

Having some fun



JENNY PLOUSSARD worked on a silhouette in the senior room on Monday, Jan. 14. The senior room is a place for seniors to go hang out after eating lunch. — Decatur Dictator photo

Voice of Decatur Community High School

By the DCHS Dictator Staff

Student named vice president for state 4-H

By KAITLYN GILLESPIE
 “I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to better service, my health to better living, for my club, my community, my country, and my world.”
 Many will recognize this as the 4-H pledge. For Decatur Community High School senior Andrew Dempewolf, this pledge may have taken on greater significance. Recently, he was named the Kansas 4-H state vice president.
 Andrew has been in 4-H for 11 years. Currently, he is the president of his club, the Mavericks.
 Andrew was first elected by the northwest district, then nominated by a southwest delegate. He ran for the office against four others, and was voted in.
 “I feel thankful to be chosen as state vice president. It’s an honor that most teenagers don’t get. I hope I can give back what 4-H has given to me,” said Andrew.
 As vice president, he will serve on an executive committee, send out monthly newsletters of what the council is doing, and attend state meetings and events.
 “I am proud of Andrew, and I know he can fulfill his duties as vice president,” said fellow classmate and 4-H member Jared Marcuson.

Senior room clean and ready to be used

By JENNY PLOUSSARD
 The senior room is up and running once again!
 Last Monday night Jessica Bremner and Jenny Ploussard spent two hours cleaning and painting the senior room to get it ready for the seniors to hang out in during lunch.
 By the time Tuesday came around, they had recruited four more people to help out including Kenzie Fisher, Kaitlyn Gillespie, Amie Ritter, and LeAnna Sheaffer.
 Together the six girls painted, cleaned, and sang along to cell phones to pass the time.
 “The six of us had so much fun,” said Kenzie Fisher. “It was awesome to be able to paint with all of them.”
 That night the girls worked from 3:30 to 8:30 p.m. but managed to complete their project and share many, many laughs.
 “We had a super time painting,” said Jenny. “We all worked hard, and there wasn’t a dull moment. It was crazy!”

Red Devil padded seats on sale by yearbook kids

By FARRA MCCHESENEY
 Are you tired of your bottom getting sore at ball games from the hard bleachers? Do you want to sit comfortably while you cheer on the Oberlin Red Devils?
 If you answered yes to either question, then you’re in luck! The Decatur Community High School journalism class is selling stadium seats to all fans for \$35.
 The stadium seats are portable, are padded and have a back, and have a Red Devil logo.
 To purchase one please contact Brenda Breth at the high school, (785)475-2231, or bbreth@usd294.org. Your support is greatly appreciated!

School Menus

January 28-February 1 OBERLIN SCHOOLS
Monday: Breakfast: breakfast bites. Lunch: hamburger, French fries. **Tuesday:** Breakfast: Breakfast combo, muffin. Lunch: sliced ham, scalloped potatoes. **Wednesday:** Breakfast: breakfast burrito. Lunch: pizza, carrots. **Thursday:** Breakfast: yogurt, cereal. Lunch: spaghetti with meat sauce, green beans. **Friday:** Breakfast: breakfast pizza. Lunch: popcorn chicken, mashed potatoes. Juice and fruit served with breakfast. Milk served with all meals. Choice bar served with all lunches.

Principal interviews in Colby for job

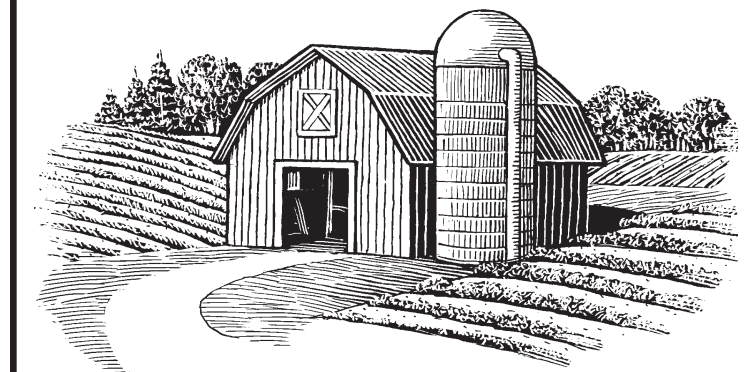
By JOEY FALKOFF
 jfalkoff@wvkanas.com
 Duane Mr. Dorshorst may have been the last of six candidates to interview for the job of superintendent of the Colby School District last Monday, but for several school employees, he needed no introduction.
 Through his 25 years as a teacher, administrator and coach in the Oberlin school district, Mr. Dorshorst has come to know many Colby school people, including Superintendent Kirk Nielsen, who is vacating the position June 30.
 “After you’ve coached and played ball here for so many years, you can’t help but get to know people,” said the Oberlin administrator.
 “I’ve also been in the Colby School District several times working the staff here on school improvement programs.”
 A few of Mr. Dorshorst’s acquaintances were on hand Monday for a reception at the Administration Building, including Colby Elementary teacher Robin Schwanke, who Mr. Dorshorst taught with in Oberlin for several years, and Donna Juennemann, a former student of

Mr. Dorshorst’s.
 The reception took on a lighter tone as Mr. Dorshorst would periodically joke back with his acquaintances.
 While his familiarity with Colby has made the interview process easier for him, Mr. Dorshorst said he didn’t believe it should guarantee him anything.
 “I talked with each building principal individually, and if I’m not someone they would want, then I shouldn’t be here,” he said.
 Mr. Dorshorst has been principal himself at Oberlin Elementary School for the past 13 years. Before that, he was an assistant principal and athletic director at the high school and before that, a science teacher for three years.
 After a quarter-century with the Oberlin schools, Mr. Dorshorst said, the Colby job was an opportunity too good to pass up.
 “This is the only district in western Kansas I’d be interested in coming to,” he said. “The challenge of leading a district like Colby is very exciting. Education is changing all the time, and the Colby School District is educationally sound enough to improve all the time.”
 During his building tours, Mr. Dorshorst said he was most impressed with the attitudes of the staff and students.
 “The way the teachers interact with the students was the most impressive thing I saw,” said Mr. Dorshorst. “All the administrators know the students by name and ask them how they’re doing. It’s really neat. It felt like being back in the ‘60s, the students were so well-behaved.”
 Mr. Dorshorst said he has been a jack-of-all-trades in his time in Oberlin, but unlike the other three outside candidates for the job, he has never been a superintendent. But he says the strength of the district should keep that from being a problem.
 “I think in some school districts, it would be an issue,” he said. “There’s some districts I wouldn’t even apply to. If I had to take over the budget, I wouldn’t apply, because I’m not qualified to do it. They already have people in place to take care of that. My job is set to the tone and vision for the future, and I’m very qualified to do that.”
 Mr. Dorshorst’s qualifications have been garnered in many arenas.
 Last year, he was elected as the president of the Kansas Association of Elementary School Principals. Were he to stay on as principal at Oberlin Elementary, he would have the opportunity to earn a position at the national level, but says he’d have been willing to give that up if he had been offered the job in Colby.
 Mr. Dorshorst said he coached junior high and high school football for years, coached varsity girls basketball for 10 and was the varsity track coach for 13 years. He led the Red Devils to three state tournament appearances in basketball and track.
 None of those accomplishments are what he’s most proud of in his years in Oberlin, however.
 “Probably the biggest thing I’m proud of is building a staff and an elementary school that cares about all of its students and works hard to make sure all students are achieving,” said Mr. Dorshorst.
 The Colby School Board hadn’t officially announced who had been hired as of publication.

*School hosts basketball tournament

(Continued from Page 1A)
 takes about 40 or so people to help run the tournament. Ticket sales go to paying for the referees, lights, and if we make a profit, it goes to the athletic fund.
 “The junior class puts on a bake sale and collects the profits from the concession stand to pay for their prom. It has really hurt us

since Cambridge, Southwest of Indianola, and Dundy County, Neb., had to drop out of the tournament because of their conference tournament scheduling. They brought a lot of fans, but there isn’t anything that we can do about their tournament scheduling. This is one of the reasons that we have invited schools from Colorado.
 “If a school drops out after the tournament, our athletic director immediately gets on the phone to search for teams that have holes in their schedule. Usually, schedules are prepared at least two years in advance, which makes it difficult at times to fill entries.”
 Oberlin held boys basketball tournaments before 1974, when



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*Deer tests show disease in county

(Continued from Page 1A)
 According to information from the department, chronic wasting disease is fatal to infected deer and elk. The progressive disease causes small holes to develop in the brain. That results in decreased brain function, which means the deer or elk can show signs of depression, a droopy head, staggering, loss of appetite and even a lack of response to humans. That continues into weight loss, drooling and excessive thirst.
 The department asks hunters

*Board discusses broken steam lines

(Continued from Page 1A)
 with the building. This is the original heating system, he said, adding that the boiler is not the problem, since it actually isn’t the original one.
 The district has ordered a new boiler for the steam lines, although it isn’t in yet. The building has two boilers, the other one uses hot water to heat the building.
 The auditorium stage suffered some damage, said Dr. Cullen, and a claim has been turned over to the school’s insurance company EMC Insurance through Frederickson Insurance.
 With the leaks from the holes in the steam lines, he said, it is important to get things dried out so mold doesn’t grow. That is why the district has rented a large dehumidifier found through the school’s insurance company, which is parked behind the music wing at the high school. The dehumidifier is basically to take the moisture out of the area.
 Dr. Cullen said he doesn’t know of any mold that is growing in the school and thinks the heat is working.

Presents await the first miss or mister born here

With almost four weeks of 2008 gone, there’s been no news of a little miss or mister born at the Decatur County Hospital.
 When the baby arrives, prizes from participating area merchants in the *The Oberlin Herald’s* First Baby Giveaway await the family. The baby must be born at or taken to the hospital. The parents must notify the

newspaper, and will have 60 days to pick up all of the gifts.
 Prizes include \$10 gift certificate from the Dresser, a case of baby food from Raye’s Grocery, a \$10 gift card from Stanley Hardware, a \$20 gift certificate from Carol Morford with Mary Kay, a \$25 gift certificate to Addleman Drug Store, a \$10 gift certificate to Ward Drug Store, a pizza for two from Pizza Hut, a \$25 gift certificate from Rocking R, a gift from Fredrickson Insurance Agency and a year subscription to *The Oberlin Herald*.
Sweetheart banquet set for February
 Lund Covenant Church plans to hold its yearly Sweetheart Banquet on Sunday, Feb. 10 at The Gateway.
 Anyone who is interested can

attend at a cost of \$12 per plate. Reservations can be made by calling Dana Koerperich at 475-2545 by Friday, Feb. 1. Entertainment will be the DCHS Singers.