

# Singers enjoy retreat

## Fun, work mix together

**By ANDY LEITNER**  
The 2006-'07 DCHS Singers started off the year with an annual retreat to Red Willow Lake on Saturday, Aug. 19-20. The DCHS Singers consist of sophomores Jordan Tally, Ethan Merrill, and Annamarie Larue; juniors Jenny Ploussard, Rory Wendelin, Amber Mason, and Kenzie Fisher; and seniors Riley Cochran, Garrit Peters, Kurt Olson, Bronson Scott, Andy Leitner, Jenny Hirsch, Karli Fredrickson, Tricia Dorshorst, and Katrina Wentz. Besides practicing the Singers swam, had fun, and practiced new team-building skills. They also learned new choreography and discussed their new outfits, which are black and red, polished off with a layer of glitter. "I was very pleased with the Singers' work at the retreat," said the director, Susan Nelson. "It's a great chance to get to know people in our group. We're off to a great start!" "I feel like we got a lot of work done while still having a good time," said senior Singer Karli Fredrickson. The Singers are available for performances. Contact Susan Nelson at (785) 475-2231.

## Getting started on a new year



**NOLAN MAY**, student council president, welcomed the student body during assembly on the first day of school.

**Decatur Dictator**  
By the DCHS Dictator Staff

## Mother of four takes over desk

**By LAUREN FORTIN**  
Judy Marietta is the new face behind the counter at the junior-senior high office. Our new secretary is no stranger to Decatur Community High School. She and all four of her children are DCHS graduates. Mrs. Marietta previously worked at Decatur County Title and Abstract and part-time at the grade

school in the computer lab. She and her husband, Alan, have four kids, Loni, 25; Leah, 21; and Bret and Lora, 19. Among her many responsibilities is keeping track of the activity and class funds. "I enjoy being around all the kids and activities," said Mrs. Marietta. "I also enjoy my job because it is never boring."



J. Marietta

## Picture days planned

School pictures will be taken on Tuesday, Sept. 26, for students at Oberlin Elementary and Wednesday, Sept. 27, for junior high and high school students. Students will be bringing home fliers and information this week. According to yearbook adviser Brenda Breth, picture day is a huge

fund-raiser for the journalism staff. "We get a percentage of every package sold," said Mrs. Breth, who organizes the schedule for the junior and senior high school students. Sports pictures of the football, volleyball, and cross-country teams will also be taken on Wednesday.

## New Student

**By LAUREN FORTIN**  
Richard Beaudette is 16 years old and a new senior at Decatur Community High School. He is the son of Michael Beaudette and Susan Beaudette, and came to Oberlin from Ontario, Calif. Richard's father is working at the new bus company in Jennings.

For fun, Richard likes to just hang out with friends. "I like Oberlin," he said. "It is pretty cool." He also said that he likes Decatur Community High better than his old school. The *Dictator* staff will highlight other new students in the following weeks.

# Teens spend weekend at lake

**By KIM WESSEL**  
TACT, which stands for Teens Acting and Caring Together, began the new school year with a retreat to the Scott City Lake Aug. 26-27. Even with the weather a little chilly, students were still able to enjoy the outdoor activities. TACT advisor Wendy Scott took 24 students to learn how teen peers can care and help each other. The sponsors were Mrs. Horton, mother of Ashley Horton, and Mrs. Ketterl, mother of Ashli Samson. Students that attended the retreat included seniors Tricia Dorshorst, Jennifer Hirsch, Kim Wessel, and Breck Simonsson.

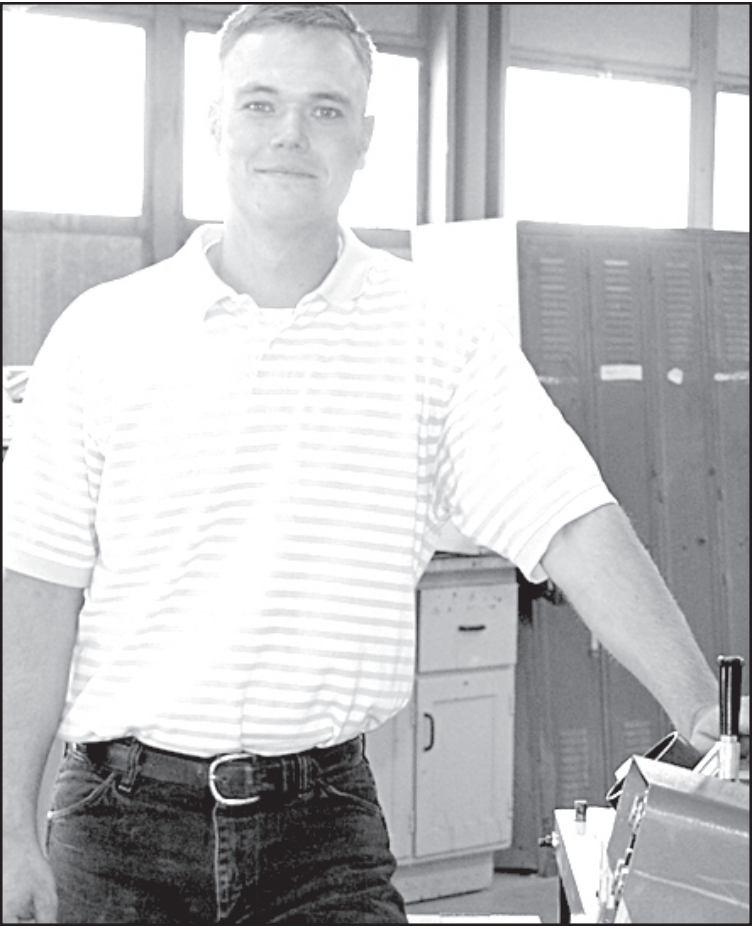
Juniors present were Amber Mason, Nikki Wessel, Kenzie Fisher, Ashli Samson and Jennifer Ploussard. Sophomores included Haley Barrett, Jacinta Carter, Nathan Simonsson, and Jay Wessel. The freshmen were Mary Olson, Adrienne Pauls, Brandi Diederich, Stephanie Bruggeman, Ashley Horton, Kira Meitl, Jessica Fredrickson, Kortnie Fisher, Hunter Nedland, and Gatlin Reichert. Our foreign exchange student from Brazil, Odmar Filho, joined the fun also. Some of the activities students learned were how to trust one another and that everyone needs help.

The students also learned something new about everyone there. Another activity included labeling. The students wore labels to see how it feels when people label them. During the trust factor, they had to pair up and trust their partner to lead them around blindfolded outside, with just the sound of their voice. TACT members also had to help each other untie shoelaces with one hand while some students went around tying knots into the shoelaces. Making a circle while sitting on the lap of the person behind them was one of the most difficult activities they did.

Some of the students learned dances during their break time while others hiked. Many of the students went canoeing in the river while some played pranks on others. Mrs. Scott said, "The lessons went a lot better this year than in the past." "Canoeing was one of the more fun activities we did," said Breck Simonsson. Mary Olson, Brandi Diederich, Ashley Horton, and Kortnie Fisher agreed that the canoeing, sitting activity, mingling, leading the blind, and the food were all the best. "It was a lot of fun and I wish I could do it again," said Nathan Simonsson.

## Candidates chosen

Homecoming 2006 is Sept. 29. The candidates have been chosen. The queen candidates are Whitney Ashley, Lauren Fortin, Sarah Murray, Emmie Pauls and Heather Williams. The king candidates are Jobey Black, Kyle Glodt, Nolan May, Kurt Olson, Garrit Peters and Breck Simonsson. Volleyball players voted on the king candidates, and football players voted on the queen candidates.



**MATT MICEK** is the new industrial arts teacher.

# Goodland teacher takes drafting job

**By MARCI METCALF**  
The industrial arts and drafting classes have a new teacher this year. Matt Micek is a graduate of Atwood High School and Fort Hays State University with a Bachelor's Degree in technology studies. He and his wife, Melissa, have two children, Kenneth, 2, and Abby, 4 months. Before he began teaching in Oberlin, he taught at Goodland,

which was his first teaching job. "Small town life is different than big town Goodland," said Mr. Micek. "People introduce themselves here." Mr. Micek said he came to Decatur Community High School because it is a shorter commute from his farm than to Goodland. "This program has a lot of room to grow," he said. "There is more to industrial arts than just wood shop. There is the technological side, such as mechanical design."

**Decatur County Health Department**

Mini Health Fair...Doing Blood draws on October 4 and October 5. 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. both days. Please call for an appointment or more information.

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## School Menus

**Sept. 18-22**  
**OBERLIN SCHOOLS**  
**Monday:** Breakfast: cereal, muffin, pears. Lunch: corn dogs, macaroni and cheese. **Tuesday:** Breakfast: cereal bar, yogurt, peaches. Lunch: barbecue chicken legs, roll with butter. **Wednesday:** Breakfast:

waffles, sausage patty, tropical fruit. Lunch: Polish dogs. **Thursday:** Breakfast: breakfast burrito, pineapple. Lunch: hot beef sandwich. **Friday:** Breakfast: cereal, muffin, mixed fruit. Lunch: tacos. Milk served with all meals. Choice bar served with all lunches.

**Nominations for Soil Conservation and Windbreak Awards**

are now being accepted at  
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To nominate a Decatur area producer, contact either office by September 15, 2006.  
Awards sponsored by the Kansas Bankers Association