



KAYLA ZODROW INTRODUCED the FFA officer candidates, including Nolan Wasson, who was elected as the Northwest District Sentinel.

Oberlin girl ends year as FFA leader

By **KAITLYN GILLESPIE**

The first ever FFA District President from Oberlin, Kayla Zodrow, ended her term in office when she handed over the gavel to the new president during the district banquet held in Oberlin.

The banquet was originally planned for April 10, but because of the weather was postponed until April 17.

Fourteen schools from the northwest district were represented at the banquet, which is held each year to elect new officers and present awards. As the president, Kayla conducted the meeting that also included a speech from the current FFA State Vice President, recognition of the officers' parents, presentation of proficiency awards and the State Degree, and the induction of the new officers.

One of the new officers is Nolan Wasson, a Decatur Community High School sophomore. He was elected as district sentinel and was installed at the banquet. Nolan is the son of Carol and Dan Wasson.

Kortnie Fisher ran for the office of treasurer, but was not elected. Both Nolan and Kortnie had to give speeches during the banquet.

Delegates from each chapter voted for the new officers. Cody Kane and Bret Ashley were Oberlin's voting delegates.

"Both Nolan and Kortnie were incredible," said Brenda Breth, who attended the banquet. "I was proud of both of them."

1993 was the last year Oberlin had a district officer until Kayla was elected sentinel in 2006. She ran again in 2007 and became Oberlin's first Northwest District President. "It is quite an accomplishment for a student to be an officer of a district," said Jason Ketterl, the Oberlin FFA adviser and the Northwest District adviser.

There are seven FFA districts in Kansas. The district officers are in charge of hosting the Greenhand Conference and the District Banquet. They also go to other chapters in their district and present leadership workshops and other activities to promote the FFA. In addition, they have quarterly meetings in Manhattan.

Kayla is the daughter of Leo and Carolyn Zodrow. She plans to attend Colby Community College in the fall.

Voice of Decatur Community High School

Decatur Dictator

By the DCHS Dictator Staff

Junior restores antique machine

By **CINDY MURRAY AND DANYEL JEFFREY**

She may be 66 years old, but she looks good again!

Junior Ryan McEvoy has totally redone a 1942 Allis-Chalmers tractor, which he got in trade from Bus Wurm for one of his own.

The tractor had nothing that worked on it; "It didn't run, it was missing pieces, and it had broken parts," said Ryan.

According to Ryan, the radiator leaked, and it also had no rear wheels. It had tons of dents, rusted sheet metal, bad bearings, and it also had oil and gasket leaks.

To redo the tractor, Ryan said he had to completely disassemble it, clean, repair, or completely replace certain pieces. He had to wipe, brush, and sandblast the sheet metal, and he had to repaint it. The original

color and the new color are the same, Allis-Chalmers orange.

Ryan said he will be taking the refurbished tractor to antique tractor shows. "It does not have a major functional purpose," said Ryan. "It was just for fun."

Ryan has been working on this tractor since the beginning of the school year, but still has "a few odds and ends to finish up." However, the majority of the project is finished.

"I needed a project for Ag Mechanics, and I had always wanted to restore an old tractor," said Ryan. "When my dad found this one, I thought it would be a good one to start with since it did not have a lot of pieces to lose, and it was in too good of shape to throw in the junk."

"My dad has helped restore multiple tractors before, so he helped me out a lot," he added.

Oberlin sends 26 to state speech meets

By **DANYEL JEFFREY**

Twenty-six students will be heading to State Speech this weekend. Students qualified for the State Championship Tournament by placing first or second at a tournament during the season, depending on the size of the tournament.

Students qualified for the State Festival by placing second, third, or fourth at a tournament, depending on the size, or by receiving a I at Regional Festival.

State Champs are held this year in Clearwater on May 3. At Champs, students compete for rankings to break into the semi-final round. If they make the final round, they will be ranked again with a champion crowned in each event.

The following have qualified for Champs: Alyssa Rippe and Farra McChesney in serious solo; Rory Wendelin, Joe Hirsch, and Jacinta Carter in humorous solo acting; Emma Merrill in poetry; Anna

Larue, Makenzie Nelson, and Haley Barrett in informative speaking; Joe Hirsch/Ethan Merrill in improvised duet acting; Jessica Bremer in extemporaneous speaking; Amber Mason, Ashley Horton, Ethan Merrill in prose interpretation; and the teams of Amber Mason and Tim Larson, and Jacinta Carter and Chenny Langness in duet acting.

State Festival is also held on May 3. This year it is at Wichita East High School. At Festival,

students perform for a rating of I, II, III, or IV.

Students competing at State Festival are Becky Helm in oration, Jacob Helm in informative speaking; Becky and Jacob Helm in improvised duet acting; Jacob Larue, prose; Laysha Medina, serious solo acting; Jay Wessel, poetry; Heather and Jenny Ploussard, improvised duet acting; Hunter Nedland, extemporaneous speaking, and Melissa Hasty, prose.

High school speakers win Quinter tourney

By **LEANNASHEAFFER**

The Decatur Community High School Speech Team won the Quinter Speech Tournament held on April 19. The team also had seven champions in five different events.

Placing first were Amber Mason in prose, Ethan Merrill and Joe Hirsch in improvised duet acting, Anna Larue in informative speaking, Joe Hirsch in humorous solo acting, and Chenny Langness and Jacinta Carter in duet acting.

Emma Merrill placed second in

poetry, and Makenzie Nelson placed second in informative speaking.

Placing third were Ashley Horton in both prose and in poetry, Alyssa Rippe in serious solo acting, and Rory Wendelin in humorous solo acting.

Farra McChesney placed fourth in serious solo acting.

Placing fifth were Tim Larson in oration; Kassia Bryan and Chenny Langness in improvised duet acting; Haley Barrett in informative speaking; Ethan Merrill in humorous solo

acting; and Jay Wessel and Makenzie Nelson in duet acting.

Helping the team to its first place finish were Jay Wessel in poetry; Melissa Hasty in prose; Jordan McHugh and Jacinta Carter in improvised duet acting; and Amber Mason and Tim Larson in duet acting.

While the majority of the team was competing in Quinter, a few members stayed in Oberlin at the Regional Speech Festival, which is similar to the Regional Music

Festival. Earning a I rating qualifies them for the State Speech Festival.

Qualifying for State Speech Festival and earning I's were Jacob Larue in prose, Jacob Helm in informative speaking, and Laysha Medina in serious solo acting. Laysha also received a II on her prose.

Oberlin speech students are coached by Leigh Davis and Robynn Wessel.

Band, choir earn top honors at music festival

By **KENZIE FISHER**

The Decatur Community High School Choir and Band earned Is at the Large Group Music Festival held in Colby on Thursday, April 17. The choir received Is from all three judges, and the band received two Is and a II.

For the first time, the judges used

a rubric when rating the groups to make it more objective. For example, on the vocal rubric are nine categories, each worth points: tone, intonation, expression, diction, rhythm, note accuracy, balance, blend and other (appearance, deportment, facial expressions, posture).

Each judge awards points in each category. A maximum of 15 points can be given in for tone, intonation and expression; 10 for diction; and five each in the other categories.

Scoring 69-80 points equals a I rating or outstanding; 53-68 points equals a II or excellent; and so on.

In addition to the rubric, the

judges also wrote comments.

"You should be proud of yourselves," a judge wrote. "It was a pleasure listening to you."

The vocal director is Susan Nelson, and the instrumental director is Sarah Bricker.

The choir was given a plaque for earning all Is.

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Midway News

By **Mary Lou Olson**

Confirmation services will be held during morning worship services on Sunday at the Herndon Covenant Church. Confirmands include: Samantha Anderson, daughter of Richard and Maureen Anderson; Blake Bergling, son of Mark and Gail Bergling, and Noah Jones, son of Greg and Gwen Jones.

An all church cleaning work day will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday at the Herndon Covenant Church.

Pastor Keith Reuther and Kyle and Cindi Grafel attended the Midwest Evangelical Covenant Conference in Omaha last week.

BAPTISM HELD
James Allen Neal, infant son of Kendal and Tammy Neal of Oberlin, was baptized on Friday, April 18, at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Oberlin with Father

Henry Saw Lone officiating. Godparents were Joel Uerling and Kristi Gutchewsky.

Relatives present were Kendal and Tammy Neal, Katrina and James; and Varlan and Catherine Neal, Oberlin; Jack and Mary Gutchewsky, Herndon; Joel and Sarah Uerling and Addyson, McCook; Brian and Kristi Gutchewsky and Gavin, Kearney, Neb.; Kayla Korte, Braden, Raleigh and Toby, Rexford; and Joe and Jan Gutchewsky, and Frankie Gutchewsky and Dee, all of Omaha. A reception followed in the church basement.

Steve and Arian Arnold returned home last Monday from a three-week vacation trip. They visited her college roommate, Sherri Lehmborg, at Fort Mill, S.C.; and Galen and Lynne Olson at McKinney,

Texas. Detta Anderson and Mary Lou Olson took Joy Votapka out for lunch on Friday at the LandMark Inn in observance of her birthday.

Frank and Margaret McEvoy attended memorial services Saturday afternoon for his cousin, Robert McEvoy, 83, at Forch Funeral Chapel in Benkelmen, Neb. He died Dec. 13, 2007. They attended the kindergarten graduation for their grandson, Ethan Beckman, son of Brian and Dawn Beckman of Grinnell, on Monday evening.

Barbara Olson attended the state music festival in Concordia on Saturday, then she and her daughter, Mary, visited Sarah and Kurt Olson in Manhattan. On Sunday, Mary attended a bridal shower honoring Sarah Olson.

Watercolor workshop set

Cindy Agan, a watercolor and portrait artist, will conduct a four-day workshop at the Dane G. Hansen Memorial Museum in Logan from Thursday to Sunday.

Mrs. Agan is the author of the art book, "Painting Watercolors that Sparkle with Life." Her award-winning works have been displayed at juried shows, international and gallery exhibitions and one-woman shows, and can be found in private and corporate collections.

For details or to register, call the museum at (785) 689-4846.

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Registration is required. Call 785-623-5945.

