



By the DCHS Dictator Staff

## 85th Halloween clean up Monday

By RACHELLE SCOTT

The leaves are starting to fall, which means it's that time of year again. Monday, October 25 is Halloween Clean-up. This is the 85th anniversary. The annual event began in 1925 by Decatur Community High School students.

Students decided to make a traditional community-improvement project that helped the elders by raking lawns, carrying delicacies to shut-ins and making the appearance of the town more presentable.

The idea came from the late superintendent Caleb W. Smick. After planning it out, Mr. Smick went to the City Council members and explained what he and the students wanted to do. The City Council was enthused about the project, but was doubtful they could accomplish it. However, they supported the project and said they would provide for a city-wide hot dog roast after clean-up.

There were many adults that helped during the planning, but the students were in complete control and made it clear to everyone. Many news articles appeared in the local paper. With everyone aware of clean-up they had no choice, but to follow through with it. The publicity hit when recognition of the students' effort appeared in local papers, state papers and even a short article was in the "New York Times" in 1935.

The idea of students being in charge and making a difference in their community spread. In many other schools, students wanted to start a new program. Most of the schools accepted the idea, but some believed it would be "the biggest flop you ever saw." In 1949, a captain of the Oberlin Halloween Clean-up program explained it very well when he said, "The plan will work well-not perfectly, but well-as long as the pupils feel that the program is really in their hands."

Halloween Clean-up is still a tradition at Decatur Community High School. A few changes have been made, such as the students now only rake leaves, and the Lion's Club, not the city, provides the students with hot-dogs and apples after the clean-up.

The students, with the help of Mr. Haag, plan the event, get the yards lined up, and do the work.

This year's General is Carissa Wentz. Her captains are Jacob Larue, who will be with the seniors and 8th graders, Dakota Soderlund will be with juniors and 7th graders, Keithen Fortin will be with sophomore and 6th graders, and Tiffany Anderson will be with freshmen and 5th graders.

If your lawn needs raked, please call the high school office at 475-2231.



DRAMA CLUB PRESIDENT, Joe Hirsch (above), helped move the dumpster closer to the "Drama House," while (below) he helped to clean a storage area. —Photos by Jacob Helm

## Drama students clean house

By JORI DIEDERICH

With the Mini-Sappa Days melodrama over with, and the musical just around the corner, it was time to straighten up the "Drama House."

The house just east of the high school is used mostly for storage - including storage of drama costumes and props.

Fifteen Drama Club members got their hands dirty on October 8 as they cleaned and sorted and cleaned some more.

Helping with the cleaning were Joe Hirsch, Nolan Henningson, Sierra Lohofener, Emma Borton, Haley Schiessler, Ryan May,

Channing Fortin, Lara Zodrow, Nikita Bose, Bret Ashley, Jacob Helm, Matt Glading, Ben Glading, Kyle Breth, and Elizabeth Nedland.

According to Drama Club sponsor Leigh Davis, they ran into a wet situation. There is a leak in the roof, which left some costumes ruined, and some walls and lumber all moldy. They loaded two dumpsters and a pick-up of ruined things.

After getting rid of the bad stuff, students and Miss Davis organized the props and costumes to have a fresh start this year.



## Freshmen win magazine contest

By RACHELLE SCOTT

Magazine sales are over. This year's sales were a success with over 200 magazine sold, which was more than last year.

The top sellers were freshmen Kyle Breth and Alexis Hissong. The freshmen sold the most with over 100 sales.

Forty percent of every subscription goes back to the school, which is then split between the classes and Student Council.

"This is the only fund-raising

Stuco does," said Brenda Breth, Student Council adviser. "The yard signs on the school lawn during Homecoming were bought with magazine sales."

The selling of magazines went on through the whole month of September. If you would still like a magazine, DVD or book, visit [www.qsp.com](http://www.qsp.com) and enter the code 425 004 796.

"Stuco would like to thank everyone who helped us with our fundraiser," said Mrs. Breth.



## School Menus

October 25 - 29

OBERLIN SCHOOLS

**Monday:** Breakfast: French toast sticks Lunch: Fiesta pizza boat, green beans **Tuesday:** Breakfast: Pancake wrap Lunch: Chili, cinnamon roll **Wednesday:** Breakfast: Breakfast pizza Lunch: Turkey pattie sand, tater tots **Thursday:** Breakfast: Breakfast bites Lunch: Chicken 7 noodles, mashed potatoes **Friday:** No school.

choice bar served with all lunches. Milk served with all meals.



**Dennis McKinney**  
State Treasurer

As your State Treasurer, I've:

- Cut my own salary
- Reduced spending
- Returned money to taxpayers

Fiscal Responsibility  
Kansas Values

Vote Dennis McKinney  
November 2nd

[www.DennisMcKinney.org](http://www.DennisMcKinney.org)

Paid for by McKinney for Kansas; Michael Braude, Treasurer.

## Protect your bottom line with The Power of AgMax®

Large commercial and diversified operations have distinctly different exposures than traditional farms and ranches. That's why we created AgMax specifically to serve the unique needs of commercial agriculture operations and related businesses, including:

- Producers who process, retail or direct market
- Equine and kennel operations, including boarding, breeding and training
- Agritainment and agritourism
- Hunting and other farm-based recreation



Contact me today to learn how I can provide flexible, customized insurance protection for your operation.

Tina M. Meitl at 785-678-7254  
Website- <http://tinameitl.fbfs.com>  
Email: [tina.meitl@fbfs.com](mailto:tina.meitl@fbfs.com)

**FB**  
FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES

**AgMax®**  
[www.AgMaxInsurance.com](http://www.AgMaxInsurance.com)