



December 10, 2015

THE GROWLER

Odessa High School, Odessa, Missouri

Brenna Dowell Becomes World Champion

By Kinly Grubb

Brenna Dowell, 2014 OHS graduate, received a team gold medal at the World competition held October 23-November 1 in Glasgow, Scotland where Dowell competed with the 2015 USA World Artistic Gymnastics team.

“Having a gold medal sort of defines your gymnastics. It’s cool to say, ‘Brenna Dowell World Champion,’” Dowell said.

Dowell posted a 15.1 on vault, 11.333 on bars and a 13.966 on floor in qualifications. During her floor routine, the music started off wrong and she walked off the floor. Then, she walked back on and performed her floor routine to no music which was quite memorable for her.

“I’ve done that routine so many times that I just knew how to do it.”...Brenna Dowell, World Champion.

“I’ve done that routine so many times that I just knew how to do it,” Dowell said about her unique experience. “Vault was great! I scored the highest I have ever scored on that vault. On floor, I hit my routine, and got my double front pike named after me. I had a rough bar routine though.”

Dowell said that at Worlds, the practices were shorter than she was used to, but they were more intense. She

explained they would go in and do their routines on each event and then they were finished.

“There was a lot of pressure with the practices, but it prepared us well,” Dowell said. “I trained all around, but I competed in vault, bars and floor.”

Dowell was one of seven girls chosen to compete at Worlds. While Team USA took first place, China came in second, and Great Britain placed third.

“At the banquet after the meet, we hung out with the British boys and girls. It was fun to talk to them and hang out with them,” Dowell said.

While Dowell met a lot of people, she knew the girls because she has been competing with them for years.

Dowell trains at GAGE Center in Blue Springs, and Al and Armine Fong are her coaches. Some highlights of her career include: 2013 Jesolo Trophy Third Place on Bars and All Around, First Place Team (Sr. Division) 2012 Mexican Open All Around, Vault, Bars and Floor Champion (Sr. Division) and 2011 Jesolo Trophy Second Place Bars (Jr. Division).

Dowell can’t even remember a time when she didn’t participate in gymnastics.

“I started classes when I was 18 months, so I have been participating for 18 years,” she said.

Last year was Brenna’s freshman year at the University of Oklahoma.



Brenna Dowell, 2014 OHS graduate, received a gold medal at the USA World Artistic Gymnastics team competition held in Scotland.

She is currently taking a few online classes at Johnson County Community College but indicated that she is mainly taking this year off of school, so she can focus on gymnastics.

“Once gymnastics is over, I look forward to being a normal person and getting a job,” Dowell said. She is majoring in business but does not know what type of job she hopes to get in the future.

Dowell’s younger sister, Lauren, a current OHS senior, supported her sister during the competition and traveled to Scotland with her family to encourage her sister.

“If there was a scale of proudness, I would break the scale, and it still wouldn’t be enough,” Lauren said. “Seeing her succeed in something she’s worked hard at her whole life, inspires me to work hard too,” Lauren said.

Ryan Robinson Takes Over As Varsity Boys Basketball Coach

By Eli Munsterman

Ryan Robinson’s first year as varsity boys basketball coach started with long days. His mornings began with practice at 6 a.m., and the days didn’t end until well after dark, when his assistant football coaching duties were over.

While Robinson enjoyed the football team’s success, he will enjoy getting down to the business of coaching one sport.

Robinson grew up in Roscoe, Illinois and went to Hononegah High School. From there he went to Truman State University to play basketball and earn a bachelor’s degree in history and master’s degree in social studies.

Robinson has been coaching basketball for eight years. He was a volunteer coach at Hononegah High School for two years, a JV/varsity assistant coach at Schuyler County High School for one year, and the JV/varsity coach at Odessa for four years before getting the head coaching job.

Robinson says he loves coaching.

“Coaching allows me to stay involved in the game and pass along what I’ve learned over the years,” Robinson said. “I also like the strategy involved in basketball and seeing every player develop.”

Robinson’s team motto

for the season is “together, we attack.” He plans to implement a run and gun offense to “maximize possessions and put maximum pressure on teams’ endurance and communication.”

“Our goal is to create mismatches in transition and create open shots,” Robinson said.

He said that he has been blessed to have been around some great coaches in his life and has taken what Odessa basketball has been doing and made some minor changes and adjustments to better utilize spacing.

“I enjoy watching kids take the techniques we teach and become better players. It’s especially gratifying to watch kids exceed expectations or what they thought they were capable of,” Robinson said.

Robinson expects Josiah Bennett to be a leader for the team as a returning letterman and All-Conference/All-District selection. He anticipates a team full of leaders to varying degrees though, and says that only time will tell who will step up and become a leader.

Chris Herring, OMS P. E. teacher, will be the head JV coach and assistant varsity, and Jesse Stewart, OHS history teacher, will be the head freshman coach and assistant varsity.

Odessa CCC Prepare for John Carmody Presented With Bulldog Award Holiday Program On Dec. 10

By Alec Munson

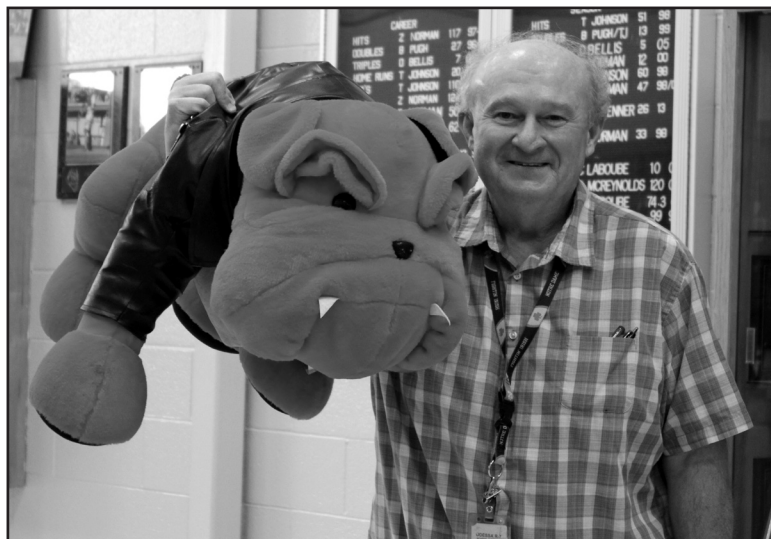
Odessa R-VII Child Care Center (CCC) at McQuerry Elementary will be presenting the annual Holiday Program at 4 p.m. December 10 in the McQuerry gym. The program will include a number of Christmas-themed songs and Christmas-themed poems.

"Parents, grandparents and family are encouraged to come and support their young ones at this holiday program," Wendy Reynolds, CCC/SOAR Director for the school district, said.

Teachers and students started preparing for this event on November 16, and practiced for approximately a month. The participating students range in age from one to five.

The following teachers helped prepare for the event: Emily Stocklaufer, Brittney Reed, Raegan Smith, Danielle Patton, Kandis Bass, Sandra Beauchamp, Joy Redhage, Michelle Silvers and Shelley Conn.

After the program, all in attendance will be served refreshments and will enjoy a visit from Santa.



John Carmody, OHS substitute teacher, received the Bulldog Award for his service to OHS and its students.

By Sarah Shelton & McKenzie Wixon

John Carmody was recently awarded the Bulldog Award at an OHS faculty meeting for being an excellent substitute teacher.

The Bulldog Award, an award for excellence, among other awards, are given to faculty/staff members each month to be passed off to the next month's winners.

"He is always willing to help out, fill in, and even go above and beyond to help a teacher or student. An example of this is when he is subbing in our building, he often goes out to ACE to tutor students in the alternative school while he is on his plan period." Buffie McConville, OHS Principal, said. "He is a one in a million, and I love him!"

Carmody moved to Odessa in 1983 and started substitute teaching for OHS in 2000 and is seen frequently in the building. Administrators, teachers and students value his presence.

"Mr. Carmody is dependable and always prepared for my call at

a moment's notice. He is able to not just fill in, but instruct our higher level classrooms which makes a big difference to those classroom teachers and students," Tammy Kleoppel, district Substitute Coordinator, said.

"Mr. Carmody knows math! I know that when I have to be gone and I have Mr. Carmody as a sub my classes can proceed as normal." said Annie Austin, OHS math teacher. "He does an excellent job explaining problems to students, and I love how he always shows them the work behind the answer."

Besides helping at OHS, Carmody is also involved with the city and its improvement. He has served as an alderman since 1998 and most enjoys his interactions with the board, the mayor and citizens.

His hobbies include watching his favorite baseball team, the St. Louis Cardinals, and photography. He can often be seen at school events with his camera.

Carmody grew up in

Moberly, Missouri, as an only child. He graduated from Moberly High School in 1974. After graduating high school, Carmody entered Pre-Med at the encouragement of his father. He attended Mizzou for one year and Notre Dame for three years receiving his bachelor's degree in math in 1978. He worked as a legal intern and taught College Algebra as a teaching assistant.

Carmody puts his teaching experience to use as he tutors students after school in mathematics and helps students with projects. He enjoys tutoring students and said that it is a way that he believes he can give back because he has been blessed by others throughout his life.

With the holidays coming up, the Christmas Lighting Ceremony is also something that Carmody looks forward to each year. The visit from Santa is a favorite for Carmody as well as hearing the choir perform.

The Lighting Ceremony, according to Carmody, is what truly starts his Christmas season.

"It's a special night," Carmody said, regarding the Monday night before Thanksgiving.

Eggnog, Midnight Mass, cookies, family and having the lights on the Christmas tree before Thanksgiving are other holiday traditions that Carmody enjoys.

"Christmas Spirit means everybody coming together, and realizing we're all in this together," Carmody said.

Carmody shares a recipe out of his mother's old recipe box that reminds him of the holidays.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

From: The Growler Staff

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Apple Goopy Butter Cake

Cake

1 white cake mix

1 egg

6 tablespoons butter, melted

2 tablespoons water

Apple Filling

3 granny smith apples, peeled, cored and chopped into very small pieces

½ cup brown sugar

1 tsp of cinnamon

Topping

1 - 8 oz. package of cream cheese, room temperature

1 teaspoon vanilla

3 cups powdered sugar plus more for sprinkling on the finished cake

½ cup butter, room temperature

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 350°

With a mixer, mix the cake mix, egg, butter, and water

Pat into a lightly greased pan.

Mix the apples with the brown sugar and cinnamon. Arrange over the cake mixture.

Use a mixer to beat cream cheese and butter until smooth, add eggs and vanilla.

Add the powdered sugar, 1 cup at a time, and beat until smooth.

Pour over the apple mixture and spread with a butter knife.

Let the cake cool completely

Sprinkle with powdered sugar.

OHS Inducts 27 to National Honor Society

By Sydney Shackles

Twenty-seven National Honor Society inductees took the oath on November 12 at Odessa High School stating "I assume a responsibility of leadership and example, and will endeavor to serve without thought of personal glory, my school, my community, my country and my world."

Angela Boutross, senior NHS president, was the emcee for the event. Other NHS seniors who had speaking parts were: Haley Dye, treasurer, Lauren Dowell,

secretary, Ryder Jiron, vice president, Katie LeBlanc, recording secretary, Brian Uhrlaub, Zach Smith, Hannah Williams, Morgan Williams and Garrett Fiegenbaum. Colton Howard and Emily Johnson served as candle lighters, and Hannah Gurney, historian, photographed the event.

Jill Prewett, OHS Communication Arts teacher, was the speaker for the ceremony. She congratulated the inductees and spoke about the importance of living a life

with good character.

"While being inducted into the National Honor Society is an award for your character to this point, it is also an opportunity for you to continue setting standards, goals, and to continue on the road to success," Prewett said.

"It was an honor to be able to receive acknowledgment for the hard work and dedication throughout my high school career by being inducted into the National Honor Society," Marley Shackles, senior

inductee, said.

Odessa's group is named the Georges' Chapter after two charter members, George Melcher and George Creel. OHS first introduced National Honor Society in the Spring of 1935. After the 2015 ceremony, 1,661 members will have been inducted at OHS.

The 2015 inductees, inducted for their excellence in scholarship, leadership, character and service were: Brent Alumbaugh, Trevor

Bellmyer, Abigail Bertz, Alli Bertz, Kirstin Clark, Erika Cowan, Caitlin Dillon, Megan Eagan, Sara Fossett, Cassadee Griffith, Sylvia Gwodz, Gabby Holmes, Hanna Huston, Morgan Kleoppel, Jacob Moore, Garrett Peek, Elizabeth Port, Breanna Ray, Emily Reynolds, Hannah Scott, Marley Shackles, Emma Shutt, Kaysie Wachs, Tyrel Wagner, Jacob Weber, Kamryn Williams and Madison Wulfekotter.

Kindergartners Visit Science City

By Mikaylee Hobson & Bianca Woodward

Kindergartners strain and grasp the rope as they pull with all their might trying to help their tug-of-war team win. The first team to ring the bell wins; however, they are not just playing at recess, they are on their first school field trip.

Kindergartners visited Science City, on October 29 at Union Station in Kansas City.

The field trip allowed students to experience the world of science first-hand through fun and engaging exhibits and programs.

"Our main goal was to get their brains thinking," Megan Bickel, kindergarten teacher, said.

Among the students'

favorite exhibits were The Science of Energy, the Nature Center and Every Last Drop.

The Science of Energy explored people's relationship to energy including human energy. Students learned where energy comes from with a focus on renewable sources like wind and solar power.

The Nature Center, which was recently renovated, allowed visitors to observe animals and compare their characteristics, behaviors and habitats while exploring the animal kingdom. The outspoken Sulfur-Crested Cockatoo was a student favorite.

"There was a whole new section with live animals. One of my students said, 'I want a chameleon!' because of the chameleon that was just

sitting there staring at him," Bickel said.

Every Last Drop focused on the extraordinary water molecule that can feel so ordinary. The exhibit explored water and people's relationship with it. The interactive center covers the properties of water, how people use water, and why people should conserve.

This was a favorite with the kindergartners according to Bickel. "They really liked the waterpark because it made the biggest mess. The students also enjoyed seeing how dams affect streams," Bickel said.

The main goals of the trip were to engage the students with the curriculum and for students to be able to refer back to what they learned at Science City.

"Science City was a good opportunity for the kindergartners to play with different manipulatives that we can't offer in the classroom. The parent volunteers did a good job of explaining why they were playing with different items and helped make it an educational experience for everyone," Bickel said.



McQuerry kindergartners participate in hands-on exhibits during their Science City field trip.

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OUE Is Top Hoops For Heart School For 7 Years Straight

By Sara Fossett

OUE has participated in Hoops for Heart for over 12 years and is still continuing strong coming in as the top school in Missouri for the past seven years. This year's competition ended on November 19.

"At age 19, I had open heart surgery," Kristi Bieri, OUE PE teacher, said. So, it is easy to see why this cause is important to Bieri and other students and staff who have known someone with a heart condition.

The American Heart Association fights heart disease and stroke through their Hoops for Heart and Jump Rope for Heart programs. They promote healthy habits, staying active and supporting research and education.

Approximately 100 students

participate each year in raising money at OUE, and the student to raise the most money is rewarded with the gym being named after him or her for one year.

The gym is currently named Affolter Arena after Brittany Affolter, fifth-grader during the 2014-15 school year. Drew Sallee, currently a fourth-grader at OUE, came in second.

Drew's goal this year was to take over the title of top fundraiser, and to help reach his goal he began fundraising in February selling treats at the Hoops for Heart basketball game. He has also sold holiday candy treats and has consigned toys and games to raise money for the cause.

"My goal this year was to be the top fundraiser at OUE in

honor of my cousin, Logan, and Grandpa Larry," said Sallee.

Sallee met his goal by dropping off \$1,274 topping his total of \$1,111 from last year by \$163. By having the most online donations, with \$750, he was able to serve as P. E. teacher for a day.

All students who help raise money are invited to a basketball party after school.

Along with raising money for the American Heart Association, Hoops for Heart also gives back to the top school. The school receives a US Game Certificate used to purchase new equipment for the gym and/or playground.

"It's special, competing against big schools," Bieri said. "It puts Odessa on the map."

Birdsong said.

After lunch, the student's final destination was the old Upper Elementary Building. "The third floor is pretty creepy now with all of the lockers gone and the photos and other things that used to be in them that got left behind," Justus Pabst, sophomore, said.

Upon the conclusion of the project in the spring, the class will present their portfolios to Buffie McConville, OHS principal, for her to select various works to be printed and then hung throughout the school and district.

"Our goal at the high school this year has been to bring back spirit, what it means to be a Bulldog and what it means to be a part of this town. That's the goal of "This is Odessa" - to make it personal to each of the students in my class," Birdsong said.



Drew Sallee, fourth-grader at OUE, turns in the money he collected for Hoops for Heart in honor of his cousin, Logan, and his Grandpa Larry. Kristi Bieri, OUE PE teacher, organized the event.

JV Wrestlers Prepare For Season

By Sarah Pierce

Two athletes square off in a ring on the mats. Both have spent countless hours challenging not only their physical endurance, but their mental toughness as well. One will lose, but he is not a loser. The other athlete only wrestled better today.

Kirk Gross, head wrestling coach, is optimistic about the 2015-16 wrestling season. He says that although many of the JV wrestlers lack experience, they make up for it by being eager to learn and exercising a strong work ethic.

Gross says he is focusing more this season on unifying the team and fostering a family atmosphere. He is encouraging the wrestlers to push each other and help make each other better.

When asked who the team's toughest opponent would be, Gross did not give another team.

"Your biggest opponent is always yourself because you've got to get over that mental hurdle of 'I can do this. I'm mentally tough enough to get through this, and I know it's going to make me better,'" Gross said.

Gross says he has a great group of athletes and a good

coaching staff and is looking forward to a season of success and building unity throughout the program. He says the way to gain support for the sport is to put a product on the mat that people can respect and want to support.

Ben Grubb, 2001 OHS graduate, will be joining the assistant coaches this year. Grubb frequently subs at OHS and OMS. He attended CMSU (currently UCM) in Warrensburg and finished playing football at the University of St. Mary's in Leavenworth, Kansas.

His degree is in interdisciplinary studies with a focus in business and management. He and his wife, Belinda, have two young sons, Shem and Nicholas.

"I enjoy seeing kids grow and become passionate about something. It is easy at this age to focus their energy in a positive way," Grubb said about coaching.

"Coach Grubb is a great wrestler and football player. He is very enthusiastic and hardworking. He will be an asset to our team," said Gross.

The first home dual for JV wrestling is January 5 in the OHS wood gym.

"This is Odessa"

By Makena Dye

Students in Andrea Birdsong's Graphic Design course at OHS participated in a walking field trip November 6, set on documenting life in Odessa through the camera lens.

Graphic Design students walked through seven and a half miles of different locations, subjects and experiences, documenting them through photos as part of a year-long project called "This is Odessa."

According to Birdsong, "This is Odessa" is a year-long photo portfolio project with the goal of not only teaching students to better use their photography skills but to also make their town and their high school experience something to appreciate and to remember in a different light.

The project was developed as a way for students to further practice their photography

skills using manual functions as well as editing in the RAW format in Photoshop.

The trip began at the Odessa Fire Station and then continued up the Dryden Street hill where students received an unexpected opportunity to photograph within the fences and the buildings of the Odessa Power Station.

"The old generator was my favorite - being able to get up close and really see it," Lucas Wilson, sophomore, said.

The class continued on to take photographs in Dyer Park as well as on an impromptu tour through City Hall courtesy of the City Hall staff and Mayor Adam Couch.

"It's pretty cool what happens when you just explain what your students are doing and other people pitch in their experiences and open up all kinds of new opportunities,"