

People in Our Community

Mary Lou Olson, society editor
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Dr. Grant and Wendy Vollertsen of Garden City, and Haley Vollertsen of Hays will arrive Christmas Eve to spend the holidays with their parents, Kurt and Becky Vollertsen.

James and Kimberly Witt, Ashley and Whitney visited on Sunday with Chris and Keely Wilson, Julie and Harmony and attended the Sunday School Christmas program at the Cornerstone Berean Church in which Julie took part.

Winning highs in pinochle at Golden Age Center the past week were Kelva Dryden, Floyd Edgett, Dorothy Moore, Dewaine Stapp and Doris Fringer. Lows went to Dorothy Moore, Neil Marshall, Barb Solko and Floyd Edgett. Pitch highs were won by Barb Solko and Neil Marshall with lows going to Dewaine Stapp and Elden Haas. Winning highs at bridge were Ila Ray, Judy Shirley, Cynthia Matson and Carol Shirley. Golden Age Center will be closed Christmas Day and Friday and no meals will be served. It will also be closed New Year's Day.

—40% off storewide Friday and Sat. The Dresser

Laurene Van Otterloo attended memorial services in Nevada City, Calif., on Dec. 12 for her brother, Willard Shaw.

Her daughter, Carol Gethins, of Commerce City, Colo., came and took her to the plane in Denver, then she accompanied Larry Van

Otterloo home on Tuesday, after he had visited relatives in Denver.

Christmas Eve guests of Connie Grafel will be Norma Grafel, Herndon, and Greg and Amanda Grafel, Kel and Reece.

Francis Wahrman of Herndon was recently recognized for 10 years of service as an equipment operator senior with the Kansas Department of Transportation. He works at the department's sub area crew in Atwood.

Bayley Bryan, daughter of Floyd and Dale Marie Bryan of Farlington, graduated magna cum laude on Friday from Missouri State University in Springfield, Mo., with a degree in biology.

Among those attending the graduation besides her parents were her brother, Ben Bryan of Kansas City, and his fiancée, Emily Ptacek of Wilson. Bayley is a granddaughter of Elaine Bryan of Oberlin.

Teens for Christ members collected dry and canned goods at their annual "Porch Light Food Drive" Sunday evening. Their sponsor, Doug Mason, said that the group is in need of financial help for a repair bill on its van.

Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas has received a grant of \$70,000 from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation. It will be used to make necessary repairs and remodeling to various locations.

Area churches prepare for Christmas services

By MARY LOU OLSON
The birth of the Christ Child will be celebrated in churches throughout the area with messages, scripture readings, Masses, programs and music. Here is a list of services reported to us, compiled by *The Herald* staff.

LUND COVENANT
A Christmas Eve live nativity scene is planned at 5:30 p.m. at the farm of Brad and Elaine Marcuson, 9 1/2 miles south of Oberlin on U.S. 83.

JENNINGS, DRESDEN UNITED METHODIST
A Christmas Eve candlelight service will begin at 5 p.m. at Jennings and at 6:30 p.m. at the Dresden church.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN
Christmas Eve services will begin at 7 p.m. New Year's Eve services are scheduled for 6 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
A Christmas Eve service is planned at 11 p.m.

OBERLIN SACRED HEART IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SELDEN SACRED HEART
Christmas vigil will begin at 5:30 p.m. at Oberlin and at 8 p.m. on Christmas Eve at Leoville. Christmas Day Mass in Selden will begin at 9 a.m.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC, HERNDON
St. Mary's Christmas Mass will be at 8:30 a.m. on Christmas Day. Kendra Solko, Kearney, Neb., will join the choir in singing several Christmas songs.

NORCATUR, CLAYTON UNITED METHODIST
The Clayton candlelight service will begin at 6 p.m., with the Norcatur Christmas Eve candlelight service to follow at 7 p.m.

Hatters enjoy holiday events

The Haughty Hatters of Northwest Kansas have been busy enjoying the holidays.

They attended the high school musical, "Anything Goes," the Arts and Humanities Country Music Show, "Highway 3850" and the Victorian Christmas Tea at the

LandMark Inn.

Members participating were Fern Moore, Barbara Dehlinger, Eloise Smith, Sherri Shuler, Kay Gaskill, Pat Wright, Karen Bruning, Judy Davis, Ann Mines, Judith LaBash, Carol Morford, Marty Olson, Janet Rarick and Charlotte Meints.



NASA, A WHITE INDIAN DOVE that lives at Puddle Duck Preschool in Colby, fascinates the kids. Jo (Lohoefer) DeYoung, a native of Oberlin, showed Tessa Hill how to handle the fragile bird.

— Herald staff photo by Steve Haynes

Oberlin graduate cares for birds at Colby school

By MARJ BROWN
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You'd have to say that Jo DeYoung just naturally attracts birds.

"People started leaving their birds with me when they were no longer able to care for them," she said.

Mrs. DeYoung, business manager of the Colby School District, said at one time she had four cockatiels and a dove in her office when the school administration was housed in the old hospital building.

However, when the school offices moved to a new building on the site of the old grade school, she said, she was no longer able to keep the birds. She had to find places for them.

One of the cockatiels, Julio, had been given to her after its owner, Kathy Hapke, passed away.

She gave him to Kay Wallin in Brewster, who told her that Julio died on July 14. Mrs. DeYoung says that bird had to be at least 8 or 10 years old.

Mrs. DeYoung said she got another cockatiel from Allen and Rita Wade when she was feeling badly about having to give the birds away.

"That bird was named Fred," she said, "but he died just after he was given to me when he flew into a wall and broke his neck."

"I really felt sad about that, but since I have cats at home, it would have been difficult for me to keep birds in my home anyway."

Mrs. DeYoung gave two of the cockatiels, Petey and Tweety, to

Sacred Heart School for the children there to enjoy.

The dove, Nasa, went to the Puddle Duck Preschool. Mrs. DeYoung says teachers have told her that some children who have difficulty relating to humans find it easier to talk to birds, and that they are one way to get them to open up.

"Nasa, the dove, is one of the smartest birds I have ever seen," Mrs. DeYoung said.

"He seems to be aware of every one and every thing. He can even laugh."

Nasa belonged to Bev Eicher when she ran the Pied Piper Preschool in Colby, Mrs. DeYoung said. Ms. Eicher recalled that she got the dove from Kathy Howard. Eicher said she closed the school in 1998, so she guesses that Nasa has to be over 20 years old.

"I also had a fantail pigeon," she said, "but when he heard I was closing the school, he died, proving that birds have feelings, too."

Mrs. DeYoung, daughter of Mary Lohoefer of Oberlin and the late Wayne Lohoefer, is a 1976 graduate of Decatur Community High School.

She said she goes to the Catholic school and Puddle Duck every day to clean the birds' cages.

"I appreciate them taking the birds," she said, "and I know birds are messy and it is a job to keep them clean, so I just try to do my part to help them out."

Rotary club hears about trip

Dan Nedland spoke about the trip which he and his son, Cameron, took to the nation's capital in August at the Dec. 16 meeting of the Oberlin Rotary Club at The Gateway.

He was introduced by Rhonda May, program chair for the day.

The men drove to Washington and visited many sights, including the Smithsonian Museum, the National History Museum, Aerospace Museum, Jefferson Memorial, Lincoln Memorial and U.S. Supreme Court.

They also visited the gravesites of John F. Kennedy and his wife Jackie, and Robert F. Kennedy, as well as the Korean War Memorial, and heard a debate at the House of Representatives.

The club donated dictionaries to the third-graders at Oberlin Elementary School.

Guests were Ryan McEvoy and Ethan Merrill, junior Rotarians from Decatur Community High, and Janice Shobe, a member of the Atwood club.

Educator recognized as 'Professor of Year'

Dr. Michael Wesch, assistant professor of cultural anthropology at Kansas State University, is one of four 2008 U.S. Professors of the Year recognized by *USA Today*.

His parents, Dr. Jack Wesch, Fairbury, Neb., and Christina (Bryan) Wesch, Topeka, are both graduates of Decatur Community High School. He is a grandson of Nila Wesch of Oberlin and Verna Mae Anderson of Topeka, formerly of Oberlin.

"They all share a desire to enable young minds to 'grow by doing,' instead of just listening to lectures in crowded classrooms and taking multiple-choice tests," said John Linnincott, president of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, which administers the award, in a story by reporter Jessica Durando.

"What sets these professors apart is their unwavering ability to engage their students actively in inquiry in the classroom."

The awards are sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The newspaper said they give students the skills to continue to learn and broaden their outlook even after they leave the classroom. Each professor received \$5,000.

Dr. Wesch presents questions to his students that he himself does not know the answer to, the story said. He has strayed from traditional teaching methods that he says force students to just think about getting A's.

"I think ultimately I'm trying not to just teach a bunch of facts, but inspire the same kind of awakening in my students," Dr. Wesch said.

"I don't have the answer, but collectively we can work together to

solve the problem."

In his anthropology class, the story said, students work together to design a two-hour simulation of the last 500 years of world history

that includes colonization, trade, rebellion and independence. Students record the simulation on video cameras and collectively edit the material into a 20-minute video, which has been posted on YouTube.

One of his former students described Dr. Wesch as a great mentor.

"There is some quality of wisdom there that he holds that has kept me coming back," Kevin Champion, 24, a reference generalist in the library at K-State, said, "I think he has always challenged me to figure out what I want to do with my life."

When he was in his junior year and unsure of what to do after college, Champion said, Dr. Wesch sat down with him for three to four hours to discuss options. Several meetings on his future followed. This dedication left a lasting impression on the young man of what it means to really care about students, the story says.

"He has always been willing to set things aside to listen when I needed it," Champion said. "He is the person I would go to if I was in a sort of crisis outside of my family."

Dr. Wesch graduated summa cum laude from the K-State anthropology program in 1997 and returned as a faculty member in 2004 after receiving a doctorate in anthropology at the University of Virginia.

He is a 1993 graduate of Fairbury High School in Nebraska. He and his wife Sarah have a son, Wilson; they live in Manhattan.



Dr. M. Wesch

Calico Gals enjoy luncheon

The Calico Gals met on Dec. 17 at the LandMark Inn with Donna Kelley and Detta Anderson as hostesses.

Seven members and one guest, Terri Anderson, of Goodland, answered roll call about a memorial Christmas and why it is special.

The club collect and flag salute were repeated. The treasurer's report was given and a thank you was read from Nanette Zander for the money donated by the club for the

orphanage in Haiti.

A lovely lunch was served and five members of the high school band played two Christmas songs and introduced themselves. They gave the club a tray of Christmas cookies. A gift exchange followed and Marylu Brown won the hostess gift.

The next meeting will be at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 21, at the Pizza Hut. A meeting will follow at the home of Mary Waldo.

Pork referendum coming

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service plans to conduct a Request for Referendum through Friday, Jan. 2, among eligible farmers and importers of hogs, pigs, pork and pork products.

This process will determine if farmers want a referendum on the pork promotion, research and consumer information order, commonly known as the Pork Checkoff

Program. Participation is voluntary, and only those who want a referendum on this program should submit a request.

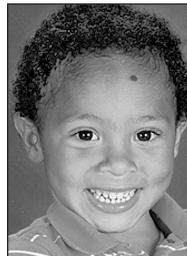
The government will hold a vote only if at least 15 percent of the total eligible pork producers and importers request one.

For details, call (785) 475-3131, or stop by the Farm Service Agency office on South Buffalo.

New Arrival

Moses Henry Atchley

Randy and Leah Atchley of Knoxville, Tenn., adopted Moses Henry Atchley, 4, on Dec. 9, 2008. He was born Dec. 20, 2004. He has three sisters, Chrissy, 24; Emily, 18; and Miriam, 7. Grandparents are Don and Joan Grafel, Herndon, and Paul and Jean Atchley, Knoxville.



M. Atchley

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