

# Danbury family gives \$2,500 to new alley

Lynn Rippe of Danbury was selected as a winner in America's Farmers Grow Communities program and he and his family have designated the money for the new bowling alley in downtown Oberlin.

The program, sponsored by Monsanto, gives farmers the opportunity to win \$2,500 for their favorite non-profit organization.

Mr. Rippe, his wife Joyce and daughter Alyssa, presented the check to the Oberlin-Decatur Area Economic Development Corp. on Saturday afternoon at the bowling



Lynn Rippe



Joyce Rippe

Others participating were a Monsanto representative, Woody Morford and members of the Oberlin-Decatur Area Economic Development board.

In more than 1,200 eligible counties, the company says, farmers can win \$2,500 for their favorite community non-profit. The Monsanto Fund expects to invest more than \$3 million in farm communities.

For information or to see a full list of winners, go to [www.growcommunities.com](http://www.growcommunities.com).

# Ag workshop to be held in Atwood Friday

Rawlins County Home Town Competitiveness and the Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development District will hold a "Sustainable Agriculture Workshop" from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Friday at the Rawlins County 4-H Building on K-25 north of Atwood.

Topics covered will be "high tunnels," community gardens, on-line marketing of local food, community-supported agriculture and aquaponics.

"This will be a great educational opportunity, in conjunction with the

Rawlins County HTC Entrepreneur Fair, where all the speakers and presenters are involved in sustainable agriculture practices, said Chris Sramek. "The wide range of topics will introduce current opportunities, trends and practices that are part of a new emerging agriculture."

Admission is free for FFA members and teachers. General admission is \$5.

For details or to register, contact Mr. Sramek at (785)-626-8066, [chris@decisionweather.com](mailto:chris@decisionweather.com), or Kurt Dillon at (785) 626-0078, [kdillon@usd105.org](mailto:kdillon@usd105.org)

# Engineer speaks to Rotary about exploration of crude oil

Program chair Rhonda May gave a vocational program about "Oil and Gas 101" when members of the Oberlin Rotary Club met at The Gateway last Tuesday.

She said after graduating from college in 1979, she started working as a petroleum engineer. She began as a drilling engineer at ARCO, and in this position, she applied scientific and technical knowledge in the exploration of crude oil and natural gas.

She also talked about oil reservoirs, where oil and gas are found, oil viscosity, pressure, porosity and permeability, as well as how oil, gas

and water are trapped in rock layers. The economic viability of a well depends on the flow rate, she said.

She said that she worked in Dallas, Singapore, Mexico, and Indonesia, with the most exotic workplace being Yangon, Myanmar (also known as Rangoon, Burma). Skills she learned during her career included analytical, project management, critical thinking, contract supervision, long-range planning and human resources.

Rotary Appreciation Night will begin at 7 p.m. Tuesday at The Gateway, so there will not a noon program that day.

# Agritourism courses offered in Colby later this spring

Agritourism courses will be offered in Colby and Garden City in April and May, with classes providing details on starting and running a business venture.

Farmers, business owners and entrepreneurs interested in becoming part of the growing agritourism industry are encouraged to participate in these courses, sponsored by the Kansas Department of Commerce Rural Development Division in partnership with the Santa Fe Trail and Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development councils.

The classes will provide an overview of agritourism, the groups say, including how rural enterprises can start a new agritourism business or incorporate agritourism into an existing business.

Topics to be covered include

defining an agritourism business, financing, pricing a product or service, finding customers and insurance and legal issues.

Jan Janzten, owner of Kansas Flint Hills Adventures, will be the lead instructor.

The course will be offered from 4 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesdays April 6, 13, 20, 27 and May 4 at the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range Ave., Colby.

Registration fee is \$75 for the first participant and \$50 for each additional participant from the same business or family.

Register online or download a form at [kansasagritourism.com](http://kansasagritourism.com). For details, contact Becki Rhoades, Kansas Department of Commerce, at (785) 296-1847 or [brhoades@kansascommerce.com](mailto:brhoades@kansascommerce.com).

# Couple observes 65th year

Gail and Kay Marcuson were honored by their family with a dinner in San Diego the weekend of March 19 and 20 for their 65th wedding anniversary.

Kay Dillane and Gail Marcuson were married on Nov. 29, 1945, at the Episcopal Church in San Diego. Mrs. Marcuson was reared in the San Diego area and their family enjoyed visiting the homes where she had lived, which included one which is now on the National Historical Register, as well as many other points of interest in the area.

Others present were their chil-

dren and grandchildren, Diane and Chuck Newcom, Denver; Natalie Newcom, Boston; Chip Newcom, New York; Julie and Mark Hubbard and Brandon, Denver; Rick and Sally Marcuson and Grady, Overland Park; Brad and Elaine Marcuson, Sarah and Jared, Oberlin;

Leslie Nelson, Topeka; also Kay Marcuson's brother and family, Allan and Donna Dillane, Pam and Cal Samuel and family, and James and Chris Dillane and family, all of San Diego.

# THE OBERLIN HERALD — People in Our Community

Mary Lou Olson, society editor  
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Shawn Guinn of Toano, Va., is visiting his father, Bruce Guinn, for two weeks. His daughter, Pam and Phil Smith, of Copeland, spent Monday with them.

Joy Votapka and Betty Grafel of Culbertson, Neb., went to Topeka and Kansas City. Joy and her daughter, Nancy Ellis, of Topeka went on to Chicago to visit Nancy's daughter, Nicole and Don Semple. Betty visited her daughter and family, Michelle and Bryant Martens, in Parkville, Mo. The women returned home to Oberlin on Saturday.

Kenzie Fisher, a student in the College of Natural and Social Sciences at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, is among 14 students who were elected to the Student Senate. It is the legislature for the student body, and students are elected from each of the academic colleges. The Student Senate has the power to pass legislation for the campus, approve new student organizations, appoint student representatives to the Faculty Senate and other administrative committees. Her parents are Kendal and Angie Fisher of Oberlin.

Herschel and Jody Betts accompanied Ken and Janice Shobe to Atwood Thursday evening, where they attended a dinner at the Prairie Development Center which observed the 85th anniversary of Atwood Rotary. Mr. Betts represented Oberlin Rotary Club which founded the Atwood Club of Rotary International on April 1, 1926, and Mrs. Shobe is a member of the Atwood club.

Funeral Mass was held on March 8, 2011, in Redondo Beach, Calif., for Helen M. (Nusse) Neeland, 60, who died March 5, 2011, in Elk Grove, Calif. She was born in Decatur County on the family farm on May 17, 1921. Her husband, George W. Neeland, and a daughter, Karen

# String band to perform

The Alferd Packer Memorial String Band will perform at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Hoxie High School Auditorium, sponsored by the Western Plains Arts Association.

The band says it performs a lively, engaging stage show that involves the audience and includes their own musical traditions. Members' 1870s costuming and raucous humor compliment the musicians' performances of old-time string-band, bluegrass, and American folk music.

The band includes five members

Brown, preceded her in death. Survivors include three children, David and Betty Neeland; J. Allan and Emily Neeland and Margo Steenekken; 10 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren and twin great-granddaughters.

Winning highs in pinochle at the Golden Age Center last week were Max Carman, Veanna Carman, Elden Haas, Dewaine Stapp, Doris Fringer and Kelva Dryden. Lows went to Ivis Hanson, Neil Marshall, John Cederberg, Ardythe Cederberg, Veanna Carman, Max Carman and Elden Haas. Taking highs at pitch were Kelva Dryden and Dewaine Stapp with lows going to Veanna Carman and Elden Haas. Winning highs at bridge were Marty Munson and Cynthia Matson.

Dick and Linda Weber attended the "Kearney Blow-out" basketball competition on Saturday and Sunday, March 19 and 20, in Kearney, Neb., to see their granddaughter, Shawn Baker, and also Demi Murray, participate with other eighth graders. They won two games on Saturday and brought home third place medals after competing on Sunday.

Kristi Reneberg of Kensington visited in Oberlin on Sunday with her father, Phil Erickson, who was a patient at Decatur County Hospital, and also her sister and family, Mary and Greg Long.

Dr. Gary and Nancy Young of Manhattan visited over the weekend with his parents, Dale and Eris Young and other relatives.

Peg Smith of McCook and Pastor Judi Stricker were honored with a birthday dinner on Sunday at the United Church. Among others present were Shane Smith and family, McCook, Myrna Jones, Melanie Anderson, Roxie Pomeroy and Bill Flynn.

# Benefit set at Danbury

A benefit fund raiser and auction will be held at Fibber's Bar and Grill in Danbury on Saturday, April 9, for the family of Josh and Tami Lammie of Danbury.

Josh Lammie, 35, died on March 8, 2011, at Community Hospital in McCook. The benefit is being held to help the family with medical

expenses.

The auction will begin at 3 p.m., with a hog roast to follow. Donations, including baked goods, craft items and gift certificates, are welcome. Volunteers to help that day would also be appreciated.

For details, call (308) 895-4269.

# New Arrival

## Kimberly Rose Rippe

Kimberly Rose Rippe was born Feb. 17, 2011, at McCook Community Hospital. She weighed 5 pounds, 7 ounces and was 20 inches long. Her parents are Kevin and Megan Rippe of Ludell. She was welcomed home by her three older sisters, Lilly, Michaela and Allison. Grandparents are Richard and Theresa Rippe, Ludell, and Cheryl Steinert, Lyons, and the late Jim Steinert.



K. Rippe

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STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

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HAVING A GOOD TIME stacking blocks at the Family Activity Night for Decatur County Head Start and Parents as Teachers families last week was Davin Jensen. — Photo by Penny Arnoldy

# Head start students enjoy activity night

A Family Activity Night for Decatur County Head Start families and Parents as Teachers families offered both fun and education for parents and students at the Oberlin Elementary School last Monday.

The program was facilitated by Pam May, a trained "Block Fest" presenter from Parents as Teachers and Early Head Start. Families were invited to explore wooden and foam blocks of many shapes and sizes and cardboard bricks at six different

sites. The families were shown how to help their children learn math and science terms and skills as they explored creating towers, houses and walls.

All families of preschool age children should contact Mrs. May for openings in Early Head Start (up to age 3) and Parents as Teachers (birth to age 5) or Decatur County Head Start (age 3 to 5).

For details, call Penny Arnoldy, Head Start teacher, at 475-3935.

# KU to honor seniors

Students from 15 Kansas high schools will be honored by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment at a dinner and program at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 6, at The Gateway in Oberlin.

Don Steeples, a western Kansas native and McGee Distinguished Professor of Applied Geophysics, will speak to the students and their parents and guests.

Seniors from Decatur Community High School include Jacob Helm, son of Mike and Deb Helm of Norcatur; Jacob Larue, son of Bruce and Marianne Larue of Oberlin; and Carissa Wentz, daughter of Dwight and Mary Wentz of Norcatur. Rhonda May is the site coordinator for Decatur County.

A total of 48 seniors from high schools in Cheyenne, Decatur, Gove, Logan, Rawlins, Sheridan, Sherman, Thomas and Wallace

counties will be recognized for their academic achievements. The Kansas Honors Program celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. Since 1971, the program has recognized 114,000 scholars who rank in the top 10 percent of their high school senior classes, regardless of occupational plans or higher-education goals. Each year, the Alumni Association and its volunteers hold 41 programs that reach all 105 counties across the state.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary, in both hardback and electronic versions, presented by Michelle Miles, assistant director of Kansas programs for the association.

Honored students will be guests of the association and endowment; parents and area alumni are welcome to attend at a cost of \$15 each.

# 4-H members rank high

The Decatur County 4-H Club Day was held on Friday at the Oberlin Elementary School with many top ribbons. Those with regional blues will participate at Regional 4-H Club Day on Friday in Brewster.

The results follow:  
**Public Speaking/Project Talk:** Jacob Helm, Matthew Helm, Regional Blue.

**Demonstration/ Illustrated Talk:** Elizabeth Nedland, Hannah May, RB; Timothy Helm, Zach May, Michael Noren, Blue.

**Piano:** Michael Noren, Kade Grafel, Alyssa VanVleet, RB. Patience Carman, Isaac Carman, Clayton Carter, Madelaine Johnson, Ravyn VanVleet, B. Erin May, Isabel Grafel, Anna Carter, Red.

**Vocal:** Jacob Larue, Star Valley 4-H Club, RB. Hannah May, Zach May, Elizabeth Nedland, Matthew Helm, B. Erin May, R.

**Instrumental:** Hannah May, Kade Grafel, RB; Matthew Helm, Jacob Helm, Celianna Shobe, B. Kyleana Blau, Kelli Bryan and Cassidy Gillespie, R.

**Reading:** Isabel Grafel and Madelaine Johnson, Ryan May, Erin May, RB. Matthew Helm, Anna Carter, Patience Carman, B. Clayton Carter, Lily Hendrickson, Cassidy Gillespie, Isaac Carman, Austin Hendrickson, R.

**Gymnastics:** Erin May, R.

**Skit:** Sappa Valley 4-H Club, RB

**Model Meeting:** Stick-To-It 4-H Club, RB.

# Treasurer's Drivers License Offices to Close

The Decatur County Treasurer's Office and Drivers License Office will be closed Tuesday, April 5 and Wednesday, April 6 for mandatory training.

# Help Wanted

House cleaning help needed 2-3 hours a month. Will pay \$12.50/hr.  
Help needed with cooking 1-2 meals a week.  
Will supply ingredients & pay for meal prep.  
Call Robin @ 475-2015.