

# Youths clean up Oberlin

## Students work at annual event

**By SARAH MURRAY**  
Halloween Clean-up has been a tradition at Decatur Community High School since 1925 and is still continuing. The idea came from Superintendent Caleb W. Smick.

This year's general was Lauren Fortin. The faculty chose five captains, and then the general was chosen by the student body from those five.

"Clean-up went pretty well," said Lauren. "We had a good turnout and the kids were excited to work."

Corey Cook led the seniors and eighth graders, with 27 students participating. They raked five yards and part of the park. Corey chose Kyle Glodt as his lieutenant, and teachers Matt Micek and Trevor Williams were their sponsors.

Tricia Dorshorst led the juniors and seventh graders with 35 students participating. Rory Wendelin was her lieutenant. They raked a total of five yards. Caleb Howland and Terry Ream were their sponsors.

Breck Simonsson, and his lieutenant and brother Nathan Simonsson, led the sophomores and sixth graders with 35 students participating. They raked seven yards, and their sponsors were Mark Bricker and Jason Ketterl.

Aaron Helm was captain of the



**KEEPING AN EYE ON THINGS**, sixth grader Channing Farr enjoyed watching others in his group work at the Halloween Clean-up Monday night.

freshman and fifth graders with 45 students participating. Aaron chose Gatlin Reichert as his lieutenant.

They also raked seven yards. Tim Breth and Joe Dreher were their sponsors.

The City of Oberlin and the Lions Club provided hot dogs and apples after all the hard work.



**LEIGH DAVIS** shows her senior English class a PowerPoint presentation. One of the awesome things about Miss Davis is she is not afraid of trying new things or new technologies.

# Teacher loves English, classes

**By LAKIN LAHE**

"I love the connection between students and subject," said English teacher Leigh Davis, "the 'ah-ha' moments when the students get it."

Leigh Davis has a love for teaching, and shows it with her dedication to her job.

Miss Davis grew up in Norton, where her dad worked for Kansas Fish & Game. Because of her dad's job, she lived by the Prairie Dog Creek and developed an appreciation for wildlife.

In high school she was involved in the debate and forensics teams, and her school's musicals and plays.

After graduating from high school Miss Davis attended Colby Community College, then Kansas Wesleyan University. She got her master's degree from Fort Hays. She also has taken classes from Kansas State and Friends University.

She has three siblings, one sister and two brothers. Her father lives in Palco, and her mother lives with her here in Oberlin. She is also an aunt and has eight nieces, and one great-nephew.

Her pets could also be considered part of the family. She currently has two dogs, Oscar Wilde and Virginia Wolf. She says she always gives her pets author's names. "I never met a dog I didn't like," she said. Oscar is a basset hound-heeler mix, and Ginny is a sheltie. She calls them "young, energetic, and mischievous."

Miss Davis' hobbies include reading, going to plays, and playing with her dogs. She also likes cro-

cheting. She belonged to Decatur Area Theater Association, and she acted in and directed community plays, but that organization has been inactive for a couple of years.

One of her favorite authors is Charles Dickens, and one of her favorite plays is "The Crucible" by Arthur Miller. She calls it the play she loves to hate.

"Books are for naught but to inspire," by Ralph Waldo Emerson is Miss Davis' favorite quotation. "I agree with Emerson that we need to do more than parrot other men's thinking. Books provide the background to solve problems, to create," she said.

Miss Davis has done a lot at Decatur Community High School. She has been teaching, coaching speech, directing plays, and helping with the musicals for 25 years now. Her favorite musical was "Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat." "It was just fun and new," she said, "but I always love each show I'm working on."

Miss Davis started the drama club in 1982. Its purpose, she says, is to promote theater arts in our high school. She feels it has been a great success. "Having the club has moved us from a junior class play to an all-school play that anyone can participate in," she said. "Drama Club has been an exciting activity. We have done shows for the grade school, high school, and public audiences."

Miss Davis is currently working on the musical and the Drama Club

haunted house. This is only the second year for the haunted house, but she thinks it is exciting because it's new. She says it is also challenging because it's new territory.

Her most successful speech season was that of 2003. Oberlin placed third as a team at 2A championship competition. They also won league that year.

"She is a very good speech coach," said junior Rory Wendelin, a state qualifier. "She works hard and is very good at what she does."

This year Miss Davis teaches freshman and senior English, and general speech, but she has also taught English at the junior high, sophomore, and junior levels, as well as debate. She has been teaching for 25 years.

Miss Davis tells students, "Make good use of your time. Follow Benjamin Franklin's advice: 'Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that's the stuff life is made of.'"

"Miss Davis is one of the most creative and talented teachers I know," said colleague Marlene Moxter. "She is always working to make her classes interesting for her students."

Fellow English teacher Brenda Breth said, "I wish I had a nickel for every time a former student has said to me, 'I was so ready for college thanks to Miss Davis. She pushed us hard, and now I understand why.'"

"She does expect a lot out of her students; that's what good teachers do, but Miss Davis is not just a good teacher - she is the very best."



By the DCCHS Dictator Staff

# FFA compete in dairy judging

**By H. WILLIAMS**  
Members of the FFA attended a dairy judging contest Tuesday, Oct. 17, in Hays.



The group left at 5:30 in the morning and returned around 3:30 p.m.

Students who competed were Cole May, John Meitl, Kaden Macfee, Tyler Sauvage, Jebb Tally, Alyssa Montgomery, Jamie Miller, Elleigh Walker, and Chris Schiessler. Jason Ketterl is the FFA sponsor.

Some of the criteria the students judged dairy cows on were how well they walk on concrete, their body form, and which ones produce the

most milk. The Decatur Community High School FFA got second as a team, and Alyssa Montgomery came in sixth place overall and qualified for state dairy judging.

"I really had no clue what I was doing," said Alyssa, "but somehow I made it to state. I got to go last year, and I'm excited to go again."

# School Menus

**Nov. 6-10 OBERLIN SCHOOLS**

**Monday:** Breakfast: oatmeal or cold cereal. Lunch: potato bar, breadsticks. **Tuesday:** Breakfast: muffin, cereal. Lunch: meatballs, scalloped potatoes. **Wednesday:** Breakfast: breakfast pizza. Lunch: chicken-fried steak, dinner roll.

**Thursday:** Breakfast: pancake sausage on a stick. Lunch: turkey sandwich, Tater Tots. **Friday:** Breakfast: breakfast combo. Lunch: burrito, corn. Juice and fruit served with breakfast. Milk served with all meals. Choice bar served with all lunches.

# Husker Days draws group

**By KIM KETTERL**

The FFA members had to get up early once again Sept. 21 to travel to Grand Island for Husker Harvest Days. They left at 5:30 a.m. to make sure they were there early enough to see all the exhibits.

At Husker Harvest Days members of the FFA club were able to do hands-on activities, such as see how fast they could change a tire, and take a look at many demonstrations. Some of the most popular exhibits were the Chevy and Dodge motors and all the John Deere equipment. Many students were able to see livestock there, too.

In addition to the exhibits the students saw a combine derby, and demonstrations on how to break a wild horse and how a cow chute works.

Twenty-one students chose to attend Harvest Days: Alyssa Montgomery, Shelby Jeffrey, Tanner Hardy, Danyel Jeffrey, John Meitl, Kierstyn Johnson, Lacie Alstrom, Jebb Tally, Cole May, Katrina Wentz, Jordan Tally, Tyler Sauvage, Joe Carter, Chris Schiessler, Kaden Macfee, David Urban, Jamie Miller, Shanna Pearce, Kasia Bryan, Royal Fisher, and Ethan Long. Dennis Macfee, Kaden's father, and FFA adviser Jason Ketterl were the sponsors.

"Husker Harvest Days was a very educational trip," said Mr. Ketterl. "The kids saw a lot of new technologies, and there were lots of fun



**RACING THE CLOCK**, FFA member Alyssa Montgomery (on her knees) changes a tire at Husker Harvest Days in Grand Island, Neb. She attended the event on Sept. 21, along with other members of the Oberlin high school FFA club.

things to do and see." Kaden Macfee said, "I liked the Orthman exhibit (farm equipment) and the combine derby."

"It was worth the trip," said Chris Schiessler. "I liked the Chevy exhibit."



# THE OBERLIN HERALD

and the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce welcome Eagle Communications to the business community

The Chamber board welcomed James Miller, business development coordinator, and Brian Pfannenstiel, sales representative, for Eagle Communications. They have the new local cable and internet service for Oberlin.