

THE OBERLIN HERALD —

People in Our Community

Mary Lou Olson, society editor

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Visiting during the past week with Fern Jording were Phil and Marjorie Law, Lakewood, Colo.; Cindy Wood, Littleton, Colo.; Lori Lowrance, Westminster, Colo.; and Rae and Michelle Tackett and two grandchildren, Warrenburg, Mo.

Zeta Nu Club members went to Colby on March 12 and had lunch with Florence Vavroch. Those who enjoyed the visit and lunch at Montana Mike's were Charlotte Meints, Joy Votapka, Marian Fraker, Angie Wilson, Kay Marcuson, Mary Hensel, and Eloise Smith.

—New for Spring: Not Your Daughter's Denim Capris at The Dresser.

Sunday dinner guests of Gary and Leola Zodrow to honor their granddaughter, Aubrey Van Otterloo of St. George, on her birthday were her parents, Larry Jr. and Mary Van Otterloo and Taylor; her grandfather, Larry Van Otterloo, Sr., Norcatur; her great-grandmother, Laurene Van Otterloo, Oberlin; and Steve and Lori Zodrow, Amber and Brenda, Norton; and Mory and Deena Zodrow, Ray, Lara and Lukas, and a friend, Sarah, Oberlin.

Scott and Deb Goltl, Molly, Matthew and Nathan of Wichita were guests from Thursday to Sunday of this parents, Lairy and Beth Goltl. Scott performed the ceremony for the Leah Marietta and Travis Carreno wedding on Saturday at St. John's Lutheran Church. He also preached there on Sunday. He serves as pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church in Wichita.

—Legion serving 5:30-8 p.m. Saturdays.

Emma Nichols of Oskaloosa, spent spring break with her grandmother, Dorothy Moore, last week.

Winning highs in pinocle at Golden Age Center the past week were Henry Edgett, Dorothy Moore, Doris Fringer, Barb Solko, Kelva Dryden and Floyd Edgett. Lows went to Floyd Edgett, Barb Solko, Dorothy Moore, Veanna Carman, Neil Marshall, and Ivis Hanson.

Youth group enjoys skiing trip

The Oberlin United Methodist Church youth group enjoyed a trip to Colorado from Wednesday to Friday, skiing and helping out at a couple of shelters.

The members helped prepare and serve meals, cleaned up and organized the storage and supply area on Wednesday at two shelters, the Crossing and the Lawrence Street Shelter. They also delivered an assortment of socks donated by the congregation.

Art workshop set in Logan

Barbara Schaffner of Wheatland, Wyo., who attended West Texas State University, majoring in fine arts and art education, will teach a four-day painting workshop at the Dane G. Hansen Museum in Logan from Wednesday, April 1, through Saturday, April 4, with a one-hour

Pitch highs were won by Barb Solko, Dorothy Moore, Henry Edgett and Floyd Edgett. Winning highs at bridge were Bob Jones and Annette Miller.

—Rototiller and power rake for rent. Stanley Hardware. 12-13.

A surprise 40th birthday, dance and Karaoke party was held at the American Legion on Friday, March 13, honoring Kenny Gee on his birthday. Many of his friends and classmates attended. On Saturday, March 14, his family held a party for him at his home. Others present included Colleen, Justin and Jacob, and Gene and Helen Gee of Oberlin, and his sister, Beverly Keys and her children Robbie, James, Kathrine and Nathan of Topeka.

Bob and Kay Gaskill returned Sunday night from a trip to New York City with the Kansas City Lyric Opera Guild. They attended five operas in four days, hearing Renee Fleming and Natalie Dessay, Juan Diego Florez among others, and also attended South Pacific. They were guests of his brother, John and Marian Gaskill, in Weston, Mo., several evenings.

Brad and Jared Marcuson spent from March 7 to 12 in Washington, D.C., where they attended the presidential lobbying meeting for Kansas Farm Bureau. Brad serves as president of Decatur County Farm Bureau and his son is president of the Barton County Community College Farm Bureau Collegiate Club. They lobbied on behalf of Decatur County Farm Bureau and were able to talk to Senator John Kerry's aide on high speed internet cell phones and rural development. They also toured the Columbia Embassy. Fifty-two counties were represented.

—Rototiller and power rake for rent. Stanley Hardware. 12-13.

During spring break, Colleen, Justin and Jacob Gee spent a few days in Wichita visiting Mrs. Gee's niece who recently moved there from Utah. Kenny Gee was able to meet his family in Wichita for one day on his way back from Dallas.

They stayed at Snow Mountain Ranch, part of the YMCA of the Rockies, while skiing. Making the trip were Derek Chambers, Sam Stapp, Ryan and Shane McEvoy, Nathan Simonsen, Cherish Manning, Wiley Farr, Ashley Horton, Jori Diederich, Mary Olson, Brandi Diederich, Dakota Soderlund, Ashli Samson and Nolan Wasson. Sponsors were Mick and Rhonda Barth and Deanna Castle.

break for lunch. Sponsored by the Hansen Museum Continued Education Program, the class is offered to the public at a reduced rate of \$140 with discounts available for museum members. Intermediate and advanced artists can call (785) 689-4846.

Welcoming the new doctor



DECATUR HEALTH SYSTEMS honored Dr. Obed Saint Louis (above right) with an open house on Sunday, March 15, in the new specialty clinic. Shown visiting with him were (from left) Pam and Dave Wilson and Rick Doeden. Over 100 people attended the reception, along with administrator

Lynn Doeden and the Decatur Health Systems board. "We are pleased that Dr. Saint Louis will be a part of our medical staff," Mrs. Doeden said, "and hope he will be a part of our community for a long time to come."

— Photo by Othelia Vacura

Farmers may be eligible for disaster payments

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, otherwise known as the stimulus bill, allows farmers to be eligible for 2008 disaster assistance under the 2008 Farm Bill — even if they didn't buy required crop insurance — by paying a "buy-in" fee by May 18.

The provision is designed to help farmers who did not buy coverage from the Federal Crop Insurance Corp. or qualify for the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

for 2008.

Diane Barrett, Decatur County executive director for the U.S. Farm Service Agency, said paying fee does not provide the farmer with insurance or other coverage for the 2008 crop; it merely permits him or her to become eligible for crop disaster assistance.

Farmers who have not already become eligible for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program, Emergency Assistance for Live-

stock, honeybees, and farm-raised fish or the tree assistance program, need to complete the following steps by May 18:

- Pay a \$100 buy-in fee for each crop, up to \$300 per county, not to exceed \$900 for multi-county operators.
- Agree to obtain insurance for the next year equal to 70 percent or more of the expected yield at 100 percent of the price for insurable crops.

• For other crops, agree to file paperwork and pay the fee before the state closing date for the next available year.

"Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource" or "Beginning Farmer or Rancher" applicants are not required to pay the buy-in fee.

Call Mrs. Barrett at the county office, 475-3131, for details.

New payments available in conservation program

The U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service is accepting applications for 2009 money from the Environmental Quality Incentives Program through April 10.

Money is available for traditional practices as well as some new management practices.

Payments are now available for conversion from a minimum-till cropping system to a full no-till system. The 2009 payment rate will be \$13 per acre each year for three years to implement a no-till system.

Another change is to the "Quick

Response Areas" eligible for increased payments for temporarily suspending irrigation. Payments of \$150 per acre per year for three years are available along Beaver Creek and parts of Prairie Dog Creek. Payments for the rest of the county are \$90 per acre per year. The

fields can still be used for dryland crops.

For information or to make application, contact the office at 410 S. Buffalo in Oberlin, (785) 475-3131, extension 3. Preliminary information is available at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs.

COOL — What do the labels mean?

On March 16, 2009, Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) becomes a final rule. Consumers have already seen labels on food indicating the country of origin. But do they understand COOL?

Commodities that must be labeled under this rule include:

- Muscle cuts of beef, pork, lamb, goat, and chicken.
- Ground beef, pork, lamb, goat, and chicken.
- Wild and farm-raised fish and shellfish.
- Perishable agricultural commodities (PAC) which include fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables.
- Peanuts, pecans, and macadamia nuts.
- Ginseng

Labeling options include the use of placards, stickers, twist ties, signs, bands, and pin tags. It must be legible and obvious to the buyer.

For muscle cuts of meats, there are four labeling scenarios. They include:

1. Product of the U.S. — meat

is from animals born, raised, and slaughtered in the U.S. or from animals present in the U.S. on or before July 15, 2008.

2. Product of the U.S., Country X — meat from animals born in Country X then raised and slaughtered in the U.S.

3. Product of Country X, U.S. — meat from animals imported into the U.S. for immediate slaughter.

4. Product of Country X — foreign meat imported into the U.S.

All ground meat products will list all countries that may be in that package.

For PAC, nuts, and ginseng, the label will state where the product was grown and harvested. This may indicate state, region, and locality.

Fish and shellfish also have four labeling scenarios. They include:

1. Product of the U.S. — farm raised fish and shellfish hatched,

Home Time



By Tranda Watts

Area Extension Agent

raised, harvested and processed in the U.S. Wild fish and shellfish are harvested from U.S. water

2. Product of Country X — imported fish and shellfish not processed in the U.S.

3. Product of Country X, Processed in the U.S. — imported product and processed in the U.S.

4. Fish and shellfish commodities must state if wild or farm-raised.

Food service establishments and processed foods are excluded from COOL requirements.

If you have further questions regarding the new food labeling, contact your local K-State Research and Extension Office or e-mail twatts@ksu.edu.

Tranda Watts is Kansas State University extension specialist in food, nutrition, health and safety for Decatur, Gove, Norton, Sheridan, and Trego counties. Call her at 785-443-3663 or e-mail twatts@ksu.edu. For more information, contact the county extension office, 475-8121.



THE OBERLIN HERALD
and the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce welcome Aqua Shield Roofing & Construction to the business community

The Chamber Board welcomed during the ceremony was Michael Perry. Aqua Shield is located at 202 W. Commercial.

» A caring team of cancer professionals...
within reach.

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When Mardell Larson of Funk learned she had cancer, she had a lot of decisions to make. "I never thought of going anywhere but Good Samaritan Hospital," she said. Now a six-year cancer survivor, Mardell says she made the right choice. "I trusted Good Samaritan with my life...and they didn't let me down." Good Samaritan Hospital's oncology team uses the most advanced technology and treatments available anywhere including clinical trials. It's good to know one of the most comprehensive cancer centers you can find is...within reach.

† CATHOLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES
Good Samaritan Hospital
Kearney, Nebraska www.gshs.org
The medical center, centered on you.
Call 800-277-4306 or 308-865-7985 for more information.
Free colorectal cancer screening kit: Colorectal cancer is curable with early detection. For your free screening kit, please call 308-865-7884 or 800-658-5169 weekdays March 23-April 3, 8 am - 5 pm.