

Gymnast is named top honor student

Alicia Hatcher, a senior at the University of Missouri, has been named to the prestigious Mizzou '39, which recognizes just 30 outstanding seniors from the more than 6,000 students in this year's class.



A. Hatcher

She is the daughter of Ward Wurm of Prairie Village, a 1980 graduate of Decatur Community High School, and Connie Sevran of Kansas City. Allen "Bus" and Carolyn Wurm of Oberlin are her paternal grandparents. Her father is an engineer and is presently working in the country of Qatar.

The Mizzou '39 must be seniors with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher, and are selected for their academic, service and extracurricular achievements. The award was created in 2005 by the MU Alumni Association Student Board and pays tribute to the families that made possible the founding of the university in 1839.

This is the third major academic recognition from the University for her. In 2008, she was named winner of the Varsity M Association's Student Athlete of the Year Award and was tapped into the Mystical Seven honor society.

It is awarded to one male and one female student-athlete with outstanding academic and athletic

accomplishments, along with considerable involvement in community service activities.

Mystical Seven taps seven outstanding men and women on campus for membership based on their good deeds and selfless leadership and service to the campus and community. As a gymnast, she exemplified all areas of the society's criteria.

She was named the Big 12's Event Specialist of the Week after putting up big numbers on the uneven bars and balance beam in the season-opener against Iowa State. She is currently ranked No. 13 in the nation on the balance beam and averages 9.450 on the floor exercise.

She was chosen as an All-Big 12 team selection on bars last year, as well as receiving Academic All-Big 12 first team honors and a spot on the All-Big 12 championship bars team.

"I've had to work really hard in the gym — all that carries over to the classroom if you're proud of what you do," she said. "I came in with the attitude that I'm not satisfied unless my work has the finishing touch on it."

She plans to attend law school after receiving her degree from the University of Missouri.

THE OBERLIN HERALD — People in Our Community

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

Among relatives and friends who attended memorial services for Peggy (Van Pelt) Wurm on Friday at Faith Lutheran Church in Eaton, Colo., were Dennis and Pat Wurm, Randy and Lynda Peters and Jillian, Oberlin; Caleb Peters and Kelsey Gallentine, Traer; Rick and Jill Peters, Justin and Erin, and Travis Peters, Belle Fourche, S.D.; Bobbie Jo and Kenny Bond, Kayla Meisner, Michael Meisner, Mazenie Bond and Dante Bond, Allen Wurm and friend, Nikki, Dallas, Tre and Breanna Wurm, LaSalle, Colo.; Terry Cathcart and Stacy, Farmington, Utah; Gus and Sharon Hickert, Ingalls; Larry and Jeanie Karre, Cozad, Neb.; LaVonne Rucker and family, Atwood; and Kathy Fringer and Debbie, Morrill, Neb. Mrs. Wurm died on Jan. 19.

Gwen Gilbert has returned to McCook after a month's stay in the Good Samaritan Hospital intensive care unit and skilled care in Kearney, Neb. Her mother and sister brought her to Community Hospital in McCook on Jan. 12, where she is under skilled care and therapy. She will continue outpatient therapy until she is strong enough to walk without a walker and remains on oxygen.

Dr. Doug and Sandy Fair are back to work at Fair Chiropractic Clinic after a month of traveling in Texas. They spent time in Dallas, San Antonio and Houston with daughters Jenna and Andrea, and son David and families.

They also spent several weeks camping in the Rio Grande Valley. Ted and Kay Moon, who are camp hosting in Fredricksburg, Texas, joined them for a few days. They all got together with Gary and Mary Ann Erickson who are also winter Texans.

Michelle Hurren of Salina visited over the weekend with her brother, Tim Stallman.

Winning highs in pinochle at Golden Age Center the past week were Kelva Dryden, Dorothy Moore, Barb Solko, Henry Edgett,

Ardis Roe, Doris Fringer and Veanna Carman. Lows went to Willa Urban, Doris Fringer, Floyd Edgett, Neil Marshall, Dorothy Moore and Elden Haas. Pitch highs were won by Floyd Edgett and Dorothy Moore with lows going to Neil Marshall and Phyllis Screen. Winning highs at bridge were Annette Miller and Merle Shirley.

Pride 'n' Joy Detailing on West B. Street in McCook, received extensive damage in a fire last Wednesday evening. The business is owned by Mark and Cathy Carman of McCook, who had opened it 18 months ago. The state fire marshal determined it was started by an electric heater, which was inside a pickup truck parked in a work bay. Mark is the son of Max Carman of Oberlin.

— Come see the Calvary Echoes Southern Gospel Quartet in concert, 7 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 31. First Assembly of God Church, McCook.

Eva Bryan was transferred from Hadley Medical Center in Hays, to the Decatur County Hospital on Monday. She is recuperating from a recent broken hip which she suffered in a fall.

Funeral services were held on Friday, Jan. 16, at O'Brien-Stratman Funeral Home in Kearney, Neb., for Oma Lawver, 82, who died Jan. 11, at Mount Carmel Home in Kearney. She was born March 23, 1926, in Lebanon, Neb., the daughter of Ira and Matilda (Fischer) Williams. The Rev. Roger Wendt officiated and burial was in the Kearney Cemetery. Her husband, Stan Lawver, is a brother of Lee Ora Mockery of Cedar Bluffs. They made their home in McCook and Manhattan before moving to Kearney.

Helen Gee reports that Melba Farr, a former Oberlin resident and neighbor of the Gees, will celebrate her birthday on Saturday. Her husband, Bruce, died recently. She lives at 215 E. Park Lane, room 107, Scott City, Kan., 67871.

Vows set for May 31

Jessica Puyear and Eric Vahling plan to be married on May 31. Parents of the couple are Mr. and Mrs. Dick Vahling of Dresden, and Vince and Betty Puyear of Hutchinson.

The bride-elect graduated from Hutchinson High School and Kansas State University. She is attending graduate school at Wichita State University.

The bridegroom-elect graduated from Jennings High School and Fort Hays State University. He is a computer support coordinator at Hutchinson Community College.



Eric Vahling and Jessica Puyear

Music artist makes CD

Twila Bainter of Hoxie has released her first compact disc, "It's All About Jesus," through Advantage Studio in Hays. The 14 songs, all written by Mrs. Bainter, range in tempos from a slow waltz to fast-paced praise and worship. Peggy Hestor and Wayne Billinger of Hays, and John Braun of Victoria, provide vocals.



T. Bainter

"I was taken in by Twila's music as she played the first piano track in the studio," said Mr. Billinger, owner of the studio. "Her melodies boast a flavor of the old-time gospel style integrated with fresh energetic, yet easy listening, feel. Her lyrics bring the selections home with thought-provoking cohesive messages." Mrs. Bainter said her God-given talent came at the age of 8 as she began taking piano lessons.

"I would just pick out songs and could play by ear," she said.

She began writing music over 30 years ago, but only recently decided to record some of her favorites. She said that her inspiration comes to her during her daily worship time and during the night.

"I often get up at night and go to the piano," she said, noting that sometimes the melodies come first and at other times, the words.

"My hope is to draw the listeners closer to God," she said. The discs are available at Rock Good Book Store, 1012 Main, and Hoxie Office Supply, 820 Main, both in Hoxie, or by calling her at (785) 675-2211 or by e-mail, jimtwila@ruraltel.net.

Club has monthly meeting

By HANNAH MAY
The Stick-To-It 4-H Club held its monthly meeting at the Catholic Church on Jan. 11. Roll call was answered by "Why I am proud to be an American."

Following the business meeting, there were two program numbers presented by Elizabeth Nedland and

Hunter Nedland. Elizabeth told the club how to make chocolate chip oatmeal cookies.

Hunter informed the club about the International 4-H Foreign Youth Exchange.

Our recreation activity was an egg relay led by Kelly Brown and Channing Fortin.

Sweetheart banquet set

A Sweetheart Banquet will be held at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 8, at The Gateway, sponsored by the Oberlin, Lund and Herndon Covenant Churches.

Crossroads, a gospel band from

Hays, will present the program. Reservations need to be made by Sunday, Feb. 1, by calling Chris Koerperich at 475-2545.

Cost is \$15 per plate with a limit of 150 people.

Crop disaster sign-up to end

Sign-up for the 2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program will end Friday, Feb. 27, said Teresa Lasseter, Farm Service Agency administrator for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Farmers must file a completed application, along with all supporting documentation and required forms,

at their county office. Sign-up information and forms are available at each office. Late filed applications will not be approved.

All determinations will be made by March 27.

For details, contact the county office at 475-3131 or visit the website www.fsa.usda.gov.

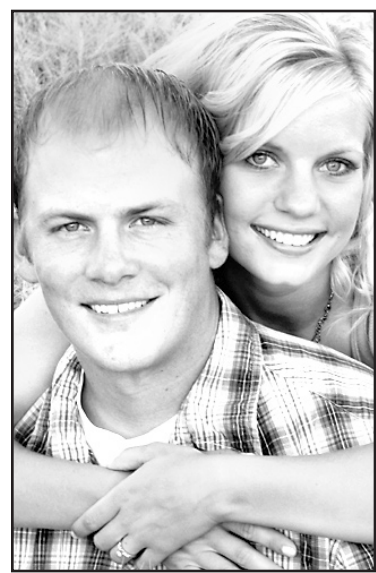
Couple plans May wedding

Kerrie Beth Olson and Nicholas Jon Wahlmeier plan to be married on Saturday, May 2, 2009, at Immaculate Conception Church in Leoville, with a reception to follow at The Gateway civic center in Oberlin.

Parents of the couple are Randy and Sharon Olson of Oberlin, and Jeff and Mary Wahlmeier of Clayton.

Grandparents of the couple are Ruben and Darlene Feikert, St. Francis; Eunice and Glenn Martin, Oberlin, and the late Lowell Olson; and Stan and Ramona Shaw and Agnes Wahlmeier, Jennings, and the late Lawrence Wahlmeier.

The bride-elect is a 2004 graduate of Decatur Community High School and a 2008 graduate of Fort Hays State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in agriculture business. He is currently engaged in farming in the Jennings community.



Nicholas Wahlmeier and Kerrie Olson

grade teacher at Washington Grade School in Ellis.

The prospective bridegroom is a 2004 graduate of Jennings High School and a December 2008 graduate of Fort Hays State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in agriculture business. He is currently engaged in farming in the Jennings community.

Top spellers named

Kaine Fredrickson captured first place in the Oberlin Elementary School Spelling Bee held in the lunchroom on Monday.



Fredrickson



Shields

Caitlyn Shields missed the word "ninetieth," then it was spelled correctly by Kaine, who then spelled "realm" correctly for the win. Both are sixth graders at Oberlin Elementary School. Principal Duane Dorshorst pronounced the words.

The Decatur County Spelling Bee is scheduled at 10 a.m. next Monday at the grade school cafeteria. The winner will qualify for the second annual Great Bend Tribune Sunflower Spelling Bee to be held on Saturday, March 14, at Barton County Community College in Great Bend.

Kindergarten registration set

Parents of children who plan to attend kindergarten at Oberlin Elementary School in 2009-10 should register them at the school office, according to Principal Duane Dorshorst.

Registration will be held from Monday through Friday, Feb. 2 to 6, at the school office.

He said that parental cooperation

will be appreciated by all of the personnel.

Parents who are unable to come to the school office to provide officials with the necessary information may call the office at (785) 475-2122.

A child must be five years of age on or before Aug. 31, 2009, to be eligible for kindergarten during the coming year.

Decatur grad named 'Employee of the Year'

Jonathan Parks, a 1999 graduate of Decatur Community High School, was recently named "Employee of the Year" at Greenshields Industrial Supply, Inc., in Everett, Wash., where he serves as store manager and sales technician.

He is the son of Martina Parks of Colby, and Roger Parks of Webster, Fla.

A story in the company magazine said, "The award was presented to someone who shows exceptional dedication to advancing the general interests of his or her company and is a positive model for others within the organization."

"He serves commercial companies, contractors, and government agencies. He focuses on the needs of his customers and helps them solve sometimes challenging and technically difficult problems so

they can concentrate on their business projects."

"He oversees the activities of four high-level employees; and although he is younger than them, he has gained their respect because of his intelligence, competence, thoroughness, and fairness. He strives to be the best at whatever he is doing."

"He learned much of his sense of duty and attention to detail in the U.S. Navy and as an aerospace worker. He has made the growth of Greenshields his personal goal and has almost tripled his sales in two years and is considered to be a major contributor to the company's success."

He and his wife, Billie have a son, Jonathan Jr., 2 and he also has a step-daughter, Faith, 15. They live in Marysville, Wash.



J. Parks

Oberlin Medical Arts, P.A.

902 West Columbia, Oberlin, KS 67749

ANNOUNCING
Dr. Obed N. Saint-Louis, MD
Family Practice
Laser & Cosmetic Procedures

Dr. Saint-Louis will be joining our practice on Feb. 2, 2009!

Oberlin Hours: 9-12 & 1-5 Monday-Friday
Atwood Hours: 9-4:30 every other Tuesday

Please Call: 785-475-2221
or Toll Free @ 1-800-794-2222
to schedule an appointment!

Call Dave Bergling for
all your advertising needs
475-2206

New Arrival

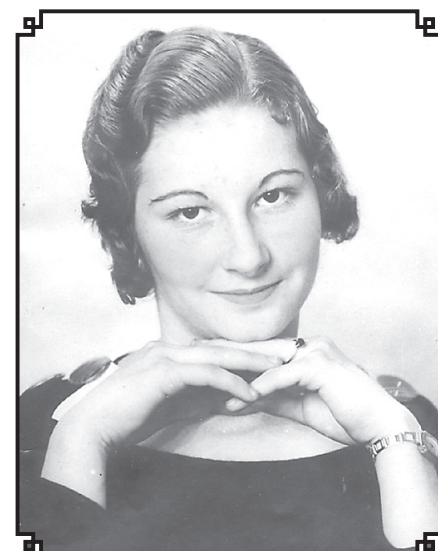
Christian Lee Erickson

Kris and Farah (Wendelin) Erickson of Lindsborg are the parents of a son, Christian Lee Erickson, born at 6:05 p.m. on Jan. 7, 2009, at the Salina Regional Health Center. He weighed 7 pounds and was 19 1/2 inches long. His parents are both graduates of Decatur Community High School. Grandparents are Pat and Elvera Wendelin, Lindsborg; Delbert Erickson, Atwood; and Roxie Erickson, Manhattan. Great-grandparents are Karl Wendelin, Herndon, and Bernice Martin, Oberlin.



C. Erickson

The family of
Louise
Pollnow
wishes to honor her
on her
90th Birthday
on February 2
with a card shower.



Her address is
807 E. Jackson,
Oberlin, K8 67749

Happy Birthday Mom/Grandma

— It has been a heck of a journey
and "it ain't over yet!"

Rita and Norman
Rusty and Sharon
Michelle and Kevin, Gavin and Gannon
Shannon, Brynna and Bryant
Noel and Chad, and Kate