

Oberlin girl wins district office

President's job comes after 15 years of drought

By ALI SAMSON

The Oberlin FFA Chapter hasn't had a district officer in almost fifteen years – until now. At the Northwest District FFA Banquet, held on April 19 in Hill City, Kayla Zodrow was elected district president.

The last Oberlin district officer was Cody Richards, who was district reporter in 1993. Previous district officers were Kayla Unger and Dea Macfee in 1988, Marlene Tally in 1987, and Mary Wilson in 1985.

As the district president, Kayla will be responsible for district events and ensuring that the north-west district does their part for state events. She will also teach leadership to greenhands and work with all the chapters in the district.

"My team will depend on me to help them set up our district calendar for next year," Kayla explained.

Because Kayla will serve as district president, that means her advisor, Jason Ketterl, will serve as the district advisor.

"I really just wanted slated for an office to continue my leadership," said Kayla. "When I was slated for president, I was in shock but excited. I decided I would like the responsibility to make a great year and influence more people."

To be selected for a district office, a candidate must first have his or her chapter degree. The potential district officer must be a very active member and show strong leadership qualities.

An application must be filled out by each candidate, and attached is a contract saying he or she will be a good leader, including staying out of trouble and abstaining from drugs and alcohol. The next step is to be interviewed by a panel that includes the current president and advisor, a state officer, a selected advisor, and members of the community.

"The interviews are nerve-racking, but straight forward questions," she said. "The questions are about

yourself, your chapter, and your involvement in the community. I think there were 14 of us interviewed this year."

From this group, they pick two people to be slated for the offices of sentinel, reporter, treasurer, and secretary. The top two interviewees are slated for president. The top vote receiver becomes president, and the other vice president.

At the district banquet, each candidate had to give a three-minute speech, and then two delegates from each chapter voted. Prior to voting, the delegates read through the candidates' resumes.

"We will go to a leadership camp this summer," said Kayla, "and work at the state convention and at booths at the state fair. We are also responsible for Greenhand Days, chapter visits, and the district banquet."

"My goal as district president is to make chapter visits possible because I think it is important to show chapters all the possibilities they have through the FFA," she continued. "I want to get chapters who aren't very active a boost of confidence so that they can be more active."

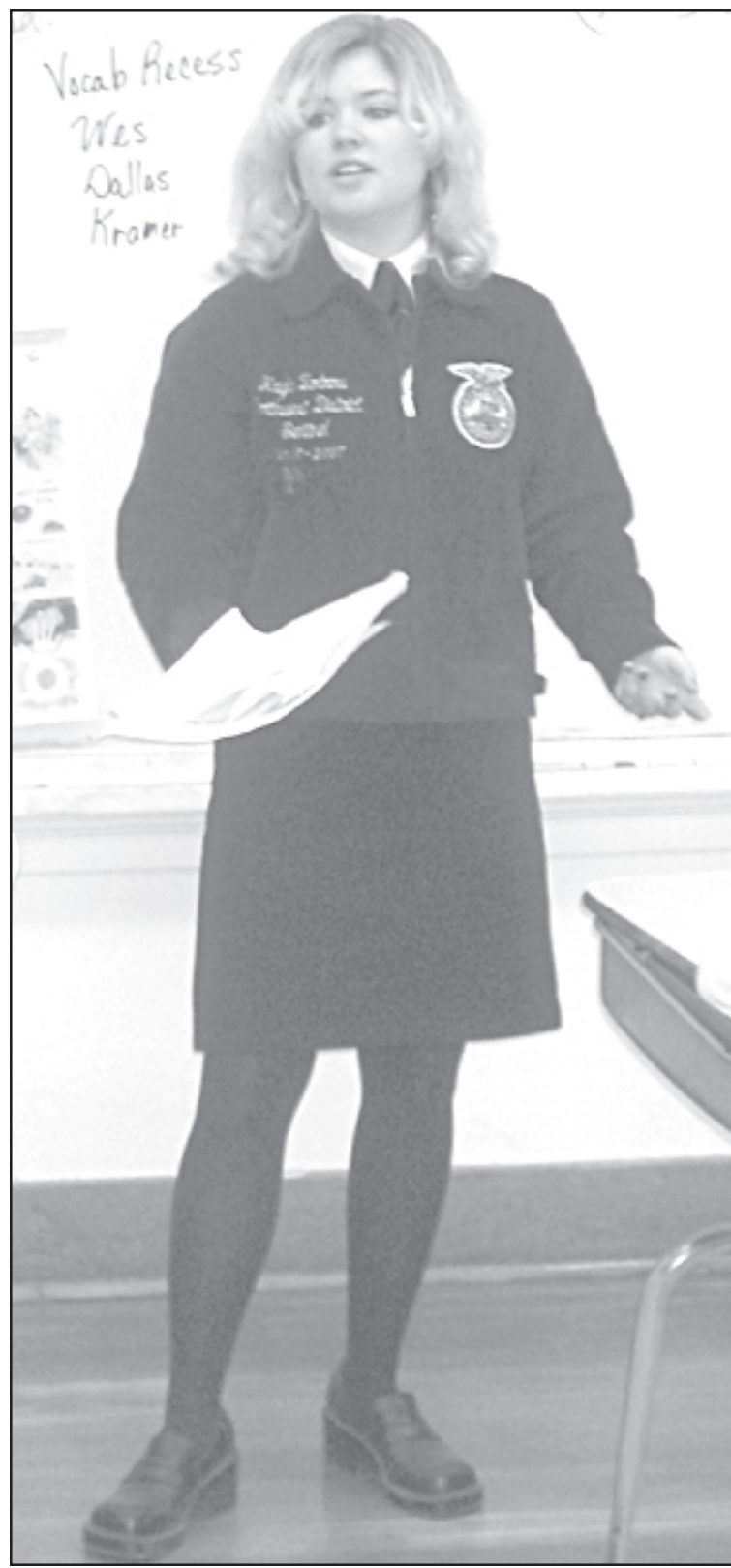
"There are so many skills that a person needs for life that can be obtained from the FFA: record books, livestock judging, ag sales, job interviews, public speaking, horticulture.

"My public speaking and interview skills are amazing, thanks to my experiences in the FFA," Kayla explained. "There are also scholarships for those who excel in their organization."

After high school, Kayla plans to go into radiology.

"As far as the FFA, I'm not sure," said Kayla. "FFA has helped me grow as an individual so much, but I'm not sure yet I want to take on a state position."

Only time will tell.



TALKING AT THE GRADE SCHOOL earlier in the year, Kayla Zodrow wore her FFA jacket. Now she will serve as the district president for that organization.

Voice of Decatur Community High School

Decatur Dictator

By the DCBS Dictator Staff

Six get chance at speech festival

By ANDY LEITNER

Decatur Community High School speech team members competed in the regional tournament held in Oberlin on Saturday, April 21. Much like the Regional Music Festival, the students try to earn a I rating to qualify for the State Speech Festival in May.

Six Oberlin students earned I ratings, including Kimberly Wessel in humorous solo acting and prose in-

terpretation; Makenzie Nelson and Sarah Russ in poetry interpretation; Nikki Wessel and Jenny Ploussard in duet acting; and Jenny Ploussard and Heather Ploussard in improvised duet acting.

Receiving II ratings were Melissa Hasty in prose interpretation and Lakin Brown in poetry interpretation.

State Speech Festival will be this Saturday at Wichita.

Speakers victorious at Quinter tourney

By HEATHER WILLIAMS

The Decatur Community High School speech team won first place at the Quinter Invitational tournament on April 21.

Oberlin finished with 296 points. Ellis ended up in second place with 255 points. A total of twelve schools competed in this tournament.

Taking firsts were Tricia Dorshorst and Jenny Hirsch in duet Acting, Tricia in serious solo acting, and Aaron Helm in extemporaneous.

Placing second were Amber Mason and Cameron Nedland in duet

acting and Alyssa Rippe in oration.

Jenny Hirsch and Rory Wendelin, improvised duet acting, and Aaron Helm, oration, placed third.

Rory came in fourth with a humorous solo.

In fifth place were Chenaniah Langness and Jacinta Carter in improvised duet acting, Ashley Horton in prose interpretation, and Annamarie Larue in informative speaking.

Jessica Bremer placed sixth in extemporaneous speaking.

The team is coached by Leigh Davis and Elaine Marcuson.

School Menus

May 7-11

OBERLIN SCHOOLS

Monday: Breakfast: Breakfast Bites. Lunch: popcorn chicken, scalloped potatoes. **Tuesday:** Breakfast: Hot Pockets. Lunch: chicken sandwich, Tater Tots. **Wednesday:** Breakfast: pancake, sausage patty. Lunch: corn dog,

green beans. **Thursday:** Breakfast: muffin, breakfast combo. Lunch: tacos, refried beans. **Friday:** Breakfast: French toast sticks. Lunch: ham and cheese sandwich. Juice and fruit served with breakfast. Milk served with all meals. Choice bar served with all lunches. All menus subject to change.

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