



GEOGRAPHY BEE FINALISTS waited for competition to begin on Friday, Jan. 5. Shown, from left to right, are Tiffany Anderson, Garrett Berry, Jacob Helm, Joe Hirsch, Sara Kyte, Jacob Larue, Tyler Shields, Dakota Soderlund and Chad

Williams. The ten junior high finalists answered oral questions to determine who would win the chance to take a written test, which will be sent to the National Geographic Society for scoring, and possibly attend the state competition.

Eighth-grader wins Geography Bee

By LAKIN LAHE
Eighth-grader Jacob Helm won the local Geography Bee competition on Friday, Jan. 5.

All seventh and eighth graders took a 105-question multiple choice test as a preliminary to narrow down to ten finalists.

The finalists consisted of Tiffany Anderson, Garrett Berry, Keithen Fortin (unable to attend), Jacob Helm, Joe Hirsch, Sara Kyte, Jacob

Larue, Tyler Shields, Dakota Soderlund, and Chad Williams.

Finalists were asked different questions orally. They were eliminated when they missed two. After the third round, there were five students left.

The next round eliminated all but Jacob Helm, so he was automatically a finalist.

The other four continued answering questions until Jacob Larue was

determined the third-place winner, and Joe Hirsch the second finalist.

Jacob Helm and Joe were then asked three questions, and they had to write down their answers. Since they had the same answers, they continued with the geography bee, receiving the same questions until one answered correctly and the other incorrectly. It took 20 questions to determine a winner.

As the local winner, Jacob next

took a written test consisting of 70 questions, which will be mailed to the National Geographic Society and scored to determine if he will make it to the state level. Approximately 100 students from across the state will qualify for the state competition.

Geography teacher Marlene Moxter said, "This was the most questions we have ever had to use to determine the top three places."

Art teacher attended high school here

By ALISAMSON
A world of many colors is the world of art teacher Terri Woolsey. Mrs. Woolsey has been a part of the Decatur Community school system for 28 years. She has been a teacher since 1975 when she started teaching in Natoma.

Mrs. Woolsey is the daughter of Eris and Dale Young. She grew up in Oberlin and graduated from Decatur Community High. As a child, she says she was a tomboy and extremely shy. Her mother encouraged her in art, and in high school she had a great art teacher, John Petty. In seventh grade she decided she wanted to go into art education.

In high school Mrs. Woolsey participated in band, pep band, dance squad, drill team, Future Homemakers of America, and Methodist Youth Fellowship.

"High school was fun," said Mrs. Woolsey. "We had more students and more activities than we do now, but a favorite pastime of ours was dragging main."

After high school, she went to Fort Hays State University where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in art education and a Master's in elementary education.

She and her husband Bob moved back to Oberlin in 1976, and she started the elementary art program in 1978. She continued teaching at the grade school but also started teaching at the high school in 1985.

"The art department is such an important part of every child's education, whether they become artists or not," said math teacher Wendy Scott. "Art is an opportunity for students to release and express ideas, emotions, and stress. We are so fortunate to have an art department at both the elementary and secondary levels because some kids express themselves (and release energy) better artistically than any other way."

"Some wonderful benefits of studying art include development of visual perception for mathematics classes such as geometry, and ties to history with the study of different artists and their work that was often reflective of social and political events of the time," said Mrs. Scott.

Mrs. Woolsey teaches elementary art for grades 1 through 6, seventh grade art, Title I, and high school art, which includes arts and crafts, advanced art, and computer art. She is the only teacher in the district who teaches at all levels - elementary, junior high, and senior high. She also teaches college psychology and art appreciation for Colby Community College.

"I don't have a favorite level," said Mrs. Woolsey. "I enjoy all age levels."



TERRI WOOLSEY helped senior art student Nichole Walters with an art assignment.

In addition to all of her teaching duties, she has also been a junior class sponsor for many years and helps with the prom decorations.

"The best part of prom is seeing the proud faces of the juniors when they have completed the decorating," said Mrs. Woolsey.

She also helps her sister, Candy DeJmal, every year with the National Honor Society banquet.

When she started teaching at the high school, she added the art show to her list of responsibilities.

"My favorite part of the art show is seeing all the great artistic ability in Northwest Kansas," said Mrs. Woolsey.

The elementary art program is now also a part of the league art show.

According to Mrs. Woolsey, her greatest challenge as an art teacher is getting students to want to use all of their potential and get out of the "is this good enough?" rut.

"If they ask me this question, I know they are trying to slip by," she said. "They need to challenge themselves to always do their best."

"As her student, I always appre-

ciated that while she gave us a thorough introduction to so many art topics, she would let us investigate and experiment with areas that particularly intrigued us," said Mrs. Scott. "She is also so observant of each individual student; she looks at their art work to learn a little more about each student."

Mrs. Woolsey said that students need to be more self-disciplined. Her advice to students is never quit learning. "Education is the key to success," she said.

Education is very important to the Woolseys, and in their immediate family they have two vocational degrees, one associate's degree, seven bachelor's degrees, and three master's degrees.

Mrs. Woolsey and her husband, Bob, also a Decatur Community graduate, have been married for 34 years. They have three grown sons. Capt. Tanner Woolsey is in the United States Air Force and is married to Kaori.

Tucker Woolsey is the principal at Quinter Junior/Senior High School. His wife Tonya (Miller), also an Oberlin graduate, has a

teaching degree but is presently a stay-at-home mom for Trae, 5; Taite, 3; and Trennedey, 1.

Their youngest son, Tyler, is a plumber, electrician and auto body technician. His wife, Becky, is a licensed clinical psychologist.

In her spare time, Mrs. Woolsey likes to read, quilt, and draw. Her favorite medium is graphite.

"Mrs. Woolsey was my art instructor all throughout elementary and high school, and one of the qualities I appreciated most about her was her acceptance of student individuality," said Wendy (Olson) Scott, DCHS math teacher. "As a colleague, I still see that quality in the way she communicates with students."

After 28 years of teaching, Mrs. Woolsey still enjoys it. "I'm working with the future," she said.

Voice of Decatur Community High School

Decatur Dictator

By the DCHS Dictator Staff

Band to present first 2007 concert

By MARCIMETCALF
The first high school band concert of the year will be Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Decatur Community High School auditorium.

"I am really excited about our first band performance," said band teacher Christie Morris. "The students are putting forth a lot of effort to put on an excellent concert. We have a varied selection of music with a different finish. The concert

should be a lot of fun, and I am so proud of my students."

The band will perform "Acclamation" by John Higgins, "Abduction from the Seraglio" by Mozart, "Studio One" by Glen Osser, "Celebration and Dance" by Swearingen, and "A Thousand Hills Overture" by Claude T. Smith.

A surprise ending will conclude the concert so you must attend to see what it is.

Scholar bowl team placed third in league

By HEATHER WILLIAMS
The Decatur Community High School scholar bowl team traveled to Colby on Monday, Jan. 8, to compete in the Northwest Kansas League scholar bowl tournament.

Those competing for Oberlin included Cameron Nedland, Chenniah Langness, Rory Wendelin, Andrew Dempewolf, and Karli

Fredrickson.

The team fell short to first-place Atwood, and second-place Colby.

Karli Fredrickson said, "It would have been great to win, but we still had a lot of fun."

Regional scholar bowl competition will be held in Oberlin on Thursday, Feb. 1.

School Menus

Jan. 22-26 OBERLIN SCHOOLS
Monday: Breakfast: pancake and sausage on a stick. Lunch: pizza, corn. **Tuesday:** Breakfast: breakfast burrito. Lunch: chicken pot pie, biscuit. **Wednesday:** Breakfast: bagel pizza. Lunch: corn dog, au gratin potatoes. **Thursday:** Breakfast: muffin, scrambled eggs. Lunch: sliced ham, scalloped potatoes. **Friday:** Breakfast: pancake,

ham patty. Lunch: sloppy joe, French fries. Juice and fruit served with breakfast. Milk served with all meals. Choice bar served with all lunches.



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A Reminder ...

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