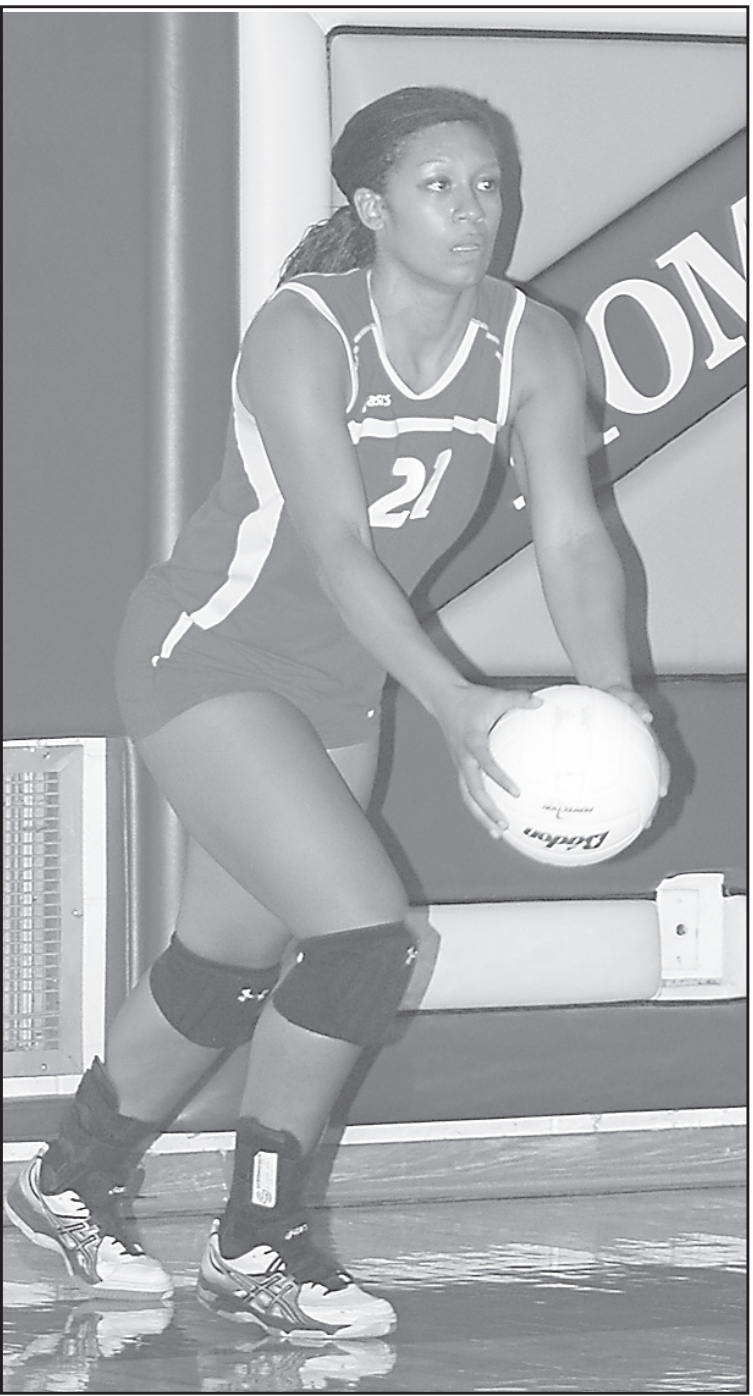


THE OBERLIN HERALD —
Sports



KIAH BLAU PREPARED TO SERVE during a game against St. Francis on Sept. 6. The Oberlin senior has signed to play volleyball at Barton County Community College next year.
— Herald photo by Erin May

Teams ready to play

As the second semester starts, the Decatur Community High School and junior high teams are ready to swing into action again.

The high school wrestlers were to be at home on Tuesday to face Phillipsburg and McCook. On Saturday, the team will be in Franklin, Neb., for a tournament starting at 10 a.m.

Next week, Oberlin will play host to the annual Oberlin Invitational Wrestling Tournament, starting at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 14.

The high school boys and girls basketball teams will be on the road this week, as they play Rawlins County at 6:30 p.m. Friday in Atwood.

Next week, the basketball squads will be at home as Hoxie comes to town on Tuesday and Quinter plays in Oberlin on Friday, Jan. 13. The girls games will start at 6:30 p.m. with the boys game right after, usually about 8 p.m.

The junior high boys will start their wrestling season this month, with their first meet at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19, at home against Oakley.

The junior high girls will be playing basketball. Their first game will be on the road at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, in St. Francis.

Senior signs up to play at college

Decatur Community High senior Kiah Blau will be playing volleyball at Barton County Community College in Great Bend next year.

Blau, the daughter of David and Stephanie Blau of Oberlin, signed to play for the junior college in early November.

While playing for Oberlin, she lettered all four years in high school and received an honorable mention for the all-Northwest Kansas League team when she was a sophomore.

In her junior year, when Oberlin came in second in the state tournament, she was named to the All-State second team, the All-State Tournament team and to the all-league team.

At the end of her junior year, she was one of 600 girls on the American Volleyball Coaches Association list of players to watch.

This season, she was again named all-league and received an honorable mention for the All-State

team.

"Kiah is a very athletic player," said her coach Sherri Ruf. "She has great passion for the game. Kiah is a very strong hitter and possesses the skills to take her to the next level."

The 5-foot, 11-inch Blau had a 94.42 passing percentage and an 85.87 serving percentage for her high school career. In 194 games, she has racked up 508 good passes, 1,378 pass points, 538 total passes, 174 solo blocks, 150 assisted blocks, 354 digs and 775 attack kills.

While she was a blocker and middle hitter for the Lady Red Devils, she has also excelled at track. She attended the Class 2A state track meet last year and took third in the shot put and as part of the 4x100-meter relay team. She also attended the state meet as a sophomore in shot put, the 100-meter dash and the 4x100 relay, which came in fourth.

Blau said she wants to study elementary education.

School offers help on social networking

Decatur Community High School will offer a workshop next week designed to teach parents how to help their kids navigate social networks on the Internet.

Principal Ben Jimenez said the NetSmartz Workshop for Parents will begin at 5 p.m. Tuesday in the high school auditorium.

Information on the program notes that on average, 600 million users log in to Facebook each day, socializing, playing games and uploading photos, among other things. With all this fun, however, come some dangers. Any user who stumbles on a child's page can contact them directly.

The program covers three guidelines for kids — and adults — when adding "friends" on Facebook, three questions to ask before clicking the "add friend" button:

• Do you know this user? As in, have you met them before, face-to-face, more than once?

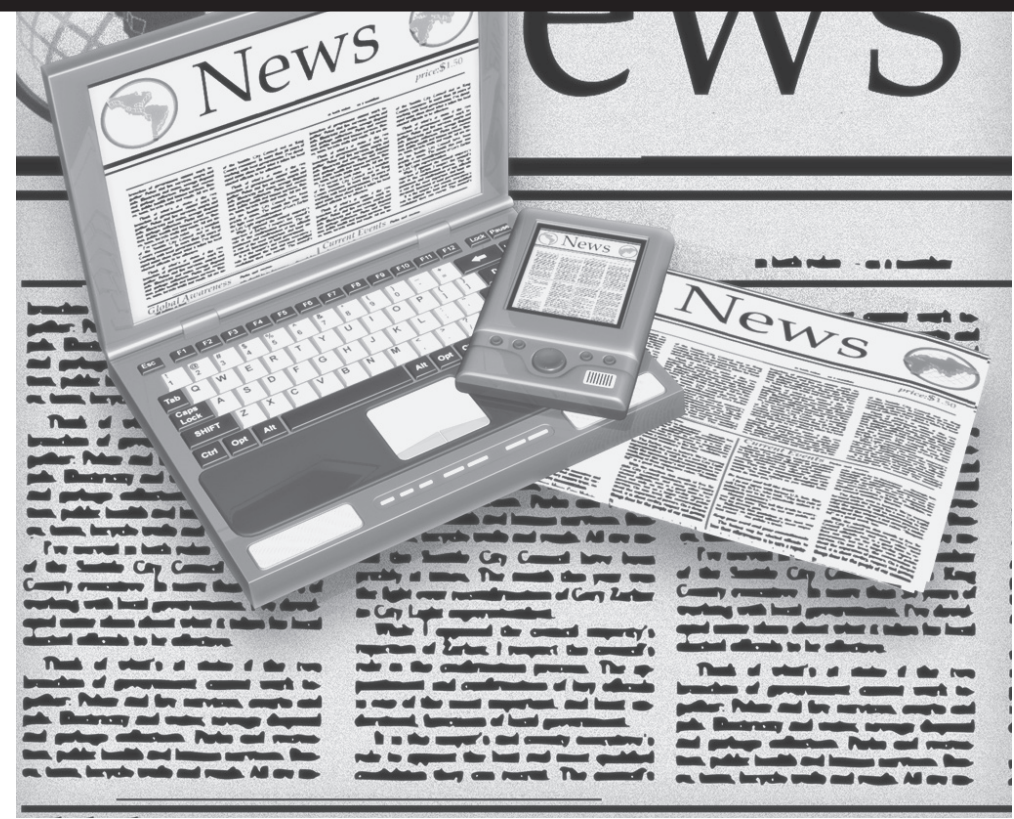
• Has a relationship been formed with this person? Do you consider them a friend or relative?

• Have you talked with the user over the phone (not texting) or face-to-face in the last six months to a year?

If students' answer "no" to any of these questions, the program suggests that they click "ignore." It is as simple as closing and locking a door.

The program also will cover online dangers such as cyber bullying, posting personal information, scams and online predators.

For details, contact the trainer, Katie Fox of the Boys and Girls Club of Manhattan, at projects@bgclubmanhattan.com



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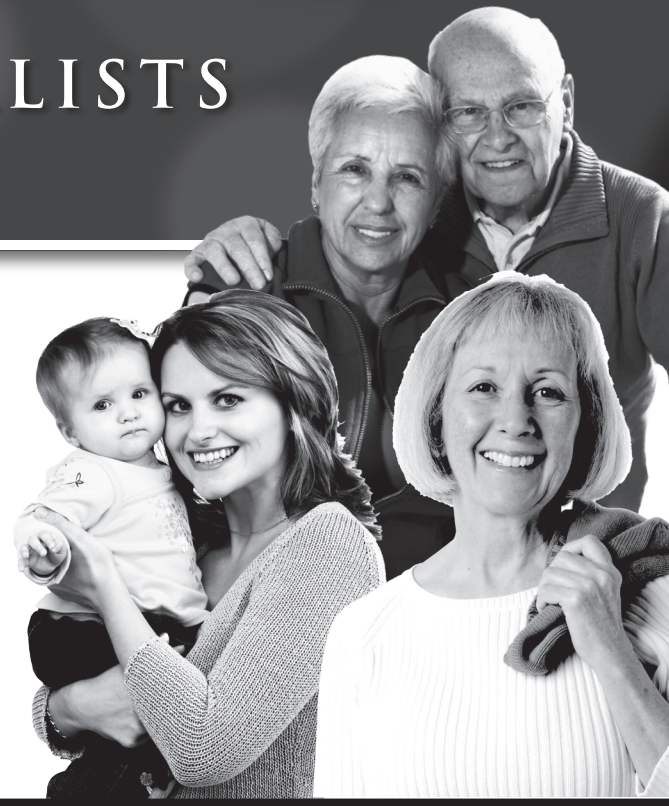
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