countries and the Good Shepherd Mission in Kansas City.

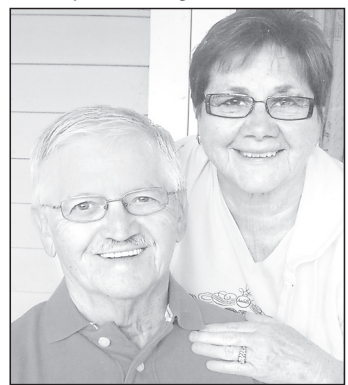
Janice May was elected president and Wilma May, secretary, for two years. A thank you was extended to Peggy Groneweg and Kim Langness, who filled these positions the past two years.

*Celebrating 50 years together  
Evan & Judy Goltl  
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