

# She makes music

## Teacher helps with vocals for 28 years

By ANDY LEITNER

School musical, concerts, regional and state music contest, vocal lessons, and district and state honor choir are just some of the jobs that involve Susan Nelson.

Susan Nelson, the Decatur Community High School vocal teacher, has been teaching in Oberlin for 28 years. She "fell" into teaching and decided to teach choir since she was involved in music during high school. "I like seeing the progress the students make," said Mrs. Nelson.

Mrs. Nelson grew up in Laramie, Wyo., and never thought she would end up teaching in Oberlin, Kan. But the principal at the time, Gordon Matson, was at a career fair in Wyoming and interviewed her.

"I think that her ability to showcase the talents of her students is amazing," stated fellow teacher Marlene Moxter.

Susan Nelson has directed 29 musicals, and said "Godspell" is her favorite. She also thinks this year's musical, Seussical, is going to be good. Seussical will hit the high school stage on Nov. 17 and 18.

She has made many sacrifices in her 28 years of teaching, and she said "I don't have enough time to spend with my family."

Mrs. Nelson is trying a couple of new things this year. She is teaching kindergarten music. "I enjoy it," said Mrs. Nelson. "It's a lot of fun." She has also taken on the manage-



**WORKING WITH THE CHOIRS,** Susan Nelson keeps the vocal music program on track.

rial position of the Decatur Community High concession stand.

After teaching for 28 years, some things have surely changed. "Students do a lot more in school and have less devotion to their activities," said Mrs. Nelson. "It's also hard to develop a successful class when there are so many different interests."

For years, Mrs. Nelson has had the largest class at the high school; some years her choir is over 100 students, but she still gets the job done. Of course, there are challenges with such a large class. "The hardest thing is to get the students to settle down, concentrate, and to be quiet."

Mrs. Nelson has been recognized and awarded for her teaching. She has been Educator of the Month and

Northwest District Educator. Other honors she has received are Who's Who Among American Teachers, which she has received twice; American Choral Directors' Association; Kansas Music Educators Association district president; and District and State Kansas Music Educators Association chairperson.

Her many hobbies include her pet dogs, her family, and gardening. Her family includes her husband, Steve, and daughter, Makenzie; her father, who resides in Laramie, Wyo.; and her sister, who lives in Omaha.

Her favorite saying is "Bloom where you are planted," which relates to her teaching because she had no idea she would teach in Oberlin.

"My advice for students is, try to be involved; there aren't very many

opportunities in college," she said.

"Mrs. Nelson is a dedicated music educator who tries to instill in her students a love for music by allowing them the opportunity to experience and perform different musical styles," said Mary Jo Lohofener, accompanist for Mrs. Nelson and the senior high choir. "Her ability to bring together a diversified group of singers into one outstanding choir is awesome."

"Mrs. Nelson has a great reputation for bringing out the best in kids," said colleague Brenda Breth. "I am amazed and proud every time I attend a DCHS concert or musical. She cares so much for her students, in and out of school, and for DCHS, which is why she volunteers to do all that she does."



By the DCHS Dictator Staff

## Students prepare for annual cleanup

Lauren Fortin has been chosen by the student body as the 2006 Halloween Clean-up general.

Captains are Tricia Dorshorst, Breck Simonsson, Corey Cook, and Aaron Helm.

The faculty chose five seniors to head the clean-up, then the student

body chose the general from the list of five.

Halloween Clean-up this year is on Monday, Oct. 23. If anyone wants to have their yard spruced up at that time, they should contact the high school at (785) 475-2231.

## Kayette sponsor Iron Man volleyball

BY MARCI METCALF

Five teams participated in the Iron Man volleyball tournament last Saturday sponsored by the Kayettes. Team names were the Red Raiders, Old School Part II, Cleveland Steamers, Road Runners, and the Rednecks.

Old School Part II was the defending champions from last year's tournament.

Bringing some major competition were the Red Raiders, made up

of Trevor Williams, Joe Dreher, Caleb Howland, Adam Kadavy, Kelly Glodt, Shane Bird, and Terry Ream.

"I thought it was a lot of fun," said senior Andy Leitner, a member of Old School Part II. "Volleyball isn't as easy as it looks."

The team winning the tournament was the Red Raiders, who were undefeated the whole day.

Only one team signed up for Powder Puff football, so it was canceled.

## School Menus

Oct. 23-27

**OBERLIN SCHOOLS**

**Monday:** Breakfast: Breakfast Bites. Lunch: hamburger, potato and green bean casserole, dinner roll, French fries. **Tuesday:** Breakfast: muffin. Lunch: ham and beans, carrot and celery sticks, cornbread. **Wednesday:** Breakfast: Breakfast

burrito. Lunch: sloppy joe, French fries. **Thursday:** Breakfast: breakfast pizza. Lunch: hot beef sandwich, mashed potatoes. **Friday:** Breakfast: cereal, muffin. Lunch: corn dog, macaroni and cheese. Juice and fruit served with breakfast. Milk served with all meals. Choice bar served with all lunches.

## COME JOIN THE FUN! ANNUAL Scavenger Hunt

Saturday - October 21

CITY PARK BANDSHELL

\$5 PER PERSON & 1 BAG CHIPS PER TEAM

DANCE TO FOLLOW AT LEGION

\$100 RAYE'S GROCERY GIFT CERTIFICATE TO 1ST PLACE WINNER

For details call:

785-475-3781 or 785-386-4328;  
785-877-3784 or 785-475-7103



## ELECTION

DECATUR COUNTY ELECTION NEWS for GENERAL ELECTION 2006

The November General Election will be held Tuesday the 7th of November, 2006.

See legal publication elsewhere in Herald to see listing on the Ballot.

Voter Registration Books will close on Monday the 23rd of October 2006.

The Clerk's Office to remain open until 9 p.m. that evening.

Anyone who will be 18 years of age by Election Day can register to vote.

Those who have moved their residence since the last election must reregister to vote.

October 16, 2006 Marilyn Horn, Decatur County Election Official

## The Stamps

You Can't Wait to Get Your Hands On.

- PRE-INKED (NO STAMP PAD NEEDED)
- CLEANER, EASIER TO USE
- 50,000 IMPRESSIONS BEFORE RE-INKING
- DOZENS OF MODELS

THE OBERLIN HERALD

170 S. Penn • Oberlin, Kan.  
785-475-2206

# Our Orthopedic Services Make the Grade!

Hays Medical Center Orthopedics and Joint Care Receive National Recognition

HealthGrades, the nation's leading independent reviewer of healthcare quality, has recognized Hays Medical Center for outstanding patient outcomes in orthopedic care.

Instrumental in achieving this recognition are Hays Medical Center's team of dedicated orthopedic specialists. Their unique skills and training offer the most advanced orthopedic services to people in this region.

We think you'll agree. Hays Medical Center's orthopedic services deserve high marks, indeed!

## 2006 REPORT CARD

- ✓ Recipient of the HealthGrades® 2006 Orthopedic Excellence Award™
- ✓ Ranked #1 in the Region in Orthopedic Care
- ✓ Ranked in the Top 5% in the Nation in Joint Replacement
- ✓ Ranked in the Top 10% in the Nation in Overall Orthopedics



Gregory A. Woods, M.D.  
General Orthopedics,  
Sports Medicine & Joint  
Replacement



Robert L. Bassett, M.D.  
General Orthopedics,  
Hand Surgery & Joint  
Replacement



A. Ahad Haleem, M.D.  
General Orthopedics,  
Orthopedic Oncology, Joint  
Replacements  
Medical Director, Joint  
Care Center



Mirza Baig, M.D.  
General Orthopedics,  
Spine Surgery



Frederick R. Smith, M.D.  
Physical Medicine &  
Rehabilitation,  
Electromyography



Sheima Baig, M.D.  
Physical Medicine &  
Rehabilitation,  
Electromyography



2220 Canterbury Drive - Hays  
785-623-5000  
www.haysmed.com

