

Seventh grader wins essay contest

By FARRA MCCHESENEY
Seventh grader Justin Gee has won the "If I Were Mayor" essay contest. The contest was sponsored by the League of Kansas Municipalities and was open to all seventh graders across the state.



Justin Gee

English teacher Robynn Wessel had all of her seventh graders write an essay for an assignment. The students were to explain what they would do if they were mayor to make their cities the best place to live. From across the state, six winners were chosen, each representing a region of Kansas, out of more than 600 essays. Essays

were judged based on creativity, clarity, sincerity of thought, and proper use of grammar. According to its website, "Promoting good city government is important to the League of Kansas Municipalities, and this essay contest provides students the opportunity to reflect on the role of the key elected official in their own city. Our future mayors of our cities are in classrooms today. The education they receive helps them to become good citizens — and good mayors." Justin is the son of Kenny and Colleen Gee. He won a \$250 savings bond and a plaque.

If I were Mayor

By JUSTIN GEE
If I were mayor I would try to find ways to make our town grow. Trying to get more students to our community is important. Activities for young and old are also important. First of all I would like to explain to you about our town. We need to find ways for our town to grow by adding more businesses. In Oberlin, housing is affordable, safe, clean and friendly. We have good schools. Some ways for people to learn about our town would be advertising through radio, television, brochures and newspapers. Residents would need to help with advertising ideas. Next I would like to get more students to move to our area. To get more students to our

community, one idea is to build a college. As mayor, I would need community help with supporting a college. The empty school by Sappa Park could be used for a college. Finally, more activities and places to go could benefit our town. Activities and places to go are important. We have a race track for the modified, BST's, and Sprint car racing. We have a Demolition Derby and Tractor Pull during the fair week that draws a crowd. We have a new theater and bowling alley being constructed. We also have many antique stores for shoppers. Another idea that I would like to see in Oberlin is an arcade and go cart center. If I were mayor, this is what I would do for Oberlin, Kansas.

Senior Features

Elisha Jones
By TAMARA KETTERL
Elisha Jones moved to Oberlin last summer with her family when her parents, Jeff and Belinda Jones, accepted teaching jobs at Decatur Community High School. Elisha has two younger siblings, Dalton, a freshman, and Kayla, a seventh grader.

In the short time she has been here, Elisha has been very involved. She was the libero on the state-qualifying volleyball team and is currently the point guard on the basketball team. She also plans to go out for track in the spring. Elisha is also a member of D-Club, Student Council, Kayettes, and National Honor Society.

After graduation in May, she plans to work this summer and have fun with friends. In the fall, she plans to attend McCook Community College and study graphic design.

Some of her hobbies include taking pictures, reading, and playing sports. Her favorite movie is "Pride and Prejudice," and her favorite books include "A Farewell to Arms" and "Gone with the Wind."

Her favorite quote is from Helen Keller: "I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. I will not refuse to do the something I can do."

Elisha's short-term goal is to graduate college and get a good job. Her long-term goal is to design her own magazine. Elisha is currently

the sports reporter for *The Oberlin Herald*. When asked what she will miss most about Oberlin she said, "My friends." In ten years she hopes to have a good job doing something she enjoys and having a family. Her advice to younger classmates is "Have fun and enjoy high school because it flies by."

Lucas Juenemann
By DES SHIELDS

Lucas Juenemann is the son of Dave and Joyce Juenemann. He has two older brothers, Chase and Jesse.

Lucas has many hobbies and interests. Any chance he can get, he likes to hunt and fish.

His favorite movie is "Stepbrother," and his favorite color is blue. Lucas is very involved in school. He is involved in Weight Club and D-club and will have played football, basketball, and track all four years of high school.

For a short-term goal, he is hoping that his team wins sub-state basketball.

Lucas is undecided on where he wants to go to college, but he plans to play basketball and major in construction. When asked where he wishes to be in ten years, he said, "I hope to have a good job and have a family in Colorado."

His advice to the underclassmen is to work hard at everything you do.

Voice of Decatur Community High School

Decatur Dictator

By the DCBS Dictator Staff

Speech team season off to a great start

By CHERISH MANNING
The Oberlin Speech Team finished in third place at its first speech meet of the season. Oberlin scored 232 points behind Quinter and Colby, at the Western Kansas Forensics Classic held in Colby on Jan. 31

Champions at the meet were Ethan Merrill in poetry and Joe Hirsch and Farra McChesney in improvised duet acting.

Nolan Henningson and Amanda Marshall finished in second place in duet acting. All five of these students have already qualified for the State Speech Championship, which will be held later in the spring.

Placing fourth were Laysha Medina, serious solo acting, and Ethan Merrill, humorous solo acting, fol-

lowed by Nolan Henningson in fifth place and Jacinta Carter in sixth.

Also placing sixth were Emma Merrill in poetry and Tim Larson in prose.

Others competing were Amanda Edmiston, poetry and serious solo acting; Laysha Medina, Ashley Horton, and Joe Hirsch in prose, and Jasmine Pearson in poetry.

Competing in improvised duet acting were the teams of Hunter Nedland and Rhiannon Davies, Jacinta Carter and Jordan McHugh, and Tim Larson and Amanda Marshall.

"We had a fine start," said Coach Leigh Davis. "We need the polish and perfection, but we are on our way."

Conferences this week

Parent/Teacher conferences are Thursday and Friday, Feb. 12 and 13.

On Thursday, teachers will be available for conferences from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and on Friday, conferences are from 8:00 a.m. to noon.

Friday evening at the Oberlin-Hoxie basketball games, the Student Council is asking all fans to please wear black to the game for Friday the 13th fun. Student Council is also sponsoring a dance for high school students after the game until midnight.

Black Shirt winners announced

By ELISA JONES
The latest Black Shirt winners have been announced by Athletic Director Joe Dreher: Adrienne Pauls, high school girls' basketball; Jacob Fortin, high school boys' basketball; Brent Juenemann, high school wrestling; Alexis Hissong, seventh grade girls' basketball; Cassidy Shields, eighth grade girls' basketball; and Kade Brown, junior high wrestling.

Every two weeks the coaches pick one athlete from their program who has shown a positive attitude, good effort, and has provided a positive

influence for their teammates to follow. The shirts are handed out on certain Fridays. Mr. Dreher says that the shirts are a way to get kids motivated and are something for them to look forward to as a reward for their positive attitude and good effort.

School Menus

Feb. 16 - 20 OBERLIN SCHOOLS
Monday: Breakfast: waffle, sausage pattie. Lunch: meatballs, au gratins. **Tuesday:** Breakfast: breakfast pizza. Lunch: chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes. **Wednesday:** Breakfast: biscuits and gravy. Lunch: sub sandwich, carrot sticks, chips, applesauce. (OES sack lunch) **Thursday:** Breakfast: breakfast bites. Lunch: spaghetti/meat sauce, green beans. **Friday:** Breakfast: western omelet, muffin. Lunch: chicken strips, rice pilaf. Fruit served with all breakfasts; choice bar served with

all lunches. Milk served with all meals.



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