

Students visit Washington

By HEATHER WILLIAMS
While many students were visiting relatives or skiing during spring break, a group of Oberlin student council members and sponsors Mary Jo and Greg Lohofener were enjoying the sights of Washington, D.C.

For the last six years, Decatur Community High School alumna Heidi Lesinki and her husband, John, have invited a group of student council members to spend spring break with them near Washington, D.C.

This year the lucky students were seniors Kurt Olson, Seth Ritter, and Heather Williams; and juniors Kenzie Fisher, Lacey Ream, and Jennifer Ploussard.

The group was up and about very early Monday morning in order to catch their flight out of Kansas City. They arrived at Reagan National Airport in Washington, D.C. at 1:21 p.m. and began touring right away.

John and Heidi met everyone at the baggage claim area and quickly loaded everyone up to start the sightseeing. The first attraction on the itinerary was the Air Force Memorial, then Arlington National Cemetery. They also visited the Marine Corps Memorial Iwo Jima (Statue before the group headed to the Lesinski's home, Mutthaven, to have supper and relax for the rest of the evening).

"One of my favorite parts of the trip was Arlington Cemetery," said Kenzie. "Arlington was spooky and yet it made me proud that so many people cared that much for our country."

Tuesday started out by visiting the Udvar-Hazy Space Museum, followed by the National Cathedral, the



A WHITE HOUSE TOUR was on the agenda for Oberlin seniors visiting Washington.

Smithsonian Museums, Ford's Theater, ESPN Zone, and dinner at the Hard Rock Cafe. After dinner they visited the Lincoln, Vietnam War, World War II, and Korean War memorials.

"My favorite part of Washington, D.C., was the monuments at night," said Lacey. "They were amazing."

A tour of the White House began Wednesday's adventures. Soon afterward they toured the Capitol and visited with Congressman Jerry Moran, Senator Pat Roberts, and the staff of Senator Sam Brownback. They also got to sit in on a little bit of the Supreme Court.

That afternoon they visited the Library of Congress and the Jefferson Building. For dinner, they

enjoyed a wonderfully-prepared Indian dinner. Each year, the Lesinkis try to give the students an ethnic meal in order for them to experience something new.

Thursday's festivities included Mount Vernon, the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland State House tour, and dinner in Historic Annapolis with another DCHS graduate, Colonel Delbert Townsend.

Friday began with a refreshing look at Great Falls National Park, then the group had a tour of the Pentagon. Next was the Holocaust Museum followed by a few more Smithsonian Museums. They ate dinner at the Pentagon City Shopping Mall and had a little bit of time

to shop. The last event of the day was a political satire called "Capitol Steps."

"I enjoyed the tour of the Pentagon," said Kenzie. "The Sept. 11 memorial at the Pentagon was really emotional for me. I really enjoyed getting to see it."

Saturday they flew back to Kansas City, and arrived in Oberlin around 8 p.m.

"I really enjoyed the trip," said Seth. "I learned a lot, and it was great fun."

"John and Heidi were great hosts," said Kurt. "Putting up with a mob of high schoolers is something only they could handle. Their added knowledge during the tours made the trip that much better."

Voice of Decatur Community High School

Decatur Dictator

By the DCHS Dictator Staff

Young man attends state Geography Bee

By KIM WESSEL
Jacob Helm, Oberlin eighth-grader, traveled to Abilene, Kansas, on March 30 to participate in the state Geography Bee. Jacob qualified by first winning the local geography bee and then doing well on a written test. Only 100 students from across the state are invited to the state bee.

Even though Jacob didn't win the state competition, he did a good job. You could say he is following in his older brother's footsteps because Aaron Helm, who is now a senior, also went to the state geography bee when he was in junior high.

To prepare for the bee Jacob studied books and maps, and also a globe. He said, "I learned that geography is a lot of things, not just maps."

Ninety-nine of the 100 eligible students competed. Jacob and the others had to answer eight questions each, and he got five correct.

"The easiest question I had to answer was 'Where is New Brunswick,' which is in Canada," Jacob said. "The hardest question I was asked was 'What country has the Niger River as its main river.'"

"Jacob is the ninth or tenth student to compete at the state level from Oberlin," said his geography teacher, Marlene Moxter. "It's always nice to have a student compete in the state level, and I was very proud and pleased for him. It's a wonderful opportunity, but a tough competition."

Jacob is the son of Mike and Deb Helm.

Officers chosen to lead student council

By ALI SAMSON
Heather Glodt has been chosen as the 2007-2008 student council president.

Vice president will be Jordan Tally. Secretary will be Nathan Simonsson, and Gage Reichert was elected treasurer.

Running against Heather was Andrew Dempewolf. Kayla Zodrow ran for vice president against Jordan.

In the secretarial race, Heather Ploussard was chosen to run against Nathan Simonsson. Going up against Gage for treasurer was Ethan Merrill.

All students were divided into two parties, the Nationalists and the Federalists. Each party then chose candidates who gave speeches during home room last week.

Voting took place during lunch.

Speakers have 15 qualified for state

By ANDY LEITNER
With two tournaments yet to go, the Oberlin High speech team has already qualified 15 students for the state championship competition and four students for the state festival.

Championship qualifiers include Jacinta Carter and Chenaniah Langness in duet acting, Emma Merrill in poetry interpretation, Annamarie Larue and Katrina Wentz in informative speaking, Alyssa Rippe and Farra McChesney in original oration, Tricia Dorshorst in serious solo and in duet acting with Jenny Hirsch, Cameron Nedland and Ethan Merrill in improvised duet acting, Ethan also in humorous solo, Ashley Horton in prose interpretation, Jenny Hirsch and Rory Wendelin in improvised duet acting,

Rory also in humorous solo, and Jessica Bremer and Aaron Helm in extemporaneous speaking.

Festival qualifiers are Erin Russ in prose, Jay Wessel and Haley Barrett in duet acting, and Kyle Huntley and Ashley Horton in duet acting.

To qualify for state, participants must place either first or second at a tournament, depending on the size of the tournament. To qualify for festival, participants must place either third or fourth, depending on the size of the tournament.

The speech team was to be in Dighton on Monday and will be in Quinter on Saturday. An Evening of Forensics was to be held Tuesday.

State speech championship is in Wichita on Saturday, May 5.

School Menus

April 23-27 OBERLIN SCHOOLS
Monday: Breakfast: waffle, sausage, fruit. Lunch: popcorn chicken, scalloped potatoes. **Tuesday:** Breakfast: bagel pizza. Lunch: soup, cinnamon roll. **Wednesday:** Breakfast: French toast sticks.

Lunch: sloppy Joes, baked beans. **Thursday:** Breakfast: Hot Pockets, fruit. Lunch: corn dog, mac/cheese. **Friday:** Breakfast: muffin, fruit. Lunch: spaghetti, meat sauce, green beans. Juice/fruit served with breakfast. Milk served with all meals. Choice bar served with all lunches.

Midway News

By Mary Lou Olson

The Achilles and Herndon communities will hold benefits this Sunday for the Ron and Cindy Sattler family, who lost everything in a recent fire.

The Hello There Hobby Club will hold a community kitchen/pantry shower from 3 to 5 p.m. on Sunday at the Prairie Developmental Center meeting room in Atwood. The Herndon Catholic Youth Organization will sponsor a soup supper/picture shower for them from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Sunday at St. Mary's Hall in Herndon. They will serve chili, beef and vegetable soup, ham sandwiches and cinnamon rolls for a freewill donation. Anyone with pictures of the family is asked to bring them for the Sattlers.

Covenant Women will entertain with a salad luncheon and guest day at 11:30 a.m. Saturday at the Herndon Covenant Church. Women from the Lund and Oberlin Covenant Churches have also been invited.

Congratulations to Joe and Vicky Schmidt on the arrival of a grandson, Gabriel Evan, who was born April 11, 2007, to Wade and Mandi McKinley of Manhattan. He weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces. His paternal grandparents are Greg and Jan Riley. LeRoy and Daisy Schmidt and Irene Vap are his maternal great-grandparents.

Joe and Vicky Schmidt went to Manhattan to make the acquaintance of their new grandson and Mrs. Schmidt remained to help care for him.

Esther Noren received word of the birth of twin great-grandsons born to her grandson, Jeremy and Carissa Thelander of Lincoln, Neb., on April 12, 2007. Connor Ross weighed 5 pounds, 9 ounces, and Brayden Tyler, 5 pounds, 3 ounces. Larry and Judy Thelander of Salina are their paternal grandparents.

Sally Olson underwent back surgery on Thursday in Salina. She will be recuperating at the home of her daughter, Annette and Bob Frenzl,

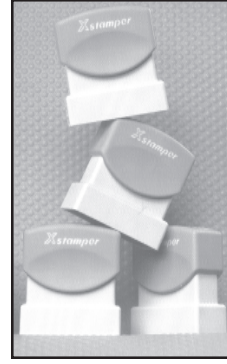
and family. Mail will reach her at 1545 Austin Circle, Salina, Kan., 67401, phone (785) 823-5451.

John and Ardythe Cederberg, and Ron and Cindy Sattler were visitors on Sunday afternoon in the home of Donny and Diane Ruppert at McCook to help Megan celebrate her 12th birthday.

An all-church workday is scheduled at the Herndon Covenant Church for men, women and children on Saturday, April 28. Pizza will be provided for lunch.

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