

# Students ready to perform

The Decatur Community High School play "The Clumsy Custard Horror Show" will be given at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

The play is about a beautiful princess, played by Amber Mason, who comes of age to be married. But next door in a dark, creepy land lives an evil ruler who wishes to kidnap and marry the beautiful princess.

Will she be rescued by the charming hero Swashbuck, played by Chenaniah Langness? Or will she be fed to the Clumsy Custard?

"The Clumsy Custard Horror Show" was written by William Gleason, who also wrote "The Pink Panther," according to the director, Leigh Davis. "It is a funny family show that asks the audience to participate by making sound effects and other silly things."



**PONDERING WHO TO MARRY.** Princess Prince (Amber Mason) prepares for her wedding with the help of Alphasia (Tricia Dorshorst).

# Girl wins district office

By ALISAMSON

Junior Kayla Zoderow will be next year's northwest district FFA president or vice president. She will find out which office she will hold on April 19.

Kayla, along with adviser Jason Ketterl, Cole May and Alyssa Montgomery, went to Quinter on March 3 to interview for northwest district officers.

Cole and Alyssa were not chosen

to run for an office, but Kayla is slated to be either the president or vice president.

"Both Cole and Alyssa did a good job," said Mr. Ketterl. "I'm excited that Cole is only a sophomore and will have another opportunity next year for a district office."

Kayla will have to give a three-minute speech at the northwest district FFA banquet on April 19 in Hill City. All FFA members in atten-

dance at the banquet will vote for the new president.

According to Mr. Ketterl, whoever becomes president will then leave the other person to become vice president. Currently, Kayla is the FFA district sentinel.

"No matter what," said Mr. Ketterl, "she is guaranteed the office of president or vice president."

# Courtyard gets spruced up

By LAUREN FORTIN

If you have been to the high school lately and walked by the courtyard, you may have noticed some changes. With the help of industrial arts teacher Matt Micek and the high school student council, students Julio Vazquez and Stephen Hoyle cut down the tree and cleaned up the area.

The group has big plans. They want to build a gazebo for the center of the courtyard, add steps to the cement slab, and put in a miniature crab apple as well as plant shrubs and other flowers around the outside of the square.

The community Master Gardeners are helping choose and plant the appropriate shrubbery and flowers.

The 180 Program has donated \$2,500 to the cause. If you have any ideas or would like to make a donation, please contact Mr. Micek at the

high school.

Helping with the cleanup on Sunday, March 4, were Nolan May, Seth Ritter, Breck Simonsson, Nathan Simonsson, Lacey Ream, Heather Williams, Lauren Fortin, Andy Gilliam, Kenzie Fisher, Jeremy Henderson, Nolan Wasson, Kayla Zoderow, Andy Dempewolf, Kyle Glodt and Kurt Olson.

Voice of Decatur Community High School



By the DCHS Dictator Staff

# Speech team takes third at Ellis meet

By ANDY LEITNER

The Decatur Community High School speech team placed third at the Ellis Invitational speech tournament on March 3.

Eighteen schools participated. Jetmore won the tournament with 297 points, followed by Quinter with 281, and Oberlin with 207. Norton came in fourth with 168 points.

Placing first for Oberlin was Alyssa Rippe with her original oration. She has qualified for the state championship. Alyssa contributed the most to the Oberlin team total, with 28 points.

Also qualifying for state speech were Jenny Hirsch and Rory Wendelin in improvised duet acting.

They placed third at Ellis.

Rory also placed fourth with her humorous solo and qualified for state speech festival. Jenny Hirsch and Tricia Dorshorst also qualified for festival by placing fifth with their duet act.

Jessica Bremer and Ashley Horton also qualified for festival. Jessica placed fifth in extemporaneous speaking, and Ashley placed sixth in prose.

"We had an excellent day. Everyone performed superbly," said Coach Leigh Davis. "We still have improvements to make, but overall the team is looking very competitive. Our next tournament is at Colby on March 15."

# Oberlin FFA chapter has busy start to 2007

By ALISAMSON

The Oberlin chapter of FFA has been busy with many different activities.

Chet Ely, the Oberlin FFA president, placed third at the Agricultural Mechanics Career Development event held in Goodland on Feb. 28.

According to FFA adviser Jason Ketterl, only 10 individuals placed, so Chet did really well.

Oberlin's FFA officers also attended the Ely Angus sale on March 9 in McCook. The Elys donated half the sale of a bull to the Oberlin FFA for their trip to Washington D.C. this summer. The Oberlin FFA chapter would like to thank the Ely family for their generous donation.

And finally, three freshmen, Kortnie Fisher, Nolan Wasson, and Chris Schiessler, are going to Junction City on March 16 and 17 for a leadership lab sponsored by the Kansas FFA Association.

The conference will focus on developing individual leadership ability. Chris and Nolan received a scholarship from Dan and Vickie Lippelmann to pay for their registration. The scholarship was set up in memory of their son, Rye, and his devotion to leadership in the FFA.

"We would like to thank Dan and Vickie Lippelmann for sponsoring this leadership activity," said Mr. Ketterl.

# School Menus

March 19-23  
OBERLIN SCHOOLS

Monday-Friday: No school (spring break).

AN IMPORTANT SAFETY MESSAGE FROM AAA

# Motor vehicle crashes are the No. 1 killer of teens.

A bill that is before the Kansas House Transportation Committee right now could change that. This bill proposes to strengthen our novice, graduated driver system (GDL) of licensing.

Why is improving our novice driver licensing system so important?

- Vehicle crashes are the No. 1 killer of teens.
- 80 deaths, 7,000 injuries and 16,000 accidents per year means nearly \$630 million in accident costs for Kansas.
- Kansas is one of only five states without an intermediate stage of licensing between a permit stage and full-privilege licensing.
- Six out of 10 Kansans killed in crashes involve 15- to 17-year-old drivers.
- The greatest risks to novice drivers are driving at night and distractions of other young passengers.

What will the proposed system do?

- Provide a one-year, adult-supervised driving period, which is proven to significantly reduce

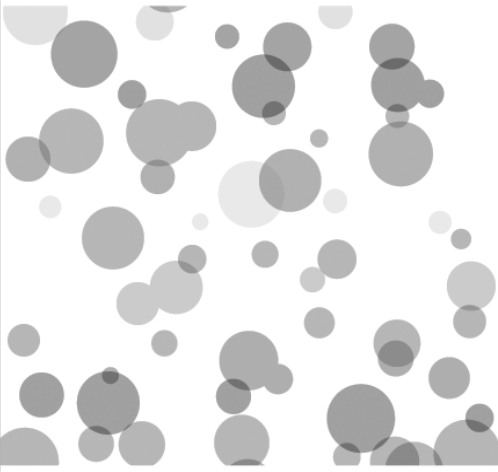
- crashes in other states by 25% to 50%.
- Provide a six-month intermediate stage that continues adult-supervised driving after 9 p.m. and limits the number of non-sibling passengers under the age of 21 to one passenger.
- Maintains the current Farm Permit.
- Restricts the use of wireless communication devices by novice drivers.

More than 95% of parents — and most teens — that have experienced this GDL system in other states approve of it. It's time for Kansas to join the rest of the nation in protecting our novice drivers and giving parents the tools they need. Your urgent action will encourage their support of this improvement to the Kansas GDL, which will save hundreds of lives and thousands of injuries.

Please contact your legislator at 1-800-432-3924 today!

a public service message from AAA

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Monday to Friday 9-5:30 Thursday 9-9 Saturday 9-5