

# People in Our Community

Mary Lou Olson, society editor ml.olson@nwkansas.com

Those who enjoyed visiting with Lora Zwickle and Opal Bryan at the Good Samaritan Center on Saturday afternoon were Goldie Anderson, Caldwell, Idaho; her granddaughter, Sabrina Richards, Lenora; Betty Grout, Atwood; and Shirley Shields and Estella Waldo, Oberlin.

Marie Vacura of Pueblo, Colo., has been a houseguest of Laurene Van Otterloo.

— **Valentine Brunch Buffet Sunday, Feb. 10, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. LandMark Inn. Call 475-2340 for reservations.**

Guests for a Saturday evening meal at the home of Dennis and Judy Shirley were Pat and Dennis Barnett, Fort Walton Beach, Fla.; Tom and Leanna Sloan, Hoxie; Joe Schmidt, Ludell; Donald Wasson, Dan, Carol and Nolan Wasson, Selden; P.T. and Cindy Shirley and Shelbi, Norcatur; Doris Sloan, Daisy Schmidt, Cindy Sauder, Chris and Sherri Schmidt, Jim and Laurie Wasson, and Michael, Kelly and Michaela Wasson, Oberlin.

Tom and Maxine Smith returned home Jan. 15 from Atlanta, Ga., where they spent a month visiting their daughter and family, Amy and Tom Loftus and Jennifer.

Jim and Ruth Miesner and Paul have moved to Oberlin from Aurora, Colo. They purchased the home of Jim and Pat Abbey at 302 N. Ingalls. He is a brother of Anna Brown of rural Indianola, Neb., and a 1956 graduate of Decatur Community High School.

— **Last week Winter Clearance Sale 50-75% off tables. Oberlin Mercantile Company.**

Marjorie Law, Lakewood, Colo., and Cindy Wood, Littleton, Colo., visited from Friday to Sunday with Fern Jording.

— **Seafood Buffet Friday, Feb. 8, 6-8 p.m. LandMark Inn. Call 475-2340 for reservations.**

Joy Votapka visited on Sunday and was an overnight guest of Charley and Gina Votapka and family in Ogallala, Neb.

Winning highs in pinocle at Golden Age Center the past week were Veanna Carman, Max Carman, Dorothy Moore, Barb Solko, Elden Haas, Wilma May and Aleen Van Vleet. Lows went to Floyd Edgett, Aleen Van Vleet, Wilma May, Veanna Carman, Doris Fringer,

Henry Edgett, Kelva Dryden, and Dorothy Moore. Pitch highs were won by Henry Edgett and Aleen Van Vleet with lows going to Elden Haas and Floyd Edgett. Winning highs at bridge were Marie McKisson and Merle Shirley.

Audrey Pavlicek underwent back surgery last week at Via Christi-St. Francis Hospital in Wichita. Mail will reach her at the hospital, 929 N. St. Francis, room 5057, Wichita, Kan., 67218.

Elaine Thomas was honored with a birthday luncheon, catered by Jeanette Diederich, last Tuesday at the Good Samaritan Center in honor of her 90th birthday, which will be Saturday. Guests were Roger and Marci Cody, Columbia, Mo.; Gara Lee Sprague and Lu Trosper, Arapahoe, Neb.; Harry and Beverly Eiler, McCook; Reta Hawkins, McDonald; and Barb Castor, Rita Garver, and Jerry and Marcia Lohoefer.

Among area students who received semester honors from Kansas State University for their academic performance during the 2007 fall semester were Kelsey Dorshorst and Lora Marietta, Oberlin; Caitlin James, Lenora; and Lance Basgall and Anikka Martin, Herndon.

# Fort Hays State to honor former Oberlin wrestler

The late Dale Votapka, an Oberlin area farmer widely remembered as a wrestler from his high school and college days, will be honored during intermission of the Fort Hays State University wrestling dual Saturday.



D. Votapka

The dual, with Grand Canyon University, begins at 7 p.m. at Gross Memorial Coliseum.

His wife, Cheryl Votapka, and some of his family plan to attend the presentation. Mr. Votapka died in a two-vehicle accident at the south edge of Oberlin on Nov. 23. Two of his former teammates from his wrestling days at Fort Hays also plan to attend and say a few words at a reception after the match.

Tigers' Coach Cody Bickley also will be honored at the reception as Fort Hays State's winningest wrestling coach.

Mr. Votapka completed one of the finest high school wrestling careers on record. He was a three-time state

champion at 103 pounds, placing third as a freshman. A 1952 graduate of Decatur Community High School, he still holds the record at the school with three state championships.

After high school he entered the U.S. Navy, where he continued to wrestle, making the All-Navy wrestling team in 1956 and 1957. He finished fifth in the 1956 Olympic trials.

Mr. Votapka enrolled at Fort Hays State University after his discharge and was Missouri Valley AAU champion for three years. In

1959, he placed third at the NAIA National Championships.

The following year, he was captain of the Fort Hays State team and finished second in the NAIA National Championships, which led to his being named an NAIA All-American for the second year. He was Fort Hays State's first All-American in wrestling.

He was an active member of the Kansas State High School Activities Association Legion of Referees for 23 years, working at 10 consecutive Kansas State High School Wrestling Championships. He was a member of the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

## Seniors plan Valentine party

John Juenemann will provide entertainment from 11 to 11:25 a.m. next Wednesday for the Golden Age Senior Center's Valentine party.

Meal site director Helen Gee said everyone is encouraged to attend and bring a friend for the lunch, which will include fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetable and dessert. Cost is \$5 per couple.

A foot-care clinic, sponsored by Cottonwood Care, will follow from 12:30 to 3 p.m. To make an appointment, call Decatur Health Systems at (785) 475-2208 and ask for Cottonwood Care.

A blood-pressure clinic is scheduled at the meal site today beginning at 11 a.m.

## Safety workshop offered in Hays

The Small Business Development Center at Fort Hays State University will offer a General Industry Occupational Safety and Health Administration seminar in March.

The seminar will be held in two sessions, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 4, and from 8 a.m. to noon Wednesday, March 5, at the Sternberg Museum of Natural

History. The presentation will be by Ken Bieker from the Kansas Department of Labor.

The seminar will apply to all businesses, addressing everyday regulations that businesses are required to follow. It will include walking and working surfaces, exit routes, emergency action plans, fire prevention and protection, electrical systems, personal protective equipment, haz-

ard communications, introduction to industrial hygiene, ergonomics, fall protection and safety and health programs.

The deadline for early registration, at \$65, is Tuesday, Feb. 26. Late registration will be \$100.

To register, call (785) 628-5615 or email ksbdcc@fhsu.edu.

## Orchestra to perform

The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra will present a concert, "Love is in the Air," at 3:30 p.m. Sunday at Frahm Theater at Colby Community College.

Among performers will be Anne Schalker, flute, and Andrew Vrbas, violin. Director is Bradley Herndon, band director at the college.

Admission is by Friends of the Orchestra membership or available at the door.

## Alumni banquet set for Saturday May 24

The Decatur Community High School Alumni Banquet will be held Saturday, May 24, at The Gateway. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

Officers of the school's Alumni Association are Rhonda May, president; Norbert Zander, vice president; Lee Franklin, secretary; and Tina Meitl, treasurer.

A reservation coupon for the banquet may be found in this week's paper on Page 6B.

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