

FUN News

for

People, Recognition, Enthusiasm, Communication

Panhandle District Monthly News

Volume 2 Number 4

April, 2006

Garden in Spring

My garden work at dawn's first light.
Spring touched each growing thing last night;

The tulips wore new bonnets gay,
The dogwood stood in white array.

The weeping willow trailed new green
Into the pond's bright mirror sheen.

Bobwhite called from the lilac tree.
Each daffodil cupped a honey bee.

And I, in awesome wonder stood.

Carol Bessent Hayman
I deals publications



Papa's Greenhouse

240145 Gilbaugh Dr.

Gering, Nebraska

Owners

Steve and Lori Howlett

Open

Seven days a week

beginning the last weekend in April

Directions

Go 1 mile east of Lockwood Corner - turn south on
County Road 24 about 1 mile - turn west on
Gilbaugh Dr. -- You will see the greenhouses.

Visit Papa's before you do your spring planting!!

The Food, Fun and Fitness 4-H Club

is visiting PREC on Wednesday April 12th. Jackie Guzman, Cathy Johnston, Jenny Larson and Jana Schwartz work with this group to focus on fitness and nutrition. They will be visiting and learning about several departments on their visit to PREC. One of their stops will be the Entomology Department. John Thomas and Susan Harvey will be giving a short talk about entomology and what we do here at the center. To close our session we will give the students the opportunity to experience insects as food (roasted or chocolate covered crickets). Pictured below is a trial run of our cricket eating exercise done with faculty and staff at PREC. To my nearest estimation about 50% of those given the opportunity tried a cricket. By John Thomas



John Thomas prepared, roasted and dipped some crickets in chocolate for sampling.



Susan Harvey



Debra Underhill

Employee in the Know

UNL Extension - Box Butte County



Bill Booker

Extension Educator

It was a cold and stormy night
Born in Scottsbluff at the Methodist
Hospital and raised in rural (?)
Banner County on a wheat farm.

Education was at a country school with a class of one the last four years (3rd grade was hardest three years) about 2 ½ miles from home. Sometimes my brother and I walked and it really was uphill both ways. Then on to high school at the new school at Harrisburg being the first high school class to complete four years (notice no mention of graduation) -- that school is older now than the one it replaced. Banner County became the first in the state to have one unified school district - it was a bitter election with people remembering it for years (grandparents were on opposite sides - a lot of cold cereal served after that). The high school class was huge - eleven students for this country boy in the big city of Harrisburg.

The next sixteen years included a BS in Civil Engineering from UNL and a job with LTV Aerospace in Dallas, Texas. This was with the Flutter and Dynamic Loads area which set performance limits on fighter planes such as procedures for dropping ordinances to prevent flutter. Flutter is when the frequencies of the air forces acting on the wing surfaces match a natural frequency of the surface structure. This can be catastrophic and has been the cause of many crashes (including airliners). Besides being at the forefront of technology, each day involved walking down the fighter plane assembly line (A-7). Jobs included a major aircraft proposal (LTV's version of the F-14 Tomcat which Grumman eventually won). The overall procedure was to fly planes electronically, in simulators and then to build models. A considerable amount of time was spent building and flying models in the high speed wind tunnel (for both foreign and domestic

manufacturers). Some of the highest security, however, was when General Motors brought their new Corvette designs to be tested at the low speed wind tunnel.

The ups and downs (?) of aerospace prompted a return to UNL masters program with a teaching assistantship in the Engineering Mechanics Department (which provided the first taste of teaching). A single class in FORTRAN computer programming as an undergraduate led to a life with computers and an assistantship with UNL and eventually Caterpillar. Caterpillar was the other end of the technological spectrum, however - it had to be profitable!! The job was working in Research at the Tech Center in Mossville, Illinois, on structural and tribology issues from around the company. My engineering downfall started with a part time job on a farm.

Caterpillar liked to hire engineers from the farm knowing the only place they would lose them would be back to the farm -- so I obliged. You really cannot take the farm out of the boy! The farming was in Illinois and Nebraska for several years and home ended up being on the farm where I grew up (and still is). For these next sixteen years farming was full time in the Banner and Kimball county areas (part of risk management was spreading out - 45 miles seemed to be enough). Then an opportunity came to work for Sigco Research - the leading sunflower seed producer which iterated into Mycogen and Dow Chemical. The job for twelve years was as a district sales manager but then the farm land had to be custom farmed. Then someone did move my cheese! The sunflower cheese, however, could not be taken.

The last year and a half has been as an Extension Educator in Box Butte County. The people here are the best I have worked with and it is an honor to be working on the team that provided the information used in the farming operation.

My patient wife Joyce and I have a "his, hers and ours" family with five kids and 8.5 grandkids - four boys and four girls and "?". Our family did not visit - we invaded - it was fun! They have been

the greatest joys as the teaching and learning continue. Want to see my pictures? Never trust a grandpa with a laptop!!

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Carol Kleinsasser
Office Manager

As a lifetime resident of Alliance, I have always enjoyed the gifts a small town has to offer. Friendly people, laid back living, clean air and gorgeous sunsets are benefits I am thankful for. I graduated from St. Agnes Academy with the class of 1976 - yes, thirty years ago already! My parents and all six of my siblings are SAA graduates. I got married and was fortunate enough to be able to stay at home with my two pre-school boys, Jared and Casey. After school started I worked part-time, just enough to keep my sanity! I continued to work part-time after Hilary was born, and later began a full time banking position. I had plans of working until retirement in the banking profession, but for anyone who has been involved in banking, you know the "good old days" of banking are long gone, and my nine year career became a stress I didn't need.

Eight years ago I was approached about a job with the UNL Extension Office. Being raised in town, I knew very little about agriculture, crops and animals, so in the beginning it was quite an adjustment for me. I was a 4-Her at a young age and had a little knowledge of the program. Through the years as I continue to learn more about UNL and Box Butte County, I enjoy the daily interaction with co-workers, clients and the community. The boys are now 28 & 25 (wow, how did that happen?), both graduates of University of Nebraska-Kearney (UNK), both CPAs - Jared in Lincoln and Casey in Aurora, both married and both avid golfers. They spend a lot of time together on the links and I am thankful their wives get along so well. Hilary (19) is finishing her sophomore year at UNK majoring/minoring in broadcasting, marketing and management. She enjoys her internship at Y102 in Kearney and also works part-time at Platte Valley Bank.

My husband Wendell ("Dog") is a carman at BNSF Railway. In our free time, we enjoy spending time with the kids, watching our nieces and nephews high school sports, playing racquetball, wallyball, golf, walking and watching almost any sport (especially the Huskers, Broncos, Vikings and Masters Golf Tournament). My true passion is lap swimming and I am looking forward to the hot summer days ahead - bring 'em on!



Wendell, Hilary, Carol, Susie & Casey,
Amber & Jared

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Deb Kraenow
4-H Aide

April 15th will mark an anniversary in my life of being married to my high school sweetheart (Gary) for 35 years. We both graduated from Syracuse High in Otoe County and began our married life there. Our son Zachary came along and completed our family. Following a family vacation to Estes Park, we returned home and decided to move to Colorado. Within one month we had sold our house, quit our jobs and were headed for the Rocky Mountains.

I continued my career in banking while my husband worked construction. After Zachary started school I wanted to work in the same town he attended school so I took a job in a real estate office in Estes Park as a receptionist which

quickly branched into a very interesting position that I was able to create myself. I handled the marketing, agent training and closing of the real estate transactions. After living in the mountains for eight years, we moved to the Longmont area where we raised registered paint and quarter horses and had a small irrigated hay operation as a hobby. We followed Zachary in Little Britches Rodeo and roped as a family. I continued my real estate career but, moved into a position as an Escrow Officer for Transamerica Title Insurance Co., while Gary continued to climb the ranks in the highway construction industry.

In 1986 we moved to rural Crawford in the Squaw Mound area where we began ranching on a leased ranch with a herd of registered Hereford cattle. Life was much simpler in this part of the country. After the rat race of the corporate world we settled into a family life where we added Kate to our family. Yes, our children are 18 years apart and have a very special brother/sister relationship. Kate has been a blessing to our family and keeps us young. She is a Junior at Hemingford High School and is aiming for a career in sports medicine. Zachary lives 10 miles from us and in addition to owning a custom fitting/photography/consultation cattle service for the past 10 years, he also runs our cattle while my husband concentrates on our custom haying operation. Of course everyone pitches in wherever and whenever needed.

After being a 4-H mom for over 15 years, my current position in the Box Butte County 4-H program feels very comfortable. Being involved with youth has been a big part of my life even before I had my own children. I am the oldest of 4 kids and helped raise my 2 younger sisters and my brother. My parents owned a restaurant/lounge while I was growing up and worked evenings. My job was to feed "the kids" dinner, get their homework done and get them to bed, all without letting them kill each other. Seems like I have been a mom for a long time.

God has blessed me with a wonderful family, a job that I love and wonderful people to work with.

Not long ago I was lamenting the fact that we are going to be empty nesters soon. The last time we were faced with the situation we had another child but, I don't think you can do that every 18 years. I am waiting for grandchildren and am grateful for 175 4-H kids to occupy my time.

A big thanks to everyone in Extension who has given me so much help and such a warm welcome. The past year has been terrific.

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Jeanne Murray
Extension Educator

I came into this world on Christmas Eve at the old Taylor Hospital in Sidney, Nebraska. My mother says this is the only Christmas dinner she has never prepared!! Today, she still insists on bringing the rolls if I do all the other preparations. I was raised on my great uncle's farm 10 miles north of Potter, NE with a younger sister and brother. My parents purchased the land in the 60's and built a new house that had running water!!

I graduated from Potter High school and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a degree in Home Economics Education and Extension. I taught for one year at Dalton High School, now Leyton. I married Daniel Murray, who I met in college, in 1970. He was an officer in the US Air Force and stationed at FE Warren, Wyoming. While in Cheyenne, I taught Consumer Homemaking for Laramie County Community College. He was transferred to Lowry AFB in Aurora, Colorado for Intelligence school. Our daughter, Anita, was born during this assignment, at Fitzsimmons Army hospital. Upon completion of this schooling, Dan was assigned to Nakom Phanom, Thailand, a Royal Thai Air Base. Anita and I lived in Sidney while he was overseas. From this assignment, we went to Bicester (pronounced Bister), Oxfordshire, England stationed at RAF (Royal Air Force) Upper Heyford. It was a joint command base with the British and one of the home's for F111 fighter planes.

Our son, Bryan, was born in Oxford, England as the base didn't have a hospital. He was considered an English citizen with a British birth certificate. Before we returned to the United States we spent a month in Sweden visiting Dan's relatives. We loaded up our "Bug", ferried across the North Sea and drove across Norway to reach Gothenberg, Sweden. From Sweden we traveled through Denmark, Germany and France before taking the Hovercraft back across the English Channel. After three years in England, we were assigned to Offutt AFB in Omaha. In 1980, Dan left the active Reserves for the inactive Reserves and we returned to Banner County to farm. At which time we moved to Scottsbluff and have been here ever since. While in the inactive Reserves, Dan was the Liaison Officer for the Air Force Academy covering all the high schools in the Panhandle, and also he served with Intelligence units at FE Warren and Lowry. He lost his life to cancer in September of 1994.

Upon our return to Scottsbluff, I began my 18 year employment with the Gering School System at the Junior High as an assistant librarian, media skills instructor, study hall supervisor, and troubleshooter for media equipment problems. Following Dan's death, I completed my Masters in Human Resources and Family Sciences in 1997. Our group was the 'guinea pig' for the first distant education Masters program. We tried things never done before in a Masters program. It also tested our perseverance and self-determination as only one third of the initial students completed their degree. My interest in Extension began with 8 years as a 4-H member, 2 summers as a work-study student in Cheyenne County, and many years as a volunteer, leader & parent in Sarpy and Scotts Bluff counties. When I saw an opening in Extension in Box Butte County, I applied and that's where I am today.

Today, Anita is a lawyer in Philadelphia, PA and Bryan is an accountant in Lincoln, NE. I have a gentleman friend, Don Peters, and we work outside in the yard and garden or with my cattle in Cheyenne and Banner County for something else to

do. I usually spend Saturdays helping my mother with her work as her by-pass surgery and transient ischemic attack (small stroke) has reduced her physical abilities. This is a quick synopsis of a busy life.

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Maurine Roller
Assistant Extension Educator

As one of seven children, I come from a long line of show biz hambones. My family's association with entertainment goes back to the turn of the century, and although we are not as illustrious as the Barrymores, we certainly have our own moments of quasi-fame. My eldest brother was in the movie "Blues Brothers," and my niece has been in many made-for-TV movies, and my nephew has shown his cute little mug on many a Kraft Macaroni and Cheese commercials. What does this have to do with me, you ask? The answer is—absolutely nothing! But I did shake Robert Redford's hand once!!! The fame and fortune that has eluded me has taught me many a life lesson, a couple of which I'll share here.

Lesson #1: Gravity works—in both directions. My once a dewy, youthful complexion now has creases so deep I need a putty knife to trowel my makeup on. My body shaping girdle either increases my bust size or makes my knees fat.

Lesson #2: Middle age moves around—a lot. As a teenager, I considered 30 middle aged, and 40 old. As a 30-year old, I considered myself young, and 50 old. At 40, well, the 40s is one of those decades that defy definition. At 50, I consider myself almost middle aged, but who knows how I'll feel at age 60, which is still just a speck on the horizon.

With middle age comes wisdom and discriminating taste. How do I know that? I think that Dr. Phil is hot! When it comes right down to it, bald is sexy!

Before I close, I guess I give a little nuts and bolts of the life of Maurine Roller. I graduated from Regent's College (now known as Excelsior)

with a B.S. in History, and a M.S. in Liberal Studies from the University of Oklahoma, Norman. I am an educator with the Building Nebraska Families program. It is my only program which makes me exceedingly focused! I am married to my wonderful husband Harold and we have three grown daughters, Juli, Susan, and Carmen. We have four grandchildren, all of who are onery and take after their grandfather. My husband runs Roller Hardware and Appliance and Rental Center in Alliance although the store is up for sale and Harold is retiring this year so he can become a serious fisherman. Please keep in mind that he is much much much older than I! He's now old enough that I am finally a trophy wife!

My passion outside of work is in the field of animal rescue, mostly dogs, although I do have three cute little white rats needing a home. They are littermates, kind of shy, but do not mind being held. But I digress. We currently own three dogs, all of them rescues. Trio is a rough coat black and tan collie, Daisy is a golden Sheltie, and Max is a Skipperke mix who thinks and acts like a rottweiler.

One last thing before I close. I used to babysit Paul Burgener. He was a cute little twerp and fairly well behaved-then. The End.



Max



Maurice, Trio and Daisy



Harold, losing a fish

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PREC - Weed Science Department



Lori Howlett
Ag Research Technician

I've been a Nebraska girl all my life. I grew up (the oldest of four girls) in Gothenburg until we moved out to the farm in western Nebraska in November of 1968. I graduated from Minatare in 1970. I met Steve dragging main in Scottsbluff and we have been married 35 years as of News Years Day this year. We have two children - John who is the factory manager at Air Liquide and married to Angel(Crandell) have 5 children and Karen who is married to Mark Schlothauer and have two children. John, Angel and family live in Utah so we can't spoil those grandchildren nearly as often as Karen and Mark's children who live in Rapid City right now. They will soon be moving to Gering as Mark will be completing his duty as a dentist with the Air Force at Ellsworth after previously being stationed at Keesler in Biloxi, MS.

Steve and I put ourselves into the retail greenhouse business. We went to an auction a couple years ago to get a greenhouse to mess around with and ended up purchasing the Shannon's three 30 x 96' greenhouses (all of them because they sold them as a unit instead of individually). Steve and his Dad dismantled them and hauled them to our house. Luckily, we had a few spare acres to set them up on! With a lot of trial and error, we have been planting flowers and

vegetables that will be for sale this spring. This isn't exactly what Steve thought he was going to be doing when he retired as factory manager from the Scottsbluff Western Sugar Cooperative!!

I have worked with Dr. Bob Wilson in the Weed Science since April 1988 (I took over as Susan - who is now in entomology - was leaving to begin her family). Susan stayed on until September and gave me some valuable guidance! We have a great crew and get in on some interesting projects and of course, there are always some tasks that you would really like to skip - like counting weeds in the middle of corn plots just before harvest!

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Dennis Morimoto
Ag Research Technician

My grandparents came to America in the early 1900s. Grandpa Morimoto worked on the railroad and mines before he started farming in Mitchell Valley. Grandpa Shiotani worked in Hawaii then moved to Orange County California and had a pool hall and barber shop then started farming. When World War II started my Mom and her family were interred at a camp in Poston, Arizona. After the war they went to Brighton, Colorado to work for a family friend who introduced my Mom to Dad who was farming in Mitchell Valley. My parents were married in Colorado and started their life together and were married for nearly 60 years until their recent passing.

I attended country school and went to Mitchell High School. I was in 4-H, FFA, Sports and Band. I moved to Denver with two high school friends to attend auto tech school and work.

I joined the army and served in Vietnam with a combat engineer battalion. After the service I attended WNCC and Chadron State College and helped my parents on the farm. In 1974 I started here at PREC, first with Charlie Fenster and then with Bob Wilson.

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Mindy Peterson
(Engagement picture)
Ag Research Technician

I was raised on the family farm in Albin, Wyoming. My siblings and I are the 4th generation on the farm. I grew up helping my parents on the farm. When I got older I drove wheat truck, and drove to John Deere in Kimball to get parts, among many other things. I raised sheep, and rabbits. I have a younger sister, Lori is a freshman at the University of Wyoming, and a younger brother, Lee is in 8th grade at Burns, Wy.

In High School I played volleyball and was active in FCCLA and FCA. We went to State Volleyball all 4 years. We placed 3rd my junior year-highest in school history. My graduating class of 2002 also set a record at Albin, having the smallest class of 15. Two years later they closed the Jr and Sr high.

I went to Frontier School of the Bible in LaGrange, Wy for a year. I have a Bible Basic Training Certificate. Then I went to FrontRange Community College in Fort Collins, Co for a year and a half. There I graduated with certificates in Beginning and Advanced Culinary Arts, and Hotel Operations. My dream is to one day open my own Bed and Breakfast or a cake business.

I moved to Gering February 2005 to work at the Gering Bakery. I then started working at Platte Valley Livestock Auction two weeks later. I worked both jobs until September; I quit the Bakery to work for Dean and Dave, and then drove truck for fall harvest for Gene. In January I quit Platte Valley to work full time at PREC for Bob Wilson.

I am engaged to John Joekel of Gering. We will be married July 1, 2006 in Albin. John works for the Scottsbluff Post Office as the Building Maintenance Custodian.

I am an active member of Calvary Memorial Evangelical Free Church in Gering. I am the 5th and

6th grade girl's AWANA leader, and help with the youth group.

I enjoy hunting, fishing, going to rodeos, cooking, gardening, and watching sports events.

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Bob Wilson
Weed Specialist

I grew up in Auburn, Nebraska located in southeastern Nebraska. My father was an extension agent in Nemaha County for over 30 years so I got a taste of Cooperative Extension at an early age. After graduating from High School, I attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and received a BS and MS degree in Agronomy. My wife Katy and I were married in 1971 and then moved to Pullman, WA, where I worked on my doctorate degree in Agronomy and Soils. After graduation in 1975 we moved to Gering and I started my job at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center. We lived in Gering for 4 years before building a home in Scottsbluff where we have lived for the past 26 years.

My wife and I have two boys, Rob and Tim. Rob lives in Susanville, CA and is employed by the University of California as a farm advisor in Lassen, Sierra, and Plumas counties. Rob and his wife Dodi are the proud parents of a lovely little girl. Tim lives in Littleton, CO and is a landscape architect and his wife Amy is a lawyer in the Denver area.

My wife and I enjoy traveling together and visiting our children and families located in Lincoln. I have several hobbies including rock carving and jewelry making, hunting, fishing and gardening. I have enjoyed working for the University the past 31 years and look forward to continuing my career for a few more years.

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Trish Nielsen is also an Ag Research Technician in the Weeds Department at the Panhandle Research & Extension Center. Her story appeared in the April, 2005 newsletter.

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Panhandle Trivia

A post office was registered in 1886 and called Broncho Lake. In 1887 a town was founded and given the name Grand Lake.

Today that town is known as _____?

Alliance was the first town in Nebraska to adopt what form of government?

This Panhandle town received national attention in 1969 due to discontinued service by Burlington Railroad?



Tech Tip

A great way to get the training you need. Go to: <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/training/default.aspx>

Choose the Microsoft program you need training on and click on the link. This training is interactive and will walk you through the steps to learn a new task in the program. You can do this training at your own pace so let me say Happy Training.

This is the same tech tip from last month, but it is worth repeating. -- Remember to access this valuable site for your Microsoft training needs.

Provided by Carol Laurent

Share Your News!!

With the arrival of spring comes planting and playing in the sun!! Before you get busy with outdoor activities, please take time to write your personal story and send it to Sharon Holman, sholman1@unl.edu to be used in future issues of the newsletter this summer and fall. Please remind your co-workers to do the same. -- I would like to feature employees from workgroups and counties in the same issue and there is no set schedule for these. If I don't get volunteers, I'll be contacting YOU!

Also, please send "anything" you would like to share . . . such as, upcoming graduations, weddings, awards, thoughts for the day, trivia, etc.



Happy Easter and Spring!!

Panhandle Trivia Answers

Early in 1888 when the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad arrived, it was decided the town should consider a simple, one-word name. The railroad superintendent, G.W. Holdrege, suggested that "Alliance" embodied all ideas and would place it alphabetically near the top of the list for Nebraska towns. The fact that an engineer, J.N. Paul, came from Alliance, Ohio, may also provide a link to its selection, as does the fact this was to be the junction point of two rail lines, also making the name an appropriate choice.

Alliance was the first town in Nebraska to adopt the city manager form of government. Initiating this innovative system in 1921, it is still in use today.

Burlington Passenger Train #41 was abruptly discontinued on August 14, 1969, stranding its 35 passengers at Hemingford. A supreme court judge then issued an order reinstating service for 10 days, allowing for a more orderly termination.

Source: Nebraska Our Towns