



WITH CANDLES HELD UP, Elizabeth Nedland (above left) and Miki Dorshorst listened intently during play practice last Thursday while Joe Hirsch (not pictured) tried to crack the case in a murder mystery. Nolan Henningson held Jaxen Alstrom (right) at (fake) gunpoint. The show will begin a 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the high school.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Vote on end for play

By GATLIN REICHERT
The Decatur Dictator

It's different than anything the drama department has ever done — a play where the audience decides the ending.

At 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Decatur Community High drama students will be presenting the mystery "Murder's in the Heir." It's like the game Clue, only on stage.

The play, directed by teacher Leigh Davis, is about an old, dying man and his heirs. Practically every character in this comedy has the weapons, opportunity and motive to kill the billionaire Simon Starkweather, played by Daniel Jordan.

Starkweather gathers his family and employees to announce the contents of his will. His lawyer, Loise van Zandt, played by Jaxen Alstrom, reveals that the huge fortune will be divided among Starkweather's niece Fiona (Elizabeth Nedland), her son Jordan (Nolan Henningson), his great-niece Paula (Ashley Horton) and his grandson Simon III (also played by Daniel Jordan), as well as his many servants. However, the lawyer also announces that he will become an invalid in a few hours.

Simon is then discovered murdered, and young Simon III is determined to find his grandfather's killer, with the help of detective Mike Davis (played by Joe Hirsch).

At intermission, the audience votes to determine the killer, and the actors and actresses will have to improvise and finish the play accordingly. Everyone will want to come to the play both nights, because it could very well be a different killer each time.

Other cast members include Matthew and Jacob Helm, Miki Dorshorst, Amanda Marshall, Gatlin Reichert, Kiah Blau, Nakita Bose and Matt Glading.

Before the play Friday night,



J.D. Johnson's eighth-grade American history class will be presenting a "Wax Museum" from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the high school gym. Each student chose a historical figure to research and portray.

The students have written and memorized a biography of their character. On Friday, the students, dressed as their historical char-

acter, will give the history of the person they are representing.

There will also be a taco supper that night at the school.

Then on Saturday, the Kayettes are offering a dinner before the play. The dinner, using a mystery theme, will be served at 6 p.m. in the high school cafeteria prior to the performance of "Murder's in the Heir."

Only 50 dinner tickets will be sold for \$12 each. Reservations are required.

The Kayettes will be serving "roasted" loin of pork, "alibi" potatoes, green beans with "daggers," "pickles" and "egg-cit-ing" salad, "disappearing" buns, "mystery" dessert, and "brewed" beverages.

Schools treat lice at source

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
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Oberlin Elementary School sent a few students home recently to be treated for head lice, but school officials say the problem is under control.

After spring break, said Principal Duane Dorshorst, the school had a report from a parent that a student had head lice, tiny blood-sucking insects. School officials followed up on the report, he said, and the kids involved were checked by the nurse.

Checks included the whole kindergarten class and any siblings of a kindergartner who had any form of the lice, he said.

The school nurse found three kindergartners with active lice and one that had nits, or eggs, but nothing live. The parents of those students were called and they were sent home to be treated, which involves washing their hair with an over the counter lice shampoo and checking it with a fine tooth comb.

Once those students were treated, said Mr. Dorshorst, and no longer had any live lice, they can be sent back to school. It used to be that the student had to be nit free, he said, but that isn't the policy any more.

The students are checked by the nurse on their return to school, he added.

When a student has had lice before, said Mr. Dorshorst, they are checked more often. So are their siblings.

If teachers see students scratching their heads, he said, then the school nurse can do a check. There isn't really any set protocol to checks, he said; it's done when needed.

A lice infestation is one of those things that can be hard to get rid of and is also hard to catch, the princi-

pal said. Kids don't get lice from the school, he said, and it has nothing to do with how clean the building is.

Lice can only be caught by direct contact with someone who has them, he said. That includes hugging or playing together closely. That's the kind of play behavior that happens at the grade school, mainly at the younger levels, said Mr. Dorshorst.

While, he said, he wasn't sure if Oberlin Elementary has had lice this year before these cases, he wouldn't be shocked if it had. It's common to find lice at the grade school at least once a year and sometimes it happens more than once. That doesn't mean that school officials like it.

One parent has been pretty upset about the lice at the grade school, he said. Mr. Dorshorst said the school does everything it can to educate parents on what head lice are and aren't.

While there was a rumor that the state Health Department was at the grade school on Thursday, that was not true, he said.

The website www.healthline.com says that the head lice can be easiest to see on the nape of the neck or over the ears. The eggs or nits look like flakes of dandruff on the hair, it says.

"Having head lice does not mean the person has poor hygiene or low social status," the site says, adding that head lice doesn't lead to any serious medical problems, nor do they carry or spread disease.

Head lice are not a health concern, said Mr. Dorshorst, and they're a common thing in an elementary school. That doesn't mean that those who work at the school like having them around, he added. They don't, and they try to keep the lice out.

Health Fair set for this Thursday

One hundred and fourteen people will receive the results of their blood tests Thursday at the Decatur County Health Fair at the Golden Age Center.

Health Administrator Marilyn Gamblin drew the blood last week at the health department. All 114 people got the complete blood profile, which looks at everything from blood sugar to lipids, including cholesterol, a blood count and a thyroid test. Forty-seven people got the prostate specific antigen test for men, designed to detect prostate cancer.

Ms. Gamblin said Jennifer Taylor, a physician's assistant with the Oberlin Medical Arts Clinic, is scheduled to be at the fair to hand the results out and explain them.

The fair starts at 2 p.m. on Thursday, said Ms. Gamblin, and will run until 7 p.m. at the Golden Age Center in downtown Oberlin.

This year, the fair will be aimed toward preventative information for people from middle age up.

Booths scheduled to take part in the Health Fair include:

- Henningsen's Therapeutic Massage.
- Early Detection Works, which does free mammograms for women over 50.
- Heartland Lions Eye Bank.
- Hospice Services.
- Stevens Hearing Center.
- Kelly's Home Medical.
- Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging.
- Lifetime Eyecare.
- Twin Creeks Extension Service.
- Decatur Health Systems.
- Decatur County Good Samaritan Center.
- High Plains Mental Health.
- Lions Mobile Screening Unit.

Couple will bike to raise money

By MARY LOU OLSON
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Two Decatur Community High graduates who met their senior year in Oberlin are on a mission to help raise \$10,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society through a fundraising bike ride.

Doug Richards said he and his wife, the former Kristy Stannard, became interested in the project after his successful treatment for polymyositis, a muscular disease.

"During the summer of 2003," he said, "I started experiencing a lot of joint aches and just overall fatigue. After many visits to the doctor that

summer which were to no avail, the doctor finally asked me if I was 'being a wimp.'

"During the month of August, I started losing weight. I would come home from work and lie in the front entry of our home and cry. After losing 35 pounds and having trouble moving because of joint pain, Kristy decided it was time for me to go to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

"After three weeks of tests and (See COUPLE on Page 12)



County wants people to be careful burning

The Decatur County commissioner and fire chief ask that people be aware that there's a high risk of fire this time of year and be careful when they burn.

After talking with Chief Bill Cathcart last Tuesday, Commissioner Gene Gallentine said people need to be aware that the county is in a high risk warning on the fire safety index whenever the wind comes up.

At this time, said Mr. Gallentine, the county

isn't going to put on a burn ban. He said officials want people to be aware of the conditions and take extra precautions.

Mr. Gallentine added that it could be difficult for the fire department to get to some areas to fight fires because the ground is still wet.

He added that he knows there is ground in the Conservation Reserve Program that must be burned prior to nesting.

Mr. Gallentine said he thought that deadline

had been moved from April 15 to the end of April, however.

If people decide to burn something, said Commissioner Stan McEvoy, it would be good if they would let the county dispatch office know. That way, the fire department can have a heads up just in case. The number to call is 475-8100.

The commissioners OK'd needed repairs on the pump of truck No. 10 in Oberlin.



GETTING IN SHAPE to raise \$10,000 in the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's 100-mile, one-day bike ride at Lake Tahoe, Calif., on June 6 are former Oberlin residents Doug and Kristy Richards (above) of Rochester, Minn. Since his

treatment for polymyositis. They were able to enjoy a ride in the country near Oberlin on their horses last summer while visiting relatives.

*Couple plans to ride

(Continued from Page 1A) a muscle biopsy, I was told I had the muscle disease, polymyositis. The journey then began with lots of research, many different medications and doctor visits during the next few years with many ups and downs. Now, six years later, I am back on my feet and enjoying life."

He said that last summer he was able to come home to Oberlin and spend some good hours riding horses and helping doctor some cattle.

The drug that finally worked to get his disease under control, Rituxan, was developed by the society to treat lymphoma. Team in Training, the largest fund-raising organization for the society, helped raise the money.

"Now, Kristy and I have joined the efforts of Team in Training to help raise funds as a kind of 'pay it back' and 'pay it forward' endeavor for us," he said. "Two years ago, I would not have been able to even think about riding a bike. Now, we are training to participate in 'America's Most Beautiful Bike Ride' at Lake Tahoe, Calif., on June 6. This will be a one day, 100-mile ride, and thanks to LLS, I will be able to enjoy and conquer this."

Though they admit that \$10,000 seems like a large amount, the couple says they feel sure that with a little help from a lot of people, they can reach their goal.

The couple has a website set up by Team in Training. Donations can be submitted on the web or by mailing a check payable to the society, at 937 Chalet Dr. NW, Rochester, Minn., 55901. The web pages teamintraining.org/mn/ambbr10/Richards, will track their progress on the ride.

"First off, I would like to thank everyone in Oberlin who sent out good wishes and prayers for me when I was diagnosed with polymyositis in September 2003," Mr. Richards said. "It truly was appreci-



ated, and I know it was a big part of my recovery."

Since they married, the couple first lived in Colorado, then he was a police officer in Oberlin and McCook. Their daughter, Kay Lynn, was born in 1985 when they were living in Thornton, Colo., and their son, Cap Douglas, was born in 1988 in Oberlin.

They moved to East Grand Forks, N.D., in 1991. Mr. Richards' wife's sister was living there and eventually her mother and brother moved there also.

"After the flood in 1997, all of my wife's family moved away, leaving just our family in East Grand Forks," he said. "Kristy had a great dog-grooming and boarding business in our home from 2002 until we moved to Rochester in 2009.

"After I was diagnosed with polymyositis in 2003, I went to school and earned an associate's degree in health information technology. I

then did a two-year on-line course in cancer registry management which ultimately led me to Rochester. I am now working in the Mayo Clinic Cancer Registry Department...."

Mr. Richards added, "Thank you to all who have already donated and a special thank you to my awesome family."

The couple's daughter lives in Ham Lake, Minn., and works in Anoka as a cosmetologist. She plans to be married Aug. 28 in Rochester. Their son lives in Rochester and works at the Mayo Clinic in medical coding.

Doug is the son of Norm Richards and Karen Thompson of Oberlin, and his wife's mother is Kay (Kjelland) McCarthy of Columbia, Mo. His brother, Barry, and sister, Kristin McHugh also live in Oberlin. Holly Young of Colby, but formerly of Oberlin, is Mrs. Richards' sister.

Norcatatur clerk asks for increase in county rent

The Norcatatur city clerk asked Decatur County commissioners Tuesday for more rent for the city's fire station where county rural fire trucks are stored.

Chris Dempewolf said the county stores three trucks in the station and the city, one. The volunteer fire department does try to raise money to help, she said, including an annual pizza sale. Mrs. Dempewolf said she thought the department raised around \$4,000 this year.

Mrs. Dempewolf said she knows that Jennings gets \$100 a month and Norcatatur gets \$50. Jennings has two pickups, a small tanker and a rural truck that belong to the county and one rig that belongs to the city housed in the station.

The City of Norcatatur gets \$600 a year from the county and Jennings gets \$1,200 in a year, she added.

In February, the city had to get the heaters in the fire station redone at a cost close to \$1,800.

The county is supposed to help buy new bunker gear, she said. Commissioner Gene Gallentine said the county put an extra \$2,000 in the budget for Norcatatur and Jennings for that reason.

He said the fire chief can buy gear with that money. If the purchase is over \$500, he said he will have to get the commissioners' approval. If it's under \$500, they can just buy equipment.

Mrs. Dempewolf asked if the commissioners knew why Jennings is getting double the rent Norcatatur gets. No one knew the answer, but they said they assumed that it was set up that way long ago and hasn't changed. She said she's been the clerk since 1995 and it's always been \$600 a year.

It does seem a disproportion, said Mr. Gallentine.

Commissioner Stan McEvoy

asked what the city pays in utilities for the building. Last year, said Mrs. Dempewolf, it was \$1,313.

Norton County, said Mr. Gallentine, does pay Decatur County for the land in the Norcatatur Fire District that is in Norton County. He asked if that money comes into the county general or somewhere else. Mr. Gallentine added that he always thought that money should go to the fire department in Norcatatur.

That \$2,873 goes into the Rural Fire Department budget, said Treasurer Jean Hale.

Mr. McEvoy called Fire Chief Bill Cathcart about the rent. Mr. Cathcart said he didn't think that the Norcatatur building had as much square footage as the one in Jennings. He said he would need to do some checking so he could give an educated answer. Mr. Cathcart said he would get back to the commissioners next week.

County Clerk Colleen Geihlsler said the fire department's budget did really get sliced this year. If the county received \$2,873 from Norton County last year, said Mr. McEvoy, and Norcatatur got \$2,000 extra for equipment and the county pays \$600 in rent, that leaves close to \$300 more that could be paid to the city.

Mr. Gallentine said he knew there was some brainstorming going on about how the county uses its building in Norcatatur which houses the road graders. If the fire trucks were stored there, said Mr. McEvoy, the county wouldn't have to pay the city any rent.

He added that he does think the county needs to pay the city a little more money. That could be done with the money from Norton County, said Mr. Gallentine.

The commissioners said they would talk about it again.

Landfill to hold free dump week

The Decatur County landfill will hold its annual free week at the end of the month, hoping to encourage people to clean up their property.

The commissioners set a free week at the landfill each year, with every family in the county offered one free trip to the dump during

the week.

The days this year are Monday, April 26, through Friday, April 30, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday, May 1, from 8 a.m. to noon, commissioners decided at their meeting last Monday.



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