

Firemen's FunDay scheduled Saturday

The 21st annual Firemen's Fun Day will be held Saturday in Jennings with the theme, "Kansas - Too Hot to Handle!" to recognize the importance of volunteer fire fighters under a scorching hot summer - and raise money for new fire trucks.

The day will begin with a Health Fair and a Kolache Coffee from 8 to 10 a.m. at the Senior Center. Lab work at the health fair will cover a large number of tests at a minimal price, said Mayor Marge Hartzog, one of the organizers. The health-care team will offer Vitamin D testing for \$25.

"It is important in this area, as many people are Vitamin D deficient due to living in an area that has a long winter season without a lot of sunshine," she said.

A new addition to the health fair will be Amy Vacura, therapist for Essential Massage, who will be doing massage demonstrations.

Other morning activities include a bake sale and a craft fair at the American Legion hall and a sale of homemade kolaches, a traditional Czech pastry, at the fire house. More than 100 dozen kolaches are prepared for the event, and they sell quickly. They may be ordered in advance by calling Mrs. Hartzog at (785) 678-3010 or Dorothy Vacura at (785) 678-8133.

Greg Otter of Lenora will be on hand with his train to entertain the kids. Other events for kids include a dunk tank, coin search, pony rides, and a giant slide. A cake walk and Bingo are also scheduled.

A Wobble Trap Shoot will begin at 10 a.m. at the Kenny Wildeman farm north of Jennings. Participants must bring their own shotgun and ammunition.

A new educational opportunity is an interactive replica of a three-story house demonstrating common fire hazards in the home, courtesy of the Hoxie Fire Department.

The Czech Museum will be open all day except during the parade. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. The parade begins at 1:30 p.m. The Sons of the American Legion from Jennings and Norton will

lead the entries. All walkers, bikers, floats, vehicles, machinery, animals and other entries are welcome. Just be at the south end of Pennsylvania Avenue (or School Street) between 12:30 and 1 p.m.

All women and girls of any age are encouraged to enter the queen contest. Registration will be at the parade entry site. Candidates will be introduced during the parade and the public can vote for the queen until 4:30 p.m. Taryn Fleckenstein of Jennings is the reigning queen.

Afternoon events include the children's Tractor Pull, which is sanctioned for the State Fair and sponsored by the Great Northwest Insurance Agency of Oberlin. A drawing will be held for a girls bike and boys bike, with helmet, donated by Jennings Fire Department and Emergency Medical Service volunteers. Children 12 and younger can register, but they must be present to win.

Other afternoon events include the Firemen's Team Barrel competition, crowning of the queen and an auction of items donated by area businesses and individuals. There will be drawings for a television, a surround sound system and a portable disk player. Throughout the day, drawings will be held for smoke alarms and fire extinguishers donated by the firemen.

The lunch stand opens at the fire house at 11:30 a.m., and at 6 p.m. a hog-roast supper will be served. Sno-cones and funnel cakes will be available during the afternoon. A street dance with Mobile Music Express will conclude the evening.

The event is always the fourth weekend of August.

"The purpose of the Jennings Firemen's Fun Day is to make a day of fun and games for the kids of the area," said Mrs. Hartzog. "It also serves to bring Jennings residents, former residents and friends together for a day of reminiscing.

"The money raised from the event this year will be added to a fund to purchase new fire trucks for the Decatur County Fire Departments in Oberlin, Norcatur and Jennings."

Club hears of Civil War

Program chair Steve Haynes spoke about the Medals of Honor awarded by the U.S. Congress to 19 Union Army soldiers led by civilian scout James J. Andrews on April 12, 1862, for the program at the Aug. 14 meeting of the Oberlin Rotary Club at The Gateway.

Because Mr. Andrews was a civilian, he was not eligible to receive the medal.

The raid occurred in northern Georgia during the Civil War. The volunteers commandeered a train and took it northward toward Chattanooga, Tenn., doing as much damage as possible to the vital Western and Atlantic Railroad line from Atlanta to Chattanooga as they went.

They were chased by the train's

crew and Confederate forces. The Union men had cut the telegraph wires, so the Confederates could not send warnings ahead to forces along the railway. Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton awarded some of the raiders with the first Medals of Honor.

Later, all but two of the other soldiers also received the medals, with posthumous awards to families for those who had been executed.

The club voted to support the need for a playground for youngsters at the baseball park. Norma Unger, wife of Rotarian and long-serving county commissioner Ralph Unger, presented the club with a \$750 contribution for a Rotary Scholarship in honor of his service to the citizens of Decatur County.

Gardeners hear speaker

The Oberlin Garden Lovers Club members met July 24 for a luncheon at the LandMark Inn with Mona Amlong, owner of Mona's Market in Dresden, as the speaker.

Mrs. Amlong and her family moved to Dresden in 1981. After her children were grown, she started working with seed germination and plantings. She said she learned from her father how to start plants from seeds, but since then everything she has learned has been from trial and error.

Her gardening hobby turned into a business in 2006, with she and her husband doing all the work at their greenhouse, including germinating many of their annuals and perennials from seeds under lights in a controlled climate.

Along with plants, she also has irrigation supplies, fertilizer, soil and concrete ornaments for sale. She said some of the plants she sells that do well in heat are pentas, torenia, lantana, verbena, salvia, nicotiana, purslane, zinnias, vincas, shrub roses, daylilies, the bloomer-ang lilac, echinacea and tall garden phlox.

The club welcomes new gardeners and members. It meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at noon at the LandMark. Call 475-2340 the morning of the program to reserve a spot and order your lunch. Happy gardening!

People in Our Community

Mary Lou Olson, society editor

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Denise Abbey returned home recently from Southern California, where she visited her daughter and son-in-law, Kenzie and Garrick Reichert, and her grandchildren, Grace and Porter. While there, Mrs. Abbey and her family enjoyed spending time at the beach, visiting, touring and dinner at Stone Brewing Company in Escondido, where Garrick works as a brewery process engineer. During her visit, many friends and family came together to celebrate parties at the Reichert home for Porter's second birthday and Grace's fourth birthday.

Laurene Van Otterloo attended a party in Minden, Neb., on Sunday, which honored her cousin, Beth (McLaughlin) Oschner on her 85th birthday.

Delbert and Norma Lewis spent the weekend in Solomon where they attended the wedding of their granddaughter, Carissa Tracy and Jamie Adamson at Immaculate Conception Parish. The reception, dinner and dance were held at the Elks Lodge in Abilene. The couple will make their home in Bartlesville, Okla., where both are employed.

Doris Fringer and Carolyn Shirley returned home last Tuesday from Two Buttes, Colo., where they had visited Rod and Patty Steinmetz since Saturday. Other visitors were Ryan and Tammy Steinmetz and Haley of Springfield, Colo.

Bob and Kay Gaskill visited in Lakewood, Colo., with their daughter, Lori Gaskill and husband Ray Kriehbaum, Mac, Orion, Ulie and Ferdi, after attending the Kansas Bankers Association annual convention at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs.

Graveside services were held Friday morning at the Oberlin Cemetery for Landan James Fringer, 3 months and 14 days, of Grinnell, who died Aug. 9, 2012, at Via Christi St. Francis Hospital in Wichita. He was born April 26, 2012, the son of Terry Hays and Ameree (Fringer) Greene. He was a great-great-grandson of Martha Fringer of Oberlin and the late Max Fringer. Memorials were established in his name in care of Mickey-Leopold Funeral Home, P.O. Box 987, Hoxie, Kan., 67740.

Mini Sappa show set

Plans are underway for the 32nd Annual Mini Sappa Antique Thresher and Engine Show, scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 15 and 16, at the Decatur County Fairground in Oberlin.

Exhibits and attractions will include a quilt show, vintage tractors, stationary engines, cars, trucks, antique farm machinery, farm toys, model displays and more.

Events will begin at 9 a.m. both days, with a kids' pedal tractor pull at 11 a.m. Saturday. A garden-tractor pull will begin at 1 p.m. Saturday,

— Creative Movements Gymnastic parents meeting for youths wanting to enroll, Monday, Aug. 27, 6:30 p.m., Golden Age Center. Contact Robyn Rouse 475-8249 or Sarah Howland 475-4049 for details.

Winning highs in pinochle at the Golden Age Center last week were Henry Edgett, Ardythe Cederberg, Dewaine Stapp, Max Carman, Ardis Roe, Dorothy Moore and Neil Marshall. Lows went to Norma Anderson, John Cederberg, Henry Edgett, Ardis Roe, Dewaine Stapp, Ivis Hanson and Doris Fringer. Estella Waldo and Gladys Geis were Mexican Train Dominoes winners. Highs in pitch were won by Elden Haas and Henry Edgett with lows going to Pat Abbey and Ardythe Cederberg. Bridge highs went to Cynthia Matson, Dorothy Cochran, Annette Miller and Marie McKisson.

Mary McAnany of Kansas City, Mo., was a weekend guest of her daughter, Stephanie DeCamp.

Roger and Nancy Robinson, and Tyler and Tiffany Witt, Trevor and Tessa spent the weekend in Scottsbluff, Neb., where they visited Bonnie Gabel and Connie and Terry Streeter; also Eileen Pierce of Mitchell, Neb., and Don Gabel in Bayard, Neb. The Witts also visited a former classmate, Travis Gould, and two former teachers, Larry Collins and Willie Quintz, of Tyler's when he attended college at Scottsbluff.

Janeil Jensen is a resident of Cedar Living Center. Mail will reach her at 810 W. Columbia, Oberlin, Kan., 67749.

Eileene Grose, Pam VanVleet, Ravyn and Alyssa, Sid and Cheryl Metcalf, Shannon, Jaime and Aden Metcalf attended a 50th wedding celebration for Gary and Deanna Grose of Berthoud, Colo. Their children and grandchildren, Todd Grose and son Morgan, Dan and Michelle Kessler and their daughter, Sunie helped with the event. The celebration was held in their back yard complete with band music and lots of food. Over 130 friends and relatives attended.

with the parade at 4 p.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday.

Raffles are being held for a club-made quilt and a 1948 John Deere Model A Tractor. The drawing will follow the parade on Sunday; those who buy tickets do not have to be present to win.

A ham-and-beans supper will be served a 6 p.m. Saturday for \$6 per person, but will be free for exhibitors.

For details, call (785) 626-3315 or (785) 322-5563.



OBERLIN GRADUATE Carolyn (DeMay) Richards owns the Craft Peddler in Brewster, which has grown into one of the town's dominant businesses. — Herald photo by Kathryn Ballard

Decatur High grad operates craft store

The Craft Peddler, a Brewster business serving all of northwest Kansas, lures travelers off Interstate 70 with unique craft items, informative classes and a wide array of products, according to a story by Kathryn Ballard of *The Colby Free Press*.

In 1984, Carolyn Richards and her husband Steve, both graduates of Decatur Community High School, and their three children, Scott, Shawn and Trisha, moved to Brewster from Syracuse. She is the daughter of the late Hal and Martha DeMay and his parents are Eunice Richards of Oberlin and the late George Richards.

Steve began work for S&T Telephone as plant manager shortly after the move. In June of that year, he heard about a building that was coming up for sale downtown and called Carolyn to tell her the news. With her love of wheat-weaving and dreams of owning a craft store, she opened the Craft Peddler on Dec. 1 of that year.

The name of her business came from her years of living in Syracuse and weaving wheat. She would "peddle" the products she made, and it just became the name, Mrs. Richards said. She wanted the name to be different though and made all the letters lowercase.

She said she started her business with only 1,000 square feet and the bare necessities, including ribbon and glue. Later as her business grew, she moved across the street in 1991 to her current location with more than 2,400 square feet and 27,000 crafting items. Any crafter will find his or her needs, from wooden cut-

outs and rubber stamps, to stained-glass paint and frames. There is even a section for those traveling who need something to keep little hands busy on long drives.

People from all over the U.S. and many foreign countries stop in to shop after seeing the store's many billboards on Interstate 70. Many customers have become regulars as they travel year after year, Mrs. Richards said. Others shop through her online store and she is known to ship packages to some far-away places.

"So many people are amazed at the selection we carry and how many things can be found in this store that you just can't find in some of the bigger craft stores in the bigger cities," said Lori Wicks, one of the employees. "We carry so many different items."

The Craft Peddler has a large selection of scrapbooking items, as well as anything a cake decorator or jewelry maker could want or need. Mrs. Richards even offers classes in subjects including aromatherapy soaps and creams, scrapbooking, one-stroke painting, retro artwork, glass etching, clay sculpting and jewelry making, and during the holidays, Christmas ornaments. She said she has many favorites in the crafting world but scrapbooking is the one she favors the most.

The Craft Peddler, at 313 Kansas Ave. in downtown Brewster, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For information on classes, call (785) 694-2817 or e-mail craftpeddler@st-tel.net. The store can be found at www.thecraftpeddler.net.

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- United NW Federal Credit Union, NCUA
- Willow Creek Meats



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- Custom Trophy
- Dannye Uehlin
- Decatur County Title and Abstract
- Doc Uehlin
- Farmers Bank and Trust, FDIC
- Fredrickson Insurance
- Frontier Ag
- Grafel Farms
- Eugene and Beverly Witt
- Hank Juennemann
- Harmony Farms
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