



**CLIP, CLOP, CLIP, CLOP.** Driven by Randy Boehmer, Bedford, Ind., four mules pulled two covered wagons and a cart northward on U.S. 83. Mr. Boehmer said his destination is unknown but he trusts God to lead him. — Herald staff photo by Carolyn Plotts

## Man, mules, dogs move across the prairie

**By CAROLYN PLOTTTS**  
*c.plotts@nwkans.com*  
 If you ask Randy Boehmer where he's going, he answers, "Destination unknown."  
 Mr. Boehmer said he left Bedford, Ind., in 2008 in two converted farm wagons, drawn in tandem, by a four-mule team, and he hasn't looked back since.  
 "After my wife died," he said, "I started to read my Bible to find out about this God that had my wife's soul. What I found out was, I had to turn from my sins and ask Jesus to save me."  
 That was March 3, 1999, he said, and since

then, he has traveled where God has led him. He said he's headed north for the summer: Maybe to the Dakotas, maybe Nebraska. He lives in the largest of the two covered wagons, where he has a wood-burning stove for heat, a propane stove to cook with, solar panels to provide electricity for his radio, fans, cell phone charger, LED lights and a television (that he has never used).  
 The smaller wagon carries feed for the mules, Frankie, Jesse, Dick, Jack and Butch, and the dogs, Shep and Proverbs. A small two-wheeled cart brings up the rear carrying

drinking water.  
 When asked if he travels alone, he answers, "No. There are nine of us — five mules, two dogs, Jesus and me."  
 His sole purpose, he said, is to win souls to God. He said he won't know how successful he's been until he gets to heaven.  
 Mr. Boehmer said he doesn't have to do much preaching. The signs and Bible verses on his wagons do that for him.  
 "I am not retired," he says adamantly, "but God provides." Amen.

## Former Herald owner honored by Kansas Press

**By STEVE HAYNES**  
*s.haynes@nwkans.com*  
 Sharon Kessinger, former co-publisher of *The Oberlin Herald*, received the Clyde M. Reed Jr. Master Editor Award on Friday from the Kansas Press Association.  
 The award was presented at the association's 120th annual convention in Overland Park. Her daughter Sarah, current editor of the family's newspaper, and a director of the association, introduced her and presented the award.  
 The award is named for the former editor and publisher of *The Parsons Sun*. Mr. Reed took over the paper after the death of his father, who had been governor and served two terms as U.S. senator from Kansas,

in 1949. He was one of the most prominent journalists in the state until he sold the paper in 1982, and ran for governor in 1958.  
 Mrs. Kessinger and her husband Howard, both graduates of Kansas State University, owned *The Herald* from 1966 to 1975, when they sold it to Randall and Rozanne Braden. The Kessingers moved to Marysville, in northeast Kansas, where they took over *The Advocate*, a weekly newspaper in Marshall County.  
 In her introduction, Sarah Kessinger recalled that her mother loved gardening and spent much of her spare time doing volunteer work in the town's flower beds.  
 "There were days that Sharon slipped into the office after rising

at dawn to get in a couple hours of gardening in the historic Koester Block, just across the street from the newspaper," she said. "Once she set aside her weeding knife, she'd pick up her editing knife and pica pole, or camera, or whatever was needed at the office and keep going — often until late into the night."  
 "This is the way it's always been with her."  
 Sharon Kessinger had been editor of *The Collegian*, the student-run daily newspaper at Kansas State. After graduation, the couple moved to Oberlin and bought the newspaper. She also served on civic and charitable boards.  
 The Kessingers have four children:

- Daughter Hannah teaches grade-school music and Spanish in Marysville. She and her husband, Marty Malotte, have two children, Katie and Ben.
- Daughter Sarah and her husband, Peter Muraski, have two children, Paul and Sophie.
- Daughter Mary teaches physical education and coaches tennis at Marysville High School. She and her husband, Matt Wassom, have three boys, Asher, Titus and Simeon.
- Son Mike works for Landoll Corp. of Marysville. He and his wife Staci live in Wichita, where Mike is a sports stringer for the *Wichita Eagle* and *Hutchinson News*.

## Airport closing may cause some medical issues

The Decatur County Hospital Board talked about the city airport being closed for five months and what that means for the hospital at its regular meeting last Monday.  
 Administrator Lynn Doeden said the hospital didn't know at first that the airport was going to be closed for five months. She said she heard about it and called fixed-base manager Bob Fraker at the airport. That means the hospital can't have a fixed-wing air ambulance in here for five months, she said, adding that they can have a helicopter come in and land at the hospital.  
 Mrs. Doeden said they also could have an ambulance take a patient to McCook and they could fly

from there. If the hospital has to take someone to McCook, asked Board member Gary Walter, is that billable?  
 Mrs. Doeden said she thinks the ambulance could bill, but it's not billable for the hospital. The hospital would have to send an acute cardiac life-support nurse if a patient has to be taken by ambulance to be flown out.  
 Lifeteam said if the hospital doesn't have a qualified nurse, they can send one out and pick up the patient. That would then be billed to the patient.  
 Mrs. Doeden said Dr. Alexander Platz is still working on the paperwork for his Kansas license. Once

all of that is sent to the state Board of Healing Arts, they will issue him a number.  
 Dr. George Hightower, who also came here to interview, is waiting for a letter from North Dakota on a offer to work there.  
 Mrs. Doeden said they are still looking for another doctor. She said she contacted recruiting firms and there just aren't that many doctors interested in coming to western Kansas.  
 In other business, the board:  
 • Heard that the providers at the Family Practice Clinic are seeing 12 to 16 patients a day.  
 • Heard the old CT scanner is out of the room. Mrs. Doeden said the

tile will get laid next.  
 • Heard Mrs. Doeden and board members Pam Wilson and Ruth Wolfram had meet with Rusty Addlemann about some concerns. Mr. Addlemann said there hasn't been any feedback since they met. Mrs. Doeden said she can't tell him anything since it relates to patient confidentiality.  
 • Held a 20-minute closed session to discuss personnel with the board members. County Commissioner Ralph Unger and the administrator. There was no action taken.  
 • Approved re-keying a double-throw safety switch for the generator at the hospital, which will cost \$7,500 for parts and labor.

## Weekend offers art for everyone

The High Plains ArtFest will be open Saturday and Sunday to give people not attending the opening gala Friday night a chance to see the hundreds of pieces of work by area artists, students and adults.  
 Organizer Connie Grafel said more than 300 pieces of art have been entered by 115 adult artists and 54 students representing 11 high schools.  
 Both McCook Community College and Colby Community College came in big, she said, and this year's show has some of the best work she has seen.  
 The free show will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and noon

to 3 p.m. on Sunday. All of the art will be on display in the arena of The Gateway.  
 On Friday, 320 patrons will attend the gala from 7 to 9 p.m. The "purchase patrons" paid \$100 a couple for the event, but can put the money towards buying a piece of art.  
 Those attending the gala also will get to vote for the People's Choice Awards for both adult and student artists.  
 Throughout the weekend, anyone attending the ArtFest will have a chance to vote for the winner of the cell-phone art category.  
 For questions, call Ms. Grafel at (785) 475-2901.

## Board learns about physical therapy

The Decatur County Hospital board talked with a physical therapist assistant about her department during its monthly meeting last Monday.  
 Jessica Townsend said the department has two physical therapist assistants and a traveling physical therapist from Norton.  
 Hospital Administrator Lynn Doeden said she is working on a contract with McCook to have a physical therapist from there come three days a week.  
 The physical therapist from Norton, said Mrs. Townsend, comes here for two half days.  
 Mrs. Townsend said she has learned how to do kinesio taping, a technique using elastic tape on joints, muscles, hematomas and other injuries. The tape helps with the healing process. She added that she's been working with the high school athletes during track season.  
 The physical therapy department has seen a drop in the number of people using it, but they are picking back up, she said.

Board member Gary Walter suggested that there may be something the department could do for the upcoming hospital 5K run-walk.  
 Board member Ruth Wolfram said she thinks Mrs. Townsend's tapping skills will bring people in. It can be used for lots of different things, she said.  
 Mrs. Townsend said the department is getting a lot of referrals from the Family Practice Clinic. The biggest complaint, she said, is that the physical therapist is part time and she needs to see all the first-time patients.  
 After the initial visit, said Mrs. Townsend, the assistants can do the appointments.  
 Mrs. Doeden said the hospital does have ads out to hire a physical therapist, but there just aren't many people in that profession looking for jobs.  
 Rusty Addleman, who was in the audience, said he was at the Oberlin Rotary Club meeting when Mrs. Townsend did her presentation. He said she did a good job of representing the department.

## Businesses plan big auction

Oberlin businesses plan to hold a joint auction on Main Street the first Saturday in May.  
 Joe Stanley, owner of Stanley Hardware, came up with the idea and told other store owners at a recent Oberlin Business Alliance meeting.

Businesses will be selling new items from their stores. Mr. Stanley said he has a storage unit, too, and the contents will be sold to the highest bidder.  
 The auction starts at 10 a.m. in front of the hardware store on Penn Avenue.

### Farm Machinery Auction

Saturday, April 28, 2012 • 10:00 a. m.

**Seller: J. Eldon Smith, Inc.**

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Location: 8 miles South of Hwy. 36 and Hwy. 83 intersection at Oberlin, 1 mile east, 1/2 mile south, signs will be posted

Eldon is retiring and has rented his land out. He has a nice clean, well maintained line of equipment. You wont want to miss this auction.

**Lunch will be served**

**Lots of Tools and Misc**

**Partial List Machinery**

- Flex King 5x5 undercutter with treaders
- John Deere 3-Section 10-10 drill
- Sunflower Follow King, 28 feet
- Quinstar Soil Shark II
- John Deere Model 320 plow
- Sunflower disc, 22 feet

All buyers unknown to Auction Firm will be asked to show proper ID and credit reference from their bank prior to sale

**Tractors**

- Case International 7140, 6300 Hrs
- Allis Chalmers 7045, 3200 Hrs
- IHC 1955 Super M w/Horn 50 loader
- IHC H Tractor
- John Deere 9' back blade

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 Joe D. Green, Salesperson/Auctioneer Roger Emigh, Salesperson/Auctioneer Randy Ostmeier, Salesperson  
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### FFA Alumni Banquet

April 27, 2012

The Oberlin FFA cordially invites FFA Alumni members and any community member who wishes to attend the 2011-2012 FFA Banquet. This year the Banquet will be held in the Oberlin Jr./Sr. High School cafeteria at 6:00 p.m. Friday, April 27, 2012. We are looking forward to seeing you there and enjoying the good food and accomplishments of our members. We will be serving chicken and potato salad with sides. Please RSVP by Thursday, April 26, to Mr. Ketterl at the Oberlin Jr./Sr. High School (785-475-2231) ext. 306, or e-mail to [jketterl@usd294.org](mailto:jketterl@usd294.org)

### The Decatur County Landfill

Will offer one free dump per family during regular hours from April 30 through May 5. Weekdays are open from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. and Saturday, May 5, from 8 a.m. – Noon. The free dump can be used for business or residence, but not both.

**Limited to five (5) passenger tires**

Refrigerated appliances must have certificate of evacuation or will be charged a \$10 fee.

**For more information call:**  
**785-475-8111.**

Remember the Free Compost available at the south end of the county shop east of town.

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