



INDUCTEES TAKE THE OATH to become members of the Decatur Community High School National Honor Society.

# National Honor Society inducts new members

By CASSIDY SHIELDS

Nineteen new members were inducted into the National Honor Society at its annual banquet on Jan. 21 at the Gateway. It was one of the largest banquets held in a long time.

The new inductees are Nick Ashley, Kelden Breth, Tyler Bruggeman, Rex Diederich, Regent Erickson, Kaine Fredrickson, Austin Hendrickson, Ganon Henningson, Molly Jansonius, Morgan Jansonius, Troy Juenemann, Sarah Macki, McKenna O'Hare, Grace Randel, Garrett Scott, Caitlin Shields, Chey-

anne Soderlund, Rebecca Wentz and Whitney Witt.

President Miki Dorshorst welcomed everyone and Vice President Matthew Helm led a prayer before the meal was served. After everyone was finished eating, Secretary Kade Brown introduced existing honor society members, and the rest of the officers helped introduce the new members.

The gathering moved into the auditorium where the DCHS Singers performed and treasurer Zach May introduced Ron Jansonius who spoke about the meaning of sacri-

fice. Mr. Jansonius is the technology coordinator for the school district and father of two inductees, Molly and Morgan Jansonius.

Finally it was time for the new inductees to be presented with their certificates and be made official members of the society. Each inductee walked up on stage to receive his/her certificate from Student Council Representative Jalyn Shaw and shook the hands of the officers. After a few group pictures, the evening concluded with a closing by Miki.

In addition to the officers and

new inductees, other members are seniors, Matt Glading, Ryan May, Elizabeth Nedland, Darbi Rouse, Cassidy Shields; juniors Kyle Breth, Kennedy Fortin, Konner Fortin, Baron Green, Alexis Hissong, Caleb Koerperich, Sierra Lohofener, Hannah May, and Lara Zodrow. Candy Dejmaj is the group's advisor.

The four pillars of National Honor Society are scholarship, service, leadership, and character. To be a member of the honor group, a student must exhibit all four characters of the organization and be at least

a sophomore with an accumulated grade point average of 3.4. If a student meets the academic qualification, he/she submits an application to a faculty advisory board. The application outlines the student's leadership, character, and service, and the advisory board either accepts or rejects each application.

Once a student is inducted into the society, he/she must maintain the 3.4 grade point average, complete school and community service projects, and continue to show character and leadership.

## Scholarships are league runner-ups

The Decatur Community High School scholar bowl team placed second at the newly enlarged Northwest Kansas League Bowl Tournament held in Tribune on Jan. 7.

Oberlin had a 6-2 record. Wallace County won the tournament with an 8-0 record. Wichita County was third also with a 6-2 record, but Oberlin defeated Wichita County.

Oberlin defeated Quinter 80-15, Greeley County 60-10, Wichita County 60-50, Hoxie 50-10, Rawlins County 40-20 and Dighton 60-0.

The Red Devils lost to Wallace County 40-60 and Oakley 30-50.

Competing for Oberlin were Miki Dorshorst, Matthew Helm, Sierra

Lohofener, Nick Ashley, Caleb Koerperich, Jalyn Shaw, and Garrett Scott.

The same day, the seventh and eighth grader scholar bowl teams were competing in Colby. Both teams finished in third place. Competing on the seventh grade team were Kyleanna Blau, Kole Breth, Cassidy Gillespie, Kel Grafel, Emily Howland, Zeke Jimenez, Andrew Macki, Lily Marine.

The eighth grade team consisted of Adrian Chambers, Tristen Davis, Max Diederich, Tabor Erickson, Gatlin Hissong, Luke Koerperich and Jillian Peters.

Marlene Moxter coaches all three scholar bowl teams.

## School Menus

Feb. 4-8

### OBERLIN SCHOOLS

Monday: Breakfast: omelet, mini loaf. Lunch: chicken sandwich, corn, potato wedges.

Tuesday: Breakfast: yogurt, muffin. Lunch: tacos, refried beans, Mexican rice, tortilla chips.

Wednesday: Breakfast: breakfast burrito. Lunch: chicken strips, baked potato, green beans, dinner roll.

Thursday: Breakfast: biscuits and gravy. Lunch: ham-and-cheese sandwich, beets, Fritos.

Friday: No school.

Fruit served with all breakfasts, choice bar with all lunches, milk with all meals.

## Seatbelts are for everyone

By LARA ZODROW

According to Center for Disease Control and Prevention, "Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S. teens, accounting for more than one in three deaths in this age group."

Kansas Department of Transportation reports in a 2009 survey that only 61 percent of teens 15-17 years old are wearing their seatbelts.

Because of those two statistics, the Decatur Community High School chapter of TACT (Teenagers Are Caring Together) along with Trooper Tod Hileman of the Kansas State Highway Patrol have brought the SAFE program to Oberlin. SAFE stands for Seatbelts Are For Everyone and is a program developed to reduce the number of motor-vehicle related injuries and fatalities among Kansas high school students by increasing their safety belt use.

"The program is designed to bring awareness to the importance of wearing a seatbelt through a partnership between students, law enforcement and local safety advocates, as well as school administration," said Trooper Hileman. "After an unannounced safety belt check at each school, student leaders will focus on executing activities and educat-

ing their peers on the importance of seatbelt use."

Decatur County and Decatur Community High School are joining 41 other counties and over 100 schools in the program, which started in 2008.

For two days before and after school, members of the Oberlin TACT group sat in the school parking lot counting how many students were wearing their seatbelts. Their data showed that only 65 percent of Oberlin high school students were wearing their seat belts.

On Jan. 17, Trooper Hileman and TACT organized an assembly for the student body on the seat belt usage. Tyler Bruggeman explained their data and the importance of wearing seat belts. Sierra Lohofener created a powerpoint presentation showing crash photos, including photos taken of Brenda Breth's van after her accident in 2007 north of Hoxie.

"I'm convinced my seat belt saved my life," said Mrs. Breth. "When I swerved to avoid hitting a pickup, I rolled my van. Every seat in the van was ejected. If I had not been strapped in, I would have been ejected too."

Students were given the opportunity to sign a pledge card pledging

to wear their seatbelt at all times. Those who take the pledge will be eligible for drawings for gift cards and Nooks. Students ticketed for not wearing their seatbelts are not eligible for the prizes.

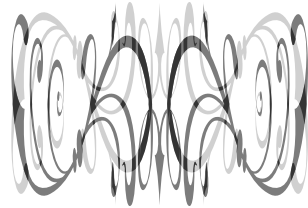
A second unannounced safety belt check will be conducted later in the spring. The results will serve as an indicator of the effectiveness of the SAFE challenge. The goal is for 85 percent of students to be wearing seatbelts.

Last year 88 schools in 38 counties participated in the program. Approximately 32,000 students across the state heard the SAFE message. The results: 83 percent of all the participating schools experienced positive change in the number of seat belts used.

The average baseline survey for all the schools was 73.7 percent and the average final survey was 82 percent making the average increase across all of the participating schools 8.3 percent.

Members of the high school advisory team are Tyler Bruggeman, Sierra Lohofener, Jalyn Shaw, Caleb Koerperich, Baron Green, Cassidy Shields, Matthew Helm and Alexis Hissong. Their advisor is Wendy Scott.

Voice of Decatur Community High School



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