

THE OBERLIN HERALD —
People in
Our Community
Mary Lou Olson, society editor
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Leigh Davis, a teacher at Decatur Community High School, is hospitalized in Wichita. She would enjoy mail while undergoing treatment. Mail will reach her at Via Christi Regional Medical Center, Seventh Floor, Room 19, 929 N. Emporia, Wichita, Kan., 67214.

Christmas guests of Buzz and Cynthia Matson were Andy and Sandy Matson of White Hall, Ark. New Year's weekend guests were Buck and Nelda Matson, Broken Arrow, Okla., and Jane Broadwater, Chatfield, Minn.

Christmas guests of Bob and Joyce Hartzog and Kyle on Tuesday, Dec. 21, were Clifton and Annette Hartzog, McKenzie and Alexis, Wichita; Cheryl Hartzog, Atwood; and Esther Carlson, Marjorie Olson and Dorothy Jackson. The same group, with the exception of the Clifton Hartzog family, were Christmas Eve guests at the Hartzog home. Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Carlson were Christmas Day dinner guests of Mrs. Olson.

Tim and Kimberly Davis and girls spent the holidays in Brighton, Colo., with his parents, Tim and Brenda Davis, and family and also visited her parents, Marty and Nancy Brandt in Colorado Springs.

Christmas Day dinner guests of Bob and Joyce Hartzog, Cheryl and Kyle were Daryl and Marge Hartzog, Stann Hartzog, Becky Carter, and Martin and Darlene LaRue, Jennings; Scott and Tracy Hartzog, Norcatour; Steve Hartzog, Dallas, Texas; Stacey and Joselyn Hartzog and Allison, Olathe; and Troy and Anne LaRue and Jared, Fulton, Mo.

Serena Stacy was dismissed from Swedish Hospital in Englewood, Colo., and is recuperating from numerous broken bones which she suffered in a vehicle accident. Her mother, Lisa Paulson, is with her and she said she is undergoing therapy and will also be consulting several specialists before she can return to Oberlin. Mail will reach them c/o Loretta Smits, 347 S. Sedalia St., Foxfield, Colo., 80016.

Mr. and Mrs. Fernando Pena, Ian and Ella, Wichita, were Christmas weekend guests G.H. and Elsie Wolters. On Saturday, they were all dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Tim Wolters and family at Ludell.

Christmas Day dinner guests of Marvin and Sharon Slabaugh were Brad and Michelle Simonsson, Braylon, Colton and Taylor, Brent Simonsson and Stephanie Gaskill, Wamego; Brian and Pam Simonsson, Breck and Nathan, Oberlin; Brian and Krista Gutchewsky and Gavin, Kearney, Neb.; Jeanne Britton and Keri, Denver; and Opal Bryan, Carla Britton and Chad Salem, Oberlin. In the afternoon, the family hosted a birthday party to honor Mrs. Bryan on her 90th birthday at the Good Samaritan Center.

Enid Anderson and her granddaughter, Abby Anderson of Menoken, N.D., spent from Wednesday to Sunday during Christmas with Clinton and Avonne Anderson and Alycin, and Amara and Parker Anderson in Salina.

Holiday guests of Mildred Homdahl were her daughters, Jeani Hengst, Mechanicsburg, Pa.; Janet Vermillion, El Dorado, and Janeil Jensen, Oberlin.

Tom Railsback of Great Falls, Mont., came Dec. 23 to spend the holidays with his mother, Ethel Railsback. They were Christmas Eve guests of Jeff and Penny Hayward, Alex and Logan. Jeff Hayward and the boys had Christmas Day dinner with Mrs. Railsback and Tom. Tom left Monday for his home and planned to visit his sister, Marian Railsback, in Fort Collins, Colo., en route home.

Family enjoying Christmas Day with Juanita Williby were: Rita and Troy Erdman and Brenna, McCook; Patty and John Guy, Sarah Cathcart and Adam Konruff, Kearney, Neb.; Sharon and Rick Gamblin, Columbus, Neb.; Laurie and Todd Vaughn, Brighton, Colo.; Jason and Jess Williby, Shawnee; Danielle and Michael Schiltz, Londyn and Kash, Heith Sauvge, Bodie, Colton and Bella, Selden; Jenny and Matt Kasson, Mike, Raye and Drin, Norcatour; Cammi and Brett Dickinson, Taeger and Trevon, Hays; Megan Vaughn, Denver; Hannah Vaughn, Greeley, Colo.; Shirley Ward, Doug and Shayla Williby, Justin Williby, Josh and Kari Williby and Gage, Paul and Lacy Tally and Mason, Jebb Tally and Lacey Ream, and Theresa and Gerry Tally, Oberlin.

Rod Steinmetz of Two Buttes, Colo. is hospitalized. Mail will reach him at Swedish Medical Center, 501 Hampton Ave., Englewood, Colo., 80110.

Janice Kurth of Imperial, Neb., visited over the weekend with Doris Fringer. They and Ina Marie Goodnight were Sunday afternoon visitors of Dick and Linda Weber.

Mike Dempewolf and son, Andrew, visited from Dec. 24 to Dec. 29 in St. Mary's, Ga., with their son and brother, Chief Petty Officer James Dempewolf. He is an electronic technician currently based with the nuclear submarine, "U.S.G.N. The Florida." He will be transferred in March to Italy for a three-year period and his wife, Virginia, and sons Justin, Jonathan and Jackson, will join him there. He entered the U.S. Navy in 1999 after graduating from Decatur Community High School.

Winning highs in pinocle at the Golden Age Center last week were Doris Fringer, Max Carman, Dewaine Stapp and Veanna Carman. Lows went to Henry Edgett, John Cederberg, Kelva Dryden and Ardis Roe. Pitch highs were won by Dewaine Stapp and Kelva Dryden with lows going to John Cederberg and Dorothy Moore. Bridge winners were Shirley Simpson, Annette Miller and Charlotte Meints.

Elaine Bryan spent from Dec. 23 to Dec. 27 in Plainville with Kevin and Sue Renk. Others present were Sue Renk, Topeka; Matt Renk, Kansas City, and Casey and Allison Jones, Aiden and Aston, Plainville.

Rotarians hear alley update

Greg Lohofener of the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp. reported on what is happening with the new bowling alley for the program at the Dec. 28 meeting of the Oberlin Rotary Club at The Gateway. He said that the interior is in, including the ceiling tiles, sprinkler system, soundproofing and lockers, along with the lounge and the booths. The lanes and equipment have been ordered but will not be shipped until an engineer certifies the structure holding the television monitors for strength. Electrical and the plumbing are almost completed and the beer license has been received. A lane-cleaning

machine has been ordered. Mr. Lohofener added that he has talked with Dale's Fish 'N' Fun, along with another supplier, for bids on bowling shoes. There have been five applicants for the manager position and people from Brunswick Bowling Equipment will train the operators. He said he hopes that there can be a short bowling season, possibly for February, March and April. Many volunteers have helped with various projects during the work nights. Members thanked Mr. Lohofener for his work, time and effort on this outstanding community project, as well as the continuous updates.

Blood drive set for Jan. 12

The Decatur County Hospital will sponsor an American Red Cross blood drive next Wednesday. The drive will be held at The

Gateway from noon to 6 p.m. Walk-ins will be welcomed or people can make an appointment to donate at (800) 733-2767.



Cale and Elly Claussen Couple exchange vows in double-ring ceremony

Elly Marie Willis and Cale Cameron Claussen were married in a double-ring ceremony at the Danforth Chapel on the University of Kansas campus on Friday evening, Nov. 19, 2010 with Carmen Hocking receiving their vows. The bride is the daughter of Edie Willis, and Jerry W. and Kathy Willis, all of Lawrence. The bridegroom is the son of Cathy Claussen, Oberlin, and the late Chuck Claussen. Grandparents of the bride are Jerry A. and Charlotte Willis, Afton, Okla., and Bud and Marcella Madl, Baldwin City. Grandparents of the bridegroom are Beth Johnson, Norcatour; Lee and Barbara Molzahn, Crawfordville, Fla.; and the late Don and Genola Claussen and Charles Johnson. Matron of Honor was Casey Carlsten, cousin of the bride. Angie Claussen, sister-in-law of the bridegroom, was the bridesmaid. Chris Claussen, brother of the bridegroom, served as the best man with Garrett McDougal as groomsman. Elaine Frink, daughter of the

bride, was the flower girl. Annika Claussen, niece of the bridegroom, carried the ring pillow. Ushers were Mark Davis and Brett Davis. Sebastian Alfie, guitarist, accompanied vocalist Kim Murphee to "Annie's Song," and "Have I Told You Lately That I Love You." Laura Carbrey attended the guest book. A reception, dinner and dance were held at The Depot. Music was provided by DJ Mike Clark. The bride is a 2003 graduate of Lawrence High School. She majored in marketing at the University of Kansas and Kansas State University. She is a sales representative at Dale Willey Automotive. The bridegroom graduated in 1998 from Decatur Community High School. He earned an associate's degree in automotive and diesel technology in 1999 from Wyoming Technical Institute. He works at the dealership also. They are living in Lawrence.

Former Oberlin resident writes about daughters

The following was written by Sam van Almen, formerly of Oberlin, as a tribute to his daughters. The son of Lotus van Almen and the late Paul van Almen, a former lab technician at Decatur County Hospital, he is a Vietnam-era disabled veteran. Two sisters, hugging and grinning for the camera. Two young women, so different yet so alike ... so much like their mother and so much like me. Their beauty and potential overwhelm me. I am baffled that I could have had contributed anything to their grace and stature. Tears sneak into the corners of my eyes and blur the image of the black-and-white print. I drift back and remember the day the photo was taken. The cloudy sky, the wind in the branches, and the smell of the riverbank. My girls; running, laughing and acting like the kids they once were, and will always be. If I close my eyes and concentrate, I can still see them as children: Dear-hearted and dirty faced, clamoring for my attention, so quick with a kiss and a hug, so eager to make me laugh or smile.

How I hoped then to never hurt or disappoint them; they made a hero of an oh so common a man. As time rolled on, this hero's facade began to crack; the frail, human face of someone who was only a man began to show through. When the youngest of my daughters became an adult, the mask completely fell away. Still, they loved me. I believe they had to love me even more, accepting my failures and transgressions. I had to depend on them as much as they ever depended on me. The babies I helped to deliver came to deliver me. Without shame or pretense, I now ask for their advice and help, and somehow, together we make it through. They are heroes to me. Heroes are truly made, not born. We make them for ourselves, in our own minds and hearts. They are far from perfect and are allowed to fail. Their heroism revels itself in sacrifice, forgiveness and love in spite of disappointment and pain. The kind of love sisters have for each other, and thank God, the kind of love they have for me.

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Club News

Club enjoys bowling

By ALEXIS HISSONG

On Dec. 12, the Stick-To-It4-H Club had their last get-together of the year. The club met at the bowling alley in McCook and enjoyed several hours of bowling, a gift exchange, pizza and fun. We enjoyed bowling, then held our meeting. The afternoon was a huge success! The next meeting is Sunday, Jan. 9, at the Catholic Church basement at 4:30 p.m.

Jennings coordinator gives blood-drive plan

The Jennings community and the Jennings United Methodist Church will be hosts for a blood drive honoring Lawrence Jennings of Jennings from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 18, in the church dining hall. Refreshments will be available. Mr. Jennings has received over seven units of blood product, both red cells and platelets, while being treated for acute leukemia. Ushers were Mark Davis and Brett Davis. Sebastian Alfie, guitarist, accompanied vocalist Kim Murphee to "Annie's Song," and "Have I Told You Lately That I Love You." Laura Carbrey attended the guest book. A reception, dinner and dance were held at The Depot. Music was provided by DJ Mike Clark. The bride is a 2003 graduate of Lawrence High School. She majored in marketing at the University of Kansas and Kansas State University. She is a sales representative at Dale Willey Automotive. The bridegroom graduated in 1998 from Decatur Community High School. He earned an associate's degree in automotive and diesel technology in 1999 from Wyoming Technical Institute. He works at the dealership also. They are living in Lawrence.

with any antibiotic for a day and be able to answer the question, "Do you feel well today?" with a yes. "Most people do not realize that most of their medications, other than Coumadin, will have no effect on a blood donation," said Dawn Gabel, Red Cross donor recruitment representative for northwest Kansas. "We like to say that if you think you cannot give, think again! Even many cancer survivors can donate blood as long as they are a year from their last treatment." Other factors which can keep a person from donating are travel outside the United States within the past year, recent tattoos, a history of hepatitis and a few other issues. Each situation is different, so call (800) 733-2767 and the Red Cross staff will answer your questions.

When is it the right time to ask for hospice care?

For people with a life-limiting illness, there comes a point when cure is no longer possible, but that does not mean a patient and family must abandon all hope. Through hospice care, there is still hope for a peaceful death, to spend final months, weeks or days free of pain and for quality time with loved ones in the familiar surroundings of home. "While there isn't one specific point in an illness when a person should ask about hospice care, many hospice professionals would suggest that a person think about hospice long before he or she is in a medical crisis," said J. Donald Schumacher, president of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. "In fact, learning about palliative care and hospice as options is something that should happen early in the course of a serious illness and not just in the final days." Hospices utilize a team of professionals and trained volunteers to provide expert medical care, pain and symptom management and emotional and spiritual support for patients and family. Everything is tailored to the patient's needs and wishes. Hospice tries to help patients and families focus on living as fully as possible. "Hospice professionals can be important resources for patients and families," Schumacher said. "They can help a person figure out what goals are important and help them get their arms around the fact that their life may be coming to a close."

Last year, U.S. hospices cared for more than 1.56 million patients. The national group estimates that 41.6 percent of all deaths were under a hospice program. Facts about hospice: Most hospice care is provided in the home, but can be in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and hospice centers. Hospice care is fully covered by Medicare, private insurance and Medicaid in most states. Hospice care is not just for people with cancer. Hospices serve those with advanced Alzheimer's, disease and lung disease, HIV/AIDS—anyone who is facing a life-limiting illness. The hospice benefit pays for medications and medical equipment related to the illness. Hospice care is available as long as a doctor believes the patient is eligible. It can include complementary therapies, such as music and art. Hospices offer grief support to the family following a death. "Ideally, an individual would receive hospice care for the final months of life — not just the final days," Schumacher said. "One of the most common sentiments from families who have been helped by hospice care is that they wish they had known about hospice or been referred to hospice sooner." For information, contact Hospice Services at (800) 315-5122 or in Phillipsburg at (785) 543-2900, or go to www.hospicenwks.net. Information is also available from the national organization at www.caringinfo.org, or (800) 658-8898.

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