

# Norcatour News

By the Norcatour News Committee

A movie, "Hugo," will be shown at 6 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 30, in the all-purpose room of the Norcatour City Building. You can check all the movie listings at [www.cityof-norcatour.com](http://www.cityof-norcatour.com).

Happy Birthday wishes to: Mindy Braun, Dec. 12; Bryndon Wentz and Dean Thornton, Dec. 16; Paul Welch and Justine Tuttle, Dec. 17. Happy Anniversary to: Gwynn and Judy Ward, Dec. 13; John and Carol New, Dec. 17.

Eleven senior citizens met Dec. 7 to play pitch. Winners were Margaret Magers, Bob Strevey and Phyllis Yeater. The next time the group will meet is at 1 p.m., Friday.

Veda Wood had surgery Dec. 7 at McCook Community Hospital to set her broken leg. A plate and pin were put in to help hold it. She is now in

the Oberlin Hospital to recuperate. She would love to hear from her many friends.

Keith Anthony was picked up on Dec. 4 by his brother and sister-in-law, Gary and Cathy Anthony to transport him to McCook Community Hospital for therapy and recuperation. His address at the hospital is Box 1328, Room 115, McCook, Neb. 69001. He would welcome visits and phone calls.

Gary and Cathy went back to McCook on Dec. 9 to visit both Keith Anthony and Veda Wood. Later they had a Sunday fried chicken dinner at Fuller's Restaurant and finished up their Christmas shopping.

Retta Hare, Kay Strevey and Bee Nelson went to Norton Dec. 9 to attend the Remembrance Service conducted by Enfield Funeral

Home. Janice (Hare) Baker joined them. LaVerne Milner was sick and unable to attend.

Retta Hare and Bee Nelson were among the good crowd that attended the showing of "A Christmas Carol" during movie night at the City Building.

Dennis and Judy Shirley are hosting an open house from 4 to 6 p.m., at The Gateway on Friday, Dec. 28 to honor their daughter and new son-in-law, Vicki and Steve Ruggiero. They couple was married Aug. 14 and ask that there be no gifts.

Thanksgiving guests of Patrick and Cindy Shirley were Dennis and Judy Shirley, Merle Shirley, Doris Sloan, Cindi Sauder, Oberlin; Beth Heikes, Norton; Tom Sloan, Hoxie; and Shannon, Jamie and Aden Metcalf, Danbury.

Jerry's Bar and Grill is sporting a new pool table. It will be "open for business" soon. The grill will be open on Christmas Day. He will be serving a prime rib dinner. Call for your reservations at 693-3370 or 871-7863.

# Make safe treats this year

A women's magazine did a poll of their readers and found 71 percent were planning to give some type of home-cooked/prepared food gifts this holiday season.

That is a lot, and good news that people know what to do in the kitchen – as other reports show increasing decline in basic cooking skills.

I hope that those who are preparing these gifts follow the fundamentals of safe food preparation: wash hands often and well; clean counters and equipment with clean sponges and towels; and avoid contamination of the goodies.

- The first one is easy – it is just a matter of being intentional (wash hands with soap rather than licking them clean).

- The second one also is easily taken care of with good planning and stocking of supplies.

- The third one may require some supervision, as it is hard to keep others away from the good smells.

Strategize tactics on keeping everyone busy and happy while keeping the food safe.



## Home Time

By Tranda Watts  
Regional Extension Agent

Make it mandatory for everyone involved to wash their hands properly as soon as they enter the area and to put on a clean apron.

Lay in a supply of plastic gloves for helpers to wear as they frost cookies or package sugared pecans. Norovirus is the leading cause of food-borne illnesses. Only a few of these viral cells are needed to cause illness – and it is highly contagious and very hardy. When hands aren't washed properly (at the proper times and using proper procedures), and foods that are ready to eat are touched, the transfer of the viral cells can occur.

Designate a sampling break to avoid the nibbling – and transfer of

saliva, which is where staphylococcus aureus can be found, to the food. I heard once that eating or licking fingers and then touching food is the same as licking the food. Think about that as you slave in the kitchen preparing these treats.

Your friends are lucky to receive these food gifts. Do your part to be sure you aren't gifting a food-borne illness as a bonus!

Tranda Watts is Kansas State University extension specialist in food, nutrition, health and safety for Decatur, Gove, Norton, Sheridan, and Trego counties. Call her at (785)443-3663 or e-mail [trawatts@ksu.edu](mailto:trawatts@ksu.edu). For information, contact the Decatur County office of Twin

## Decatur Health Systems

By Becky Wilson

The end of the year is always a busy time. There are the holidays and the various parties associated with them, end-of-year business matters to be taken care of and this year at Decatur Health, we are saying goodbye to some long-time employees who are retiring after many years of service.

Last week, we gathered to say goodbye to anesthesiologist Gary Bartels, who retired after more than three decades of work at this hospital.

Thursday, at 2 p.m. in the Cedar Living Center dining room, we'll be honoring Karol Styles, who is retiring after 32 years at Decatur Health. Karol began working at the hospital in 1980, when she was hired to help with billing in the Business Office. This was pre-computer, of course, and each and every night all of the charge slips had to be compared by hand.

A few years later, the head of medical records, Betty Ellis, announced she was leaving, and Karol offered to train to be Betty's replacement. She still had three of her children, Kristy, Kayla and Kendra, in high school when she went back to school herself.

In 1990, she took her place as the new head of medical records, in a brand new office, as the hospital had just completed an expansion project. She's been working there ever since.

It's always reassuring to have people like Karol around, particularly in a field as important as medical records.

While it's seen a lot of changes in recent years, with computerization and all sorts of new regulations, through it all we've always known that everything was in Karol's capable hands.

It's going to be a real adjustment for everyone here to not see Karol every day. People are happy for her, of course, but a lot of the staff have long tenure, and it's a big change when someone like Karol leaves. She will certainly be missed.

She said she was telling everyone that all she wanted to start her retirement with was to "sleep in and watch the 'Today' show and drink coffee."

So here's to that! Congratulations, Karol. Enjoy many fine mornings spent in just that fashion. You definitely deserve it.

## Chamber News

By Dave Swank

Last week, Chamber members went door-to-door to businesses, distributing membership letters. Even more letters were mailed out to home-based businesses, clubs, churches, individuals and fraternal organizations.

If you've gotten one of these letters, take a look at it. Please consider joining. (If you didn't get one, but want to support our community, call the Chamber office at 475-3441 and leave a message.

What's new in the letter? Lower membership dues. Last year, business membership in the Chamber and the Oberlin Business Alliance cost \$200; this year, it's only \$125. There's also a list of some of the Chamber and alliance activities planned for next year. If you would like to see these activities, join and get involved!

On a related note, this year's annual membership banquet and business meeting will be held at the Old Bohemian Hall at the Last Indian Raid Museum on Saturday, Feb. 2. The banquet will be free for

members, and feature a... oh, wait, it's a surprise. But if you like to enter contests, you should check here for further details in weeks to come.

Is your Christmas shopping done? Did you take advantage of Ladies Shopping Night last Wednesday? Let's hope so. And there's another chance to get some good deals in Oberlin on Friday. Men's Shopping Night, also Family Shopping Night, is sponsored by the alliance. Stores will be open from 8 to 10 p.m. Come out, enjoy a good meal, then hit the stores.

Finally, the alliance is sponsoring another free kids' movie at the Sunflower Cinema on at 1 p.m. Christmas Eve. "Arthur Christmas" will be playing, and while your kids are watching the movie, it will be a great time to do some last-minute shopping.

And don't forget to buy the necessities to make a meat loaf – you never know when you'll have an occasion to make one.

Have a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Years.

## Herndon News

By Julie Hafner

The Herndon community extends sympathy to the family of Joy Lynn Solko. Joy was born in 1958 in McCook and grew up in Bartley, Neb. She married Patrick Solko and they were blessed with three children; Kris, Kendra and Charles and one granddaughter, Kasandra. Joy died Dec. 12 in Grand Island, Neb. A vigil service was held Friday, at St. James Catholic Church in Kearney with the funeral on Saturday at St. James. Interment will follow later.

Bob and Julie Hafner enjoyed dinner with Jackie Votapka at the LandMark Inn for the Sunday Swedish buffet. Featured dishes were Swedish meatballs, an assortment of fish, Swedish pears, Teller Room green beans, asparagus quiche and luscious desserts.

Prepare ye the way. St. Mary's parishioners prepared the church for the coming of our Savior Sunday morning after Mass. This last week of Advent reminds us to focus on Bible readings from the book of Isaiah as we await the coming of the baby Jesus. With Christmas approaching, the nativity was placed; lighted trees surround the altar, green wreaths hang with festive bows and candles displayed in

window sills, all reminders of the gift given to each of us.

A surprise birthday party was held Dec. 10 at the Herndon Pool Hall for Joe Green who turned 75 that day. Those attending who came to help him celebrate were his children, relatives, neighbors and friends: Dave Green; Jerry and Connie Reitchek; Jeanne Tuma; Marty Ruda; Gene and Marcelline Cole; Bernie Zwickl; Denny and Doris Riener; Cliff and Shirley Riener; John Riener; Beth Chartier; Stacy Chartier; Ron and Peach Beims; Jennifer Davis; Bob Hafner; Ron and Colleen Fikan; Bob and Liane Martin; Henry Martin; Greg and Rita Marintzer; Dean and Deb Portschy; Eileen Portschy; Leon and Marita Portschy; Richard and Theresa Rippe; Tim and Wyatt Rippe; Voni Sattler; Ron and Cindy Sattler; Chuck and Eileen Unger; Don and Pam Stuczynski; Dave and Jeanne Unger; J.R. and Phyllis Grafel and host, Nadine Green. All of the guests had a great time, enjoying food, beverages and birthday cake.

A very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year to all!

# A look into Jesus' time

Jesus grew up in Nazareth, because after his parents' escape to Egypt, during the horrible time of the "Murder of the Innocents" as it is referred to, when all the male children under 2 were slaughtered in an attempt to prevent "The King of the Jews" from happening, the family did not want to return under the rule of Herod's son, Archelaus. So, they settled in Nazareth. It may have been that Nazareth was the home of Mary as a girl, it is not certain. However, Nazareth got quite a reputation for being a rough, tough frontier town, if you will, much like we would imagine Dodge City to have been here in Kansas in the early days before statehood.

Jesus' home would have probably been like those around it in Nazareth, made of rock and stones, which was mortared with mud, and coated with clay that would insulate against heat and cold of the extreme desert climate, yet give the home a little waterproofing for those times when there were winter rains. The roof would have been made of latticed wooden beams, which were covered by a thick layer of branches and palm fronds and then covered with a layer of mixed mud and clay, that would harden like cement. It would have been quite cozy, though small.

The size would have been perfect for Jesus and his parents, but the book of Mark tells of brothers and sisters, though scholars argue that the word used for brothers and sisters may have meant cousins, but whether or not they were is not really known of course. It really would have made little difference, since families were very close and Jesus would have gained the knowledge that he later preached about getting along with others from his extended family.

Families lived together in compounds, the houses surrounding a common courtyard. There would have been much sharing of resources, which was needed during those times, and many opportunities for children to learn together. Jesus, as did most boys of the time, would have had schooling under the watchful eye of a rabbi. Girls were educated by mothers and other female members of the extended family.

We know nothing about Jesus' life as a child other than what historically is written about children of that time. There would have been chores, and families worked and played together, much like in the early years of our own nation, when it was important for families to be together for defense and comfort. Sadly, and I say very sadly, we have lost that in our culture and in doing so, we have lost much.

Work, like the work on farmsteads of the frontier, was from sun up to sun down. The women of Jesus' time would have arisen first, to stoke the fires for cooking and baking the daily bread. Jesus often referred to the "daily bread" when giving thanks to God for his

many blessings. The women also were responsible for gathering the food and water for the day. Jesus' father was a carpenter, and more like a builder of today. Jesus would have been taught the skills as a boy as the boys were working early with their fathers.

How does that ethic work in today's culture with children? There is not that great learning cycle that happened with parents and grandparents and aunts and uncles all teaching children. Today, many parents of young children leave that to the schools and schools were not designed to do that, and in many cases, just don't have time during the day to teach children the ethics they need as adults. I have said before, and I will continue to say, we have dropped the ball.

Let me ask young parents a question? Would you like to have your children more involved with your family, working together instead of rushing from one activity to another? It seems almost as if parents are afraid of being alone with their children. Jesus called the children to his side because he recognized the wisdom that children can bring to our lives if we allow them. What has happened to that?

Schools are institutions, they are not families and are not intended to impart character that has not been developed in the home. Parents are the first teachers and are responsible for the behavior of children. As a teacher, retired after nearly 30 years, I grieve the fact that parents want both the teaching of their children by teachers, yet, will not, for the most part trust their judgment about the character of their child. When I was growing up, if a child was rude or irresponsible at school, then when we got home, our parents saw to the discipline needed to correct the problem. Teachers did not have to spend their day, trying to correct problems that should be attended to at home. And we wonder why our schools do not compete well in the world. That in a nutshell is why. There must come to be a very close relationship between teacher and family, where trust is the common denominator. If that is not there, then learning is so much more complicated.

Families in Jesus' time took that for granted. Families were responsible for the nurturing of children, not institutions. May we begin to make changes in our culture to reflect that. Families, I cannot stress enough the importance of the loving discipline that children crave, or the importance of teaching of ethics, morality and Christian values. Make a point this Christmas to change things in your family if your children are just running wildly from one activity to another. Sit down at meals, cut out the unimportant activities that will mean little to the child's future, and do what parents like Jesus' did, love, teach and nurture your children, and involve them again in the strengths that church can build.

## Schedule of Oberlin and area church services:

**OBERLIN SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
785-475-3103  
Fr. Mark Berland,  
MASS: 10:30 a.m. Sunday  
**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC, LEVILLE**  
Fr. Mark Berland,  
MASS: 8 a.m., Sunday.

**SACRED HEART CATHOLIC, SELDEN**  
Fr. Mark Berland,  
MASS: 5:30 p.m. Sunday

**JENNINGS-DRESDEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Pastor: Barbara Patterson  
SUNDAY: Church School, 10 a.m.  
Morning Worship, 11 a.m.  
**DRESDEN**  
SUNDAY: Morning Worship, 9:30 a.m.

**PRAIRIE CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST**  
The Rev. Nancy Proffitt  
SUNDAY: Church Services, 9 a.m.;  
Sunday School, 8:30 a.m.

**HERNDON IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Pastor: Dennis Brown  
SUNDAY: Morning Worship, 9 a.m.

**OBERLIN UNITED METHODIST**  
102 North Cass — 785-475-3067  
The Rev. Nancy Proffitt  
SUNDAY: Church School, 9:30 a.m.;  
Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m. (Nursery provided.) WEDNESDAY: Praise team practice, 8 p.m.

**OBERLIN ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
The Rev. Royce Leitner  
SUNDAY: Sunday School, 10 a.m.;  
Morning Worship, 11 a.m.; Evening  
Worship, 7 p.m. WEDNESDAY: Adult  
Bible study, 7 p.m.

**UNITED CHURCH OF OBERLIN**  
Pastor: Judi Stricker  
109 North Griffith-American Baptist,  
Disciples of Christ, Presbyterian USA  
SUNDAY: Adult Sunday School, 9:30  
a.m.; Coffee: 10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.  
Worship Service, 11 a.m. Choir practice  
every Sun. at 9:45 a.m. Holy Communion,  
1st & 3rd Sundays. United Church  
Women, 2nd Wed at 2 p.m. Parish  
Council, 2nd Sun. following Worship

**OBERLIN COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP (Southern Baptist)**  
Pastor: Gene Gee  
SUNDAY: Sunday School, 9:30  
a.m.; Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.,  
WEDNESDAY: Service, 7 p.m.,

**CLAYTON UNITED METHODIST**  
Pastor: Ed Woods  
SUNDAY: Sunday School, 10 a.m.;  
Worship Service, 11 a.m.

**OBERLIN CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
209 Beaver Street - Oberlin  
Bill Duncan — Phone 785-475-3259  
SUNDAY: Fellowship and coffee time,  
10:00 a.m. Praise and Worship time, with  
Weekly Lords Supper, Multi-media Bible  
sermons & open bible studies combined.  
Private Bible studies on request.

**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC, HERNDON**  
Fr. Nick Parker  
Phone 785-322-5560  
MASS: SUNDAY and THURSDAY  
8:30 a.m.

**HERNDON COVENANT CHURCH**  
Pastor: Keith Reuther  
Phone 785-322-5316  
SUNDAY: 9:45 a.m.  
Morning worship, 11 a.m.  
Youth group, 4 p.m.

**NORCATOUR UNITED METHODIST**  
Pastor: Ed Woods  
SUNDAY: Worship Service, 10 a.m.;  
Church School, 10:30 a.m.

**LYLE UNITED METHODIST**  
Guest Speakers  
every Sunday  
SUNDAY: Morning Worship 9 a.m.

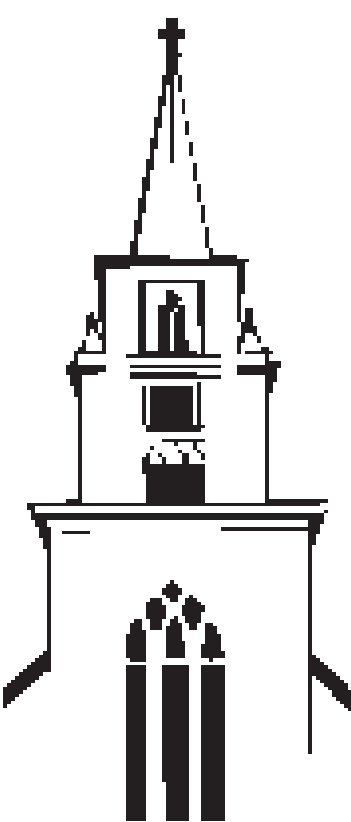
**EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH OF OBERLIN**  
Pastors: Chris and Sharon Nelson  
810 West Cedar, Oberlin  
Office Phone 785-475-2769  
SUNDAY: Worship Service, 9:30 a.m.;  
Fellowship Time, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday  
School, 11 a.m. WEDNESDAY: Bible  
Study, 7 p.m.

**LUND COVENANT CHURCH**  
Pastor Roy Matthewson  
10 miles south, 4 miles west of  
Oberlin.  
Sunday: Sunday School 10am Worship  
11 am "The Difference is worth the  
Distance"  
[facebook.com/LundCovenantChurch](http://facebook.com/LundCovenantChurch)

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
510 North Wilson  
Interim Pastor:  
Brad Rick  
SUNDAY: Sunday School and Bible  
class, 9:45 a.m.; Divine Worship Service,  
8:30 a.m.; Holy Communion: 1st and 3rd  
Sundays..



Pastor  
Judith Stricker  
United Church  
of Oberlin



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