

Coach, teacher does it all

Man serves in high school for 32 years

The journalism staff will be highlighting a teacher each week, beginning with Mr. Ahlberg.

By MARCI METCALF

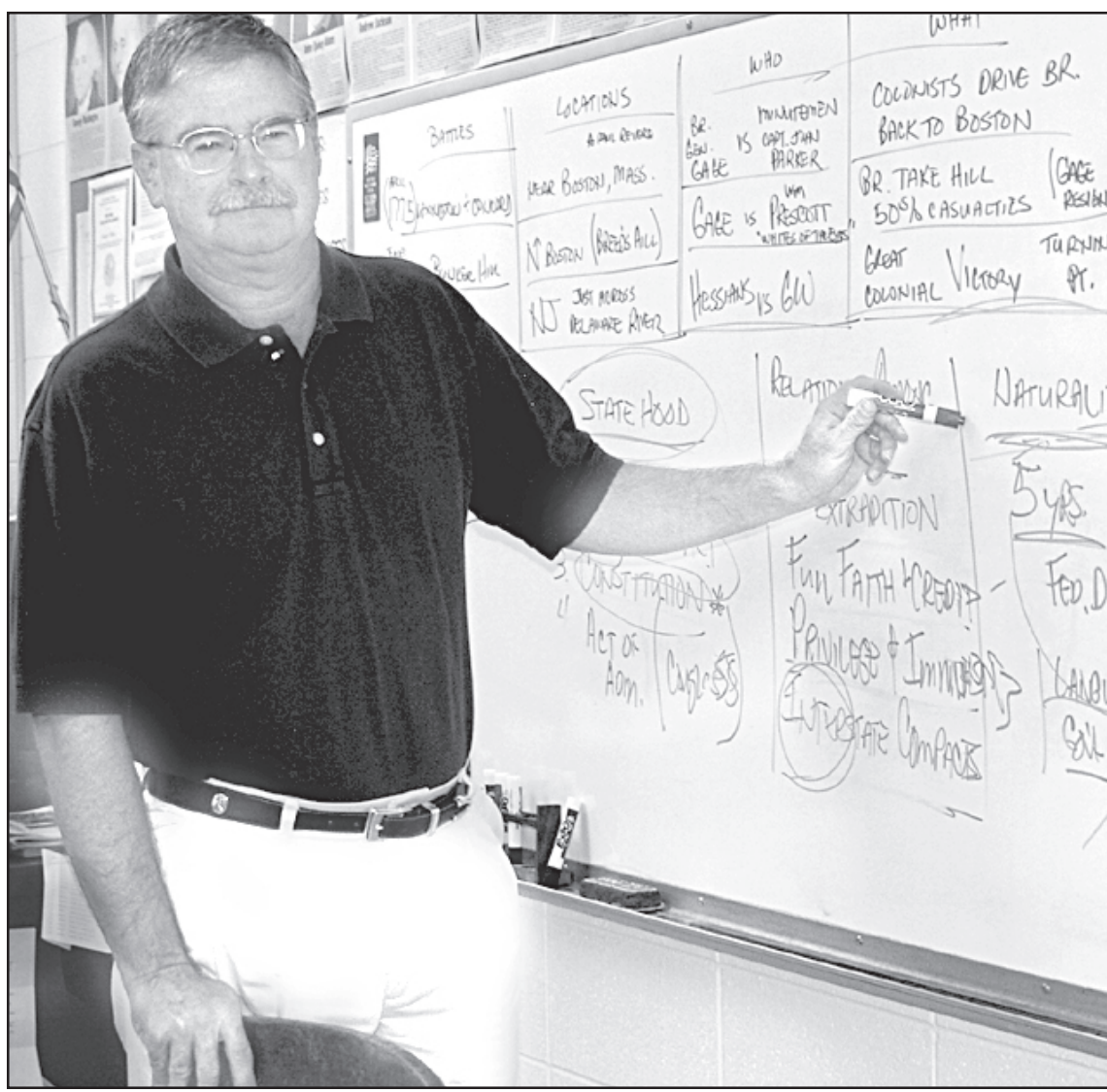
Family man, coach, teacher and mentor are all different ways of describing Dick Ahlberg. After teaching for 32 years, he has quite the understanding of high school students.

Mr. Ahlberg graduated from Fort Hays State University in 1975 with a major in history. He teaches government, American history, world history, economics, and Kansas history.

He said that over the years there have been many changes in teaching. "Technology has advanced and there are more state standards, testing, and paperwork changes," he said.

Along with teaching, Mr. Ahlberg is also a coach. He has coached cross-country for 30 years, golf for 27 years, basketball for 12 years, and junior high basketball for 12 years. Other sports he has coached are high school track, before he started coaching golf, and even one year of junior high volleyball. "Coaching has been a big part of my teaching career, and I've always enjoyed it," he said.

Mr. Ahlberg's wife, Suzanne, is Director of Nursing at the hospital. He has a daughter, Christie Rice, who lives in Lincoln, Neb., and three sons, two of whom live in Fort Collins. Andy works for Coca-Cola and plays in a band, Away From



SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER Dick Ahlberg has taught and coached at Decatur Community High for 32 years. — Dictator staff photo

Nothing; Erik works at Fiberlok and Lucky Joe's; and Mason is a second-grader at Oberlin Elementary School.

"I love to golf, spend time with my family, ride bikes with Mason, and visit my kids and grandchildren," said Mr. Ahlberg.

In high school Mr. Ahlberg was very involved in sports. He went out for cross-country three years, and lettered all three; lettered in basketball for two years, was honorable mention and all-league; and also lettered in golf all four years and was a state qualifier. He was also involved in TARS: Teenage Republicans

where he helped campaign for Bob Dole, and also taught Sunday school and coached Little League baseball.

"I don't think students have changed that much. Most students have the same backgrounds as their parents, and they behave the same," said Mr. Ahlberg. "I have high expectations, and most of my students do what I expect."

"There is no teacher I respect more than Mr. Ahlberg," said English teacher Brenda Breth. "The students also like and respect Mr. Ahlberg. Every year when my juniors write about their favorite teacher in their autobiographies, his

name comes up more than any other. He is an icon in our building."

"Mr. Ahlberg is one of the best teachers I have ever had the pleasure of working with," said Duane Dorshorst, Oberlin Elementary School principal and former colleague.

"His love for his subject matter is evident in the passion for which he teaches it. He truly cares about his students and their future. He prepares students for life beyond high school by making them responsible for their own learning, and helping them to develop thinking skills that are critical to their future."

Survey needs answers

If you've noticed a survey on the school's website, please don't ignore it.

The Facilities Committee, which is part of Decatur Tomorrow, needs the community's ideas on ways to better utilize facilities such as the Gateway, high school, library and theater.

The Facilities Committee wants to make these assets more accessible to everyone. It is a simple survey and takes only a few minutes.

The school web site is www.usd-294.org. If you have questions, contact Dan Nedland at dannoned@hotmial.com or Brenda Breth at bbreth@usd294.org.

School Menus

Sept. 25-29

OBERLIN SCHOOLS

Monday: Breakfast: cereal, muffin, Mandarin oranges. Lunch: creamy chicken/veggies over rice. **Tuesday:** Breakfast: cherry or apple turnover, ham. Lunch: sausage on a stick. **Wednesday:** Breakfast:

waffles, sausage patty, tropical fruit. Lunch: breakfast pizza, peaches. **Thursday:** Breakfast: breakfast bites, pineapple. Lunch: chicken sandwich. **Friday:** Breakfast: cereal, muffin, pears. Lunch: pizza. Milk served with all meals. Choice bar served with all lunches.



By the DCBS Dictator Staff

School prepares for homecoming

By AMIE RITTER

This year's 2006 Homecoming game is against Rawlins County on Friday, Sept. 29. To get the football boys pumped up, the cheerleaders chose five days of dressing goofy.

Monday is pajama, crazy hair, and hat day.

Tuesday is career day.

Since Wednesday is picture day,

it is dress your best day.

Thursday is opposite day, and Friday is spirit day.

The theme for this year's floats and windows is video games. The students will work on the windows

Tuesday during homeroom, and on the floats Thursday after the bonfire and all day Friday before the parade.

Students honor vets during game half-time

Twenty veterans from all branches of the military were honored at half-time during the Oberlin/Oakley football game Friday, Sept. 15.

The Decatur Community High School band played "Washington's Post March," "Salute to America's Finest," and "This Is My Country" in honor of the servicemen.

Band Director Christie Morris said she wanted to honor our veterans because it is the right thing to do. "It is long overdue," said Mrs. Morris.

"I think it was very nice to honor the vets for keeping us free," said Jordan Tally.

Chris Larson said, "I thought it was good to honor the veterans."

"It made me feel like we were really doing something good," said Jacinta Carter, "honoring those who fought for us."

Rory Wendelin said, "It made me feel proud to honor our veterans, to give something back to them."

"I thought it was great to recognize some of the men who served our country," said Amber Mason.

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New Students

Macy Rouse

By AMIE RITTER

Macy Rouse is a senior this year. She moved here from Whitewater, and says there isn't very much difference from her old school except the senior class is a little smaller.

She said she moved here because she needed a new start. She lives with her father, Robert Rouse, and family, and says she likes to play guitar, hang out with friends, and take pictures for fun.

Macy also works at A&W. Her favorite classes this year are Biology II and choir.

Shanna Pierce

By LAKIN LAHE

Shanna Pierce, 16, is a junior and comes to us from Atwood.

She moved with her family when her mother got a job in Oberlin.

Shanna works at the Frontier Restaurant as a waitress. She says she likes it a lot better here. It is bigger here, and she enjoys the students and classes. In her spare time she enjoys riding horses and listening to music.

Elleigh Walker

By SARAH MURRAY

Elleigh Walker is a sophomore this year.

Elleigh has one step-brother, Justin William Myer. Her mother, Dawn Walker, runs the Kids Korner Daycare. Elleigh said they moved from Kearney for family reasons.

"I like both places right now, so I can't decide which one is better," she said.

Ellie likes to hang out with her friends and drive around.

Victoria Winters

By NICHOLE WALTERS

Victoria Winters is another new senior at Decatur Community High School. She moved here from a much smaller school in Hill City.

Victoria's favorite class is arts and crafts. She works as a dietary aid at the Good Samaritan Center.

In her spare time she likes to listen to music and go on walks.

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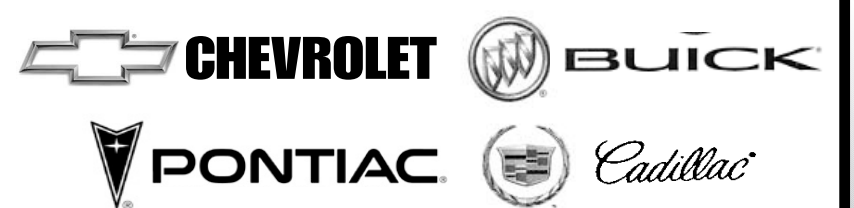
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