

People in Our Community

Mary Lou Olson, society editor
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Gerald and Lucille Kolsky had weekend visitors for an early Christmas, their son, Evan and Mary Kolsky and Brenden of Clay Center. They enjoyed dinner at the Pizza Hut and lunch at the Frontier Cafe, as well as a movie and some of Lucille's wonderful goodies.

12:15 p.m. at the Golden Age Center with ham and potatoes provided.

—Cookie party, Sat., Dec. 19, 10-2, Golden Age Center, \$6 a pound, 30 cents each; gift boxes and sacks furnished; free coffee. United Methodist Women.

Roger Carlisle, Equipment Operator Senior, was recently recognized for 30 years of service with the Kansas Department of Transportation. He works on the Oberlin Sub-Area Crew.

Tim and Kim Davis and their foster daughters, Angela and Sierra, visited her parents, Marty and Nancy Brandt, in Colorado Springs over the weekend. While there, Tim took his daughter, Breanna, out for lunch and shopping for her upcoming 16th birthday

Winning highs in pinochle at the Golden Age Center this week were Max Carman, Henry Edgett, Elden Haas, Kelva Dryden, Veanna Carman and Dorothy Moore. Taking lows were Elden Haas, Veanna Carman, Kelva Dryden, Neil Marshall, Ardis Roe and Dewaine Stapp. Bridge winners were Cynthia Matson and Annette Miller. There will be a Christmas potluck Sunday at

The Rev. Doug and Sara Hasty returned home recently from Darlington, Ind., where they spent Thanksgiving with their daughter, Rebekah and Ben Hitzfeld. Joining them was their other daughter, Melissa Hasty, who is a sophomore at Baker University.

Woman earns master's degree

Jodi Votapka White received a Master of Science degree in speech and language pathology from Wichita State University on Dec. 13.



Jodi White

She has accepted a job with Early Childhood Education as a speech-language pathologist in Haysville.

Benton Elementary School near Wichita for eight years. She then became director of Parents as Teachers in Mulvane, a job she held while pursuing her master's degree.

The daughter of Jackie Votapka of Oberlin and the late Neil Votapka, she lives in Wichita with her husband Brett, principal of the Andover Middle School.

Mrs. White earned a Bachelor of Arts in elementary education from Fort Hays State University in 1991 and taught second grade at the

They have two children, Braden, 13, and Briley, 9.

Club hears geology program

Dan Nedland presented a program on geology formations in Decatur County and northwest Kansas at the Dec. 8 meeting of the Oberlin Rotary Club at The Gateway. He was introduced by Kurt Vollertsen, program chair.

from the glacial paths. The paths of the glaciers during that time resulted in the different soil types as well as the fertile soils that Kansas farmers toil today. He said that the northwest area is a geological treasure and is loaded with lots of historical geological facts and results due to the glaciers. The ice age that occurred 1.8 million years ago was responsible for our terrain today.

She said that many of the rock formations, as well as the paths of the rivers, were determined by glaciers that were present in this area 10 million years ago. Many have noticed the amazing vertical dirt walls, the road cuts, the dirt silos and the pioneer dugouts which resulted

The Rotary Christmas tree at the museum was decorated by Past Rotary President Jesse Carter and his daughters.

Service delivers library books

The Kansas Library Express recently began courier services among more than 200 libraries of all sizes in Kansas, including the Oberlin City Library.

"During the first month, there were 32,000 items sent, an average of 215 per library, based on reports from 150 libraries," said Carolyn Little, courier services coordinator.

Earlier this year, libraries across the state collaborated on the development of a new interlibrary courier delivery service.

"In Kansas, the average cost of delivery per item by courier for July was about \$1. Use of the postal system would cost about \$2 per item, representing a 50 percent savings," said Jim Menges, director of the Kansas Library System.

No-till conference planned

The 22nd High Plains No-Till Conference will be Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 2 and 3, at the Community Center in Burlington, Colo.

resources. The association is a collaboration of experienced farmers working with industry and university experts whose goal is to spread research and on-farm information with others.

Each year, farmers, agribusiness professionals and educators from the High Plains Region come together to learn new techniques and the latest technology about products, equipment and research for no-till and minimum-till farming practices, and discuss current issues. Farmers can choose from more than 50 breakout sessions during the two-day conference.

Through this association, in cooperation with the National Sunflower Association, farmers have been able to utilize new technologies and techniques to enhance their overall economic position. Traditionally, a wheat summer fallow area of the Great Plains, the High Plains Region has seen dramatic change in climate, water availability, alternative fuel use, alternative crops and cropping methods — all issues addressed, in part, by the conference.

Murray Wise, chief executive officer of the Westchester Group, a global agriculture asset management company, will give the keynote speech. The conference also includes a trade show with 50 vendor and equipment displays.

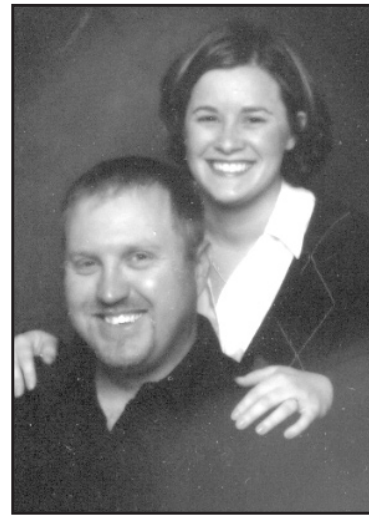
Registration is \$100 now or \$130 at the door, and \$70 for a spouse. This includes both days, all breakout sessions, morning continental breakfast, break refreshments and lunch both days. Early registration deadline is Tuesday, Jan. 26.

Those registering before Jan. 10 will be eligible for a drawing for a free registration for the 2011 conference. Registration forms are available at www.HighPlainsNo-Till.com.

The Colorado Conservation Tillage Association was founded in 1988 to serve the needs of farmers searching for ways to diversify their farms and better utilize their

Watch your unwanted items disappear in the Classifieds!
475-2206

Couple plans vows in January



Michael Vahling and Kandi Handran

Kandi Lynn Handran and Michael Thomas Vahling plan to be married on Saturday, Jan. 2, 2010, in Westminster, Colo.

The bride-to-be is from Laramie, Wyo., and is employed with Wells Fargo Bank in McCook.

Her fiancé, a lifelong resident of Oberlin, is a farmer.

The couple will make their home on a farm outside of Oberlin.

Area churches plan Christmas services

By MARY LOU OLSON
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The birth of the Christ Child will be celebrated in churches throughout the area in message, Masses, programs and music. Here is a list of services, compiled by *The Herald* staff:

LUND COVENANT
A "singspiration," along with music and a skit by Pastor Doug Mason and Noah Hanson, who is with Teens for Christ at Norton, will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday. A candlelight service will begin at 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

OBERLIN COVENANT
A candlelight Christmas Eve service will begin at 7 p.m. with lessons and carols. It will revolve around the reading of the Biblical story of Jesus' birth interspersed with familiar music.

JENNINGS, DRESDEN UNITED METHODIST
A Christmas candlelight and caroling service is planned at 4 p.m. Sunday at Jennings. The Christmas Eve service will be at 6 p.m. at the Dresden church.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN
Christmas Eve services will begin at 5:30 p.m.

FAITH LUTHERAN
Children will participate during morning worship services at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday. A potluck brunch will follow. A Christmas Eve candlelight service with communion begins at 7:30 p.m.

OBERLIN UNITED METHODIST

Group holds Christmas dinner

Forty members and guests of Royal Neighbors of America held a Christmas dinner at noon on Dec. 5 at the new Golden Age Center. A smothered steak dinner was served, catered by Joyce Carlton.

A sing-along was led by Mary Ann Amack. Door prizes were

PRAIRIE CHAPEL
A children's program will be presented during morning services at 10:45 a.m. at the Oberlin United Methodist Church. Prairie Chapel will have a program 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve candlelight and communion services will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Prairie Chapel and at 8 p.m. at the Oberlin church.

OBERLIN UNITED CHURCH
A Christmas Eve candlelight communion service will begin at 5 p.m.

UNITED METHODIST NORCATUR, CLAYTON
The United Methodist youth will meet at 3:30 p.m. at the Norcatour church and go caroling. A Christmas Eve candlelight service will begin at 4 p.m. in Norcatour, with the a candlelight service in Clayton at 6:30 p.m. on Monday.

HERNDON COVENANT
A Sunday School program will be presented at 7 p.m. Sunday, followed by treats. A Christmas Eve candlelight service is planned for 11 p.m.

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

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC
Christmas Mass is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 24, in Herndon.

K-State graduates named

Several area students were among the 1,250 who graduated on Friday and Saturday during winter commencement ceremonies at Kansas State University campuses in Manhattan and Salina.

- Anthony Marshall, son of Troy and Deb Marshall, Norcatour, Bachelor of Fine Arts.
- Emily Timm, Ludell, daughter of Cheryl Timm, Bachelor of Science in business administration.

They include:
• Nickie Rhodes, Jennings, daughter of Jeff and Sheila Rhodes, Bachelor of Science.

The children of John and Helen Karls
will honor them with a card shower and open house from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, December 20, at Selden Community Building in observance of their 40th wedding anniversary. Please stop in for a visit. No gifts, please. Your presence is your gift.

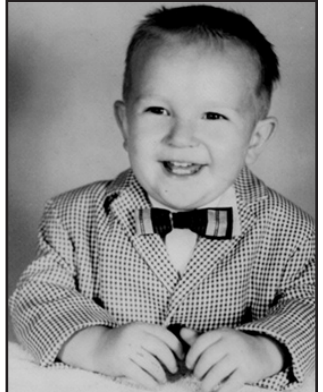
Mail will reach them at:
P.O. Box 138
Selden, KS 67757

Great News, Curtis Walston Turns 50

50th Birthday

Didn't think he would make it!
Dance at the American Legion, Saturday, December 19.

Love, the family



Club News

Singers present program

Monday Evening Club members met Dec. 8 in the parlor of the Decatur County Museum and enjoyed entertainment by the DCHS Singers.

which will be observed in the year 2010.

Selections from their Christmas repertoire included traditional songs as well as contemporary numbers with choreography. Director Susan Nelson invited everyone to attend the annual high school Christmas music program at 7:30 p.m. on Monday Dec. 21.

Monetary gifts were collected for the House of Hope in Haiti. Plans were made to operate the new theater complex during February.

Members toured the display of decorated Christmas trees with Sharleen Wurm, director, as guide. Many trees are decorated in keeping with the 125th anniversary of the City of Oberlin

The Jan. 11 meeting will be at the home of Susan May with Carol Morford and Karen Thompson as co-hostesses. The program, "Oberlin in a New Decade," will be presented by Austin Gilley, city administrator.

Refreshments were served from a decorated tea table centered by a two-tiered holiday cake. Hostesses were Sharon Addleman, Kay Gaskill and Karol Styles.

Group hangs greenery

By CALLIE UEHLIN
Maverick 4-H club held its monthly meeting on Nov 15 at the gazebo after the members helped hang greenery on Main Street.

For new business, the members decided to have a Christmas bowling party. Details will be sent out at a later date. The club decided that each member should bring a food item for the food pantry and stocking stuffers for Iraq to the next meeting. Members also voted to have the club continue to volunteer at the theater on the second Saturday of each month.

Each member stated what they want for Christmas to answer roll call. Members present were Haley and Caleb Hileman, Taylor Macfee, Rachel Ritter, Haley Schiessler, Jamie and Jean Soderlund, Cody, Cory, and Cade Wurm, and Chance and Callie Uehlin.

It was decided to have a fundraiser for the club, so members are selling pastry puffs and butter braids. Orders need to be turned in at the Dec. 13 meeting.

Under old business, the club discussed finding a meeting place to hold the monthly meetings. It was decided to call the Chamber

Club enjoys luncheon

Zeta Nu Club met Thursday for lunch at the LandMark Inn with 12 members present.

trumpet selections.

Guests were Pastors Chris and Sharon Nelson. Mr. Nelson entertained the group with several

Mary Waldo will be hostess for the Jan. 14 meeting. The club will also entertain at Cedar Living Center in January.

Application cutoff date set for environmental programs

The next application cutoff date for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program under the 2008 Farm Bill, known as EQIP and WHIP, will be Jan. 15, the U.S. Department of Agriculture says.

• Plant Condition — noxious or invasive plants; productivity, health, vigor.

Eric B. Banks, state conservationist for the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service in Salina, said applications may be submitted anytime, but only those submitted by the cutoff date will be gathered for ranking in the next round.

• Soil Condition — organic matter depletion.

Landowners and/or operators with crop, range or forest land which might be eligible for these programs should apply at their county office and work with the staff there on a conservation plan, Mr. Banks said.

• Soil Erosion — streambank.

Priority concerns for Kansas for the environmental program include:

• Water Quality — excessive nutrients/organics in ground or surface water, sediment and turbidity in surface water, harmful levels of pesticides in either.

- Air Quality — objectionable odors.
- Domestic Animals — inadequate stock water.
- Fish and Wildlife — threatened and endangered species, declining species and species of concern.

• Water Quantity — aquifer overdraft, inefficient water use on irrigated or nonirrigated land and insufficient flows in water courses.

Kansas wildlife priorities:
• Threatened and endangered species and species in need of conservation.

• Grassland birds.

• Natural communities.

"These programs are available to help address the unique circumstances and concerns of socially disadvantaged, limited resource, and beginning farmers and ranchers," said Mr. Banks. "In Kansas, (they) will receive a higher payment rate... for structural and vegetative practices."

SOUP SUPPER

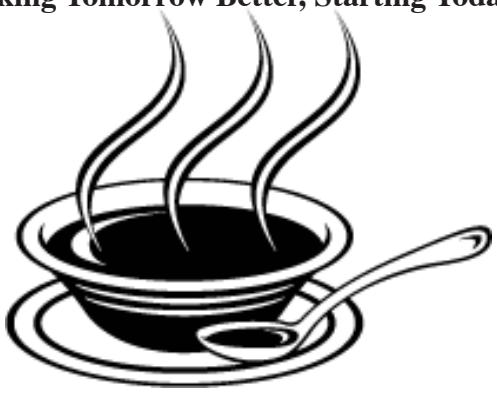
Friday, December 18, 5:30 p.m.
DCHS Cafeteria

Enjoy homemade soups — turkey noodle and chili!

And a variety of delicious homemade desserts.

Free will donation — All donations go for scholarships

Join us in helping the students of USD 294!
Decatur Community Educational Foundation:
Making Tomorrow Better, Starting Today.



Decatur Community Educational Foundation is an affiliate of the Greater Salina Community Foundation