



April 9, 2015

THE GROWLER

Odessa High School, Odessa, Missouri

Gabi Green prepares for Senior Project Community Night

By Ryann Zimmerman

Gabi Green, senior, has the attention of her yearling colt. His eyes and ears are tuned into her as she works to desensitize him and get him ready for saddle training. This will begin his life as a riding horse.

While Green is not in school, she is training the young horse as part of her Senior Project for her English Language Arts IV class at Odessa High School. Green chose to train Jinx, who turns two in June, for her Senior Project because she loves horses and has always been around them. She remembers riding by the time she was three.

Green's project is focused on career exploration, and her research paper was about famous race horses, the Kentucky Derby and the Triple Crown.

"I didn't have much experience working with young horses, but I really enjoyed my senior project.

It was difficult to keep up working with Jinx because of work and school," Green said.

Jinx is part American Quarter Horse and part Tennessee Walking Horse. He is blind in one eye, which makes training him more difficult, so building trust is an important part of Jinx's training for Green. In addition to working on trust and desensitization, Green is working on handling his face and feet, backing up, standing tied, trailer loading, ground work and finally introducing him to the saddle and bit. Desensitization is the process of getting the horse used to scary activities and objects.

Green believes she has benefitted from her senior project.

"I learned to be more patient when it comes to working with horses. I also learned new ways to train which will help me work with my own horses and volunteer horses," said Green.

Jinx will attend Senior Project Community Night

which is from 4 to 8 p.m. on April 23. Green's presentation will be at 7:45 p.m.

"I would like to thank Tyler Frye for being my project mentor and helping me get this project done," said Green.

Green said that Frye is a family friend who lives in Lexington and has been training horses his entire life.

Sarah Renfrow, OHS speech and drama teacher, is the Senior Project Coordinator.

"A Senior Project pertains to the senior's career, academic pursuit, volunteering or a creative endeavor," said Renfrow.

Senior Projects are required for all seniors enrolled in English Language Arts IV or College Prep English Language Arts IV. The purpose is to encourage students to apply their communication skills to a project of their choice. Project proposals must be approved by a committee made up of several teachers. Projects must show personal growth toward making the students more educated, active and productive members of the community. Students must also have a final product to show what they achieved.

Students are graded on

four components: 8-10 page research paper (37%); project (27%); community presentation (33%); and portfolio (5%). Students have to spend at least 25 hours outside of school on their project, and give an 8-10 minute presentation using a PowerPoint visual aid on Community Night. Judges grade the presentations on appearance/organization, content, difficulty, presentation skills, appearance of presenter and overall impression for a total of 100 points. Students' tri-fold visual aids are also on display on Community Night.

Communication Arts position filled at OHS

By Erika Cowan & Emily Woods

Jill Prewett, OHS Communication Arts teacher, joined the OHS teaching staff at the beginning of second semester. She was a stay at home mom before she decided to become a teacher.

"I became a teacher because I love interacting and building relationships with the students. I once heard someone say, 'the reason I teach is because I am not finished learning.' Teaching allows me to expand my knowledge and to share it in the best way I possibly can with my students," said Prewett.

Prewett teaches College Preparatory English II classes and completed her student teaching in the Blue Springs School District. Prewett replaced Valerie Fetters who had been working in real estate part-time and decided to give it a try full-time.

Prewett received an English degree from the University

of Iowa. She continued her education, graduating in December with a Masters in Education from the University of Memphis. She moved to the area from Jackson, Tennessee. She grew up in Iowa and lived in the South for 15 years before moving to Blue Springs. OHS is her first teaching job.

"My goals for this school year are to keep learning new ideas from the teachers around me and to make sure my students succeed," said Prewett.

She said that she enjoyed her student-teaching experience in Blue Springs, but she believes Odessa is a good fit for her.

Prewett said, "I feel a lot closer to my students with a smaller atmosphere, and I can establish who I am as a teacher and the kind of atmosphere I want to have. It can be challenging with this age at times, but I feel since my own kids are around this age, I can relate well."

Prewett and her husband, Rance, have three children:

Hayden, Kyler and Kaleb. Hayden Holloway is fifteen and a freshman at the Blue Springs Freshman Center. Kyler Holloway is seventeen and a junior at Blue Springs High School, and Kaleb Prewett is a student at Kansas State University.

Her favorite place is the beach, so she loves spending time in Seaside, Florida where she spends time sunning, riding bikes and swimming in the ocean. Her hobbies include working out at the gym with weights and participating in classes, being active outside, spending time with her family and reading books.

"I love to run and spend as much time outdoors as possible. I love to spend time with my family traveling, watching college football, going to my step-son's football games at K-State and watching movies," said Prewett.



Jill Prewett, OHS Communication Arts teacher, poses with her family: Kaleb Prewett, Rance Prewett, husband, J. Prewett, Kyler Holloway and Hayden Holloway.

Editorial : Spring Enrollment

As the current school year winds down and students begin to think about summer plans, they need to also remember that there is still another school year ahead.

Some kids think high school is all about taking a class that sounds fun or entertaining. While all of this sounds great believe it or not: students actually need to have certain credits to graduate.

High school students need a total of 26 credits. They consist of four English credits, four math credits, three social studies credits, three science credits, and certain electives. Some students will achieve more than this, but 26 is the minimum number.

Along with the general classes OHS offers, there are also dual credit classes students have the opportunity to take. Dual credit courses are college classes taught in the high school and students receive both high school credit and college credit hours. There is a cost associated with these classes but it is lower than the

fee in college. Before enrolling in dual credit classes students should check with colleges that they are interested in and to see whether or not the college will accept those credit hours through the class provider.

If the school won't accept these hours students could also do AP courses as an alternative. AP stands for advanced placement. Students are scored on a one to five scale. A three to a five is college ready. In AP classes students do not receive both a high school and college credit. Instead, they receive college credit hours based on how they score on the end of year test. Colleges may want students to have a certain score or higher to receive a certain amount credit hours.

This year OHS is not offering any AP courses due to the lack of interest. Mary Williams, OHS counselor said that most kids are leaning more toward the dual credit classes. Most colleges want you to score a four or a five, which is very hard to

do. AP tests still can be ordered without a class, but students should consult with teachers to gauge readiness.

If a parent wishes to become more involved in choosing their child's schedule, Spring Enrollment night is the night. On Spring Enrollment night, parents meet with their children's BEST teacher and discuss their upcoming schedule. If a parent does or does not want their child to take a certain class, that is the time to discuss a change.

Most importantly, spring enrollment gives parents and students the opportunity to agree on a path of study, and makes the parents aware of where their child stands on their grades and credit standings.

Some parents choose to not come to spring enrollment night but the parent eventually will have to sign their child's schedule. Ray said that the average attendance percentage for each of the four grades at OHS is above 90%.

OHS Art Honor Society attend Belger Arts Center

By Christina Hull

OHS National Art Honor Society members attended a field trip on February 25 to the Belger Arts Center and Red Star Studios in Kansas City.

Upon Arriving at the Belger Arts Center, students split up into two groups. One group went to the Red Star Studios with Matthew Bridges, OMS art teacher. The second group stayed with Andrea Birdsong, OHS art teacher and NAHS sponsor. Later, the groups switched and toured the other studio.

At the Belger Arts Center, students toured the "Expanding the Perimeter" art exhibit which opened October 3, 2014. Next, they went on a tour of the "Possible Impossible: Terry Allen Study Drawings for Public Works" an art exhibit that opened February 6, 2014 and concentrates on large works of art. This exhibit showed the planning and thoughts that go into creating a sculpture.

"The NAHS trip to the Belger Arts Center and Crane Yard clay allowed students a chance at something new and different that I am not able to offer within the classroom at OHS. We had some great instruction and guides and a chance to just hang out in the art world for a day," said Birdsong.

Birdsong's group then experienced the hands-on learning adventure of creating pottery on a wheel in Red Star Studio's Crane Yard clay. After a short

demo, the students began to work. It was a struggle, but eventually they caught on.

"The teacher made it look so easy," said Alyssa Heatherly, sophomore NAHS member.

Meanwhile, the group with Bridges toured Red Star Studios, which features resident artists. Residential artists must apply and be accepted into the program. Once accepted, they can use Red Star Studio's equipment and materials to create artwork. The students were able to observe the artist's work spaces and see both complete and incomplete works made by local artists.

The students ate lunch at Crown Center where they were able to go to a restaurant of their choice to eat. Most students enjoyed Fritz's Railroad Restaurant where diners are served their food by model trains.

Any OHS freshman can apply to become a member of NAHS and join the group on trips like this one throughout the year. Sophomores through seniors, however, must have taken a studio art class to join. Applications are available at the beginning of each school year.

In May, NAHS will go on a field trip to the Omaha Zoo for their end of the year celebration and for an observational art study. Their trip will end with a trip to The Amazing Pizza Machine in Omaha.

STAFF

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National Art Honor Society members enjoyed the hands-on learning adventure of creating pottery on a wheel in Red Star Studio's Crane Yard clay.

OHS Spanish Club celebrates Holidays



Riley Dunaway, junior, works on a sugar skull face painting for Sydney Shackles, freshman, during an OHS Spanish Club meeting.

By Maddie Estes & Abra Raybourn

Students speak in Spanish and pop balloons full of confetti over each other's heads in the OHS commons after school. Students also enjoy Mexican cookies and punch while celebrating Carnival during the OHS Spanish Club's February meeting.

The balloon popping relay game was inspired by cascarones, or blown eggs filled with confetti. They are used at many Hispanic celebrations. The cascarones are cracked over people's heads during Carnival.

Carnival means 'farewell to meat' and is celebrated the week prior to Lent. Lent, a religious observance, begins on Ash Wednesday and covers a period of approximately 40 days before Easter and includes fasting from meat. Carnival is similar to Mardi Gras or "Fat Tuesday" in French. Students learned more about how Latin American countries celebrate this Roman Catholic holiday.

OHS Spanish Club members learn about the Spanish culture and meet around major

Hispanic holidays to play games and eat ethnic foods. During other club meetings, members watch PowerPoints, learn from speakers, read articles, put together puzzles, play games, make crafts and watch video clips as they learn.

During the December meeting, OHS students Trevor Bellmyer, Kurtis Garrison and Annie Walsh, were guest speakers. They shared experiences from their travels to San Juan, Puerto Rico for a mission trip over the summer of 2014.

Kelly Ogle, sponsor, said, "The students really enjoyed decorating sugar cookies shaped as Mexican sugar skulls, a common symbol of the Day of the Dead, at the October meeting."

"My favorite part of Spanish Club is the food," said Kyle Jensen, senior.

"My favorite part of Spanish Club is the food..." Kyle Jensen, senior

Kelly Ogle and Kelsey Smith, OHS Spanish teachers, sponsor the club, which is one of the largest student organizations at OHS. The club is open to all students who are interested in learning more about the Spanish culture and is not limited to students enrolled in a Spanish course. Students can participate by paying a \$10 fee to cover the cost of snacks and supplies for the year. Active members can earn a pin which is given out at the end of year awards program.

Officers are: Ramey Buxton, president; Angela Boutross, vice president; Jensen, secretary; and Kylin Grubb, treasurer.

Smith said, "The goal for the Spanish club students is to have fun while learning the culture and language of the Spanish-speaking world."



MacKenzie Swartwood, Hannah Wheaton, Alex Lancaster, Jackson Whitaker, Gabe Murry and Trey Sanders, kindergarteners in Jenny Hand's class, read *Cat in the Hat* and dressed up as the character, Cat in the Hat, for Dr. Seuss Day.

McQuerry celebrates Dr. Suess Day

By Breanna Ray and Sydney Smith

McQuerry Elementary students celebrated Dr. Seuss Day March 2. Classes celebrated in different ways and enjoyed varied activities throughout the week.

National Education Association's Read Across America is an annual reading motivation program and is celebrated March 2 on Dr. Seuss's birthday. The program, developed in 1997, provides resources and activities to help keep students reading all year long.

Theodor Seuss Geisel, or Dr. Seuss, was born in 1904 and

died in 1991. His first published book was *And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street* in 1937. Dr. Seuss published over 60 children's books. His rhymes and characters are easily and fondly remembered.

Jenny Hand's kindergarten class read a Dr. Seuss book and participated in a related activity each day. The class used Dr. Seuss books to focus on rhyming. The students also used this time to study about different authors.

To kick off the week, Hand's

students read *The Cat in the Hat* and dressed up as the character, Cat in the Hat.

"The kids loved making hats and face paint," said Hand.

Tuesday they read *Bartholomew and the Oobleck*, and the students made "ewy gooey" Oobleck. Wednesday they read *Hop on Pop* and ate popcorn. Thursday they read *The Lorax* and also watched the movie.

Jackson Whitaker, kindergartener, said, "The Lorax was my favorite day because I liked watching the movie."

"The Lorax was my favorite day because I liked watching the movie." ... Jackson Whitaker, Kindergartener

Friday they read *Fox in Socks* and wore silly socks. The class also ate the famous "green eggs and ham."

"I used my electric griddle and mixed up the eggs with green food dye, and then I warmed up ham on the griddle," said Hand.

"They tasted like delicious pickles," said Hannah Wheaton, kindergartener.

Students also read *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish* and ate colored gold fish crackers.


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OHS JV track team prepares to assign events for the season

By William Johnson

OHS JV track and all other spring sports kicked off the season March 2 when the weather was still crisp. Students filled the hallways for a few days for indoor practices; however, as the weather warmed up, students headed outside.

Overall, 33 returning members make up roughly half of the team's total of 61 athletes making them the biggest spring sport. Returning athletes know the expectations and are ready to go.

"Like every year, we just try to improve. At this point in the year, we focus on getting back into shape and scoping out what events we think each person will be good at because those are the events we want them to compete in," said Allan Twilligear, head coach.

According to Twilligear, some of the team's best scores are in the field events like shot put and discus. He has high hopes for the team this year.

"The team works well together across a wide-range of events. Our athletes are hard workers," said Twilligear, who works with the sprinters.

Twilligear has multiple assistant coaches who each work on specialty events.

Heather Meler, OHS science teacher, works with distance runners. Zach Meler, OHS science teacher, works with pole vaulters. Evelyn Morgan, OMS librarian, works with jumpers. Mark Thomas, OHS weights teacher, works with the throwers.

During practices, students have been doing new core workouts incorporated with the running. Athletes have completed time-trials and have split up into specialty groups to receive event-specific training.

"We have run a lot," said Angela Boutross, varsity runner. "It is important as a returning runner to set an example for some of the new and JV runners in the workouts and practices and to help them at meets." Boutross competes in the 4 x 800 and the two mile run.

JV and varsity team placements will be determined as the season progresses. All athletes will receive a placement because the track team does not make cuts.

The first JV meet will be held at 4 p.m. on April 14 hosted by Wellington at Odessa. Other meets will be in April and May and the schedule can be found on the Odessa R-7 website.



Allan Twilligear, OHS science teacher, poses with Andy Bailey from the National Weather Service. Bailey spoke to Twilligear's meteorology class about severe weather spotting, cloud types and how they forecast the weather. Students were trained in weather spotting.

OMS Winter guard has late start

By Tyler Atkerson & Garrett Peek

Flags and rifles are spinning high above the participants' heads creating a colorful blur. Girls get into formations with smiles on ainput.

Sierra McCoy, seventh grader, said, "Guard is a really fun and entertaining activity. It takes skill to learn the timing and formation of the flags and rifles and how they fit into the entire show."

Odessa Middle School Winter Guard members practice from 3:30-6 p.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays to prepare for competitions which are held on Saturdays at surrounding schools. During practice, guard members work on timing and technique, which are especially important when tossing and spinning a flag or rifle.

Winter Guard teams perform indoors to recorded music and are judged in the areas of Movement, Equipment, General Effect and Design. During competitions, five judges contribute to the team's

OHS JV Tennis begins season

By Luke Norman

After 3 p.m. on March 2, the JV tennis athletes joined the crowd of spring athletes indoors by running in the wood gym. Tennis practice was in full swing by March 4. Bud Nelson, head coach, first had to finish the girls' basketball season as they entered post-season play because he is the coach for that team as well.

"We hope to have around twelve tennis players. We have seven players returning, and four of those will be on the varsity team," Nelson said.

Nelson said that it takes a lot of practice for players to move up from JV to varsity. "We hit a lot of balls," Nelson said.

"I am going to challenge a varsity player in hopes of moving up to their spot. I have been practicing every single day to get better and win a varsity spot," Tyler Atkerson, sophomore JV tennis player said.

score. Three judges observe from upstairs to judge the General Effect and Design, and two judges work on the ground floor to judge Movement and Equipment.

At the end of the performance, the scores are combined for a final score. Performances include showing a character, spinning equipment, interacting with props and fulfilling dance moves. The 20 members should have competed in two competitions so far; however, they were both cancelled due to inclement weather, leaving the members wanting floor time.

According to Sonja Putnam, Color Guard Director, staying mentally engaged is an important part of Winter Guard in order to perform at their best.

Putnam continues, "Winter Guard is the Sport of the Arts and includes a good amount of dance, involves hand-eye coordination and requires dedication like any sport."

This is Putnam's third year coaching at Odessa and she

says she truly enjoys seeing the growth the program has had in those three years and looks forward to the future of the Odessa Guard program.

Kyra Kueck, middle school assistant coach and Odessa graduate, is in her first season with the team.

Kueck participated in Odessa Guard from seventh through twelfth grades, and she spun at UCM for two years. Kueck coached at Higginsville High School for two fall seasons before coming to Odessa.

"I am very passionate about the sport and find pleasure in helping students achieve their goals and watching them grow not only as performers but as individuals," said Kueck.

The middle school Guard will end their season March 28 at the MCCGA Championships in Willard competing against many other middle school teams. Try outs for next year's Winter Guard season will be held at the end of October.

for the season with the hopes of improving their outcome and record for the 2015 season. The season will kick off at home on March 23 against Lutheran (Kansas City).

JV players are: Logan Koehler, Wade Lynn and Justus Nixon, juniors; Tyler Atkerson and Seth Twilligear, sophomores; and Brett Gittinger and Jordan Tribble, freshmen.



MFA
RIVER VALLEY AGRI SERVICES

111 NW Railroad St.
Odessa, MO 64076

Office: 816-633-5591