

People in Our Community

Mary Lou Olson, society editor
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Word was received of the death of Dean Humphrey, 69, of Wheat Ridge, Colo., on Friday. He and his wife, Patty, were former residents and lived on a farm northwest of Oberlin, where they raised dogs. He was also a painter and she worked at Decatur Co-op. Funeral services are pending, but will be held at Mountain View Memorial Park, 3016 Kalmia Ave., Boulder, Colo. Among other survivors are three brothers, Delmer, Bill and Rick Humphrey, Denver; and three sisters, Joyce Gibson, Char Hartner and Deb Humphrey, Herndon.

having lunch at the ReLoad. The Oberlin Community Fellowship Church was host for the Imperial Valley Holiness Convention on Saturday with a service, followed by a potluck. There were attendees from Yuma, Colo.; Benkelman, Neb.; Culbertson, Neb.; Parks, Neb.; North Platte, Neb.; Max, Neb.; Smith Center, and Omaha.

Jim Halbert of Brazoria, Texas, came Saturday to visit relatives and friends in the area until today. He is a former Oberlin resident when he was branch manager of the United Federal Credit Union.

Cheryl Votapka returned home Monday afternoon after spending the past week staying with her grandsons, Finn, Max, and Jack Huerter, Lawrence, while their parents, Drs. Pam and Eric Huerter, attended a medical conference in Boca Raton, Fla. En route to Lawrence she had lunch with her daughter, Luanne Rowilson of Hays.

Relatives who had lunch on Sunday in Wheeler, then attended graveside services conducted by the Rev. Dennis Kirchoff of Lafayette, Colo., at the St. Francis Cemetery for Don Crumly, a brother of Kay Gaskill of Oberlin, who died on Oct. 10 in Sulphur Springs, Texas, included: Bob and Kay Gaskill, Oberlin; Michael Crumly, Lafayette, Colo.; Mark Crumly, Justin and Danielle Crumly and Reagan, and Quintin Crumly and Casey Jenkins, Grey, Tenn.; Dave and Toni Kirchoff, Yonkers, N. Y.; Guy Gaskill and Jesse Gaskill, Winona; Stefan Gligorijevic, Belgrade, Serbia; Lori Gaskill and husband, Ray Kreigbaum, Max, Orion, Ferdinand and Ulysses, Lakewood, Colo.; and Shad and Jodi Metcalf, Bryson, Senanna and Jude, Colby. They were all evening dinner guests at the Bob and Kay Gaskill home. On Monday, the group enjoyed a tour at the Decatur County Museum, given by Director Sharleen Wurm, then visited several antique stores and businesses before

Mary Landau is recuperating from a fall, which she suffered on Oct. 29, the day before she and her husband, Darrell, planned to leave for their home in Garden Grove, Calif. She was hospitalized at Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney, Neb., but is back in their home in Oberlin. Their daughter, Julie Richards, of Walnut Creek, Calif., came to assist them.

Winning highs in pinochle at the Golden Age Center last week were Doris Fringer, Kelva Dryden, Dorothy Moore, Ardis Roe, Henry Edgett and Dewaine Stapp. Lows went to Dorothy Moore, Neil Marshall, Marie McKisson, Doris Fringer and Max Carman. Pitch high were won by Henry Edgett and Pat Abbey with lows going to Dorothy Moore and John Cederberg. Bridge highs were won by Cynthia Matson, Annette Miller, Dewaine Stapp and Bernita Gawith.

Club hears speakers

Program Chair Warren Weibert introduced Gordon Hibbard, president of the Kansas 4-H Foundation, and Michelle Schrader, director of development, who gave the program at the Oct. 30 meeting of the Oberlin Rotary Club at The Gateway. Mr. Weibert is a 4-H Foundation board member. The speakers said the foundation has a great impact on youngsters in Kansas. It solicits private-sector support for projects and awards, medals, stipends and scholarships for the 4-H program. They ex-

plained the "Growing Kansas Leaders" fund-raising campaign for the future of 4-H. The four goals of the campaign are: Secure the future of a dynamic youth organization; expand and enhance programs and facilities; instill in young people a desire to serve; and nurture new leaders in our communities, state and nation. Many Rotarians are associated with 4-H or their family members have been involved, Mr. Hibbard noted.

Daughters meet in Colby

The John Athey Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution met at the Pioneer Memorial Library in Colby on Oct. 24. Regent Sharon Marauth opened the meeting. Roll call was answered with "A snake story of your memory." National defense was given by Cheryl Goetz and Gladys Rowley gave the treasurer's report. Eva Wheeler read the minutes. A vote carried to save nickels to be given to the Chippeau Indian

School. A skit was performed by Judy Watkins, Kay Weber, Gayle Breckenkamp and Mrs. Maurath entitled "Four Ladies Journey to America in 1620." After lunch at Mable's Cafe, reports were given by Ms. Breckenkamp, Ms. Weber, Judy Watkins, Ms. Goetz and Fran Mann. The meeting closed in prayer. The next meeting will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 27, at JD's in Hoxie.



Rex and Betty Carswell

Couple observe 66th

Rex and Betty Carswell, their children and the children's spouses, celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary with a cruise to New England and Canada.

The trip, which also included three days in New York, was a gift from their children, Terry and Steve Salter of McPherson. Vince and Peggy Carswell of Oberlin, Peggy and Robert Dible of Menlo and Daryl and Rita Carswell of Hays.

James Rex Carswell and Betty Lou Thieler were married on June 6, 1946, in Selden, with the Rev.

Milton officiating. Attendants were Keith Barnett and Darlene Thieler.

They couple have lived on their farm north of Rexford for 66 years and remain active in community and church affairs. In addition to the four children and their spouses, their family has grown to include 14 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

Congratulations may be sent to them at 14482 N. Road 150W, Selden, Kan., 67757.

Moran's representative visits at courthouse

By STEPHANIE DeCAMP
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A representative of U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran came to the Decatur County courthouse, and while only one resident stopped in to discuss anything, the conversation they had concerned an issue of particular importance to northwest Kansas.

Gary Walter, president of The Bank, wanted to see if the senator's staffer knew anything about what was happening with the Farm Bill in relation to this year's election.

Margaret Gabelmann, who works for Sen. Moran in Hays, said she visits the county once or twice a year to hear local issues and concerns, help people solve problems with federal agencies and to keep abreast of how things are going.

The Farm Bill, Ms. Gabelmann had previously explained, covers money for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and most of that is the nutrition program, including food stamps and other welfare programs. Only 15 percent of the bill, she said, actually has to do with farmers. The two parties both favor some aspects of the bill and want to cut others.

The bill contains the the rules for farm subsidies and other programs, which Ms. Gabelmann speculated will be cut. In the last century, she said, technology has advanced so far that we have the ability to produce more food than we need. To keep the supply from overrunning demand and driving down prices, farmers have been paid not to farm some areas of their land. During drought years like this, a lot of that land is then opened up for haying and graz-

ing, as they were this year.

The Farm Bill passed the Senate, but was not voted on in the House of Representatives before the election recess, Ms. Gabelmann said. And that's what Mr. Walter came to talk about.

"Well," he said, after introducing himself, "I spoke with (Rep. Tim) Huelskamp and (Sen. Pat) Roberts when they were last here, and I just wanted to step in and see if anything was really getting done, if any progress was being made. No one is willing to compromise about these things. Of course, I'm a banker, and I'm concerned about interest rates and things like that, but I'm wondering, how do we help our politicians do their jobs? What can we do?"

"How do we get things done without just firing everyone, and getting people who will work together?" It was a good question, Ms. Gabelmann said, but not much can be done until the House comes back into session. When it comes to things like this, she said, it's not so much about who sits in the Oval Office, but who the senators and representatives are. There could be a whole new House making the decisions next year.

"It really just depends on the House and Senate, and how they compromise," Ms. Gabelmann said. "Most issues don't even make it to the president's desk; they have to go through both those groups before they can be. But things like tax cuts, the debt ceiling and the farm bill probably won't be moving forward until after the elections."

Decatur grad is judge for Sherman County

(The following story was carried in the Goodland Star News about Judge Leann Taylor, a 1979 graduate of Decatur Community High School. She is the daughter of L' Marie Robertson and the late Ellsworth "Jim" Robertson. The story was provided by the High Plains Museum in Goodland, which will be host for a Smithsonian exhibit, "The Way We Worked," on Saturday, Dec. 15.)

twice a month, on the second and fourth Wednesdays, in the commission room at City Hall. Depending on factors including the economy, heat and others, she will see cases from driving under the influence and other traffic violations, to animal problems and domestic disputes. Her workload varies from 400 to 1,400 cases a year, working with lawyers, police officers and others to arrive at a just result for the defendants



Judge Taylor

The consequences of our actions can lead us to many places. In Goodland, one such place might be in front of Judge Leann Taylor, the municipal court judge.

Judge Taylor has been with the Municipal Court since 1991 as a court clerk, judge pro tem and, since 2004, municipal judge.

A native of Oberlin, Judge Taylor moved to Goodland with her family from Garden City for a work opportunity for her husband, Dennis. She spent time as a stay-at-home mom raising her three children before joining Goodland's city court. In November 1998, while working as court clerk, she said, she took a course and passed a certification test in Topeka to become a municipal judge.

"I like working with people and kids and seeing how this process can make a difference," she said.

Municipal court is typically the first exposure many people have to the court system (through a speeding ticket for example), so Judge Taylor's court management reflects that. She said she takes "a small-town approach" to those she sees.

"I mostly deal with good people who make bad decisions," she said.

Judge Taylor presides over court

that see her.

"All cases are important," she said.

The decisions she makes affect the safety of everyone in town, she said, and she works with that in mind. She says the job has made her attuned to understanding people and knowing what works and what doesn't to help people learn from their mistakes, whether that takes a fine, community service or jail time. Serving as judge requires her to be consistent, clear and tough with people, she said.

Serving as a judge has also left some restrictions on her private life. She can't hold office in clubs and no political signs will be placed in her yard, since she must at all times observe a non-partisan position. However, Judge Taylor is a member of the Goodland Kiwanis Club and she maintains a happy private life.

Judge Taylor said her work is public; she presides over a court that works through difficult moments in people's lives. It is a stressful time and she does her best to approach that moment with just evaluation and consideration.

She said the work has taught her over the years to take her time with decisions and be lenient or tough when she needs to be.

New Arrivals

Brookelynn Olivia Vahling

Parker Vahling of Oberlin, along with his parents, Michael and Kandi Vahling, welcomed the newest addition to their family on Oct. 31, 2012. Brookelynn Olivia Vahling arrived at 3:20 p.m. at Citizens Medical Center in Colby, weighing in at 8 pounds, 11 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. Her grandparents include: Dick and Betty Vahling, Dresden, and Peggy Handran, Laramie, Wyo. Her great-grandmothers are Ruth Vahling, Dresden, and Alberta Ritter, Oberlin.



Brookelynn

Brevan James Leitner

Ryan and Janna Leitner of Oberlin are the parents of a son, Brevan James Leitner, who was born at home on Oct. 17, 2012. He weighed 8 pounds, 9.5 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long. He has a brother, Grady 3, and a sister, Rhianna, 21 months. Grandparents are John and Lisa Paulson, Oberlin; Rich and Cheryl Stef, Aurora, Colo.; and Royce and Vicky Leitner, Oberlin.



Brevan

Jennings United Methodist Church
Annual Pheasant Supper

Saturday, Nov. 10th, 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Roast Beef and ham roast, green beans, corn, mashed potatoes and gravy, hot rolls, salad and dessert bar.

See you at 202 S. Topeka in Jennings, KS

Adults, \$7; children 6-12, \$3.50; 5 and under, free

St. Mary's Veterans Day Fall Festival
Sunday, November 11, 2012
St. Mary's Assumption Church Hall
Herndon, Kansas

Serving Roast Turkey and Ham Dinner
From 11:30 to 1:30 (Free will offering)

Raffle Drawings for
\$500 ♣ \$250 ♣ \$100 ♣ \$50 and much more!
Raffle tickets available through November 11
\$1 per ticket ♣ 6 for \$5 ♣ 13 for \$10
(need not be present to win)

Bingo after dinner, CYO sponsored games
Everyone Invited

Veterans - Let us serve you today!

North Platte Trio
Job, Peter and Chuck

The North Platte Trio will be performing at **The Gateway** **Saturday, Nov. 10th at 7:30 p.m.** Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission season ticket event or \$12 for adults and \$7 grades 1-12. For information call Ella Betts (785) 475-3557 or Mary Henzel (785) 470-0218.

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