



SEVENTH-GRADER NATHAN SIMONSSON recently competed in the State Geography Bee. He qualified by first winning the local bee and then taking a written test.

Simonsson does great job at state Geography Bee

By SARAH RUF

What country by the Red Sea will be hosting the next United Nations meeting? This is one of the questions seventh-grader Nathan Simonsson answered at the State Geography Bee. Nathan qualified for state by first winning the local Geography Bee, then he had to take a written test. He scored high enough to qualify for the state Geography Bee, which was held in Abilene. Nathan said he prepared for the

state contest by studying maps, flash cards, and games he borrowed from his geography teacher, Marlene Moxter. Nathan just missed the state finals, which narrowed the group to the top students, by one question. He finished 11th after going through a tie-breaker with 21 other students. What country by the Red Sea will be hosting the next United Nations meeting? Nathan answered the question correctly — Eritrea.

Girls reminisces on last school play

By REBEKAH HASTY

I can't believe it's over! "Noises Off" was my last play in high school, but as a senior it was my first big role. I've been involved in the school play since my sophomore year, but Belinda Blair/Flavia Brent was my first main part.

This play was a challenge, but I had such a blast! I'm going to miss all the time our cast spent together laughing and having fun.

The "Noises Off" cast poured a lot of time, energy, sweat, and blood into this production. The two-story moving set, which we built ourselves, was quite an undertaking. Not one of us will ever forget that 12-hour workday from 1 p.m. to 1 a.m. building the set with Rob McFee, or the countless times we had to turn it. Every time we moved it something went wrong or broke—wheels fell off, boards that covered gaps came off, props broke. It was a mess!

I personally have bruises up and down my legs from building and moving set. I think the entire cast has scraps, splinters, and bruises. Still, it was so sad to take it down after the production. I tore off part of the wall from my attic entrance as a souvenir.

The dress rehearsal was on April Fool's Day, and Miss Davis played a great joke on the cast. In Act II, Brent Smith dumps a plate of sardines on Andrea Marshall's head. Usually that plate had foam sardines and hair gel. But on April 1, that plate was full of real sardines—bones, guts and all. They smelled so bad! The joke was played on the entire cast because not only did we all have to smell them, but we had to pick up the sardines like we normally did and keep the play going because we were being videotaped.

I picked up two pieces of sardine and gagged when they squished between my fingers. They were so disgusting!

Senior Brent Smith said, "I never thought I'd get to dump real sardines on someone's head. It was great!"

"Who would have thought that something so simple as sardines could have such a large impact in a play?" said senior Andrea Marshall.

"Noises Off" was a challenging play because a lot of the humor was action-related. We had to practice the timing on entrances and exits, and how to fall down without hurting ourselves.

One scene had to be re-choreographed because it was too dangerous. Unfortunately, we found that out the hard way. In Act II, Serina Heikes' character was supposed to have her contact lens knocked out by a bottle.

At one rehearsal, the bottle accidentally knocked out part of her tooth! That night will probably be my most traumatic memory of the play.

"Noises Off" was a disastrous delight," said Serina Heikes. "I will always remember it as an awesome part of my senior year!"

Both performance nights went great. Sure, we made mistakes, but by that time, we knew how to cover for each other. Friday night, I got another injury to add to the list. In Act III, the set was too far forward so the bathroom door on the stairs wasn't in the right place.

When Andrea chased me in there, the door got stuck on the curtain, and I cut my leg on a screw when I forced my way in. I was bleeding, but I had to "keep going" and finish the act.

Senior Bayley Bryan summed up the play with, "We had a pants-dropping good time!"

Student Council election results are in

By JAMIE ELWOOD

Molly Coleman has been elected to lead the Student Council next year.

Elections for the 2004-2005 Student Council officers were held April 2. Next year's officers include president, Molly Coleman; vice president, Anne Wasson; secretary, Jason Thomas and treasurer, David Barth.

Before the election, the student body was divided into two parties, the federalists and the nationalists. Each party selected four students to

represent them. Running against the newly elected officers were Kelly Olson, Jamie Elwood, Josh Fortin, and Lance Fortin.

Most of the speeches were short and to the point. They stated what they would try to do for the upcoming school year and all of their qualifications for that particular office. Molly explained why she is proud to be a Red Devil, and Kelly talked about some of her ideas for the next year.

Congratulations to all of the officers.

Voice of Decatur Community High School

Decatur Dictator

By the DCHS Dictator Staff

Kayettes receive letter from Iraq

By KERRIE OLSON

The Kayette organization is always contributing to the community and helping out with various projects. But one particular project extended outside the community, and even the United States.

A few months ago, Kayettes sent care packages to soldiers in Iraq. The girls were divided into different groups. They wrote letters of hope and thanks, and sent the letters along with items such as toothpaste, soap, and shampoo.

Last week, one of the soldiers who had received a care package wrote back to the girls.

Frankie Duran, who is from New Mexico and stationed in Iraq, took the time to thank the group that sent him a package. Seniors Sarah Ruf, Lindsey Euhus, Leah Marietta, Serina Heikes, Krista Fowler, and Abby Ream received a letter from the grateful soldier. The letter is as follows:

My name is Private Duran and I'm stationed here in Iraq. I received

a care package from you senior girls of Decatur Community Jr./Sr. High School. I am here to write back to thank all you girls from the bottom of my heart. It's things like this that make our life and morale better. It just shows us how much people really care back in the states. Life here sucks, the food stinks, the water I won't even touch (thank God for bottled water), and there's nothing I wouldn't do to get back home. Home for me is New Mexico.

My heart goes out to you girls for all the wonderful things you sent and the support you show. May each and every one of your dreams come true.

The nice poem you wrote was awesome. As you wrote, we would catch Saddam. Well, that came true, HOOAH!!! Be all you can be right.

Once again, thank you so much and God Bless.

Proud to be American,

PVT Frankie Duran

The letter is now on display on the front bulletin board as you enter the main door.

Senior Profiles

Andrea Marshall

By KRISTA FOWLER

Andrea Marshall is the daughter of Troy and Deb Marshall. Her siblings include Anthony, a junior; and Amanda, a fourth-grader.

Andrea has been active in DCHS Singers, drama club, National Honor Society, Kayettes, TACT, science club, flag line, Chanté, speech, and the all-school plays and musicals.

She is president of the drama club, and secretary of National Honor Society. Andrea has been on the honor roll throughout high school. She has also attended regional and state music festival, and district and state Kansas Music Educators Association honor choir.

Her hobbies include performing and collecting frogs and angels.

Next year Andrea plans to attend University of Nebraska at Kearney and double major in Music Education and Music Performance.

Allie Moore

By JAMIE ELWOOD

Allie Moore, daughter of Monte and Kelly Moore, has been on the honor roll every nine weeks of her high school career.

She is a member of the National Honor Society, Kayettes, science club, drama club, and forensics. During the school year, she has participated in the plays and musicals, and in volleyball. In the summer she competes on the swim team.

Allie is a four-year member of band and vocal, and is a DCHS Singer.

She is also the 2004 Northwest Kansas League champion in poetry. She will compete at the state level in May.

In her spare time, she enjoys scrapbooking, acting, and playing the piano.

Allie plans to attend Kansas State University and major in biology. Her goal is to become a pediatrician.

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1 p.m. to 4 p.m. ~ Sunday

152 S. Penn. Downtown Oberlin 785-475-3407

It's Clean Up Time!

Hazardous Household Waste Cleanup

for Decatur County residents will occur on Saturday, April 24 between 8 a.m. and 12 Noon.

This event will be held at the county shop at the east edge of Oberlin. This program is designed to provide residents a place to dispose of their used oil, antifreeze, car batteries, lawn fertilizers and pesticides, latex and oil paints, unwanted chemicals, etc.

If you have any questions concerning this program, please call the Decatur County Engineer's Office at 785-475-8111.

School Menus

April 19-23 OBERLIN

Monday — Lunch: corn dog.
Tuesday — Lunch: spaghetti with meat sauce.
Wednesday — Lunch: hamburger with bun.
Thursday — Lunch: Bierocks.
Friday — Lunch: chicken nuggets.

PRAIRIE HEIGHTS
Breakfast is served daily: toast, cereal, juice. Lunches: **Monday** — chicken supreme, peas, rolls, pineapple. **Tuesday** — McRibbs, French Fries, baked beans, applesauce. **Wednesday** — baked ham, au gratin potatoes, corn, rolls, fruit cocktail. **Thursday** — chili cheese dogs, Doritos, green beans, peaches, cake. **Friday** — super nachos, refried beans, strawberries, brownies. Milk served with all meals. Salad bar served with all lunches.

When Severe Weather Threatens

WEATHER EYE METEOROLOGISTS are on duty nights & weekends 24/7

Watching Northwest Kansas

105.3 **93.9** **PRAIRIE** **THE ROCK THAT TALKS**

NO OTHER STATION WATCHES 24/7

NOTICE Classmates 1979

Class Directory:
Need your personal information (Spouses, jobs, children)

Relative numbers:
Phone, cell, street, e-mail addresses

Photo:
Present...past...future

Send to:
Robyn Mendiola
405 N. 9th
Fredonia, KS 67736
(620) 378-2860 • robyn@mendiolas.net

Before April 25, 2004

If you do not send anything, incorrect information may be included. Sorry

Reunion Plan:
May 29, 2004, Saturday • Shelter @ Noon
Alumni Banquet at The Gateway
Doors open 6 p.m.
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Private gathering to follow

Internet tonight !!!! Call 475-2206