



**DRESSED AS CHARLIE BROWN**, Ethan Merrill (above) daydreamed about a red-haired girl while Kenzie Fisher as Lucy laughed in the background. Amber Mason (below), who will play Violet in the musical this weekend, took a test during play practice last week.



## Students practice for opening night at the school Friday

Lines are memorized, the pianists are ready and the stage crew has their all black outfits picked out.

Since the first week in October, students at Decatur Community High School have been practicing and preparing for this Friday and Saturday, when they will present the musical, "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" for friends, family and the public at large.

Director Susan Nelson said she picked this play based on the student actors she thought would try out. She said she tries to pick a play based on the ability of the students each year.

By doing the musical, based on the comic strip *Peanuts* and written

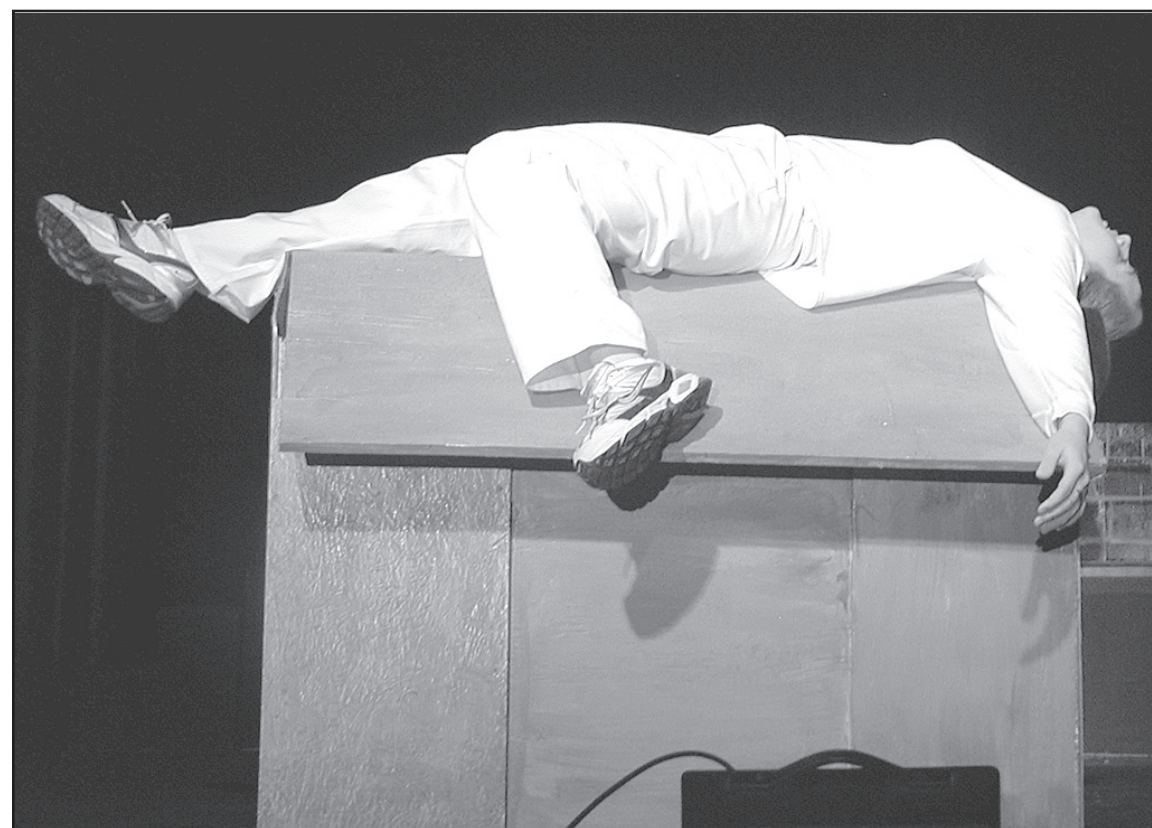
by Clark Gesner, she said she hopes some of the kids will build their confidence on the stage. Mrs. Nelson said she also hopes the students have learned about the responsibility it takes to get to practice on time and a few things about stage production and theater directions.

Cast members include Ethan Merrill as Charlie Brown, Kenzie Fisher as Lucy, Jordan Tally as Linus, Chenny Langness as Schroeder, Rory Wendelin as Snoopy, Annamarie Larue as Sally, Joe Hirsch as Pigpen, Amber Mason as Violet, Ashley Horton as Frieda, Mackenzie Nelson as Peppermint Patty, Jacinta Carter as Marci, Alyssa Montgomery as Mrs. Othmar, Jessica Bremer as the

Little Red Haired Girl and Emma Merrill as Woodstock. The *Peanuts* Gang includes Hunter Nedland, Jaxon Alstrom, Jacob Helm, Jacob Larue, Miss Montgomery, Whitney Wright, Miss Merrill, Haley Barrett and Kassia Bryan.

Miss Bryan is the stage manager, Cheryl Metcalf accompanist and Miss Bremer her assistant. Leigh Davis is the tech director for the performance.

Mrs. Nelson said the show will start at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday in the auditorium at the high school. Tickets are \$5 in advance from any cast member or \$6 at the door.



**ON TOP OF A DOG HOUSE**, Rory Wendelin (above) as Snoopy laid on her back waiting for her cue. Chenny Langness (left) as Schroeder played a little black piano while Lucy, played by Kenzie Fisher, watched with adoration.