

People in Our Community

Mary Lou Olson, society editor
mlolson@nwkansas.com

Claudia Bryant, Fort Myers, Fla., and Jerry Leitner, Hilton Head, S.C., were houseguests from Friday to Tuesday of their parents, Jerald and Elaine Leitner. Joining them for an early Christmas celebration over the weekend were Jeremy Bryant, Carl Junction, Mo., and Jason and Ethan Bryant, John and Karla Sullivan and Jerad, and Dustin, Katrina and Tallyn Sullivan, Colby. Other callers during the week were Joe Leitner, Herndon, and the Rev. Royce Leitner.

Alyce Avery is recuperating at home after undergoing hip revision surgery on Dec. 10 at Community Hospital in McCook. Her daughter, Roz Fuller of Woodbridge, Va., left Tuesday after spending 10 days with her mother.

Petty Officer 2 Chad Evans is spending a month on leave with his mother, Joan Evans, and sister, Kristy. This is the first time in 12 years he has been home for Christmas. After his leave, he will join the USS Winston Churchill DDG 81 in the Persian Gulf. He has served for 13 years in the U.S. Navy and spent the past three years in Naples, Italy. He and his mother and sister visited on Monday with his grandparents, Ed and Agnes Evans in

Madrid, Neb.
—Christmas decorations 50% off—sale starts Saturday, lights excluded. Stanley Hardware.

Jan Mowry and Julie Sayer were named winners of the Merle Jane Harpst Award, given annually to two employees who are outstanding as caregivers at Tri Valley Health System in Cambridge, Neb. Mrs. Sayer was named the licensed winner and her sister, the non-licensed award winner. Mrs. Sayer is a respiratory therapist and a registered polysomnography technologist and her sister, Jan, is the Heritage Plaza dietary and Assisted Living Facility dietary supervisor. Both are daughters of Eugene and Beverly (Wurm) Witt of Danbury.

Winning highs in pinochle at Golden Age Center the past week were Wilma May, Aleen Van Vleet, Floyd Edgett, Henry Edgett, Max Carman and Merle Shirley. Lows went to Barb Solko, Floyd Edgett, Max Carman, Elden Haas, Aleen Van Vleet and Wilma May. There were no bridge or pitch players.

—Christmas decorations 50% off—sale starts Saturday, lights excluded. Stanley Hardware.

Rotarians hear about fund plans

Charles Frickey, program chairman for the Dec. 4 meeting of the Oberlin Rotary Club, talked about the Decatur Tomorrow Fund and Steering Committee.

The fund is designed to collect money for community projects. Much of that involved supporting economic development, he said.

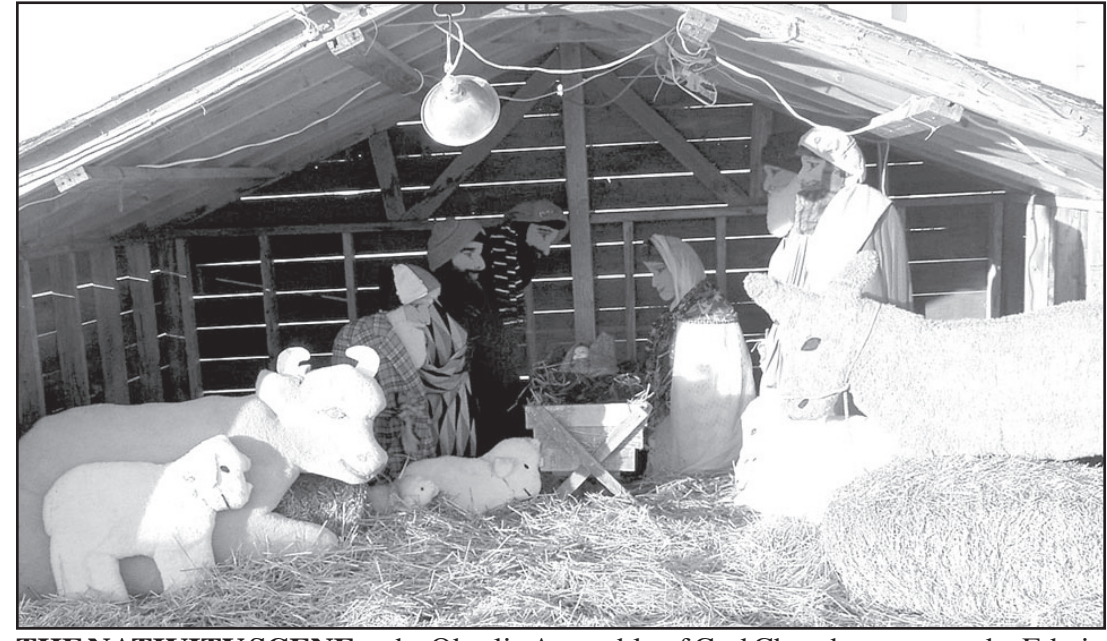
Many Rotarians have contributed for these projects, as well as working on committees for Decatur Tomorrow. Contributions may be given to any community project consistent with economic development, he said, but the money cannot be used for profit-making or private entities.

Guests were Janice Shobe of the Atwood Rotary Club, Gaylord Shields of Oberlin and Evan Barnum of Colby, along with Jared Marcuson and Ace Manning, junior Rotarians from Decatur Community High School.

Sisters Amy Carman and Angie Fortin presented a musical program at the Dec. 11 meeting of the Oberlin Rotary Club. The sisters played and sang several musical selections from their new album. They were introduced by Larry Ganje, program chair for the day.

Guests were Megan Carter and Janice Ganje.

Joy to the world



THE NATIVITY SCENE at the Oberlin Assembly of God Church was put up by Edwin and Doris Black. Pastor Royce Leitner and Tim Davis Sr. added a star and lights above the manger, but those do not show up on this picture. — Herald staff photo by Dave Bergling

Girl Scouts hold ceremony for investiture and rededication

Twenty-six Oberlin Girl Scouts and their families met Dec. 9 at The Gateway for an Investiture and Rededication ceremony.

Ara Marine opened the ceremony as the flag guard presented the flags and Doug Mason gave a prayer.

The Daisies, which is the kindergarten group, opened with their investiture, led by Penny Fringer and Jamie Geihlsler. Those invested included Bethany Mason, Serria Chambers and Modesta Fahrenbruch.

Former Daisies who were bridged into Brownie Scouts were welcomed by Troop 68.

Invested into Brownies were Molly Tate, Faith Meitl, Emily Hollar, Heather Treese, Jean Soderlund, Cindy Sheaffer, Danielle Rouse, Tyra Pierce, Esperanza Fahrenbruch, Cori Isabelle, Isabel

Grafel, Lindsey Eskew, Kyleana Blau, Haylee Hileman, Taylor Corbett, Jenna Long, and Jakobi Blau. They received pins as they repeated the Girl Scout Promise. The group is led by Sarah Howland, Darci Meitl and Penny Fringer.

Breeanna Chamber and Ara Marine, Flew-up to Junisor Scouting. They received their Brownie wings as they were welcomed to the Junior Scouts level.

New girls who joined Junior Troop 72 included Shawn Baker, Breeanna Chambers, Ashley Edgerton, Mercedes Geihlsler, Emily Larson, Demi Murray, Jamie Soderlund, Ara Marine, Brianna Fahrenbruch, Katlyn Klima and Sabyen O'Gara. Leaders Sue Black and Nila Hafner invested these girls into Scouts.

Adults invested into Scouting

with the Salt Ceremony, reminding them that it only takes a pinch to make all things good, were Jamie Geihlsler, Fawn Eskew, Kari Bryan, Shanna Long, Cathy Anthony and Brian and Stacy Hileman.

Those rededicated into scouts were Monica Geihlsler, Maria Geihlsler, Penny Fringer, Darci Meitl, Jeanie Isbell, Emily Howland, Megan Lohofener, Kelli Bryan, Lilly Marine, Aspen Gallentine, Cassidy Gillespie, Sarah Howland, Samaria Vilar, Miranda Long, Jillian Peters, Ashley Treese, Haley Schiessler, Brittney Urban, Dallas Pauls, Sue Black, Nila Hafner, Farra McChesney, Dani Walters, Lakin Brown, Julia Ray, Don Ray, Kelly Brown, Becky Helm, Jenny Plossard, Deb Helm and Sandy Rush. Cookie sales will start Jan. 12.

New Arrival

Talon Rae Wark

Ryan and Brandi Wark of Rexford are the parents of a son, Talon Rae, born Dec. 7, 2007, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. He weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces and was 20 3/4 inches long. He has a sister, Brooke, and a brother, Tucker. Grandparents are Kevin and Susan Wark, Colby; Fred Albers, Rexford; and Jim and Kathy Guilfoyle, Colby. Great-grandparents are Hankie Beckman, and Darrell and Valerie Wark, Colby; Alfred and Anna Albers, Selden; and Merl and Ruth Chance, Jennings. Great-great-grandmother is Naomi Flipse, Colby.

Dear Santa...

The following letters to Santa Claus are from Tim Thornton's kindergarten class at Oberlin Elementary School.

The letters were delivered to *The Oberlin Herald* after the deadline for the "Letters to Santa" special section in today's paper.

Dear Santa:
If you go straight from Oberlin, then keep on turning, you will get to my house. It's a very long ways. Please bring me some belts and a Dora the Explorer set. I've been really good at my house and at school. — *Courtlyn Waterman*

Dear Santa:
To get to my house, you have to go past the liquor store and then you have to go past my Grandma Janet's house. Then you turn around past the stop sign and then you go out to my house. You better come to my house! I want lots of stuff! Please bring me a power wheels, a super jet and a gooey slime machine. I also want a Diego Kitchen set. I've been helping my mom and being nice to my new baby brother. — *Jack Farr*

Dear Santa:
My name is Gage and I live on N. Stephens Street. I want an X-Box 360 and a deer-hunting game this year. I also want a camera with flames on it. I've been sharing and playing nice with everyone. I will leave you some cookies on the chair. My chimney is not big enough for you, so you can come in the front door. — *Gage Cressler*

Dear Santa:
I live across the street from my school. I want a rifle that has a black scope and a toy BB gun that has caps and I want a Big Game Hunter game, that let's me hunt deer. I've been really good. I've been helping my mom around the house and playing with my brother when he has no one to play with. I've been listening to my mom and dad. — *Rowdy Farr*

Dear Santa:
I want Santa Claus to bring me a puppy, because I don't have one. I lost my other one. Then I want something else, but it's a secret. I also want a turtle. The last thing I want is a Barbie Movie, the one with the flying horse in it. That's all. I've been being nice to my brothers. — *Lexus Rider*

Dear Santa:
I live across from the church where we have girl scouts. I have been a very good girl. Please, could I have a radio with headphones? I would like it to be a princess one that I can play CDs on. I will leave you some cookies on the kitchen table. There will be hot chocolate for you too! — *Serria Chambers*

Dear Santa:
My house is on North Beaver. I was wondering what you did when you go around on Christmas Eve? I'm not always good, but I am trying really hard. I would like a Gameboy like Dawson's and a play coffee pot that makes noises. A play cell phone that rings would be cool, too. Could I have a new mushroom chair be-

cause my dog Missy ripped it all up. That's it! I will leave you milk and cookies. — *Monica Geihlsler*

Dear Santa:
I like cats. Do you? I live on North Elk. I am good all the time. Could I please have \$100. If I had enough money, I would maybe buy a pool table. I would like a new cell phone and my own house. I am really good at cooking and doing laundry. Something else I would like is some blocks that you can build and tape and it will stay forever. Maybe your elves can make them. Make sure no one can knock it down. Can you make my birthday come quicker? — *Erin May*

Dear Santa:
I live on East Commercial Street. It is a little ways from the park, but we don't have to drive. I am always good and I get ready when I am supposed to. For Christmas I would like the Princess Monopoly game that Dani has. It is lots of fun to play! That is all I really want. I will leave you some cookies and milk on that little table beside the chimney. — *Bethany Mason*

Dear Santa:
I've been good all year long. I help around the house by cleaning my room. My house is close to the park. I would like a talking doll, a talking dog and a talking person. Could my dog have a horse trailer, too? I will leave the reindeer something to eat and something for you too. I will figure it out later. — *Modesta Aguirre*

Dear Santa:
I've been in trouble a few times this year, but I am good most of the time. I live in a yellow house a little ways behind Dakota's grandma. I really want a stereo for Christmas. I like to play music loud! I want a race car track that has songs. I saw it once on TV. Could I also have a play gun that you can use for fishing? Thank you Santa! — *Dawson Kempf*

Dear Santa:
I live in Oberlin with my Mom and Selden with my Dad. I am a very good boy. I do not fight with my brother. I would like a skateboard with safety gloves and elbow and knee pads. Could I also please have a computer and a Transformer? Do you think I could have a Santa suit with a beard and boots so I can be like you? I also need some snow boots and some ice skates and some toy bricks so I can build a huge castle. 100 bricks would be enough. I will leave you some cookies and a glass of milk and a present too! — *Gabriel Peter*

Card Shower

The family of Terry and Tammie (Morton) Hilker are hosting a card shower in honor of their 40th Wedding Anniversary December 23rd. They were married at the Federated Church in Oberlin in 1967. Children of the couple are Tonica and husband Chris Fila of Grand Island and Jarrod and wife Julie of McCook. They have five granddaughters. Cards of congratulations will reach them at 512 East 5th Street, McCook, NE 69001.

School gets donation from Knights

The Oberlin Knights of Columbus donated \$1,042 to the Oberlin School District Special Education Fund.

The money was raised through the annual Tootsie Roll drive, said Knights member Preston Pratt.

College teams to play games over holidays

Thursday, Dec. 20, Poinsettia Bowl at San Diego, Utah (8-4) vs. Navy (8-4), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Friday, Dec. 21, New Orleans Bowl, Florida Atlantic (7-5) vs. Memphis (7-5), 7 p.m. (ESPN2)

Saturday, Dec. 22, Papa John's com Bowl at Birmingham, Cincinnati (9-3) vs. So. Miss. (7-5), Noon (ESPN2)

Saturday, Dec. 22, New Mexico Bowl at Albuquerque, New Mexico (8-4) vs. Nevada (6-6), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Dec. 22, Las Vegas Bowl, Brigham Young University (10-2) vs. UCLA (6-6), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

Sunday, Dec. 23, Hawaii Bowl at Honolulu, East Carolina (7-5) vs. Boise State (10-2), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

Wednesday, Dec. 26, Motor City Bowl at Detroit, Central Michigan (8-5) vs. Purdue (7-5), 6:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Internet Tonight 475-2206

Christmas services planned

By MARY LOU OLSON
The birth of the Christ Child will be celebrated in churches throughout the area. Here is a list of services reported to us, compiled by *The Herald* staff:

LUND COVENANT
A candlelight service will be held at 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

OBERLIN COVENANT
A candlelight Christmas service will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday.

JENNINGS, DRESDEN UNITED METHODIST
A Christmas candlelight and caroling service is planned at 4 p.m. on Sunday at Jennings. The Christmas Eve service will be at 6:30 p.m. at the Dresden church.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN
Christmas Eve services will begin at 7:30 p.m. and services will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Christmas

Day. New Year's Eve services are scheduled at 7:30 p.m.

FAITH LUTHERAN
There will be a Christmas Eve candlelight service with communion at 7:30 p.m.

OBERLIN UNITED METHODIST PRAIRIE CHAPEL
A Christmas Eve candlelight and communion service will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Prairie Chapel and at 8 p.m. at the Oberlin church.

UNITED CHURCH
A Christmas Eve candlelight communion service will begin at 5 p.m.

HERNDON COVENANT
The Sunday School program will be presented at 10 a.m. during morning worship services on Sunday, followed by a brunch at 11:30 a.m. A Christmas Eve service is planned

at 11 p.m. Monday.

OBERLIN SACRED HEART IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SELDEN SACRED HEART

Christmas vigil and midnight mass will begin at 5 p.m. at Selden and at 7:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve at Leoville. Christmas Day Mass in Oberlin will begin at 9 a.m. New Year's Eve Mass is scheduled at 5 p.m. at Selden and 7:30 p.m. in Leoville with New Year's Day Mass at 9 a.m. in Oberlin.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC
Christmas Mass is scheduled for 8 a.m. on Christmas Day in Herndon.

UNITED METHODIST NORCATUR, CLAYTON
The Norcaturn Christmas Eve candlelight service will begin at 4 p.m., with the Clayton candlelight service at 6 p.m. on Monday.

Oberlin grad makes Kansas tree ornament

Anita Wolgast of Topeka, a 1957 graduate of Decatur Community High School, honored the town of Greensburg in an ornament she made this year for the Kansas Christmas tree, located near the national Christmas tree in Washington.

Mrs. Wolgast chose a photograph by Cort Anderson, a photographer who spent time in Greensburg after a devastating tornado leveled the community last spring. He is a technology consultant for the Kansas Press Association and assisted

with coverage of the disaster for the local newspaper, *The Kiowa County Signal*, and also provided images to other association member newspapers.

His photo showed the American flag hanging from a shattered tree. A ceremony to unveil the ornament took place in the office of Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius last month. Mrs. Wolgast presented ornaments to Gov. Sebelius, House Minority Leader Dennis McKinney of Greensburg, and the Tom Doherty family, in whose yard the flag was

found and erected. Both the Doherty and McKinney homes were destroyed by the storm.

The back side of the ornament features a Biblical quotation, "Struck down but not destroyed," from II Corinthians 4:9.

Mrs. Wolgast, the former Anita Torluemke, has designed the official Kansas ornament every year since 1981. She is a sister of Gary Torluemke of Oberlin; their parents were the late Walter and Louise Torluemke.

A Card Shower and Open House is planned in honor of (Sam) Francis Farr's 85th Birthday.

The open house will be from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 29th at Sappa Valley Manor, 202 North Elk, Oberlin, KS

Cards may be sent to: Sam Farr, 602 W. Hall Oberlin, KS 67749

Let your presence be your gift.

Customer Appreciation Dinner

Saturday, Dec. 22, 5:30 p.m.
Chili feed — Public Welcome
Dance — Mobile Music from 9 p.m.-1 a.m.
* Donations for scholarship fund appreciated.

Oberlin American Legion

114 S. Rodehaver Ave.
475-3207