

Olson takes her music to Romania

By Dee Dellenbach
Staff writer

Heidi Olson has never been to Bucharest, Romania, and she's never taught violin lessons in an orphanage, but she's going to do both this month when she leaves for Eastern Europe.

The Casa Shalom – or 'house of peace' – is home to about 30 orphans who go to public school during the day. Olson said she will be teaching

the kids music and drama. On the weekends, she will take them on day trips to the countryside, where they will perform musicals and evangelical dramas.

Olson said when word came to her about the Romania mission, she called the director of the orphanage, Rebecca Dan-Walsh, who is an American. They spoke many times over the course of several weeks. Olson said she prayed and finally felt at peace that it was

in God's plan for her to go.

Bucharest was once a great metropolis before communism took it over. Olson said in the 1990s, a dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu, assumed power, and mandated that couples have at least four children. At the same time, he exported the country's food supply, creating thousands of orphans and debilitating poverty. She said Casa Shalom is just one of many orphanages in the city of 2.1 million people.

Today, Romania is working toward becoming a democracy, and Bucharest is – for the most part – a modern city. It boasts museums and tourist attractions such as sightseeing tours, fine dining, hotels, daily airline flights, public transportation, and limousine services.

But Olson said that in the countryside, there is still a great deal of "horse and cart poverty."

She said since she was a child she has yearned to be a

missionary – to travel to a far-away place and teach people about Jesus. She grew up in Minnesota and received her bachelor's degree in elementary education, with a minor in music.

Right after graduation, she went to work for Camp Tecumseh YMCA, where she ultimately worked as the outdoor education director. She spent her days managing a staff of 12 and coordinating the 150 schools that visited the camp to hear lessons in Indiana history, the environment and character development.

Olson said she feels the Lord has been preparing her during the past decade to go to the mission field. One special thing she has done is to create the Circle of Friends.

It started several years ago. Olson met a little girl who liked to throw her Hula-Hoops up in the air. They invariably landed in the trees, so Olson gave her a hoop as a gift. Olson said she was very much taken with the girl and her sister and invited them to church. Soon they were bringing cousins and friends. The group kept growing and began calling themselves the Circle of Friends.

Now Olson dreams of expanding that circle to other countries. She said she has given Casa Shalom a three-month commitment, and will decide after that whether she will stay or move on to another position.

"I don't have a lot of expectations about the orphanage or about living in Romania," she said. "What I'm really excited about is going to the next step (in God's service)."

"The Lord has prepared a job for me, and I'm prepared to do it. All the things I've been doing are pieces of a puzzle, preparing me for the next thing," she reflected.

Mission to Romania

Heidi Olson has sold most of her personal belongings to fund her work in Romania. The Upper Room Christian Fellowship church will support her mission, as will other people and churches. Those who would like to help may send donations to Community of Hope Lutheran Church, 14401 Biscayne Ave. W., Rosemount, MN 55068.

For more about the orphanage, visit www.misslink.org/casa/.



One for the road

Heidi Olson will be taking a mission trip to Bucharest, Romania. For three months she will give violin and drama lessons to the children at Casa Shalom orphanage. Pictured is Olson at Camp Tecumseh YMCA playing a reel for a group of campers who are getting ready to give a performance. Comet photo by Dee Dellenbach

Boyer's Flight Park Fly-in Saturday

Boyer Flight Park Inc. will hold its 10th Annual Flight Park Appreciation Day Fly-In on Saturday from sunrise to sunset and Sunday from sunrise to noon. The public is welcome.

There will be static displays, ultralight demonstrations, ultralight competitions, and introductory flight lessons can be purchased.

Come see fixed-wing ultralights, trikes, and powered

parachutes. The park is located at 4828W. 1200N. near Burnettsville. For information contact (574) 943-3424.



Police & Fire Calls

Police reports are gathered from available records on file at local police departments. This information is a matter of public record and does not imply guilt or innocence. Information for fire reports is also gathered from reports on file with local fire departments.

Sheriff's Department

June 28, 3:30 p.m. – Property damage accident, CR725 near Prince William Rd. Tina E. Hammond, 44, Rossville. Deputy Mike Thomas investigated. Delphi Police Dept.

June 27, 5:29 a.m. – Theft, Main Street. Tara Livingston reported that her vehicle had been broken into during the night and several items had been taken. Officer Dave Yeager investigating.

June 27, 8:20 p.m. – Warrant service, Main Street. Robert L. Shaffer, 21, Kokomo, was arrested on a warrant from Howard County. Officer Brandon Endicott.

June 28, no time – Criminal mischief, corner of Monroe and Wilson streets. Spray painted graffiti was found on the middle school gym. Chief Ed Chapman investigating.

June 28, 9:37 a.m. – Theft, Franklin Street. Clifford Blunt reported that items were stolen from his vehicle. Chapman investigating.

June 28, 11:15 a.m. – Property damage accident, Monroe and Union streets. Cora Myers and Sarah McTigue, both of Delphi. Chapman investigating.

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Washington Twp.

By Marilyn Hile
Deer Creek 859-4871

The "Good Neighbor Gals" went recently to Mary Blue's Wildcat Bed and Breakfast for lunch. Those attending were Helen Forgey, Ruthina Forgey, Ellen Herr, Dottie Deleplane, Marilyn Hile, Betty Bell, Dot Fulton, Doris Jean Bryan, Mary Ellen Johnson, Myra Miller, Debbie Deleplane and

her granddaughter.

The Chapman cousins met recently at the Essenhaus restaurant in Middlebury for lunch. Attending were Jane Myers, Jean Riley, Mary Cray, Lona Yeakley, Margie Landes, Sandy Brown, Nancy Weaver and Lois Wallace.

Traveling to Rochester for lunch recently were Ruthina Forgey, Mary Ellen Johnson, Anita Miller, Dot Fulton and Lois Wallace. After lunch the group visited David and Dot Smook at their home near there.

Eldon and Wilma Robeson recently attended the International Cockshutt Club Inc. antique tractor show at Wapakometa, Ohio. There were around 450 antique tractors, all makes, including about 175 Cockshutt. The Cockshutt Club had an auction on Friday evening of Cockshutt equipment, and a banquet on Saturday evening. The Cockshutt Club includes members from Canada and the United States. The 2007 meeting will be in Ontario, Canada.

Eldon and Wilma Robeson recently entertained Winifred Mertens of Louisiana, Rudy and Ruth Ann Dompke and granddaughter, Sharon of Alaska, Nancy Larimore and Junior Robeson of Logansport. They were all cousins in the Andrew Robeson family.

Camden

Mary Whitfield
Camden 686-2553

Camden Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. today, July 5, in the town hall for budget planning. The next regularly scheduled council meeting will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the town hall.

Camden American Legion drawing winners were: Bob and Mike Scott, 1st prize, \$500; Lewis Mullin, 2nd, \$300; Ken Smith, 3rd, \$100; Hershel Williams, 4th, \$50; and Ruby Sparks, 5th, \$50.

Jim and Glenna Thomas of West Hills, Calif., recently visited family and friends in the Logansport and Rockfield areas. They were lunch guests of Doris and Gene Harter of Camden.

Doris and Gene Harter hosted a surprise 50th birthday party lunch and open house on Saturday honoring Joyce Harter and Karen and Doug Stevens. Forty-two attended.

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