

Speech students head for state

By KERRIE OLSON
The speech team has qualified 14 students for the state championship tournament and ten for the state speech and drama festival.

"This has been an amazing season," said senior Sarah Olson. "It's been very successful and our team has really made a name for itself." In addition to the individual successes, the team has won five speech tournaments, including the league meet.

Qualifying for the championship tournament in poetry interpretation are seniors Greta Wendelin and Kelsey Jackson and juniors Dane Anderson, Bayley Bryan and Kelsey Dorshorst. For this particular event, they have to read a poem or collection of poems.

Those qualifying in humorous solo acting are juniors Andrea Marshall and Brent Smith and sophomore Anthony Marshall. This event consists of acting out a memorized humorous piece. Seniors Jess Elwood and Greta Wendelin, sophomore David Morris and freshman Jeremy Tally have qualified in improvised duet acting. Jess and Greta will be trying to repeat as state champions for the third year in a row. In this event, the students will draw a topic, a situation and characters. They then have 30 minutes to come up with an act to perform.

Juniors Rebekah Hasty and Allie

Moore and senior Sarah will be competing in prose interpretation, which consists of reading a story or piece in prose.

Duet acting is a short memorized performance. Those qualifying in this event are the sister/brother team of Andrea and Anthony Marshall, and the team of Brent Smith and David Morris.

Dane also qualified for state in serious solo acting. For this event, he will perform a serious scene.

The state speech and drama festival team includes seniors Adam Spanier and Bryan Richards in improvised duet acting. Bryan will also be competing in duet acting with senior Quintin Cundiff. Sarah Marcuson and Karyn Jordan have also qualified in duet acting, as well as individually in prose interpretation. Quintin and Destry Jackson will be competing in humorous solo acting.

Senior Ramsey Meitl is in informative speaking, which requires the writing and memorization of a speech. Freshman Gabe Moore and sophomore Kelly Olson will both compete in poetry interpretation, and Richard Huff, a sophomore, has qualified in prose interpretation.

"It's been an exciting year," said Coach Leigh Davis, "and I anticipate continued success at state."

State speech is Saturday in Salina. State festival, also on Saturday, is in Hutchinson.



It's time for prom already

The junior class has been working diligently for the past few months to prepare for prom.

It will be held the evening of Saturday, May 10. Viewing of the decorations at the Gateway is open to the public from 6-7 p.m.

Students participating in the promenade will meet at the Sunflower Cinema at 6:45 p.m. At 7 p.m. they will walk down and back up Penn Avenue so everyone can see their beautiful outfits and flowers.

At about 7:30 p.m. the promgoers will arrive at the Gateway. The banquet will then held from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. The dance will follow and go on until midnight. From midnight to 3:30 a.m. the after-prom activities will be held. All activities after the promenade will take place at The Gateway.

The juniors have chosen this year's prom servers from the sophomore class. They include Andy Anderson, David Barth, Lance Fortin, Diego Hernandez, Anthony Marshall, David Morris, Jake Padgett, Gannon Reichert, Megan Barrett, Molly Coleman, Kelsey Gallentine, Kim Ketterl, Justine Miller, Kelly Olson, Trina Shields and Bethany Weishapl.

High school elects student council officers

By KRISTA FOWLER
Next year's student council officers have been elected.

They will be President Brett Keck, Vice President Chase Jueneemann, Secretary Leah Marietta and Treasurer Kelsey Dorshorst.

"I am looking forward to working with the other officers next year," said Brett, "and I hope we can benefit the Decatur Community High School students in what they want to get accomplished."

Running for the nationalist party were Danica May, treasurer; Molly Coleman, secretary; Logan Glaze,

vice president; and Brett Keck for president. Their platform included having an open lunch hour, being able to wear shorts when students choose instead of only during certain times, and a pop machine for all students.

Running on the federalist party ticket were Kelsey Dorshorst, treasurer; Leah Marietta, secretary; Chase Jueneemann, vice president; and Matt Coleman, president. Their platform included a scrolling marquee to list the week's activities, and a free "skip day" per semester for students on the honor roll.

Speakers overcome competition at league

By SARAH OLSON
The Decatur Community High School speech team won the Northwest Kansas League title for the first time ever. Oberlin had 245 team points, second place Quinter had 190 points, Oakley had 149 points for third and Quinter placed fourth with 112 points.

In addition to winning as a team, five of the nine possible individual champions were from Oberlin. The Decatur Community High School league champs were Greta Wendelin in poetry, Greta and Jess Elwood in improvised duet acting, Dane Anderson in extemporaneous speaking and serious solo, and Brent Smith in humorous solo.

In addition to the five league champs, there were also four runners-up from Decatur Community High School: Allie Moore in prose,

Kelsey Jackson in poetry, Andrea Marshall in humorous solo, and Brent and David Morris in duet.

Also placing were Anthony Marshall, fourth in humorous solo; Sarah Olson and Kelsey Dorshorst, fourth in duet; Rebekah Hasty, fifth in prose and sixth in serious solo, and Anthony and Andrea, sixth in duet. The speech team is now focusing on state which is May 3. State festival will be held in Salina and the state championship tournament will be in Hutchinson.

"I've never heard so many people yelling and so much excitement. We were truly happy to win league speech this year after coming so close last year (we lost by one point to Oakley). We feel we have a stronger team going to state champs. This helps us feel more successful about our year," said senior Jess Elwood.

Singers enjoy Kansas City trip

By JENNIE SWART
Every two years the Decatur Community High School vocal department get to take a trip. This year the choir traveled to Kansas City, Mo.

The group departed at 5 a.m. on Saturday, April 5, and spent seven hours on the bus.

About 115 students and 15 sponsors took three buses to make the trip across Kansas.

The first stop was Worlds of Fun where the group performed in the festival of choirs, receiving II ratings in everything.

After singing, the students and sponsors spent four fun-filled hours

on the rides at the amusement park and watching the University of Kansas-Syracuse basketball game. After Worlds of Fun, the group checked into the hotel and enjoyed the pool.

On Sunday morning the group traveled to the Nelson-Atkins Art Museum and enjoyed beautiful works of art. Then it was on to the American Heartland Theater in Crown Center for the musical "Smoky Joe's Cafe."

Then there was shopping and enjoying the fountains at Crown Center.

That evening, back at the hotel,

the choir attended a vocal clinic with Steve Eubank. The vocal students all learned a lot from his teaching.

Monday morning came too soon. Everyone was on the bus at 8 a.m.

Lunch and a rest stop was made at the Topeka Mall then the group headed for Abilene.

The final stop was the Russell Stover candy factory. After viewing the candy making and shopping it was back on the bus and on to home, arriving about 8:15 p.m.

Senior Natasha Weishapl said, "The vocal trip was great. We had a lot of chances to experience different kinds of music. We also got to watch the KU game, and that's always fun!"

Vocal Director Susan Nelson said, "The goal of taking students on these trips is to reach new musical goals. I felt we reached that goal and had a good time doing it."

Voice of Decatur Community High School

Decatur Dictator

By the DCHS Dictator Staff

Honors banquet gives senior a jolt

When I was first invited to the University of Kansas honor banquet, frankly, I thought it odd. Sure I'm tall, but I didn't think that University of Kansas basketball had sunk that far that fast. But as it turned out, they were honoring academics.

I had always thought that the academic side of the university mainly involved teaching students to add by ones, twos and the occasional three (with a total ignorance of adding by sevens), but they showed me. They gave me a dictionary with every word in existence in it. In its 1,636 pages I was even able to ascertain the meaning of life (warning: don't look it up, you might get depressed).

This was no pizza and Pepsi affair — this was a hoity-toity (yup, it's in the dictionary) "banquet." There were more forks (two, that is) by my plate than I usually use in a month. Sure, we got steaks, but it was kind of unsettling the way that they shaped them like Roy Williams. That, coupled with the burning effigy, lent a subtle animosity to the atmosphere.

Entertainment was provided by, as the program put it, a "painist." Admittedly, he was from both Russia and France, but at least he was able to escape "Europe's Canada," and "The Land of Many Cheeses" for the U.S.A. (even if he landed in the liberal hotbed of Lawrence).

After that, like any banquet, it quickly turned into "open-mike night" as the speakers descended hungrily upon the audience. Not that the speeches were bad, but I have the

The Way I See It

By Grant Reichert

attention span of a sugar-addled third-grader.

This is especially tough, since I'm the last generation of kids not to benefit from the zombifying effects of drugs such as Ritalin, that have created the super-students of tomorrow, today. (That's right, for my grades I had to do it the old-fashioned way — the Internet.)

Basically, once I heard the word "erudite" and realized that the Play-Doh the speaker was talking about was of the old dead Greek kind, not the delicious salty moldable kind, I slipped into a semi-conscious/living state.

In conclusion, before I am crucified on a basketball goal, let me just say to the die hard University of Kansas fans out there I poked fun at, that I'm sorry. I'm not joking either; I'm truly sorry that you're University of Kansas fans.

Publishers Note: You don't like cats, you scoff at my French heritage and now you make fun of my alma mater. Just for that, young man, you get to stay after school and write this column for another year.

— C. Haynes

KU honors top graduates

By NATASHA WEISHAPL
Four Decatur Community High School seniors, along with students from other Northwest Kansas high schools, were commended at the University of Kansas honors banquet on Tuesday, April 22, at The Gateway.

Those honored from Oberlin were Sarah Olson, daughter of Mark and Barbara Olson; Janna Stef, daughter of Rich Stef and Lisa Stacy; Kelsey Jackson, daughter of DeWayne and Aurelia Jackson; and Grant Reichert, son of Wilbur and Jill Reichert.

To be invited to the banquet, students must be in the top 10 percent of their class. The students enjoyed a steak dinner and listened to a guest speaker from the University of Kansas. They also each received a dictionary as a gift for their accomplishments.

Sarah said, "It was a wonderful honor to be recognized at the banquet."



School Menus

May 1 and 2, and 5-9 OBERLIN HIGH
Thursday — chicken fried steak, potatoes, corn on the cob, pears. **Friday** — taco boat, rice. **Monday** — sausage gravy/biscuits, peas, peaches. **Tuesday** and **Thursday** — cook's choice. **Wednesday** — chicken enchilada, fruit bread. **Friday** — BBQ chicken, mashed potatoes, corn on the cob, mixed fruit. Breakfast — cook's choice through end of school.

OBERLIN ELEMENTARY
Thursday — Breakfast: cereal, toast, juice. Lunch: meatballs. **Friday** — Breakfast: soft pretzel/cheese, fruit. Lunch: chicken fajita. **Monday** — Breakfast: Hot Pocket, orange. Lunch: popcorn chicken. **Tuesday** — Breakfast: cereal, toast, fruit. Lunch: Hot Pockets. **Wednesday** — Breakfast: biscuit, egg, fruit. Lunch: weiner wrap. **Thursday** — Breakfast: cereal, toast, fruit. Lunch: grades 1-3, sack lunch; grades 4-6, Chicken giggles. **Friday** — Breakfast: bagel, cream cheese/peanut butter, juice. Lunch: switch yesterday's lunches.

PRAIRIE HEIGHTS
Thursday — Breakfast: waffles. Lunch: mac/cheese/hot dogs, green

beans, oranges. **Friday** — Breakfast: blueberry muffins. Lunch: fish-wiches, hash browns, broccoli/cheese, tropical fruit. **Monday** — Breakfast: cinna-raisin biscuits. Lunch: pizza, corn, fruit cocktail. **Tuesday** — Breakfast: Danish. Lunch: ham subs, chips, peaches, brownies. **Wednesday** — Breakfast: breakfast pizza. Lunch: taco salad, green beans, pears. **Thursday** — Breakfast: donuts. Lunch: pigs in a blanket, tritators, peas, oranges. **Friday** — Breakfast: pancake sausage bites. Lunch: hamburger gravy, potatoes, mixed vegetables, biscuits, bananas.

HERNDON
Breakfast is served daily: cereal, toast, jelly, juice. Lunches: **Thursday** — mac/cheese, corn dogs, peas, juice, fruit, cookie. **Friday** — sloppy joe, Tater Tots, salad, cookie. **Monday** — chicken strips, potatoes, broccoli/cauliflower, fruit, cookie. **Tuesday** — BBQ beef, cole slaw, fruit slushies, oven fried spuds, cookie. **Wednesday** — pizza, tossed salad, fruited Jell-O, cake. **Thursday** — sausage gravy/biscuit, sausage, peas, salad, apple crisp. **Friday** — enchiladas, taco bread, salad, fruit, cookie.

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