

People in Our Community

Mary Lou Olson, society editor
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Those attending the wedding of Chance Harman and Lynsey Miller at Okotoks, Canada, on July 7 were Renee and Scott Harman, and Bob and Anita Montgomery, Oberlin; Bobbie Frakes, Trenton, Neb.; Blake and Amanda Shuler, Bartley, Neb.; Frank and Susan Hillebrand, Megan and family, rural Norcatur, Blake Hillebrand, New Orleans, La., and Ron Harman, Norcatur.

Winning highs in pinochle at the Golden Age Center last week were Henry Edgett, Kelva Dryden, Marie McKisson, Doris Fringer and John Cederberg. Lows went to Ivis Hanson, John Cederberg, Willa Urban and Norma Anderson. Marjorie Olson was winner at Mexican Train Dominoes. Highs in pitch were won by Henry Edgett and Dorothy Moore with lows going to Ardythe Cederberg and John Cederberg. Bridge highs went to Marty Olson and Annette Miller.

Word was received on Friday by Pat Abbey of the death of her brother, Richard Widows, 79, of Pueblo, Colo. Mrs. Abbey had accompanied her son, Mike Abbey and her daughter, Vicki Phillips, of Goodland, to Pueblo earlier to visit him. Survivors include his wife, Darby, and two daughters. Two sons preceded him in death. Jim and Denise Abbey took care of his father, Jim Abbey, while his mother was gone.

Eldon Smith visited over the weekend with his daughter and family, Barbara and Darren McGuire, Kierra and Shane, in Wichita, to help Mrs. McGuire celebrate her birthday.

Bob and Kay Gaskill returned last Wednesday evening from a trip to Lucca, Italy, with a small group with the Kansas City Lyric Opera Guild. They attended the Puccini Festival with outdoor operas performed at Torre del Lago, Italy, by Lake Massaciucoli, and visited his home and museum. Also included were a visit to Florence and a tour to the hilltop town of Barga, and several other musical events, including a performance of the Pietrasanta Chamber Musical Festival and a tour to Pisa to see the Romanesque Cathedral complex.

Funeral services were held Friday morning at Stinemetz Funeral Home in Hill City for John C. Keith, 81, of Hill City, who died July 22, 2012. Burial was in the Morland Cemetery. His late wife, the former Wilma Vaughn, was a sister of Joyce Carlton of Oberlin. Survivors include two sons, Don (Sherry) Skubal and Tom (Patti) Skubal; daughters, Donna (Karl) Hazen, and Nelda "Louise" Keith; a brother, Ben Keith; eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He was also preceded in death by a daughter, Laura.

Gail and Kay Marcuson were Sunday dinner guests of Jerald and Elaine Leitner in Colby.

In observance of their 35th wedding anniversary, Brad and Elaine Marcuson took their family, Leslie and Ryan Nelson of Topeka, and Sarah and Jared Marcuson on a trip to Gettysburg, Pa., Washington, D.C., the Maryland Peninsula, Chesapeake Bay, Williamsburg, Va., and other points of interest. They returned home Monday.

Cheryl Gibson of Denver is spending a week visiting her parents, Charles and Donna Lincoln.

College man accepted into graduate school

Anthony Marshall, son of Troy and Deb Marshall of Norcatur and a 2005 graduate of Decatur Community High School, has been accepted into graduate school at Wichita State University. He will be working on a master's degree in fine arts with an emphasis in studio art and painting. In December 2010, he received a bachelor's degree in fine arts-painting, graduating with honors, from Kansas State University. Mr. Marshall will be a graduate teaching assistant for Foundations Drawing 1 and 2 classes at Wichita State. He was selected from over

90 applicants for this this position in June.



Anthony

He will begin with advanced and self-directed studio courses in painting, art history and contemporary art theory. His current art work revolves around the study of the brain's ability to create artificial realities in the form of dreams and memories. He says his goal is to communicate the beauty of life through the veils of natural

growth and human emotions. Mr. Marshall said he appreciates the support which everyone has given him in his artistic endeavors over the years.

4-H club to serve at show

The Stick-To-It 4-H Club will be serving cinnamon rolls, donuts, juice and coffee during the Beef Show at the Decatur County Fair next Wednesday, and the Swine

Show on Thursday, Aug. 9, both at the 4-H Barn. Donations will be accepted for the club's camp and senior scholarship programs.

Couple plans fall wedding

Peggy Foster and Mark Aschenbrenner plan to marry on Saturday, Oct. 13, 2012, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Ellis. A reception will follow at the Trego County Fairgrounds in WaKeeney.

Parents of the couple are Jerry and Patty Foster, Jennings, and LeRoy and Lois Aschenbrenner, Ogallah.

The bride-elect is a 2003 graduate of Jennings High School. She completed a Master of Science in family studies and human services at Kansas State University in May 2009. She is a special education preschool teacher for the Salina School District.

Her fiance is a 2005 graduate of



Peggy Foster and Mark Aschenbrenner

Trego Community High School. He completed a Bachelor of Business Administration degree at Fort Hays State University in May 2010. He is a staff accountant for Ballou Pavement Solutions Inc. in Salina.

Longs gather at farm

The descendants of Bryan "Red" and Leta (Jones) Long met for a family reunion during the past week at the farm home of Diana and Larry Alstrom northwest of Hoxie.

Family members enjoyed meals including brisket and a cream-can supper, swam in the Alstroms' backyard pool and attended the Sheridan County Fair. Many also toured their old stomping grounds of Dresden, Jennings and Oberlin, stopping to visit and buy cookbooks and antiques. Reunion T-shirts, which read "LONG-ing for Home, Kansas Reunion, Summer 2012," featured a photo of Red and Leta and their 10 children, circa 1957. One son, G. B. Long, is deceased.

Those attending were Gale Long, Frisco, Texas; Garry and Vicky Beeson, Melissa Long and Katie Cruz, Houston; Patty Moore, Ricky and Jeanne Holloway, Chireno, Texas; Delmar and Joy Richardson and grandchildren, Kaitlyn and Max, Belgrade, Mont.; Melba McCoy, Belle Fourche, S.D.; Gary Long, Bullhead City, Nev.; Gene Long, Provo, Utah; Phyll Carman,

Boulder, Colo.;

Greg and Phyllis Long, Scott City; Evan and Judy Goltl, and Gabe Moore, Hill City; Shelly Brussard, Boston; Kelly and Monte Moore, Oberlin; Ryann and Bryce Woodall, Ellie, Audrey and Natalie, WaKeeney; Peggy Carman, Deb and Tom Campbell, Cindy and Charlie Ostmeyer, Jodee and Karl Stillman and Cash, Hoxie; Anne and Dick Heskett, Chelsea and Riley; Lindsay and Adam Koster, Maggie, Haley, Eli and Grace; Angie and Bryan Long, Kendall and Carsyn, all of Wichita;

Clay and Jessica Alstrom, Evann, Max and Madison, Shawnee; Jamie Eager and Cooper, and Nick Bolton, Overland Park; Carrie and Steve Meier, Morgan and Avery, and Holly and Greg Horning, Taryn, Caleb and Jace, Hutchinson; Josh Campbell, Manhattan; Adam Ostmeyer and Anne Marie Dunbar, Emily and Brady Nelson, Denver; Ashley Heskett, Philadelphia; and Troy Ostmeyer, Mackenzie Carman, and Jessica Weaverling, Hays.

Help sought for farmers

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced new flexibility in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's major conservation programs to get help to stockmen as the most widespread drought in seven decades intensifies.

"Beginning today," Vilsack said, "USDA will open opportunities for lands enrolled in conservation programs while providing additional financial and technical assistance to help landowners through this drought."

Stockmen may ask to have their Environmental Quality Incentives Program contracts modified and for expedited Compatible Use Authori-

zation for haying and grazing under the Wetlands Reserve Program, said Eric B. Banks, state conservationist for the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service.

"Farmers and ranchers needing assistance because of the drought in modifying their EQIP and/or WRP contracts should visit with their district conservationist."

Thus far, 104 of 105 Kansas counties have been designated as disaster areas. Increasingly hot, dry weather has damaged or slowed the maturation of crops and rangeland.

For information, call the Decatur County office of the Conservation Service at 475-3131.

Emerald Ash borer spotted near state line

The Missouri Department of Agriculture has confirmed an Emerald Ash Borer sighting in Parkville, Mo., four miles east of the state line.

This is the western most sighting for an invasive pest first discovered in the greater Detroit area in 2002. Since then, the borer has spread as far east as Connecticut, as far south as Tennessee and as far west as Kansas City.

Samples from a suspicious Parkville beetle were submitted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for positive identification. With confirmation, the U.S. and Missouri Departments of Agriculture initiated a survey of the area to determine if more trees are infested.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture and the Kansas Forest Service, part of Kansas State University Research and Extension, have been monitoring the spread of emerald ash borer since 2002.

Per Kansas' Emerald Ash Borer response plan, surveying and monitoring work and educational activities will continue. People are asked to be alert to ash tree decline. With the drought, the task will be challenging, as many symptoms of emerald ash borer infestation mirror drought symptoms. Telltale signs include:

- Delayed leafout in spring; have seen this season because of drought stress.
- Thinning canopy or crown.
- Branch dieback from top of tree.

- S-shaped galleries (tunneling) under the bark.
- Woodpecker damage.
- Epicormic shoots/water sprouts.
- Bark splits.
- D-shaped exit holes first spotted in upper branches of tree.

The Kansas Forest Service says ash trees are part of the top 10 species by volume in the state. They estimate that there are 56.1 million green and white ash trees in Kansas at risk, most in rural areas. However, the 1.5 million ash trees in Kansas towns and cities will pose a much greater cost in removal, stump grinding and replacement should emerald ash borer enter the state.

Kansas Forest Service and Kansas Department of Agriculture ask residents and travelers to help prevent the spread of these pests by:

- Don't move firewood. Do not pack firewood and bring it on your camping trip. Use local vendors for firewood needs and do not bring unused wood home with you. Also, do not buy firewood from door-to-door salesman or vendors from infested states. Ask where they got their ash wood.
- Look for signs in your ash trees.

If you suspect a tree could be infested, go to www.emeraldashborer.info or www.ksda.gov/plant_protection/content/379 for information on signs and symptoms. Contact your K-State Extension agent or the state Forest Service at (75) 532-3300 or the Department of Agriculture at (785) 862-2180.

Business loans available

Small businesses in 82 Kansas counties affected by the drought, including Decatur County and all surrounding counties, are now eligible to apply for low-interest federal disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

"These loans offset economic losses because of the drought that began Jan. 1..." said Alfred E. Judd, director of the agency's Disaster Field Operations Center-West. "SBA eligibility covers both the economic impacts on businesses depending on farmers and ranchers... and businesses directly impacted by the disaster."

Small, nonfarm businesses, agricultural cooperatives, aquaculture businesses and most private, non-profit organizations of any size may

qualify for up to \$2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses, Mr. Judd said.

"Eligibility for these loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on any actual property damage," he added. "These loans have an interest rate of 4 percent for businesses and 3 percent for private, nonprofit organizations, a maximum term of 30 years, and are available to those... without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship."

Farmers and ranchers are not eligible; they should contact the U.S. Farm Services Agency about Department of Agriculture assistance. Check with the county office in Oberlin or call (785) 475-3131.

New Arrival

Sean Oisin Smith

Christopher and Anne Smith of Chicago, Ill., are the parents of a son, Sean Oisin Smith, born July 14, 2012. He weighed 8 pounds 12 ounces and was 21 inches long. Grandparents are Joe and Cindy Thornton, Elmhurst, Ill., and Karen and Larry Smith of Oberlin.



Sean Smith

Happy Birthday

Connie Cramer is turning 85 on August 6. Her family is planning a card shower in her honor.

Birthday greetings may be sent to 108 E. Ash, Oberlin, KS 67749. Thank you for helping her have a fabulous birthday.



65th Wedding Anniversary
Open House
for
Martin and Evelyn (Reith) May
Saturday, August 11, 2012 2-4 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran Church
No Gifts Please

70th Wedding Anniversary
Weldon and Merrice Brooks, Norton,
wish to invite their family and friends to join them in celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary. The Open House will be held at the Norton American Legion on Sunday, August 12 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Their children are Bill and Gail Brooks of Clayton, Kansas and Don and Barbara Kelly of Lawrence, Kansas, and the late Bart Brooks. They have also been blessed with 5 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

Your presence will be their gift.

DECATUR COUNTY FARM BUREAU

JUST A REMINDER TO RSVP FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING
AUGUST 16, 2012 AT THE AMERICAN LEGION.
ALONG WITH OUR GUEST SPEAKER JOHN SCHLAGECK,
SENATOR PAT ROBERTS AND REPRESENTATIVE WARD CASSIDY
WILL BE ATTENDING.

TO RSVP CALL 785-470-7042 OR EMAIL DECATURFB@KFB.ORG