



'The Music Man' returns to stage

By SUSAN NELSON

This year's Decatur Community High School musical, "The Music Man", by Meredith Wilson will make its fourth appearance in 40 years on the Oberlin stage.

The musical takes place in River City, Iowa, during the 1900s.

Harold Hill (played by Nolan Henningson (John Kump, 1971; Brad Erickson, 1981; and Chris Smith, 1999) comes to this "quirky" town to swindle its residents out of their money by creating a kid's band.

The first production was in 1971 under the direction of Norlyn Izler. In that musical our own science teacher, Randy Olson played the part of Charlie Cowell (2011 Baron Green). School Board member Monte Moore was Tommy Dijas (2011 Ganon Henningson). Gary Fredrickson was a member of the Barbershop quartet, his son Kaine is also a member of this year's cast. Elizabeth Nedland will play Zaneeta Shinn, her Mom, Rhonda May-Nedland was also in the 1971 production. That year the musical was accompanied by sophomore Mary Witt (Lohoefer).

The return of the Music Man in 1981 featured cast member Regent Erickson's dad, Brad as the Music Man, Harold Hill. Troy Marshall

was in the Barbershop quartet. His daughter, Amanda Marshall will play the memorable Eulalie Mackeknie Shinn this year. Annette Richardson, Aunt of Jenny Hirsch Tally (accompanist 2011) played the role of Winthrop. Girls playing the role of this young boy has become a "tradition" here at the high school.

The 1999 production featured our school secretary Judy Mariettas' daughter Loni as Amaryllis, (2011 Cassidy Shields). Mary Lohoefer also accompanied this production and her children Adam and Leigh were in the cast. Other members of this cast with "family/school ties" include Kristy Olson (Randy and Sharon Olson), Nathan Buchholz (Jeri Buchholz), Justin Williby (Josh Williby's twin brother), and Trena Dejmaj (Candy Dejmaj).

The 2011 cast will include Miki Dorshorst as Winthrop, daughter of Duane and Patty Dorshorst. It seems that music and drama runs in families. This will be the third production of Music Man that I have directed. Through the years I have enjoyed all of the characters in these productions. The thing I am most proud of is the way these families have continued to support the gift of music and have become such great adults.



SPANISH STUDENT Taylor Macfee hung her skeleton on the wall outside Señora Brown's room. Spanish students are studying and celebrating Día de los Muertos, the "Day of the Dead, celebrated in Mexico each Nov. 2.

Classes celebrate Día de los Muertos

By NOLAN HENNINGSON and MIRANDA SHELTON
Skeletons, skeletons and even more skeletons. What is this all about?

Día de los Muertos, of course. Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is on today, and the Decatur Community High Spanish classes are preparing for the Mexican holiday.

Why so many skeletons?

The skeletons are representations of the afterlife. The Mexican people use them to show respect and celebrate the lives of their loved ones who have passed on.

Día de los Muertos is a holiday celebrated throughout Mexico.

"It's a happy celebration to remember the loved ones who passed away, and it's not supposed to be scary," said Carol Brown, Spanish teacher.

In Mexico, on Nov. 1, they always remember the children who have died, and on Nov. 2, they remember the adults.

People celebrate by going to cemeteries and making altars to remember their loved ones.

The altars frequently have flowers, candles, pictures, incense, drinks, and food. They also decorate with marigolds because they are the flowers of the dead.

The Spanish classes decorated the hallway outside Señora Brown's room with skeletons to celebrate the holiday.

Each Spanish student made a skeleton, while learning and using new vocabulary. There are also clay skeletons all around the classroom, providing more decoration.

On Monday in Spanish classes, the students were to make and decorate sugar skulls to celebrate the holiday.

Today, Día de los Muertos, many Spanish students will be traveling to Kearney to attend a Justo Lamas concert. Justo is a singer and performer who travels and promotes the Spanish language through song. They will also be stopping for Mexican food before returning home.

Junior high on top in Penny War

As of Oct. 27, the seventh and eighth-grade students were winning the Penny War.

The Student Council organized a penny war to raise money and awareness of leukemia and lymphoma.

Students were encouraged to bring their pennies and other loose change to school and put them in their class jar.

Pennies add points to a class, while silver and bills take away points. When last counted, the junior high had 2,380 points, followed closely by the freshmen with 2,006. The seniors and juniors are in the hole. The seniors have -1,042, and the juniors have a -450.

The sophomores have 487 points, and the faculty has 1,076.

The elementary students are also collecting pennies and loose change, and most classrooms have special boxes to collect the money.

The money will be divided between silver and bills and pennies. The pennies collected will be donated to the Leukemia Foundation, while the silver coins and bills will go to Mikala Hodgens and her family to help with medical expenses. Mikala is the granddaughter of Mick

and Rhonda Barth of Oberlin and is battling leukemia.

The Student Council, along with the National Honor Society and the FFA, are also organizing a blood drive in honor of Mikala. The drive

is Wednesday, Nov. 9, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

To give blood, you can call the Red Cross at 1-800-RED CROSS to make an appointment. Walk-ins are also welcome.

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Unger Chiropractic Clinic is at 504 N. Penn Ave. Dr. Ryan Unger purchased the business from Dr. Doug Fair in 2010. Both he and Dr. Shannon Addleman graduated from Decatur Community High School. Britta Noren is also employed at the clinic as a massage therapist.

Dr. Unger's hours are Monday 1:45 to 6 p.m.,

Tuesday and Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Wednesday 7:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Dr. Addleman's hours are Monday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday 1 to 6 p.m., and Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The clinic is also open two Saturdays a month from 8 a.m. to noon.