

# People in Our Community

Mary Lou Olson, society editor  
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Among relatives and friends who attended the recognition and reception honoring the late Dale Votapka at Fort Hays State University on Saturday, besides his wife, Cheryl Votapka, were Beth Sluder, Bethany, Mo.; Pam and Eric Huerter and family, Lawrence; Luanne Rupe and boys and Rick Rowlinson, Hays; Joy Votapka, and Dan and Lisa Votapka, Oberlin; Nancy Ellis, Topeka; and Shelly and Don Gotchall, Great Bend.

Kelly Moore, and Loyd and Fern Moore attended the Pride of the Prairie Orchestra performance, "Love is in the Air," at Frahm Theater in Colby on Sunday afternoon. Their son and grandson, Gabe Moore, a sophomore at Colby Community College, played the trumpet in the orchestra. Bradley Herndon, instrumental instructor at the college, was the director.

Krista Fowler and Kari Williby were named to the honorable mention honor roll at North Central Kansas Technical School for the fall semester. Both are enrolled in the associate degree nursing program. Lucas Bailey of Norcat, who is enrolled in plumbing, heating and air conditioning, was also on the honorable mention honor roll.

Marvin Walker of Lindsborg and his family and other relatives were there last week for graveside services for Thelma Walker at the Jennings Cemetery on Saturday. Mail will reach the family at 214 N. Maple, Lindsborg, Kan., 67467.

—President's Day Brunch,

## Eighth grade girl wins county spelling contest

Megan Wentz, an eighth grader at Decatur Community Junior High, won the Decatur County Spelling Contest last Monday at the Oberlin Elementary School.

The winner qualifies Megan, daughter of Darren and Lois Wentz of Norcat, for the Kansas Spelling Bee at Barton County Community College in Great Bend in March, said Principal Duane Dorshorst, who conducted the contest and read



Megan Wentz

the words to participants. Runner-up was Elizabeth Nedland, daughter of Dan Nedland and Rhonda May of Oberlin, who went down on the word "kernel." She is a seventh grader.

Other participants were Oberlin Elementary students Nick Ashley, son of Robert and Jody Ashley of Oberlin, a sixth grader, and Ganon Henningson, son of Robbie and Jeni Henningson of Norcat, a fifth grader.

tending his graduation were Judy Ploussard, Oberlin; Lawrence and Lila Jennings, Jennings, and Brendan Jennings, Hastings, Neb. He was stationed at Aberdeen Proving Ground at Baltimore, Md., for three months. His parents are Judy and Lee Ploussard of Oberlin, and Lawrence and Lila Jennings of Jennings.



B. Jennings

## Wedding set for April

Leigh Ann Lohofener and Clint Randall Johnson of Wichita plan to marry on Saturday, April 12, at the University Congregational Church in Wichita.

Parents of the couple are Greg and Mary Jo Lohofener, Oberlin, and Linda Johnson, Ottumwa, Iowa, and the late Randall Johnson.

The bride-to-be is a 1999 graduate of Decatur Community High School. She graduated from the University of Kansas in 2003 and 2004 with Bachelor of Arts degrees in psychology and human biology. In July 2006, she graduated from Wichita State University with a Master's Degree in physician assistant studies.

She is a physician assistant in cardiothoracic/vascular surgery at Cedar Surgical in Wichita.

Her fiance, a 2000 graduate of



C. Johnson and L. Lohofener Ottumwa High School, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in health sciences in 2005 from the University of Iowa. He graduated from the University of Iowa Carver School of Medicine in May with a degree in perfusion technology from the department of cardiothoracic surgery. He works for Hospital Clinical Services Group in Wichita as a certified clinical perfusionist.

## Arizona party draws 26

The 18th annual Arizona gathering on Friday included a catered lunch at the Green Valley Community Church Fellowship Hall for 26 present or former Decatur County residents.

Dwayne and Betty Jones put on a program with teams that did a written quiz about Oberlin and Decatur County history.

The planning committee included Dennis and Betty Campbell, the

Joneses, Rex and Billie Morton and Duane and Marilyn Waldo.

Others attending were Don and Marie Aschwege, Perky Barnett, Don and Shirley Carlisle, Avis Davis, Bob and Amy Jane Dodson, George and Clarice Meadows, Harold and Janice Meitl, Max and Marlene Miller, Doris Jean Oliver, Jerry Thomsen and Sam and Kathy Willcoxson.

## Touring group to perform

The Wichita Children's Theater Professional Touring Company will present "Yankee Doodle" at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the St. Francis High School Auditorium, portraying events from the past through drama, music, dance and mime.

School presentations will also be given at 9:30 a.m. Monday at

Quinter and 1:30 p.m. at Brewster, with performances at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday at Winona and 1:30 p.m. at Rexford.

Admission will be by Western Plains Arts Association season tickets or \$5 for adults at the door. It's free for children accompanied by a paying adult.

## Rotary Club hears about tour

Cynthia Haynes gave the program at the Feb. 5 meeting of the Oberlin Rotary Club at The Gateway, talking about her visit to Nicaragua.

She said it is the largest, but most sparsely populated, of the Central American nations. It borders Honduras to the north and Costa Rica to the south. She said that it is the second poorest country in the Americas

next to Haiti.

Nicaragua was settled by the Spanish in 1522 and has been dominated by different political groups and families competing for power for many years. Managua is the capital and also the largest city. Spanish is the official language and the average education is fourth grade.

## Club News

### Club makes donations

By SAMANTHA ANDERSON  
The Stick-To-It 4-H Club met on Sunday in the Sacred Heart Church basement in Oberlin for the monthly meeting. For roll call, we brought second-hand items to donate to the Bargain Box. We had 22 members and three leaders present.

Zach May read some correspondence from State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer and Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, responding to our letter

supporting the Oberlin Runway Expansion Project, and we hope to hear from more Kansas leaders. We practiced for the model meeting we will be doing for 4-H Days.

We will meet at 1:30 p.m. next week at the church to practice again and we will be taping it on Sunday, Feb. 24, at the church.

As Byron would say, "Talk to ya'll later."

### Zeta Nu honors woman

Zeta Nu Club entertained with a birthday party at Cedar Living Center on Thursday. Club members presented a birthday balloon and gift to Berenece McKay, who was the only resident with a February birthday.

A barbershop quartet from the high school music department provided entertainment, after which the club members served rolls and coffee. A short meeting was also held.

# Dinner theater at Gateway Feb. 23

The Allegro Chamber Trio will be featured at the annual dinner theater, sponsored by the Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission on Saturday, Feb. 23, at The Gateway.

A surf and turf dinner will start at 6:30 p.m. with wine and other beverages.

After dinner, the trio will present a rare blend of flute, harp and viola at 7:30 p.m.

Each member also is an outstanding soloist. Megan Meisenbach has studied with world-renowned flutists Jean-Pierre Rampal and James Galway.

Mary Golden has played her harp all over the country and will be playing a full-sized concert Salzedo harp.

Bruce Williams is the principal of the Austin Symphony and former

principal violist with the Haifa Symphony Orchestra. His instrument is a Grancino viola from 1680.

The trio plays a varied program, from Telemann to Debussy, from the 18th century to the 20th. One of the featured works is the "Sonata" by French Impressionist Claude Debussy, which defines this unusual combination of instruments.

Tickets are \$25 per person, \$12 for children under 12. Each season ticket includes one ticket for the dinner theater, two for a two-family ticket.

Dinner reservations must be made by Tuesday by calling Ella Betts, 475-3557, or Mary Henzel, 470-0218. Concert tickets are available for \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.

## Pastors plan weekend at Shepherd's Staff

Teaching teens to own their faith will be the focus of a weekend youth leaders' conference Friday and Saturday, April 18 and 19, at the Shepherd's Staff in Rexford.

Pastor Brant Rice of Celebration Community Church in Hays will facilitate the conference, designed to help parents, youth leaders and pastors "get plugged into teens" and teach them how to "own their Christian faith."

A native of Norton, Mr. Rice is a graduate of Fort Hays State University and Taber College in Hillsboro. In late April, he will graduate from Rockbridge Seminary, Springfield, Mo. He has been youth pastor at the church since 2001, following five years as an elementary teacher in the Hays School District.

"I think it's an essential topic of youth ministry," he said. "If we don't come to a realization that we need to own our faith as adults, how can we expect teens to own their faith?"

Mr. Rice said linking life skills with faith will also be part of the training.

"We need to help teens have balance in their lives," he said.

"We'll look at why teens may not be growing in their faith and lack accountability. We'll also look at how to ignite a student leadership so the teens can grow in their faith."

Assisting him will be Oakley native Kael Bloom, director of ministries at the church. He serves as worship director, as well as band leader and lead singer of the contemporary praise and worship band Ignite. Bloom will serve as praise and worship leader during the weekend.

Starting with a meet-and-greet training session at 7 p.m. Friday, the conference will continue at 9 a.m. Saturday and conclude at 3 p.m. Breakfast, lunch and snacks will be served. Cost of the conference is \$26. Dorm-style lodging is available for \$43, and hotel-like accommodations are \$76.

For details, call (785) 687-2565. A complete schedule of times and a registration form is available online at [www.shepherdstaff.org](http://www.shepherdstaff.org). Deadline is Friday, April 4.

Shepherd's Staff is a nonprofit Christian conference center offering rental facilities, staff and programs that foster Christian growth.

## Senior party set for Thursday

A Valentine's Day party for senior citizens will be held Thursday, not today, as reported in last week's paper.

John Juenemann will sing at 11

a.m., followed by a spaghetti dinner at 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$5 per couple. Reservations are due by noon today by calling meal site director Helen Gee at 475-2389 or 475-3222.

Internet tonight.  
Call 475-2206



25th Wedding Anniversary

Rocky and Teresa Diederich  
Married Feb. 14, 1983

Please join in the celebration at a dance at the Oberlin American Legion Sat., Feb. 16 — 8 p.m. Karaoke & Dancing Public is invited

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From your kids with love-  
Diana, Ruby, Randy,  
Ronda and Mary

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