

New teacher is far from homeland

By MARCI MATCHETT
She left her homeland with two suitcases and flew halfway around the world to teach her native language. Leaving Spain behind and coming to Kansas, Maria Campo is now teaching Spanish for Decatur Community High School.

While living at home with her mom, dad, and brother, Ms. Campo heard about a program that specifically hires teachers from Spain to come to the United States. The program was promoted by the Spanish government, and encourages the Spanish teachers to become "ambassadors of Spain" while living in America.

In order to get here, Ms. Campo had many obstacles; one of those was an interview with a representative of The Kansas Department of Education.

She graduated from Esclairas, a religious school in Spain. After high school, she went to a four-year college in Spain, which is called Salamanca.

Ms. Campo is very active. She likes reading, walking, hiking, listening to music, watching movies, and traveling. She doesn't have any plans to get married or have children yet, but says it is a possibility in the future.

"Everything about Oberlin is different from Spain; the way of living, and the culture especially. Oberlin is a very quiet place and is full of nice

people," said Ms. Campo. So far she likes the school and enjoys teaching. When asked her first impression, she said, "The students seem interested and willing to learn." She also said the teachers are great, helpful, and very kind to her. "Ms. Campo is very enthusiastic and energetic," said English teacher Brenda Breth. "She has adapted remarkably fast and is soaking up our culture. It is fun to have her across the hall from me."

Her goal for this school year is to not only teach the students Spanish, but to let them have fun too.

Principal Charles Haag said, "She's going to bring lots of cultural experiences to our students. She's very upbeat and excited about being here."

I think the neat thing is she will learn as many new things from us as we will learn from her; that's what makes the whole experience rewarding to everybody. I think our community will benefit a lot from Ms. Campo being part of it."

Danica May, a student in her advanced Spanish class said, "Ms. Campo is a nice teacher. It is good to get a different perspective on Spanish."

Ms. Campo will be here for two or possibly three years. She said she is very thankful to the community for all the help she's received and hopes that she brings good things to the school.



USING the new laptop computers the school recently purchased, sophomores Kaitlyn Gillespie and Chantelle Beneda work on their English project.

Students have more computer access

By AMBER BARRATT
Students at Decatur Community High School now have another way to type papers and do research for their assignments. The school has bought 16 laptops in a cart that can go from class to class for all students to use.

Because the school has wireless internet, students can access the world wide web in all classrooms. The laptops were bought with grant money which the school gets every year to update technology. The computers are from Byte Speed and are Windows XP programmed.

The school bought portable computers to use in the classrooms because sometimes the computer lab

and library are busy when teachers need their students to research or type.

Principal Charles Haag said he likes the new laptops and the options it gives to the students and teachers. "The laptops are a wonderful resource for the students and teachers," Mr. Haag said.

The students seem to enjoy the computers too. "I think the laptops are a good addition to the school," said sophomore Kaitlyn Gillespie, who used a laptop to research and do a project in English class.

The students must obey all the rules stated in the handbook about computer use in order to get hands-on experience with the new laptops.

Voice of Decatur Community High School

Decatur Dictator

By the DCHS Dictator Staff

Jeremy Tally gets article published

By KELLEN DOEDEN

Jeremy Tally, a senior at Decatur Community High School, started his school year off with a great honor. An essay he wrote for his junior English class, "The Day a Dream Began," was published in *NRA Insights* magazine.

After much encouragement from his teachers and peers, Jeremy sent his essay to the magazine's junior member section, "Zeroed In." The National Rifle Association responded positively, and added the article to the July issue of the maga-

zine. Looking back on the article, which was written over a year ago, Jeremy has a lot of pride and is still really excited.

When asked how he feels to be a published writer, Jeremy responded, "It's still a shock really. I never thought I'd see my work in a magazine."

"Jeremy is a talented writer," said junior English teacher Brenda Breth. "Not many people can say they are a published writer. I'm so incredibly proud of him."

Gyms have new look

By WHITNEY BEINKE

If you have been to either the junior or senior high gyms in Decatur Community High School, you might have noticed something a little different. The high school recently purchased two new wall mats for each of the gyms.

The mats were chosen by the students and community members in an on-line poll on the school website set up by Kurt Olson in computer class. The students chose from three different designs made up by a graphics company.

The total cost of the four mats was \$7,500. Half of the cost was covered by student organizations and half by the school district.

Activities Director Randy Olson said the old mats had been there since 1968 and were becoming very worn.

Mr. Olson said, "The new mats dress up the gyms, and I have received several positive comments on them."

Senior Jesse Juenemann said, "The mats look nice and improve our gym."

New Students

By JONATHAN SMITH
Joe Brunswick

One of the new juniors is Joe Brunswick. Joe is from Kearney, Neb., and his parents are Philip Brown and Karen Prenzick.

His favorite class is small engines, but he says he enjoys all of his classes. Joe doesn't think he will be going out for sports, and he hasn't decided about other extracurricular activities.

His biggest adjustment is the size of the school and slightly lower technology.

"I really like the laptops [computers]," said Joe.

tor at Lund Covenant Church and works with Teens For Christ.

Amber's favorite classes are band, in which she plays the trumpet, and choir, where she is a soprano. Throughout the school year, you may see her in speech, Drama Club, the all school play, and track where she likes to do triple jump.

When asked what she thinks about Oberlin compared to Bird City, she said, "Oberlin is a lot bigger than Bird City, and they have a fair, and a movie theater." Also, she stated, "I am so excited about the Pizza Hut because Bird City doesn't have one."

Her parents are Doug and Johanna Mason and she has two sisters, Becca who is a freshman at Colby Community College, and Bethany who is 3 and in pre-school.

When not in school Amber likes to dance and play her electric guitar. She loves music and acting, and works at the LandMark Inn.

By KIM WESSEL
Amber Mason

Amber Mason is a new sophomore this year. She came to Oberlin from Bird City/Cheylin because her father, Doug Mason, is the new pas-

School Menus

Sept. 19-23
OBERLIN SCHOOLS

Monday: Breakfast: cereal, toast, banana. Lunch: pizza. **Tuesday:** Breakfast: breakfast burrito, peaches. Lunch: spaghetti, garlic roll. **Wednesday:** Breakfast: pancake, ham patty, oranges. Lunch:

fish. **Thursday:** Breakfast: turnovers, sausage patty, Mandarin oranges. Lunch: hamburger with bun. **Friday:** Breakfast: cereal, muffin, tropical fruit. Lunch: lasagna. Milk served with all meals.

Choice bar served with all lunches.

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