

# People in Our Community

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The immediate family of the late Harlan and Norma Grafel gathered at the Traer Cemetery on Saturday for their inurnment service. Present were Dan and Melinda Grafel, Kade and Isabel, Greg and Amanda Grafel, Kel and Reese, Connie Grafel, Oberlin; Greg and Sheila Marney, Rossville; and Jayson Wylie, Taos, N.M.

Tom Railsback of Great Falls, Mont., came Wednesday and visited until Tuesday with his nephew and family, Jeff and Penny Hayward, Alex and Logan.

Decatur County 2013 Sweetheart Couple Jim and Linda Hollowell traveled on Amtrak train from Garden City to Albuquerque, N. M., for a five-day getaway from April 17 to April 21. They met longtime friends, Don and Roserita Short of Denver. They toured Biopark, with plants and water gardens, did some shopping, ate in the famous Old Town and attended the annual weekend celebration in Albuquerque. They also enjoyed a meal at the Route "66" Diner from the 1950s.

Laurie Milnes has moved to Colorado Springs, where she will be living near her daughter, Brittney Anderson. She said that her home at 702 E. Commercial, which was destroyed recently in a fire, was demolished last week by LeRoy Spesser and that she has sold the property to Kirk Brown of Oberlin.

Lanette Littlejohn of Fort Morgan, Colo., came Sunday to visit a few days with her parents, Clifford and Eunice Wenger. Another daughter, Sharlee Westhoff, also of Fort Morgan, spent last week with them.

Charles and Donna Lincoln, and Griff and Cindy Lincoln attended the wedding of Tanner and Brandalyn Lincoln in Estes Park, Colo., on Saturday afternoon. Others attending were Travis Lincoln and friend, Heidi, of Wamego. A wedding dinner followed. The newlyweds will live in Traer, where he is employed by Grafel Farms and his wife is a nurse in McCook.

Kylie Jones, a junior at Golden Plains High School, was selected to represent northwest Kansas in a one week, all expense paid trip, sponsored by Midwest Energy, from June 13 to 20 to tour Washington, meet politicians and sit in on meetings. She is the daughter of Alan Jones of Rexford and Sally Graham of Hays.

Dennis Thomas of Oberlin has been recognized for 25 years of service with Prairie Land Electric. He started his career with Norton-Decatur on March 16, 1987, as an apprentice lineman on the construction crew in Norton. In 1990, he advanced to lead lineman in the Oberlin area and in 1993, he became the crew foreman for Prairie Land Electric in Oberlin, a position which he currently holds. He and his wife, Kaylene, have a son, Jason, who lives with his wife, Kelsey, in St. Paul, Neb., and a daughter, Jennifer, of Wichita.

**- Brunch Buffet Sunday, April 28, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. LandMark Inn, 475-2340.**

Twenty-one area piano students from Oberlin, Hill City, WaKeeney and Goodland participated in a Kansas Music Teachers Association Music Progression event held Saturday, April 13, at Decatur Community High School. Judges were Jenny Tally, Oberlin; Virgil Mock, Norton, and Kathy Jamison, Quinter. Students of Cheryl Metcalf were Luke and Melody Koerperich, Michael Noren, Isabel Grafel, Cori, Judith, Jesse and Calista Isbell, Brynna Addleman, Maddie Johnson, Daniel Lerew, Mollie Tate, Erin May and Alyssa VanVleet.

Gary and Sarah Orr and Karen Bennett attended the Grand Chapter of the Kansas Order of Eastern Star meeting in Wichita from Thursday to Saturday.

Brandi Diederich, a junior in the college of Business Administration at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, has been awarded membership in the international honor society for business students. Only 39 students of the 2,115 enrolled were inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma at the college honor program. To be eligible, students must rank in the top 10 percent of the class. Her parents are Steve and Marilyn Diederich of Oberlin.

Winning highs in pinocle at the Golden Age Center last week were Norma Anderson, Max Carman, Ardis Roe, Ivis Hanson and Marie McKisson. Lows went to Dorothy Moore, Ivis Hanson, John Cederberg and Henry Edgett. Gail Marcuson, Martha Fringer and Eleanor Boyle were Chicken Foot domino winners. Pitch highs were won by Dewaine Stapp and Henry Edgett with lows going to John Cederberg and Pat Abbey. Taking highs at bridge were Annette Miller, Dorothy Cochran, Cynthia Matson and Marty Olson.

## Response for drought has help available for farmers

In response to the drought faced by Kansas farmers and ranchers, the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service will provide financial and technical assistance in a new Water Quantity and Drought pilot program through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

Eric B. Banks, state conservationist in charge of the service in Kansas, said the agency will use two application cutoff dates for this pilot, Fridays May 17 and June 21.

"NRCS will work with producers to address water quantity-related natural resource concerns using the conservation planning process," Banks said.

Under this new pilot, he said, the agency will conduct a site assessment with the landowner or operator, identify options to meet natural resource concerns, develop a conservation plan, and if priority criteria are met, cost-share money may be available.

Assistance may be provided for costs directly related to removal of accumulated sediment from a pond, provided that is the best and least cost alternative. Additional conservation practices which may be covered, as they relate to structures approved for sediment removal, include cover crops, critical area planting, fences, mulching, pipelines, prescribed grazing and watering facility.

"I would encourage producers who are impacted by the drought to visit their county field office to learn more about the assistance available," Banks said, adding that applicants who do not qualify for these new programs may be eligible through alternate sources, including the Drought Recovery Initiative.

For information, stop by the county office on U.S. 83, call 475-3131 or go to www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov.



Roy and Stacy Matthewson

## Couple exchange vows in Colorado ceremony

Stacey Prince of Colorado Springs and the Rev. Roy Matthewson of Oberlin were married Saturday, March 23, 2013, by the Rev. Greg Ralston at Faith Covenant Church in Colorado Springs.

Parents of the couple are Richard and Cheryl Prince of Elbert, Colo., and Donna Matthewson, Lakeland, Fla.

The bride is a graduate of North

Park University in Chicago, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies in 2003. She is seeking work in Oberlin.

Her husband is also a North Park graduate, earning a Master of Divinity in 2002. He is pastor of the Lund Covenant Church.

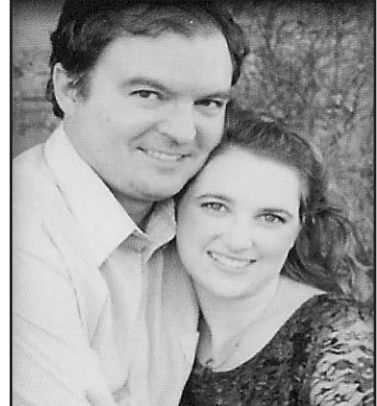
After a honeymoon to the Salish Sea, they are living in Oberlin.

## Couple plans May wedding

Ruth Ann Crouse and Grant Allyn Reynolds plan to be married Saturday, May 25, 2013, at Life Pointe Church in Ames, Iowa.

The bride is the daughter of J.F. and Kathleen Crouse of Cambridge, Iowa. She graduated from Gilbert High School in Iowa and the Ozark Bible Institute in Neosho, Mo. Her grandmother is Connie Briggs of Clinton, Mo.

Her fiancé is the son of Lyn and Marci Reynolds of Cedar Bluffs. He is a grandson of Stan and Jeannine Reynolds of McCook, and the late Albert and Louise Coburn of McCook. His great-grandparents are the late Marion and Lee Ora Mockry



Ruth Ann Crouse and Grant Allyn Reynolds

of Cedar Bluffs.

He graduated from Decatur Community High School in Oberlin and Kansas State University, where he majored in mechanical/nuclear engineering. He is a nuclear reactor engineer at the Cooper Nuclear Station in Brownville, Neb. The couple will be living in Stella, Neb.

## Doctor speaks to Rotary Club

Dr. Roy Jensen, director of the University of Kansas Cancer Institute, spoke about western Kansas initiatives and the progress the center has made during the April 16 meeting of the Oberlin Rotary Club at The Gateway.

He was introduced by Chuck Frickey, who, with his wife, Diane, is serving on the advisory board of the Midwest Cancer Alliance.

Dr. Jensen said that every cancer patient in Kansas has an ally with the institute. It is an advocate for those with cancer, as they believe that care should be delivered close to a patient's home, community and

friends. He said that caring for a cancer patient calls for trained personnel and the institute helps with their training at outlying hospitals. He later toured the new cancer unit at the Decatur County Hospital, since it is affiliated with the alliance.

President Duane Dorshorst conducted the meeting and Charles Haag was greeter. Guests were Janice Shobe, Norma Unger, Dr. Richard May, Jane Gilliam, Jerry Lohofener, Mr. Frickey, Sandy Rush and several staff members from KU Medical Center and Decatur Health Systems.

## 4-H club plans fund raiser

The Sappa Valley 4-H Club plans a fund raiser at the Centennial Park gazebo in downtown Oberlin from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, May 3.

Proceeds from the Schwan's

Home Service sale will be used to help the club's "Help Our Kids Go to Camp" project. For questions, call leaders Sheri Jacobs at 475-8258 or Keri Bryan, 475-8121.

## Oberlin graduate to head Farm Credit

Randy Wilson, a 1978 graduate of Decatur Community High School, has been named chief executive officer and president of Farm Credit of Western Kansas in Colby.

Vice Chairman Jim Wasson reported during the annual meeting in Colby on April 2 that the board had hired Mr. Wilson, who had been senior vice president. He replaces Larry Maxwell, who will retire June 30.

Three hundred member-customers were present for the meeting.

"They had excellent internal candidates for the position," Mr. Wasson said, "but opened it up to outside candidates as well. They reviewed 10 qualified individuals and were very happy to select Randy."

Mr. Wilson started with Farm Credit in 1982 after graduating from Fort Hays State University and has worked at the Colby loan agency for over 30 years. His parents are Roger and Angie Wilson of Oberlin. He and his wife Lisa have two sons,

Christian and Gabrielle. Mr. Maxwell started with Farm Credit 1973 and became president in 1978. In 2001, the Northwest Kansas Production Credit Association and Federal Land Bank merged into the Farm Credit of Western Kansas and Mr. Maxwell was named president. During the president's report, Mr. Maxwell noted that the association has grown to \$308 million in agricultural loans, has once again

had an excellent year and will pay out a \$2.5 million cash patronage to member borrowers.

"This is a return of approximately 20 percent of the interest you paid here at the association" he said, adding that the association has paid a total of over \$20 million in cash patronage since the merger in 2001.

Brent Phillips of Selden, Tony Horinek of Colby and David Sexson of Weskan were re-elected to three-year terms on the association's board.



R. Wilson

## Grad receives award

Farm Credit of Northwest Kansas awarded its annual scholarship to Ryan May, a senior at Decatur Community High School, and son of Roger and Susan May of Oberlin.

Throughout high school, Ryan has been involved in music, drama, FFA, various clubs, as well as participating in football, basketball and track.

He is a member of the National Honor Society and has been active in 4-H, American Legion Boys State, the Kansas City Global Conference and service organizations in Decatur County. He helps with all aspects on the family farm.

The association awards the scholarship each year to a high school senior who is the son or daughter of a member.



Ryan May

## Farm credit to issue checks

Farm Credit Western of Kansas will begin delivery of \$2.5 million in patronage checks to its members on June 1.

The association will return nearly half its 2012 net profit back to the members who made that profit possible, said President Larry Maxwell. This represents a return of just over 20 percent of the eligible interest paid by members.

This program lowers the effective cost of borrowing for members, he said. For example, if the member's loan rate is 5 percent, the patronage lowers the net cost of borrowing to less than 4 percent.

The year 2012 saw the association grow to exceed \$300 million in assets, including loans to young,

beginning, and small farmers. Farm Credit makes loans for the purchase or refinance of farm, ranch or agribusiness real estate and facilities as well as loans to finance farm operations, livestock and equipment.

The association is an independent unit of the Farm Credit System, the nation's leading agricultural lender. Farm Credit obtains its money by selling bonds to investors in the nation's money markets. Because Farm Credit is a cooperative, its stockholders are the people who borrow money from it. Farm Credit's profits stay in the area either through retained earnings for additional lending to agriculture or through the patronage dividends paid out to stockholders.

## Wedding vows set for May 4

Erica Volker and Rodney Solko plan to marry Saturday, May 4, 2013, in Stafford.

Parents of the bride-to-be are Kim and Boyd Volker of Stafford. Her grandparents are Claudia and Harvey Griggs, Culver.

Parents of the prospective bridegroom are Diana and Ronald Solko, Oberlin. His grandfather is Leroy Yost, Hayes Center, Neb.

She is a 2006 graduate of Stafford High School and a 2010 graduate of Kansas State University with a Bachelor of Science in geography. She works at Burrows Vision Clinic in McCook.

Her fiancé is a 2001 graduate of Decatur Community High School and a 2005 graduate of Fort Hays State University with a Bachelor of



Erica Volker and Rodney Solko

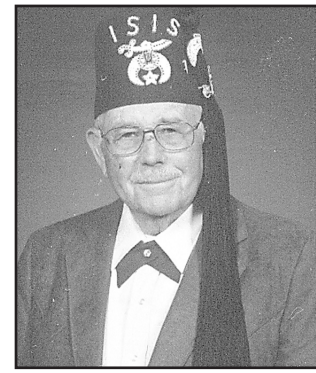
Business degree in marketing. He is manager of Fastenal in McCook.

The couple plans to live in Culbertson, Neb.

## Happy Birthday

Look who's turning 80 but rarely misses a game, match, meet, rodeo or race! From little tikes to college kids, he has cheered us on! So let's help him celebrate his very special day on

**Sunday, April 28th**



Happy Birthday Bob, Dad, Grand-dad! Love, Anita, kids, grandkids, great-grand-kids and all.

Cards may be sent to:  
**Bob Montgomery**  
608 E. Commercial,

## Wade and Nancy Lockhart are celebrating 40 years of Marriage



They have 4 children, 8 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Wish Wade and Nancy a Happy Anniversary April 29.

## Mona's Market in Dresden

is open for business! We have seed potatoes, onion plants and sets, garden seed and asparagus roots. We have a wonderful selection of annuals, perennials, vegetable plants, shrubs and trees.

**New this year** - We now have grape vines, blueberry bushes and raspberry & blackberry vines.

Monday through Saturday 9-5:30 and Sunday 1 to 4.

(785) 475-3921  
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