

THE OBERLIN HERALD —
**People in
 Our Community**
Mary Lou Olson, society editor
 ml.olson@nwkans.com

Brian Henzel, San Diego, and Richard Henzel, Fort Walton Beach, Fla., and his fiancée, Pam Newby, Gulf Breeze, Fla., spent two weeks with their parents, Stuart and Mary Henzel, during the Christmas holidays.

Bob and Joyce Hartzog, Cheryl and Kyle, and Esther Carlson went to Wichita on Dec. 26 to visit Cliff and Annette Hartzog, McKenzie and Alexis. While there, they helped Bob and Joyce celebrate their 50th anniversary, which was Dec. 28.

Christmas Eve guests of Sid and Cheryl Metcalf were Larry and Karen Thompson, Eileene Grose, Merald, Pam, Ravyn and Alyssa VanVleet, Oberlin; Mark, Kim and Dylan McConville, Indianola, Neb.; Brittany McConville, McCook; and Shannon Metcalf and Becky Emigh, Danbury.

L'Marie Robertson spent Christmas with her daughter and family, Gay and Dennis Taylor and Andrew, in Goodland.

Visiting at the Dole Metcalf home for Christmas were Julie Ranz, Thornton, Colo.; Joe and Lolita Metcalf, Brandon Metcalf, and Marci Metcalf, Manhattan.

Connie Grafel entertained with an 11th birthday party for her grandson, Kade Grafel on Dec. 28. Those attending besides the honored guest were Dan and Melinda Grafel and Isabel, Norma Grafel, Greg and Amanda Grafel, Kel and Reece and Carrie Steinmetz-Otero and Blair of Fairview, Tenn.

New Year's Eve guests of Connie Grafel for a Mexican dinner were Dan and Melinda Grafel, Kade and Isabel. The grandchildren were overnight guests. New Year's Day visitors were Kel and Reece Grafel and additional supper guests were Greg and Amanda Grafel.

John and Connie Simonsson spent from Dec. 27 to Jan. 2 at Estes Park, Colo.

— **Winter Clearance Sale 50-75% off racks. Oberlin Mercantile Company.**

Gwen Gilbert, a 1973 graduate of Decatur Community High School, was hospitalized on Dec. 15 at Community Hospital in McCook.

Blood drive at The Gateway

A blood drive will be held from noon to 6 p.m. Thursday at The Gateway in Oberlin.

The Red Cross in Wichita reported Friday that they are short on blood.

The Wichita blood bank is where blood comes from for patients in the Oberlin area.

The Red Cross says they need 53

She was placed on a respirator and then flown by air ambulance to the hospital in Kearney. Her mother, Vesta Gilbert; her daughter, Kristall Hieter, and grandson, Tyler Sahn, spent two weeks with her. She is still on the respirator. Mail will reach her at Good Samaritan Hospital, P.O. Box 1990, Kearney, Neb., 68848.

Visitors of Martha Fringer on Friday were her granddaughter, Ina Blue and sons, Chad and Jordan of Holcomb. Crystal Gilbert and friend, Hil, of Hays visited her on Saturday.

Ella Betts returned home last Monday after spending the holidays with her daughter, Jody Westby in Washington, D.C. They were joined by her other daughter, Jan, of Palm Desert, Calif.

Roger and Nancy Robinson of Bayard, Neb., were Christmas guests of their daughter and husband, Tiffany and Tyler Witt.

Celebrating the Christmas holiday with Lyle and Leona Hilker were Dean and Rhonda Hilker, Haley and Amber, Kent and Lori Hilker, and Amanda Dame and Natalie, all of McCook.

Winning highs in pinochle at Golden Age Center the past week were Dorothy Moore, Doris Fringer, Kelva Dryden, Henry Edgett and Marie McKisson. Lows went to Floyd Edgett, Willa Urban and Neil Marshall. Pitch highs were won by Henry Edgett and Floyd Edgett with lows going to Neil Marshall and Barb Solko. Winning highs at bridge were Charlotte Meints and Cynthia Matson.

Bob and Kay Gaskill spent the holidays in Lakewood, Colo., with their daughter, Lori, Ray and Max Kreigbaum, and in Winter Park, Colo., with family members for skiing. They also visited friends and relatives in Golden and Evergreen, Colo.

Guests of Lyle and Leona Hilker over the Christmas holidays were Steve and Trina Krause, Gracie and Jacelyn, Syracuse, Utah; and Doug and Karla Wilson, Grant and Grayson, North Little Rock, Ark.

Ivis Hanson spent the holidays with his niece, Linda and Joe Diamond, and family in Pueblo, Colo.

Christian teen group begins

The Oberlin Evangelical Covenant Church is starting a Youth Group, ROCK (Rely On Christ's Kingdom), beginning tonight from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the church, located south of the hospital.

When kids arrive they will have time to just hang out, relax and visit until 7 p.m. when they will have a time of praise and worship followed by a lesson.

Deb Marshall said, "We are hoping to create a positive outlet for the kids during the week as well as

Teens for Christ on weekends. We are in need of a few things, including a pool table or ping pong table.

"We do have an Air Hockey table but are in need of the paddles and puck that go with it."

If anyone has any of these items that they'd like to donate, please call Mrs. Marshall at (785) 693-4344 and leave a message if there's no answer.

"We look forward to lots of kids joining us," she said.

One scholarship to be offered

The board of Farm Credit of Western Kansas will choose one student to receive a \$500-per-year scholarship, renewable for up to four years of post secondary education.

Area high school seniors who are children or grandchildren of Farm

Credit members are eligible. See your high school counselor or contact Cathy Hawk at the Farm Credit office in Colby at (785) 462-2382 to apply, or go to www.farmcreditkans.com.

Applications are due by Thursday, Feb. 26.

**Brazilian student
 visits former host family**

Marilia Correa of San Paulo, Brazil, and her friend, Marcello Kuyumjian, spent two weeks during the holidays with her former host family, Dan and Lisa Votapka.

Miss Correa, as a foreign exchange student, lived with the Votapka family in 2004. She is attending college in Brazil. Her friend, also from San Paulo, is in the master's program at the University of Iowa. On Sunday, she sang a solo at the Oberlin United Methodist Church and her friend accompanied her on the piano.

Tara Votapka of Topeka also spent the holidays with her parents. Joining them for dinner on Dec. 28 at the home of Joy Votapka were Travis Votapka, Oberlin; Charlie, Gina, Dorina and Charles Votapka, Ogalala, Neb.; and Nancy and Nicole Ellis and Don Semple, Chicago.



Marilia Correa and Marcello Kuyumjian

The couple left Monday night for Iowa. Marilia plans to return to Brazil later this month.

Ranch receives bequest

An \$850,000 bequest has been received for Cottonwood Ranch state historical site from the estate of the late Richard A. Mermis Jr., a grandson of Tom Pratt, whose family built the original two-room house that is now the centerpiece for the ranch east of Hoxie.

The gift was presented to the Kansas Historical Society, which operates the home and grounds as Cottonwood Ranch State Historic Site.

Tom Pratt, grandfather of Mr. Mermis and his brother, John Fenton Pratt, emigrated from Yorkshire, England, to Sheridan County, where they established a sheep ranch.

Mr. Mermis, a native of Hays, studied his family's genealogy and

made many trips to England to study his ancestors' records. A graduate of Fort Hays State University, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War.

In 1973, he moved to the Denver area, where he worked for more than 30 years in retail.

He left money for an endowment to support landscaping and other improvements at the ranch.

"His bequest will allow us to make significant improvements to Cottonwood Ranch, preserving it for generations to enjoy and discover the story of the Pratt family," said Jennie Chinn, executive director of the historical society.

The ranch, on U.S. 24 near Studley, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through Saturday.

Club celebrates with supper

By **HALEY SCHIESSLER**
 The Maverick 4-H Club celebrated Christmas on Jan. 4 at the Sunflower Cinema with supper, a meeting and a movie.

Officers were installed by using a cookie recipe theme.

There were 19 members present: Taylor, Madison and Landon Macfee, Haley Schiessler, Rachel Ritter, Chance and Callie Uehlin, Cody,

Kade and Cory Wurm, Sierra and Sage Lohofener, Jamie and Jean Soderlund, Caleb and Luke Koerperich, Kelly Bryan, and Haylee and Kaleb Hillman.

We want to give a special thanks to Bev Reiter and Duane Dorshorst for working at the theater.

The next meeting will be at 5 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 8, at the ambulance barn.

Club plans Rotary Radio Day

The Oberlin Rotary Club met at The Gateway on Dec. 23 and Dec. 30, but there were no programs at either meeting.

Plans were made for Rotary Radio Day to be held on Sunday, March 8. President Jesse Carter said that volunteers are needed to help at the theater. Former Rotarian Col-

leen Rittmann sent some pointers for organizing the high school post prom event.

The president also said there is a vacancy on the club board.

Guests were Ben Bainter and Jessica Stanley on Dec. 23 and Kay Brown and Jordan Coburn on Dec. 30.

Photos show off Flint Hills

A photography show, "The Flint Hills: A Kansas Treasure," will be on display at the Dane G. Hansen Museum in Logan from Friday, Jan. 9, through Sunday, Feb. 1.

The show, from the April 2007 *National Geographic Magazine*, examines the beautiful region through the lens of Kansas native Jim Richardson, a noted photojournalist. The 22-page feature captures a glimpse of the majesty of this unique Kansas prairie. Mr. Richardson took over

11,000 photos for the project. The Flint Hills region extends from near the Nebraska border south into Oklahoma. Explorer Zebulon Pike named them in 1806 for the cobles of flint-like chert that glinted through the tall prairie grass.

Mr. Richardson is a Lindsborg resident and veteran of more than 35 stories for *National Geographic*.

For details, call (785) 689-4846 or go to www.hansennmuseum.org.

New Arrival

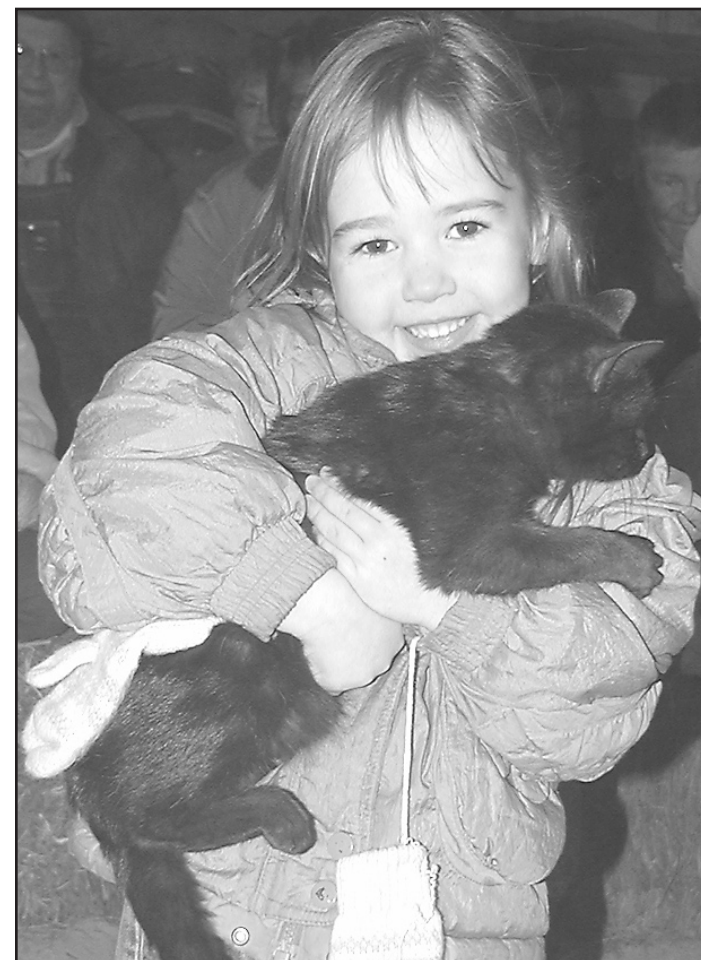
Justice Boyde Farr

Desirée Vilar and Eric Farr of Traer are the parents of a son, Justice Boyde Farr. He was born Jan. 2, 2009, at 2:05 p.m. at the Norton County Hospital and was the first baby born in Norton County this year. He weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. Grandparents are Leslie Nolette, Oberlin; Eddie Vilar, Westbury, N.Y.; Wanda Farr, Jennings; and Jerry Farr, Herndon. Great-grandparents are Sandra Nolette, Little Neck, N.Y., and Gwendolyn Farr, Oberlin.



Justice Farr

A cat warmer



A CAT CAN KEEP YOU WARM, Moraiah Carman discovered last month while attending a Christmas pageant in a barn. The youngster is the daughter of Kendal and Amy Carman of Oberlin.

— Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

**Former senator retires
 from college position**

Sheila Frahm of Colby retired last Wednesday as executive director of the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees. She will be replaced by Linda Fund.

After a career that moved from the Colby School Board to the U.S. Senate, Mrs. Frahm said that public service has always been important to her. She accepted the junior college job in 1997.

During the past 12 years, she worked with 50 community college presidents and 58 trustees who represented their schools on the group's board.

"I've always viewed this as an extension of my public career," said Mrs. Frahm. "The KACCT is an extremely important organization, representing the 19 Kansas community colleges."

"Although it is not a publicly-elected office, my experience in the public sector was helpful as we worked to achieve the group's goals. The KACCT allows the 19 schools to speak as one voice with a consistent message. The 19 colleges work together to formulate goals and work with the Kansas Board of Regents, state and federal agencies and the Legislature to insure excellence in higher education."

She served on the Colby School Board from 1978-89 and was a member of the state Board of Education from 1985-1988. She served in the state Senate from 1989-1995, and was majority leader in 1993. She was lieutenant governor from 1995-1996, also serving as secretary of administration for Gov. Bill Graves.

Governor Graves appointed her

to the U.S. Senate on June 11, 1996, when Bob Dole resigned to concentrate on his campaign for president. She lost an election to retain the seat to Sen. Sam Brownback, who has served 10 years.

Mrs. Frahm said she thinks she is leaving the community college group in good hands.

"I'm very excited about Linda's interest and eager response to the leadership responsibilities she will now assume as the 'go-to person' for the Kansas community colleges when it comes to legislation, regulation and funding," she said.

"Sheila Frahm has been an incredible executive director," said Colby Community College board chair Kenton Krehbiel. "Her knowledge of the (state) Board of Education, the Legislature and the KACCT organization has been invaluable to the 19 community colleges. I wish her well as she begins a new chapter in her life."

Ms. Fund earned a Juris Doctorate degree from the Washburn School of Law and has worked for the state Department of Administration. She has a Master of Education degree in guidance and counseling, and her undergraduate degree is in political science.

She recently served as assistant director of human resources for the University of Kansas.

"My transition into the executive director position has been made much easier by Sheila and executive assistant Gayle Shaw," said Ms. Fund. "I am trying to follow in some big footsteps, and I am both excited and humbled to have the honor of doing so."

20th ANNUAL WICHITA RV SHOW
 Special Show Prices
\$6 ADULTS \$1 CHILDREN
JAN. 7TH - 11TH

Wednesday January 7 4pm-9pm
 Thursday January 8 4pm-9pm
 Friday January 9 12-9pm
 Saturday January 10 10am-9pm
 Sunday January 11 12-6pm

Kansas Coliseum

2 FREE ADMISSIONS WITH THIS AD!

Planning a Wedding?
The Oberlin Herald
 is happy to run pictures and stories of weddings. However, we need the information within five weeks of the marriage. Write-ups received after this date require a \$10 charge for each month past the deadline date.
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NOTICE
 2009 ANNUAL DOG LICENSES ARE NOW DUE.
 There is a penalty in addition to the license fee after March 1st.

Please bring current certificate of rabies vaccination when applying.

City of Oberlin
 #1 Morgan Drive
 Oberlin, Kansas 67749
 785-475-2217