

People in Our Community

Mary Lou Olson, society editor
ml.olson@nwkans.com



DEPARTING ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR Lisa Paulson (above) talked about "Jesus, the Light of the World," the theme for the recent Rockathon at the center. Residents who spent the day rocking raised \$3,000, which will go to Teens for Christ and the Oberlin Pool Project. —Photo by Anita Hirsch

Good Sam director plans move to Dallas

As Lisa Paulson, who has served as activities director at the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center for the past nine years, prepared to turn over the reins to Whitney True Francis, she reflected on the many blessings the position has brought her.

She and her husband John are moving to Dallas, where he is attending Dallas Theological Seminary. A farewell reception in her honor will be held at 2:30 p.m. Thursday at the center.

"One of the highlights for me has been the Rockathon, which this year had the theme, 'Jesus, Light of the World,'" she said. "This year it brought a total of \$3,000 ... to be redistributed by the Ladies Bible Study to Teens for Christ and the Oberlin Pool Project. That brings our seven-year total to \$14,605 that we have been able to pass on to our community and even overseas."

She added that this year's theme was chosen because the Good Samaritan Society "is shining the Light in Oberlin."

"Good Sam was a Light to me when my family and I moved from Denver to Oberlin 13 years ago," she recalled. "I brought my youngest daughter, Serena, who was only 4 at that time, to a carnival being held here. I had never visited a nursing home before. When we entered, I saw wheelchairs and walkers and realized I hadn't prepared her for what she might see."

"I took her aside and began to explain, but she interrupted me saying, 'It's OK Mommy; they're just Grandmas and Grandpas.'"

"We started volunteering, playing kickball, visiting with our newly-adopted grandma, Agnes Chambers, and playing Rummikubs with Velma Clark."

Four years later, she became a member of the Good Sam Family when she was hired as activities assistant. She said she went to looking for a job, but found "a place of refuge and caring."

"Right away, I was so encouraged by the faith in Jesus Christ the residents so freely shared," she recalled.

"Through my interaction with those I cared for, I was strengthened and encouraged in my faith."

"I became keenly aware of the faithfulness of the families who came to visit every week, some every day. The unconditional love of husbands whose wives were struggling with Alzheimer's or another health problem and vice-versa, the wives whose husbands were living here, made a huge impression on me and became a focus of programming."

"The Garden of Hope was opened to address the ever-changing needs

of the loved ones in our care. The children of the residents who were faithful to call, visit, shop, take their mom to appointments and things like that encouraged me. Even the volunteers did not escape my notice."

"During my first encounter at the carnival, I met Dorothy Hunt, a resident of Good Sam, plus her daughter Reva Marshall, her granddaughter Penny Fringer and her great-grandchildren, Ellen and Sara, who were all volunteering here. That reinforced the importance of providing intergenerational opportunities like First Hand Friends, the 180 House and sending off Teens for Christ's Mission Teams."

"When planning an old-fashioned Tent Revival, I met my evangelist husband. I was so impressed with how he greeted and visited with the residents. Months later, he and my best friend, Anita Hirsch, who I also met during that first carnival visit, planned a surprise engagement proposal with the residents present in Angel Lane Dining Room."

"I remember Eva Bryan asking if I had accepted John's proposal. When I told her I had, she exclaimed, 'Good - if you hadn't, I was going to.'" Then she giggled her sweet Eva laugh.

"Six months later, we were married in Town Square with all my Grandmas and Grandpas watching and sharing our joy. Only a handful of residents who attended our wedding still remain, but Eva Bryan still gives me a kiss every day to take home to John. They love being a part of the lives of their caregivers. To them, we are their family."

When Serena was in a car accident two years ago, she said, the words of the women brought her comfort, too.

"Life doesn't stop when someone comes to live at Good Sam," she said. "For many, it's a new beginning. They find faith, friendship and outreach opportunities that bring them purpose and dignity. They want and need to be connected to their families, their churches and the community...."

"When working with an ever growing number of dementia residents, the No. 1 most important thing to remember is - they may not remember your name or how they know you, but they will remember how you make them feel. Love is what I hope was conveyed during my nine years spent at Good Sam."

"As John and I head off to Dallas to prepare for new service to the Lord, the love, blessings and faithfulness I experienced at Good Sam will go with us. Thank you, Oberlin and Good Sam, for sending us out reflecting the Light of His Glory."

Doug, Pat and Skyler Brown attended the wedding of their daughter, Ashley Wolf, to Don Mulvey on Monday, Nov. 5, at the Gran Caribe Resort in Cancun, Mexico. Among the 40 family and friends enjoying the beachside ceremony were Gerry and Theresa Tally, also of Oberlin. The newlyweds are living in Parker, Colo.

Karli Hubka was honored at the White Coat ceremony on Friday. The Northeastern State University School of Optometry presented their white coats to wear in clinics to all second year students. Attending the ceremony were Dr. Gary and Sarah Fredrickson, Oberlin; Marcia Woods, Blue Hill, Neb.; and Doyle Fredrickson, Wichita.

Kathy Washington of Sioux Falls, S.D., was a weekend guest of her father, Marlin Bowen.

Marie Vacura and daughter, Jisele of Pueblo, Colo., were houseguests from Thursday to Sunday of her grandmother, Laurene Van Otterloo.

Among relatives who attended graveside services on Friday afternoon for Dean Humphrey, formerly of Oberlin, at Mountain View Memorial Park in Boulder, Colo., were his sisters, Joyce Gibson, Char Hartner and Michelle, and Deb Humphrey of Herndon. He died on Nov. 2. Mail will reach his wife, Patty Humphrey, at 6890 W. 32nd Place, Wheat Ridge, Colo., 80033.

Tom and Chris Neff of Marion came for pheasant hunting over the weekend and visited his parents, Don and Gerry Neff. Additional dinner guests were Mike, Jackie and Jaidyn Neff of Dresden.

Brad and Elaine Marcuson and Gail and Kay Marcuson attended the Fort Hays Jazz Ensemble Concert Thursday evening. Sarah Marcuson is a member of the ensemble and played the saxophone.

Rob McFee went to Denver Sunday and his wife, Loretta, accompanied him home. She had been in Rio de Janeiro, since Oct. 20 to visit their daughter and her husband, Kelda and Hilton Queiroz, and make the acquaintance of their infant daughter, Olivia, who was born Sept. 28.

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—PEO Scholarship Christmas Sale, Bargain Box garage, Sat., Nov. 17, 9 a.m. Freewill offering.


Chyanne May and Crystal McElroy, Grand Junction, Colo., spent the weekend with Chyanne's mother, Jackie Mayberry, and her brother, Zach Lahe. They and Pat Cozad were guests for pizza Saturday evening at the home of Jeff and Andrea Burmaster, John and Kira.

Winning highs in pinochle at the Golden Age Center last week were Max Carman, John Cederberg, Doris Fringer, Veanna Carman, and Marie McKisson. Lows went to Doris Fringer, Dorothy Moore, Max Carman, Karen Bruning, Marie McKisson, Ivis Hanson and John Cederberg. Chicken Foot domino winners were Phyllis Screen and Martha Fringer. Pitch highs were won by Dorothy Moore and Henry Edgett with lows going to John Cederberg and Pat Abbey. Bridge highs were won by Marie McKisson, Annette Miller and Cynthia Matson. The senior Thanksgiving potluck will begin at 12:15 p.m. Sunday at Golden Age Center.

—Brunch Buffet Sunday, Nov. 18, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. LandMark Inn 475-2340.


Jim and Carolyn Plotts attended the 50th anniversary celebration of Sunset International Bible Institute in Lubbock, Texas. Mr. Plotts was in the second graduating class, 1966, from what was then known as Sunset School of Preaching. They returned home Saturday evening.

The North Central Kansas Music Teachers Piano Clinic was held in Norton on Saturday. There were approximately 57 students, six judges, and nine piano teachers participating from Norton, Oberlin, Stockton, Phillipsburg, and Smith Center. Students of Mary Henzel and Cheryl Metcalf of Oberlin were: Isaac and Patience Carman, Bethany Mason, Mollie Tate, Maddie Johnson, Alyssa VanVleet, Clayton Carter, Cori and Judith Isbell and Erin May. Those chosen to play in the recital were Patience, Mollie, Cori and Erin. Isaac and Judith received Honorable Mention.



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Attention Friends of Francis Porsch

The family of Francis invites you to join in a celebration of his first 80 years on Saturday, November 24 from 2-4 p.m. at the Southwind Steakhouse Saloon, 115 N. Kansas Ave., Selden; come and go as you like.

As your gift, please bring your memories of good times with Francis for the three-ring binder Memory Book, which he can share with his wife Leone, and enjoy in the future. Younger friends might want to draw pictures or make other artwork for the book.

Clay County, Kansas is accepting applications for a County Highway Administrator. This position is responsible for overseeing the entire county road and bridge system including construction and maintenance. Clay County is located in North Central Kansas and has an active construction program. Applications will be received through November 30, 2012 and the position will remain open until filled.

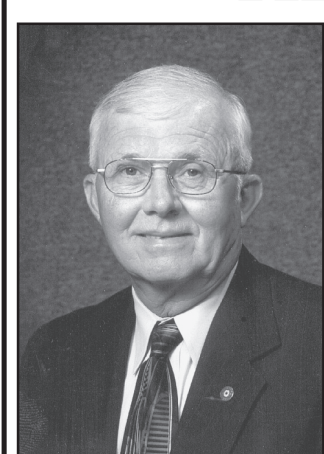

Email request for an application to:
cyclerk@claycountykansas.org

THANKS

I would like to thank everyone for your support in the general election. Your positive comments and phone calls continue to encourage me. I look forward to your continued support during the legislative session and beyond.

Senator
Ralph Ostmeyer,
Kansas 40th District

Pol. Adv. paid for by Ostmeyer for Senate, Lori Edwards, Treasurer

Jennings council plans improvements with gift

The Jennings City Council has voted to spend a portion of the Dane G. Hansen Foundation gift which the city received on renovations to the city building, says Mayor Marge Hartzog.

She said that remodeling in the library will include removing a wall separating the two rooms and updating the heating system. New doors will be installed in the Senior Center and the main building to make them handicapped accessible. The windows in the Senior Center will receive some needed repair.

Plans are underway to build handicapped access from the street to the sidewalk and alley near the

Senior Center. These were all suggestions received by the council from citizens. These improvements will not use all the money, and suggestions for its use are still welcome, she noted.

The city received a \$25,000 check from the foundation though it had not asked for the money. The foundation's only suggestion was that the money be spent and that it be used to benefit the community.

Council members taking suggestions include Pat Hall, Rick Foster, Stann Hartzog and Louise Cressler. For questions or comments, call the mayor at (785) 678-3010.

Women meet at Sappa Manor

The Prairie Chapel United Methodist Women met at the Sappa Manor meeting room last Wednesday with Lucille Townsend as hostess.

President Cheryl Metcalf opened the meeting by having members read the purpose and singing a song, followed by prayer for those mentioned.

Devotions were given by Phyllis Metcalf, who read a poem, "The 7-Ups," with a Bible verse for each

one. Roll call was answered by five members and Pastor Proffitt with a Bible verse on thanks.

The president read several letters. The district meeting was discussed and the group was proud that six members attended.

Mrs. Metcalf gave the program on the "World Thank Offering," after which several hymns were sung and an offering taken.

Musicians give program

Students from the Decatur Community High School vocal department presented the program, selections from the musical "Urinetown," at the Oberlin Rotary Club meeting last Tuesday at The Gateway.

Program chair Ken Shobe introduced director Susan Nelson and accompanist Jennifer Tally.

Past President Charles Haag conducted the meeting and greeter was Ralph Unger.

Holiday dinner next week

By **STEPHANIE DeCAMP**
sdecamp@nwkans.com

The annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be next week, and organizers at St. John's Lutheran Church are asking those who plan to attend to help out by bringing salads and pies.

The dinner will be at noon on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 22, in the church hall at 510 N. Wilson Ave. If you're planning to attend or would like the meal delivered to your home, said organizer Ruth Miesner, you can call her at 475-2380. You can also call Mrs. Miesner if you would like to make a donation.

An offering will be collected at the dinner, she said, and the proceeds will go to the Decatur County

Food Pantry.


"The dinner started over 30 years ago," she said. "We started fixing the dinner for shut-ins and people without family, and I'm not sure why, but it's really grown to more than that. It's the place to be on Thanksgiving if you're wanting to be with others."

"We have hunters and travelers come, just everybody, and the meal is cooked by church members. We have ham, turkey, dressing, rolls, salads and pies, just a bit of everything."

Mrs. Miesner said the members usually deliver meals to about a half dozen or so people who prefer to stay home, and that last year, they served somewhere between 140 to 150 people in all.

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I would like to thank everyone for their words of encouragement and votes in my bid for Decatur County Commissioner, District #3. Thanks to Bob Jones and Brad Long for their campaigns. I am humbled and honored to be your Commissioner and look forward to serving the citizens of Decatur County and making it a better place to live.

Thanks, Brad Marcuson

Ad paid for, Brad Marcuson for District #3 Commissioner, Tammy Fredrickson Treasurer.