

Norcatour News

By the Norcatour News Committee

Norcatour City Clerk Deb Marshall has resigned her job as librarian. She will be replaced by Betty Jakowski, who has been her assistant.

The library will now be open on from 8 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, since they have been high usage days. Mrs. Marshall will go back on the library board and be involved in that way, along with continuing as city clerk.

Gen Brunk is home at Sealay House, 619 N. 4th St., No. 7, Hill City, Kan., 67642, after being hospitalized several times with pneumonia.

Don't forget the Norcatour United Methodist Church pancake supper from 5 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, March 4, for a donation. The men will do the serving and everyone is welcome.

Weekend houseguests of Bee Nelson were Tara Nelson, Independence, Mo., and a patient and friend, Jerry Hutfles, of Knob Noste, Mo., who traveled from Missouri to pick up Bee's 1937 John Deere D tractor. He had the trailer and experience for hauling old tractors being a collector himself. The plan is for a complete restoration of the tractor back to original.

Guests of Dewaine Stapp of

Oberlin on Saturday, Feb. 11, to visit and enjoy pizza were Patty, Dave and Sam Stapp and Kaitlyn Stapp and daughter, Gabby Shamburger, Hoxie.

Clinic Day will be held from 9:30 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, Feb. 28, in Norcatour.

Happy Birthday to Judy Jackson, Feb. 16; Russell James, Feb. 17; Ed Yeager, Feb. 18; Arlene Hix, Darren Wentz, Feb. 20; Deborah Combs, Rodney Stapp, Feb. 21.

Senior Citizens pinocle will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday in the Educational Building.

Radon gas testing available



Home Time

By Tranda Watts
Multi-county Extension Agent

Surveys in Kansas indicate that as many as 25 percent of homes are likely to have average concentrations of radon above the recommended level.

Radon awareness is recommended for everyone. A \$5 to \$25 home test may be all that it takes to spare family members from lung cancer. Tests are available from many K-State Research and Extension offices and if done properly, are as accurate as professional tests.

Radon is a naturally occurring element produced from radioactive decay in the soil. The odorless, colorless and tasteless gas is cited as the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers, and the second leading cause of lung cancer in the general population.

Radon surveys have shown that about 6 percent of U.S. homes have average concentrations above the recommended maximum level.

This is an good time to test for radon. Testing is the only sure way to tell how much of the gas is present. In Kansas since 1987, 41 percent or 20,592 of the 50,182 test results available had levels above the recommended ceiling of 4.0 pCi/L (Pico Curies per liter of air, is the unit of measurement).

Beginning July 1, 2011, all professional radon measurement and mitigation technicians and laboratories providing services in Kansas are required to obtain state certification. Lists of who are certified by the state through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment are available at www.kansasradonprogram.org/contractors.

More information about radon is available through the Kansas Radon Program at many K-State Research and Extension offices, online: www.kansasradonprogram.org and by calling: 1-800-693-5343.

Anyone can be vulnerable. Radon, which can seep from the soil beneath the foundation through cracks or joints into a home, is typically easy to detect and reduce at a moderate cost.

Begin with a home radon detector, which in its simplest form, can be purchased from many K-State

Research and Extension offices for about \$5, at home and hardware stores, and on the Internet, usually for \$25 or less.

Tests should be conducted in the lowest lived-in level of the home, in a bedroom, living room or family room and about 20 to 24 inches above the floor for two to five days. The goal is to measure the potential for elevated concentrations which come from the soil beneath the home's foundation.

Testing in a kitchen or bathroom, which typically contain more humid air and more ventilation, is not recommended. It's important to follow test directions.

If the initial result is 4 pCi/L or higher take a follow-up test. Consider installing a radon mitigation system for your home if the average of the first and second test is 4 pCi/L or higher.

If the initial result is low, do further testing if living patterns change. For example, if a family member begins to occupy a lower

level, or if a significant change occurs in the foundation, heating/cooling systems, or insulation/air sealing features, further testing may be warranted.

It is suggested that you hire a professional contractor to install a mitigation system in the home. Professionals must be certified by Kansas Department of Health and Education to mitigate for radon.

In Kansas, since July 1, 2009, residential real estate contracts must contain a specific paragraph recommending radon testing and disclosure of test results. There are, however, currently no laws requiring such tests or mitigation of high levels of radon, if found.

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 information, contact the Decatur County office of Twin Creeks Extension, 475-8121.

Selden News

By Jacque Boultinghouse

On Feb. 16 during Senior Citizens at the Community Center, Ralph Weis won high, Paulie Neff took second, Edna Schiltz got low and Jeanie Spresser had the most queens.

Other members present include: Betty James, Matt Finney, Lillian Sulzman, Julie Pope, Shirley Emigh, Royce Cook, Lola Cook, Anna Hazlitt, Carl Mumm, Mary Adelman, Rowena Carpenter, Bernita Aumiller, Gail Mumm, Janice Kruse and Helen Karls.

On Saturday at Pinochle night at the Community Center, Warren Ziegelmeier and Bernard Ritter took first with a score of 713. Jr. Albers and Carl Mumm took second with a score of 692, Ann Hazlitt and Shirley Emigh took third with a score of 663. Cole Ziegelmeier and Julie Ziegelmeier 624. The next Pinochle night will be March 17 (St. Paddy's Day, better wear some green) at 7 p.m. at the Community Center.

The weather is starting to make a person think of spring, which means tornado season is right around the corner. The State-Wide Tornado Drill is March 13. The cities of Oberlin, Norcatour, Jennings and Dresden will be participating. Sirens will be tested at 1:30 p.m. At that time everyone should be exercising (or at least think about what you would do and their plan of action in the event of a tornado. Decatur County Weather Spotter Class is March 14 at The Gateway in Oberlin.

June 3 is the date set for the annual Antique Tractor and Car Show in downtown Selden. Look for more information in upcoming issues of this paper.

Birthdays and anniversaries: Feb. 24, Ryan Brantley; Feb. 26, Betty Schieferecke, Klint Wessel; Feb. 27, Judy Rogers, Theda McKee, Brittany Ritter; Feb. 28, Pat Stevenson, Daniel and Jaclyn Schreiner;

March 2, Melvin Spresser, Caleb Koerperich.

School Calendar: Friday: High school basketball in Rexford with Northern Valley. Monday, Sub-state basketball.

On Feb. 14 in the Oberlin Women's Bowling League, the Selden Classics won four games. They had a bye and in order to win they had to bowl at least 80 percent of their average. As of Feb. 14 Gutter Dusters held first place with 50 wins, Bowling Bags hold second place with 42 wins, The Lucky Strikes hold third place with 41 wins, Selden Classics hold fourth place with 38 wins, and Oberlin Pride holds fifth place with 26 wins.

The Midway Chiropractic Clinic will be open for business on March 2 and 3. Dr. Michele Goscha and Dr. Kevin Laumann will staff the new business at 105 S. Kansas Ave. For information, call (785) 282-6818.

Cook. They also chatted with Hulda Frick, daughter of the late Kolman Nemeth, and Iva Behnke, both of Indianola, Neb.

Herndon News

By Julie Hafner

Deb Portschy, Jennifer Davis and Peach Beims spent the weekend in Russell at the Scrappy Days Crop. The weekend was spent working on their scrapbooks, visiting and making new friends. They spent about 28 hours scrapping. Deb's niece, Heather Murchie, Manhattan, met them in Russell to attend also. Everyone had an awesome time and look forward to next year.

Sharon Vogel, Herndon, was a Tuesday afternoon visitor of Carol Kompus in Oberlin and Kent Grafel, Culbertson and Leah Atchley, Knoxville, Tenn., were Friday visitors.

Dr. Mike and Elba Noble and Rich Noble, Colorado Springs, and Kelly Noble, Aurora, Colo., were surprise weekend visitors of their mother and grandmother, Joan Noble at Cedar Living Center in Oberlin. On Saturday they enjoyed their visit with their aunt, Esther Pennington in Herndon.

Congratulations to our area scholars and athletes for achievements handed out recently in academics, music and sports. The Herndon community is proud of all their hard work.

Thursday to Tuesday visitors of Don and Joan Grafel were Leah Atchley, Emily Williams, Josh and Jason of Knoxville, Tenn. Saturday afternoon and evening they met with other family members at the Herndon Senior Center. Those included: Kent Grafel, Lorri

Randazzo, Kristyn Clapp, Kamryn and Kloe of Culbertson; Kurt, Kristin, Kourtney and Kayla Grafel, Natoma; Keaston and Danielle Grafel and Carter, Steve and Susan Nelson, Jeff, Danielle, Isabelle and Tessa Leitner, all of Oberlin; David and Lauren Sattler, Norton; Kate Sousek, Omaha, Neb.; Ben, Mariah and Clara Grafel, Leon and Marita Portschy and Joe Leitner, all of Herndon.

Theresa Rippe hosted the monthly "casserole club" with a Saturday morning brunch. Those attending were Lexie Basgall, Sharon Frick, Jacque Riener, Eileen Unger and guests Myra Sattler and Michelle Stevens. Following a snowman decoration theme, Theresa's brunch consisted of coffee cake, fruit, and coffee cup scrambles. Next month's hostess will be Jacque Riener with a 10 a.m. brunch on March 10 at her home north of Perry.

Lent begins today. Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Mary's is today at 5:30 p.m. with Stations of the Cross following the service. Lent is a time of penance, prayer and a time to clean our spiritual house.

Laverne, Jerry and Kim Niemeth attended Mass in McCook on Sunday and enjoyed dinner at the Chief Restaurant. While eating they visited briefly with Pat Glebe, Stratton, Neb.; Rod, Paula and Ryan Sramek, LaCrosse, Patrick Huss, Osawatomie, Midge Forbes and Bob and Marge Grimm, all of Mc-

Cook. They also chatted with Hulda Frick, daughter of the late Kolman Nemeth, and Iva Behnke, both of Indianola, Neb.

Mount Pleasant

By Dianne Bremer

Rowan Mai Bremer was born Sunday morning, Feb. 19, weighed 7 pounds 5 1/2 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long. Rowan is the daughter of Kristen Bremer of Colby and the granddaughter of John and Dianne Bremer of Oberlin. Congratulations!

Freshman Caitie Shields received a II rating on her piano solo Saturday at the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) State Piano Festival competition in Hillsboro. Also attending were her parents, Paul and Kelly Shields.

Zane and Gladys Geis and Karen Larson returned home Saturday evening from Wheatland, Wyo., where they attended funeral services on Friday for Geraldine Lauch, a sister of Gladys Geis.

While in Wyoming, they were overnight guests of their son/brother Keith and Marie Geis, Wheatland.

Dan Nedland and Elizabeth, members of the State 4-H Geology Action Team, left Friday afternoon for Emporia where they attended an Action Team meeting on Saturday.

The action team makes the plans for State Geology field trips, reviews State Fair exhibition rules, and appoints judges for State geology judge-

ing. Officers were elected from 4-H Junior Leaders and Elizabeth was elected as one of the co-chairs. At an upcoming Central Kansas Trip, Elizabeth will also lead a workshop on Lapidary. They returned home Sunday after enjoying dinner with Cameron Nedland in Manhattan and spending the night there.

The third annual Good Samaritan Hoedown fund raiser for the residents at the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center will be held Saturday evening, March 24, at the Oberlin American Legion and will include a dinner, auction and dance. Tickets are \$25 each; contact Dianne Bremer at Great Northwest Insurance, 475-3400, or at home, 475-2973.

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THE OBERLIN HERALD
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Give and Give up for Lent

Pastor Brad Rick, St. John's Lutheran Church

During this Season of Lent, you may have someone come up to you and ask, "So, what are you giving up for Lent?"

The practice of Alms-giving is an old one. It goes back to the Old Testament. The early Christians retained this practice, especially during the Season of Lent. The obvious reason is because Christ gave up everything He had including His life, body, and His blood, through His death and resurrection, so we could have forgiveness and salvation. What should we in return give up for Him?

Therefore, whatever is given up for Lent should be of some importance to you. Also, in considering what to give up for Lent, there is a second part. This second part is the Alms-giving part. Let's say that you decide that you are going to give up drinking beer for the six weeks of Lent. Let's also say that, according to your budget and lifestyle, you spend about \$10 a week on beer. After six weeks of not spending any

money on beer, you now have saved \$60. Now, you have the opportunity to help others not as fortunate as you, by giving to them the \$60 that you have saved. There are numerous organizations and agencies that would appreciate your donation, including the local Food Pantry, the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society. The list is endless. But the choice is yours. This is Alms-giving.

There are a few other words of advice from God's Word that can be considered. Jesus tells us, "But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be done in secret. Then, your Father who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." (Matthew 6:13+14) This also calls to mind the words of the Psalmist, "What shall I render unto the Lord for all the benefits He has given to me?" (Psalm 116). It's up to you.

Have a Blessed Lenten Season.



Schedule of Oberlin and area church services:

- OBERLIN SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH**
785-475-3103
Fr. Mark Berland,
MASS: 10:30 a.m., Sunday
- IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC, LEONVILLE**
Fr. Mark Berland,
MASS: 8 a.m., Sunday.
- SACRED HEART CATHOLIC, SELDEN**
Fr. Mark Berland,
MASS: 5:30 p.m., Saturday
- JENNINGS-DRESDEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
Pastor: Barbara Patterson
SUNDAY: Church School, 10 a.m. Morning Worship, 11 a.m.
- DRESDEN**
SUNDAY: Morning Worship, 9:30 a.m.
- PRAIRIE CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST**
The Rev. Linda Willey
SUNDAY: Church Services, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 8:30 a.m.
- HERNDON IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
Pastor: Dennis Brown
SUNDAY: Morning Worship, 9 a.m.
- UNITED CHURCH OF OBERLIN**
Pastor: Judi Stricker
109 North Griffith-American Baptist,
Disciples of Christ, Presbyterian USA
SUNDAY: Adult Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Coffee: 10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m. Choir practice every Sun. at 9:45 a.m. Holy Communion, 1st & 3rd Sundays. United Church Women, 2nd Wed at 2 p.m. Parish Council, 2nd Sun. following Worship
- OBERLIN COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP (Southern Baptist)**
Pastor: Gene Gee
SUNDAY: Sunday School, 9:30

- a.m.; Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m., WEDNESDAY: Service, 7 p.m.,
- OBERLIN UNITED METHODIST**
102 North Cass — 785-475-3067
The Rev. Linda Willey
SUNDAY: Church School, 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m. (Nursery provided.) WEDNESDAY: Praise team practice, 8 p.m.
- CLAYTON UNITED METHODIST**
Pastor: Ed Woods
SUNDAY: Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Worship Service, 11 a.m.
- OBERLIN ASSEMBLY OF GOD**
The Rev. Royce Leitner
SUNDAY: Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Morning Worship, 11 a.m.; Evening Worship, 7 p.m. WEDNESDAY: Adult Bible study, 7 p.m.
- OBERLIN CHURCH OF CHRIST**
South Beaver Street - Oberlin
Bill Duncan — Phone 785-475-3259
SUNDAY: Fellowship and coffee time; 10:30 a.m. The "no sermon" worship hour with the Lord's Supper and Adventures With God, 10 a.m. open Bible Study; TUESDAY: Ladies Bible Study, 9 a.m.
- ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC, HERNDON**
Fr. Nick Parker
Phone 785-322-5560
MASS: SUNDAY and THURSDAY 8:30 a.m.
- HERNDON COVENANT CHURCH**
Pastor: Keith Reuther
Phone 785-322-5316
SUNDAY: 9:45 a.m. Morning worship, 11 a.m. Youth group, 4 p.m.
- NORCATUR UNITED METHODIST**
Pastor: Ed Woods

- SUNDAY: Worship Service, 10 a.m.; Church School, 10:30 a.m.
- LYLE UNITED METHODIST**
Guest Speakers every Sunday
SUNDAY: Morning Worship 9 a.m.
- EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH OF OBERLIN**
Pastors: Chris and Sharon Nelson
810 West Cedar, Oberlin
Office Phone 785-475-2769
SUNDAY: Worship Service, 9:30 a.m.; Fellowship Time, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 11 a.m. WEDNESDAY: Bible Study, 7 p.m.
- LUND COVENANT CHURCH**
Pastor: Doug Mason
10 miles south, 4 miles west of Oberlin
SUNDAY: Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.; WEDNESDAY: Bible Study and prayer, 7:30 p.m.
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