

School board rewards students

By JESSICA FREDRICKSON

Monday, Jan. 25, the halls of Oberlin Elementary School and Decatur Community High School were very empty. There was no school for the high school or the grade school. The school board rewarded the students for their exemplary scores on the 2009 state assessments by giving them the day off.

The teachers and staff also got the day off as a reward for helping the students achieve their goals.

"No students or teachers are allowed to come to the school building on Monday until 3:30 when sport practices will start," said Superintendent Duane Dorshorst at the assembly last Tuesday to recognize the students. "It is your day off. Enjoy it."

Many students waited for the "Early April Fools" or "Just kidding," but Mr. Dorshorst wasn't joking. We had no school on Monday!

School board members were also at the assembly to hand out the exemplary certificates. Exemplary is the highest category on the state

assessments in reading, math, social studies, science, and writing.

"We are here to celebrate the results of the state assessments last year and to challenge you to achieve at high levels this year when you take the math, reading and science assessments," said high school principal Charles Haag.

The 8th grade, freshmen and senior classes were recognized for achieving the Standard of Excellence in Reading last year, and the Decatur Community Junior/Senior High School also achieved the Building Level Standard of Excellence in Reading and in Mathematics.

As juniors, this year's senior class also achieved the Standard of Excellence in writing and in math.

Certificates were also given to the elementary students. Last year's 4th graders and 5th graders (this year's 5th and 6th graders) achieved the Building Level of Excellence in reading and in math, and last year's 6th graders, who are now 7th graders, achieved the Building Level of Excellence in reading.

Students chosen for State Honor Band

By LAKIN BROWN

For the second year in a row Katie Glading and Jacob Helm have been chosen for the prestigious State Kansas Music Educator's Association Honor Band. Both students are juniors.

According to their director Sarah Bricker, "State Honor Band is probably the highest honor a high school band kid can accomplish."

Jacob Larue has been chosen as an alternate for the State KMEA Choir. He is also a junior.

To be eligible for State KMEA, musicians must first be selected for District Band or Choir. They auditioned a specific piece of music for District KMEA and were chosen for our district, which encompasses the

northwest corner of Kansas.

Then the band students auditioned for State KMEA. They had to play scales, sight read, and play a specific music selection in front of five judges in one room. Their ratings depended on a point system. There were only a certain number of openings in each section of the band.

Jacob play clarinet and Katie plays the trombone.

Over 100 musicians from across the state were selected for State KMEA Band and over 200 for State KMEA Choir.

The DCHS band instructor is Sarah Bricker. Susan Nelson is the vocal director.



By the DCHS Dictator Staff

Senior room is all the rave

By ADRIENNE PAULS

This year the 2010 seniors broke tradition and went all out on their senior room. The seniors painted the senior room the past two weekends, and it is finally done.

They decided to brighten things up, and instead of using school colors, they used neon orange and green.

Ashley Horton said, "This totally looks like a rave!"

There were lots of jobs to be done. The seniors had to clean the room, put white paint over last year's paint, and put a couple coats on the new and improved rave room.

The senior room is mainly used for seniors to kick back and relax. In the basement room are a television, pool table, foosball table and pop machine. The hours for the room are before school, during lunch period, and after school until 4 p.m.

Those who helped were Stephanie Bruggeman, Nolan Wasson, Jessica Fredrickson, Adrienne Pauls, Mary Olson, Ashley Horton and Ashli Samson. The seniors would like to thank class sponsor Leigh Davis, Stanley Hardware for providing us with the paint, and everyone else who helped finish the senior room.

School Menus

February 1 - 5 OBERLIN SCHOOLS
 Fourth grade classes submitted lunch menus for February.
Monday: Breakfast: Waffle, ham pattie. Lunch: hamburger, french fries. (Jacob Gee, AJ Zillenger)
Tuesday: Breakfast: Cereal, yogurt. Lunch: Chicken nuggets, broccoli. (Gavin Cody, Steven Edmiston)
Wednesday: Breakfast: French toast sticks. Lunch: Pizza boat, green beans, cookies and cream. (Gavin Cody, Steven Edmiston)
Thursday: Breakfast: Pancake sausage on a stick. Lunch: Chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, peaches.
Friday: Breakfast: Western omelet, muffin. Lunch: Meat balls, rice.
 Fruit served with all breakfasts; choice bar served with all lunches. Milk served with all meals.

Jennings News

By Louise Cressler

Paul and Kathy Nauer welcome grandson, Jordan Ryan Groff, son of Marc and Roxanne Groff. He was born Jan. 8, 2010, weighing 8 pounds, 5 ounces.

Kay and Doyle Brown spent three weeks during the holidays visiting their daughter, Keli and Phil Kleidosty in KeKaHa, Hawaii. Keli and Phil were hosts Christmas Day for her entire family.

On Sunday, Jan. 17, Kay and Doyle Brown attended Eagle Scouts Court of Honor and reception in Hays for their grandson, Zachary Kuntz, son of Kara and Gordon Kuntz.

Reminder: Kansas Day program at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 31, to be held in the Sunflower Senior Center. Guest speaker will be Lyle Hutchins who will talk about "Buffalo Hunters and the Plains Buffalo." He will have many items pertaining to this topic on display. The musical group, "Clueless Three" from Oberlin will entertain with several numbers.

Plans are being made to have a Lenten Bible Study at the United Methodist Church. Material which will be used is Bruce Wilkerson's "Secret of the Vine" based on John 15. If you are interested in attending you many contact Pastor Barbara Patterson.

There will be a fund raiser for Haiti people on Sunday, Feb. 14.

More details will be printed next week.

Nicole Cressler Schroter and Jon Probasco, Derby, were united in marriage on Jan. 16 in an outdoor setting in Wichita. The reception was held at Old Chicago Restaurant. Nicole is a granddaughter of Wayne and Louise Cressler.

Anyone interested in the Jennings City Clerk position please contact Marge Hartzog at 678-2664.

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Notice of Personal Property Assessment

Personal property renditions must be filed between January 1 and March 15. Renditions filed after March 15 will have a penalty for late filing. Taxable personal property includes: Business and shop equipment, computers and printer, boats, motor and trailers, aircraft, mobile homes, camping and travel trailers, flatbed and car trailers, mopeds, ATV's, golf cars, trucks, non-tagged and non-highway vehicles and improvements on leased land.

The Decatur County Appraiser's Office need to be notified of the sale of any personal property during 2009. All taxpayers must file before the March 15 deadline.

All new businesses in Decatur County are required to contact the Decatur County Appraiser's Office to report business equipment for tax purposes.

If you have no personal property to report please call us to verify that you are in the county for census purposes.

Personal Property Penalties:
 March 15 through April 15 5%
 April 16 through May 15 10%
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 On or after July 16 through May 14 of the following year..... 25%
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