

People in Our Community

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TWODECATUR HIGH GRADS, Andy Ahlberg (left) and Ryan Auker, took some time away from their band, "Away From Nothing," for a little skateboarding.

Oberlin grads form band in Colorado

By MARY LOU OLSON
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A love of music for several Decatur Community High School graduates has blossomed into a successful band, "Away From Nothing."

Andy Ahlberg said that Ryan Auker started playing music as early as age 6. His mother was a musician in her early years in Colorado and he was exposed to his Grandpa Cruse's guitar.

Ryan and Andy, both Oberlin graduates, first met in 1987 on the Ward Drug baseball team, Andy said, and they have been friends a long time.

"We first started playing together around 1995," Andy said. "Ryan had MTV at his house, and I'd pick him up for school every morning ... and we'd watch music videos until we had to leave. His sister had a Fender jazz bass that I'd pick around on and we'd play together in Ryan's room, a little 6-by-10 box, playing through two giant 15-inch public address speakers."

"When Matthew Randall, Ryan and I played one show for Mini Sapa Day, it went horrible. We went horribly. We hadn't practiced nearly enough. Matthew and I forgot the songs we were going to play. Ryan played some Nirvana covers by himself. I was traumatized by the experience and didn't play the bass again for five years."

"After that, we all went our separate ways for college." Andy said that it was the winter of early 2002 when Ryan called him, talking about giving up music. He didn't feel he could go anywhere with it.

"I didn't feel like I was headed in any direction with school at the time, so I told him I'd be there in May after I finished the semester and he could teach me everything he wanted me to do and we could play some music."

(where we have always practiced, a basement somewhere) and sharing what we had been working on. We just needed a new drummer.

"After auditioning three or four drummers, Michael Gorham called us."

"Ryan and I were 23 at the time and Michael was 32. He grew up in New York, had been in many bands over the past 15 years before he began playing with us. He taught us so much about professionalism and how to do big shows the right way."

"We played countless shows with Michael and recorded our song demo, 'So Far ep,' in 2007. In late 2008, after we all had gotten married, Michael and his wife decided to focus on starting a family and he didn't have the time to dedicate to the band anymore, along with hearing loss issues, so he left the band. So Andy and Ryan were needing a drummer. After one audition by a not-so-talented drummer, Zach Kruk came to try out. He was 19 at the time when he joined."

"He has never bought an album of music," Andy said, "just an example of the generational differences. What's wrong with kids these days?"

"We had just gone from being the younger 'student' type of relationship to a teacher-mentor type of role. Zach has now been playing with us since November 2008."

Their band had a show June 24, then planned to go back into the studio to record a song for the first time in four years.

"Very exciting," they agreed. "Our goals for the future include recording and sharing music," Andy said. "We have so many songs, too many to count, hundreds. And we have just recently found a recording studio that is flexible; having an outlet like that at our disposal now is so exciting."

"We have always had to go about things differently than other bands, with our families being such a huge part of our lives, working regular 9 to 5 jobs and being good fathers and husbands is such a balancing act."

"This makes playing music all the more rewarding. Representing what we stand for and doing it our way is extremely fulfilling."

Nick Ganje is the band's road director of operations and Brett Moore books the Denver Metro area. Both are also Decatur Community High grads.

The band played in Oberlin for a dance at the American Legion during Alumni weekend this year.

Bob and Kay Gaskill of Oberlin and Jody and Shad Metcalf, Bryson, Seanna and Jude of Colby attended a Gaskill family reunion at their son Guy Gaskill's Lake Wilson home over the Fourth of July weekend. The crowd of nearly 40 relatives included Bob's brother and wife, Dave and Gudy Gaskill of Golden, Colo., and family; the children and families of his late brother John and Marian Gaskill; and family members of his sister, Ann Worth of Aspen, Colo. Also attending were Timo Riedle of Germany, Andrew, Ann and daughter Josie Bryan of Baker City, Ore., and Barbara Ann Bryan of New York.

Guests of Jeannie, Roger and Kirsten Lavers of West Bend, Wis., for July 4 were Dallas, Rebecca, Meghan, Caitlin, A.J., Gage and Quincy Jo Johnson, and Alvin and Sharon Johnson, all of Oberlin.

—Help needed to set up and take down Fair rides and games, Sat., July 23, 30 & Aug. 7 from 8 a.m. to ?. Call (785) 470-7269.

Joy Votapka spent the first two weeks of July volunteering as a campground host at Lake McCook in Nebraska. Nancy Ellis of Topeka spent the 4th of July weekend with her there.

John and Connie Simonsson recently returned from a two-week trip to Canada. While there they stayed several days in Wasagamung at Riding Mountain Provincial Park in Manitoba. They then proceeded to Prince Albert in Saskatchewan where they spent a couple of days before heading up to South End where they took a float plane to Lawrence Bay Lodge on Reindeer Lake and spent five days fishing

Reunion held in Colorado

Descendants of the Bradshaw-Lawhorn-Rice families met from July 2 to 4 for a reunion in Pueblo, Colo.

Linda Bradshaw Hollowell of Oberlin was chairperson. Assisting were Gaylene Bradshaw and Sam and Tracey Moore, Denver; Holli Coburn, Aurora, Colo.; Warren Bradshaw Jr., Las Vegas; and Vernice Lawhorn Bradshaw, Pueblo, Colo., who was hostess. Jim Hollowell did the newsletter. Mrs. Hollowell was also historian for all of the families.

Other activities included a family banquet at the Pueblo Union Depot, a dinner and fashion show with

for northern pike and lake trout with their Indian guide, Alex. They also enjoyed the company of their friends, the Engen family, and the other guests.

Charlie and Betsy Haag spent the weekend in Lincoln, Neb., with all of their family. Present were Nathan and Marti Haag, Berklie and Brenna, Rushville, Neb., and Jeremy and Jody Haag, Keegan and Kyler, and Nick and Julie Haag, all of Lincoln.

Winning highs in pinochle at the Golden Age Center last week were Max Carman, Dorothy Moore, Ardis Roe, Dewaine Stapp, Kelva Dryden, Veanna Carman and Henry Edgett. Lows went to Henry Edgett, Neil Marshall, Dorothy Moore, John Cederberg and Max Carman. Nancy Lockhart won first bingo and Gleason Dryden, blackout. Pitch highs were won by Dewaine Stapp and Kelva Dryden with lows going to Dorothy Moore and John Cederberg. Bridge highs went to Cynthia Matson and Sally Henningson.

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Trevor Witt was honored by his parents, Tyler and Tiffany Witt, with a birthday dinner and party in observance of his first birthday on Saturday. Guests were Keely Wilson, Julie, Harmony, Derek and Noah, Kearney, Neb.; Mr. and Mrs. Larry Schultz, and Mr. and Mrs. Kyle Schultz, St. Francis; Mr. and Mrs. Keith Olson, Herndon; Nathan and Sara Johns, Brianna, Rachel and Jaden, Norton; and Roger and Nancy Robinson; Kimberly Witt and Whitney; and Laura Bryan, Sage and Gus, Oberlin.

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Club welcomes new member

Mayor Bill Riedel was welcomed as a new member of the Oberlin Rotary Club when the group met July 5 at The Gateway. Past President Jesse Carter presented a plaque to Lynn Doeden for her outstanding leadership as president for the 2010-2011 year.

Program Chair Gary Anderson gave an overview of the Sappa Park from the time that the National Park Service announced approval of construction in 1935. A Civilian Conservation Corps camp was assigned

to Oberlin and the federal Works Progress Administration built and constructed the 160-acre lake. Congress approved spending \$129,000 for that portion of this project.

The lake was the first National Park Service property in Kansas and was operated by the service until it was presented to the state in 1939.

The shelter house was built to Park Service standards, including the color, known as bungalow brown, Mr. Anderson said. The paint is being restored this summer.

Garden tour postponed

With triple-digit temperatures forecast for Sunday evening, the Decatur Professional Women postponed their scheduled summer garden tour for a week.

Anyone still wanting to buy tickets can get them for \$10 each from a member of the group or at the

Dresser or *The Oberlin Herald*.

Those who want to go should meet at the gazebo in Oberlin's Centennial Park at 5 p.m. Sunday for the Norcat part of the tour and at 6:30 p.m. for the Oberlin tour.

Refreshments will be served at the last garden.

Prayer vigil set for Thursday

The Oberlin Covenant Church, 810 W. Cedar, invites everyone to a prayer vigil on Thursday. The

church will be open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., said Pastors Chris and Sharon Nelson.

Former principal takes Rotary helm

Charlie Haag took over as president of the Oberlin Rotary Club on July 1, replacing Lynn Doeden. Other officers are Duane Dorshorst, vice president; Karen Larson, secretary; and Jesse Carter, treasurer.



Charlie Haag

A native of Wilsonville, Neb., Mr. Haag served as principal at Decatur Community Junior/Senior High School for the past 10 years. He graduated from Wilsonville High School in 1967, and the University of Northern Colorado at Greeley, and completed a master's degree in educational administration in 1991 at the University of Nebraska, Kearney.

He taught at Wausa, Neb., then served as principal in Weeping Water and Chadron, Neb., before moving to Oberlin.

He said that his goals for the club include sustaining and increasing membership and continuing with current programs.

Since Rotary is a service organi-

zation, he said, members take part in vocational, community and national projects. Some of the local projects are sponsoring the after-prom party at The Gateway, highway clean-up on U.S. 83 south of town and operating the ferris wheel at the Decatur County Fair.

Members participate in the international Polio Plus and military projects, which included helping send shoes to needy children in Ethiopia through Col. Gordon Kuntz, son-in-law of member Doyle Brown.

"I want to try to encourage our members to make people more aware of the many Rotary projects and expand on them," he said.

Mr. Haag and his wife Betsy's family includes Nathan and Marti Haag, Berklie and Brenna, Rushville, Neb.; Jeremy and Jody Haag, Keegan and Kyler; and Nick and Julie Haag, all of Lincoln, Neb.

The Haags plan to continue to live in Oberlin. She teaches fourth grade in McCook.

Club News

Woman tells about roses

Members of the Garden Lovers Lunch Club met June 28 for a luncheon at the Oberlin Land-Mark Inn.

Shirley Shields discussed how to grow shrub roses and gave out a handout summarizing her talk with information on planting, fertilizing, pruning, watering, pest problems and winter protection.

Low-maintenance roses such as "Lady Elsie May," "Earth Song" and "Carefree Sunshine" were listed in the handout. For

plants that grow well in our area, check www.prairiestarflowers.org

The garden club meets at noon the fourth Tuesday of each month at the LandMark. Anyone interested in gardening, learning new techniques, sharing their knowledge and enjoying the company of friends is welcome.

The next meeting will be Tuesday. Call the LandMark at 475-2340 for reservations.

Widows and Friends meet

Twelve members of Widows and Friends met at Coffee, Tea and Me for an 11:30 a.m. luncheon on July 13.

Director Mary Ann Amack brought a get-well card to sign for Doris Sloan, who has been in the hospital, and served as the group's organizer and director for many years. She said there would

be no August meeting and plans for Sept. 14 will be given later.

Others present were Virginia Spratling, Elaine Bryan, Nadean Stoney, Millie Lippelmann, Janette Votapka, Estella Waldo, Laurene Van Otterloo, Cecil Hess, Phyllis Screen, Doris Fringer and Delphyn Biggs.

Trent and Jessica Townsend
Invite you to help celebrate their recent marriage with a reception and dance.
Friday, July 29 at 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion in Oberlin, KS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
The children of Ken Lines request a card shower for his 70th Birthday, July 25th
Cards can be sent to: 803 E. Jackson Apt. #1 Oberlin Ks. 67749
Keri and Ben Bryan
Kyle and Laura Lines

The Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center is accepting applications for the 2011-2012 school year. We have the following opportunities available:
• Early Childhood Special Education Teacher
• Part-time Early Childhood Para/Hill City
• Head Start Para/Goodland
• Registered Nurse for Head Start Program
To receive an application, contact Rose Langley, 785-672-3125 extension 200. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.
NKESC is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Ren and Beverly Whitaker are
Celebrating 50 YEARS
A 50 Year Anniversary Celebration is being held at the Golden Age Center from 2 - 5 PM on August 4, 2011. All are invited and welcome. No gifts please.

Dennis and Judy Shirley Celebrate 50 Years
Dennis and Judy Shirley were married in Norton on January 29th, 1961. They have three children, Vicki Waldron of Bangor PA; Patrick and Cindy Shirley, Norcat; Becky and Cash Barlow, Jacksonville Beach, FL; Their grandchildren are Lauren Waldron and Kasey Waldron, Bangor, PA, Shelby Barlow, Jacksonville Beach, FL, and step-granddaughter Shelbi McKenna Norcat, KS.
There will be an Open House for them Saturday, August 6, 3-5 p.m. at The Gateway, Oberlin, KS.
No gifts please

A Card Shower is requested for the 90th Birthday of Roy Orr on August 9th
Please send birthday wishes to: 25557 E. Middlelake Rd. Canton, Ill 61520
no gifts please