# 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 when there are so many different interests.'

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, things have surely changed. "Stu- which she has received twice; dents do a lot more in school and American Choral Directors' Assohave less devotion to their activi- ciation; Kansas Music Educators ties," said Mrs. Nelson. "It's also Association district president; and hard to develop a successful class District and State Kansas Music Educators Association chairperson.

Her many hobbies include her pet For years, Mrs. Nelson has had 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 Lohoefener, 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."

Rednecks. nament.

Old School Part II was the defend-

Lauren Fortin has been chosen by body chose the general from the list of five.

ecatur ictator

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 The faculty chose five seniors to high school at (785) 475-2231.

# **Kayette sponsor Iron Man volleyball**

Voice of Decatur Community High School

By the DCHS Dictator Staff

**Students prepare** 

for annual cleanup

**BY MARCI METCALF** 

the student body as the 2006 Hal-

Captains are Tricia Dorshorst,

Breck Simonsson, Corey Cook, and

head the clean-up, then the student

loween Clean-up general.

Aaron Helm.

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 senior Andy Leitner, a member of Steamers, Road Runners, and the

ing champions from last year's tour-

Bringing some major competition were the Red Raiders, made up der Puff football, so it was canceled.

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 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 Pow-

## **School Menus**

#### Oct. 23-27 **OBERLIN SCHOOLS**

Monday: Breakfast: Breakfast Bites. Lunch: hamburger, potato wich, mashed potatoes. Friday: and green bean casserole, dinner roll, French fries. Tuesday: Breakfast: muffin. Lunch: ham and beans, carrot and celery sticks, combread. fast. Milk served with all meals. Wednesday: Breakfast: Breakfast Choice bar served with all lunches.

burrito. Lunch: sloppy joe, French fries. Thursday: Breakfast: breakfast pizza. Lunch: hot beef sand-Breakfast: cereal, muffin. Lunch: corn dog, macaroni and cheese. Juice and fruit served with break-

### 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



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.

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

October 16, 2006 Marilyn Horn, Decatur County Election Official

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

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

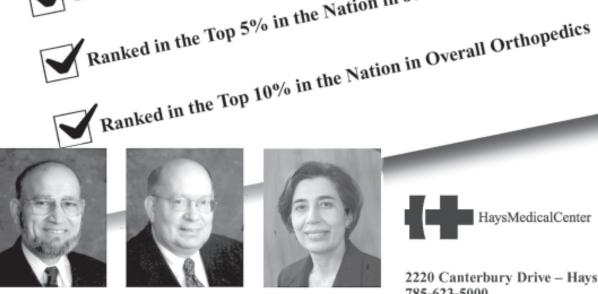


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