



The Growler

Thursday, March 20, 2014

O'Malley Hosts Locks of Love Event at OHS

By Aubrey Banhart

Jordan O'Malley, OHS senior, organized a Locks of Love event held November 9 at OHS as part of her senior project in

conjunction with a volleyball fundraiser for O'Malley.

Amber Barkley, OHS head volleyball coach, organized the fundraiser for O'Malley with the

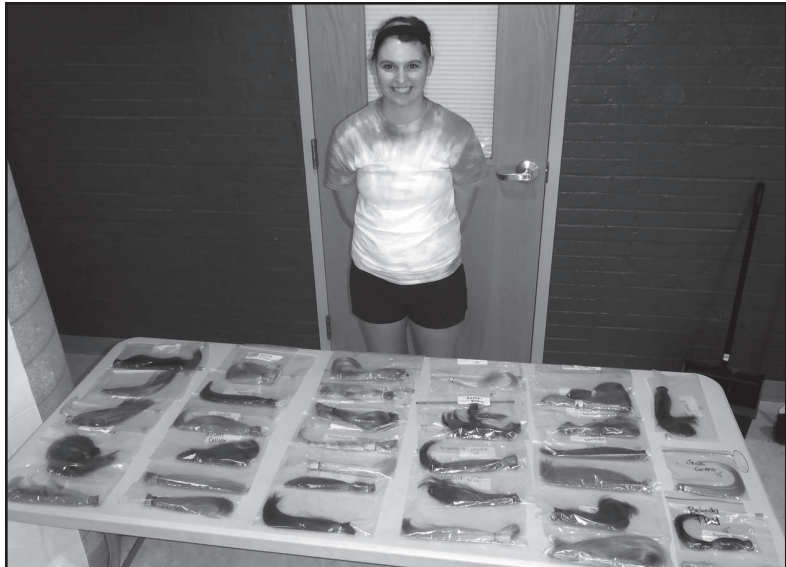
help of her assistant coaches and team members.

Thirty-seven girls of all ages were inspired by O'Malley to donate their hair at the event. O'Malley, who has been undergoing cancer treatments, said that through this experience she has learned that people take even the little things, like hair, for granted.

Jordan said that it takes sections of hair at least 10 inches long to make a wig, so she decided to encourage people in the community to donate hair to The Locks of Love Foundation.

"Thanks to everyone who came out to help," said O'Malley.

"Jordan is one of my good friends, and I really wanted to help her out," said Hanna VanLanker, OHS junior and Locks of Love donator.



Jordan O'Malley, senior, collected 37 hair donations for Locks of Love as part of her senior project on November 9 at OHS.

Love is in the 'Hallways'

By Kylin Grubb

February 14 was designated St. Valentine's Day in honor of the Catholic Saint, Valentine. Its romantic tradition can be dated back to the Middle Ages. Today, it is customary to exchange flowers, candies, gifts or greeting cards with loved ones.

Talon Searles and Whitney Arthur, OHS seniors, have dated for ten months. For Valentine's Day, they spent the day together in Arkansas. The two went to see the new movie *Endless Love*.

Arthur described the perfect

Valentine's Day date. She said, "I'd like a surprise dinner date with a lot of flowers."

Searles admitted that he only needs food to be content. They both agreed that theirs was a fun-based relationship.

"We're always together," said Searles.

Another OHS couple, Zachary and Heather Meler, OHS science teachers, have been teaching together at OHS for going on six years.

They went on their first official date on Valentine's Day in 2008 and spent the evening playing on the sculptures

outside of the Nelson Art Gallery after closing.

Z. Meler said, "She is not afraid to be crazy, and that is why the time we spend together is fun. The perfect Valentine's Day would be spent doing something new with her."

H. Meler said that experiencing new things together was one of the most important parts of being in a relationship. H. Meler said, "I would want to spend the evening snuggling in front of a cozy fire with fondue and dancing."

Spirit Week Returns

By Angela Boutross

OHS Court Mat Spirit Week was held February 11 through 13 after being rescheduled due to inclement weather. The updated event was termed KISS Week, for Kick in School Spirit.

Tuesday was Clone War (Twins) Day; Wednesday was Tacky Tourist Day; and Thursday was Out of this World (Space) Day or Red/Black Day. Monday, Warped Speed (Future/Past) Day and Friday, Bulldog Pride Day were canceled due to no school. Friday was a Professional Development Day for teachers.

Students voted for royalty during BEST classes via computers and royalty were introduced at the assembly during BEST on Wednesday, February 12.

Royalty was crowned Wednesday evening between the JV and varsity girls' basketball games against Pleasant Hill. Talon Searles and Jillian Bertz,

seniors, were crowned King and Queen. Corbin Kleoppel and Morgan Williams, sophomores, were crowned Prince and Princess.

The OHS Court Mat dance was re-scheduled for 8 to 10:30 p.m. on March 7.



Kennedy Neville and Leah Madsen, seniors, show their school spirit during Court-Mat KISS Week as they dress up for Clone War 'Twins' Day.



Zachary and Heather Meler, OHS science teachers, enjoy their first vacation together in the Sierra Nevada Mountains in California.

JV Girls BB Team Nears End of Season

By Morgan Williams

OHS JV girls basketball team looks to add a final win to their current record of 9-6 as the season nears an end.

Kelsey Smith, second year coach, said the team has improved a lot since the beginning of the year. "They aren't throwing the ball away as much," said Smith. Also, according to Smith, the team has improved on handling the ball under pressure. Smith teaches Spanish at OHS.

Morgan Kleoppel, freshman point guard, said that she loves competing, as well as making new friends on the basketball court.

Both Smith and Kleoppel said that the toughest game so far was against Grain Valley. They also believed at the time of this writing that they played their best game against Harrisonville the second time they were matched up.

The strengths of the team are working together and trying hard. One weakness that the young team is working on is making better decisions.



Morgan Kleoppel, freshman JV player, shoots the ball over defense.

OUE Sign Language Club active once more

By Hannah Gurney

Laura Cozart, Deaf Interpreter at Upper Elementary, is sponsoring the OUE Sign Language Club. The club was inactive for a few years due to the retirement of the previous sponsor.

Cozart has been teaching sign language since 2011 and has lived in Odessa since 1997. Cozart did not attend college until she was 37. Cozart attended Johnson County Community College graduating in 2005 with an associate's degree in Applied Science in Interpreting.

In addition to working at OUE, Cozart works as a tutor for "The Whole Person." Cozart also works for Missouri Schools for the Deaf as a Parent Advisor where she helps families with deaf children to learn how to best teach their child. Cozart has been a parent advisor for two years.

Cozart said, "I had the

pleasure of working with Laura Scott and the Great American Signers, sign language club. After Laura Scott retired, the club disbanded for a few years, but children began to ask if there would ever be a sign language club again."

Cozart said that she received a sweet letter from a young boy asking if she would begin a sign language club. Cozart accepted, so she and Kirsti Parsons, third grade teacher, decided to work together to sponsor the club.

The club meets the second and fourth Monday of each month. The club even has a couple of students who are signing at conversational levels due to being in class with a deaf student and from attending club meetings.

Cozart said that she is sad to say that next year there will not be a formal sign language club, but she is hoping to teach some sign language in the mornings before school.

Sports Schedule

Schedules for all Odessa Sports and Activities can be found on the high school page. Just click: High School then, Sports/ Activities. A printable list should appear for your convenience.



Winter Drum Line Plans for Success

By Emily Reynolds

OHS Winter Drum Line competed on February 22 at Nixa High School taking first place. The show theme for the 2014 season is *Jackpot Fantasy* which focuses on what people would do if they won the *Powerball*.

The show includes props which are large beach balls that will be made to look like Powerballs and columns that the balls will sit on.

Jeremy Meyer, OHS band director, said, "The season is coming along slowly, but when the show is completed, we will do great."

Meyer also noted that the show has originality and will be fun and entertaining, which will help them in competition.

Cory Smith, senior, is the battery captain and the tenor section leader. Kirstin Clark, freshman, is the snare section

leader. Courtney Begemann, junior, is the bass drum section leader. Gabe Cozart and Caleb White, seniors, are the front ensemble section leaders.

According to Meyer, the group as a whole is good with their technique but could work on their cleanliness.

Competition was scheduled for March 15 at Truman High School and on March 29 at the MCCA Championships at Ozark High School.

Members are Clark and Ryder Jiron, snares; Smith and Dawson Curtin, tenors; Chris Smith, Begemann, Seth Twilligear and Kyle Jensen, basses; White, Cozart, Haley Thomas, Halie Sheaffer, Michael Brown, Christian Siewert, Jaime Halverson, Garrett Gosoroski, Parker Watson and Danny Mantle, front ensemble.

Sixth-graders Prepare for Read-A-Thon

By Zach Smith

OMS sixth-graders will be participating in the third annual Read-A-Thon on March 13. Students will read for 40 minutes in each of the core classes and the advisory period for a total of 160 minutes of reading.

The fundraiser will help raise money for students to attend School Day at the K. The goal for this year was to raise \$1700, and as of February 24, \$1500 had been raised.

Dawn Griffith, sixth grade math teacher, said that she

feels the students will be close to reaching their goal.

"When kids raise money for something they want, it makes them feel like they are invested in it," said Griffith.

Griffith and the other sixth grade teachers organized the event. Griffith indicated that the fundraiser is successful each year with funds raised between \$1000 and \$2000 each year.

The Read-A-Thon was rescheduled from an earlier date due to inclement weather.

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R-7 Sports

Nahowan Saxon joins wife in Odessa schools

By Alison Brown

Nahowan Saxon is student teaching in Deborah Cox's business classes at OHS and will complete his student teaching in May.

Saxon is originally from Union Island which is within the Saint Vincent and Grenadines archipelago. As a foreign exchange student, Saxon graduated high school in 2002 from the Evangel Christian Academy in Shreveport, Louisiana. He attended Columbia College

on a basketball scholarship where he graduated with a Bachelor Degree in Business Management. Saxon decided to pursue a business degree since he had planned on taking over his father's business on Union Island, although, he found he did not have a passion for running a business. He found that passion when he became a substitute teacher.

"The kids steered me here," said Saxon.

Saxon plans on becoming a

Physical Education teacher or a Special Education teacher and will begin job hunting after graduating in May. According to Saxon, he likes being a positive influence, coaching and helping kids.

Saxon's wife, Tia, teaches health at OMS. They have a son, Jayden, who is three.

"It is really advantageous to have someone co-teaching and working with the students alongside me. Mr. Saxon is good with the students," said Cox.



Nahowan Saxon, OHS student teacher, poses with his wife, Tia, and their son, Jayden. Saxon will complete his student teaching in May.



Luke Tripp, freshman JV player, goes to the ground against Warrensburg.

JV Boys BB Team needs consistency

By Hannah Williams

While approaching the end of the season at this writing, the JV boys basketball team is 5-11 with only two games left. The team had hoped to finish the season at .500 but will fall short.

Corbin Kleoppel, sophomore player, said that he enjoys the sport. Kleoppel said, "My favorite part of being on the team is just being able to play the game, and

when we win, of course."

Their toughest opponent, St. Joe Benton, according to Kleoppel, was their first game of the season. "We weren't really prepared for anything like that. It was a pretty rough first game."

Ryan Robinson, coach and OHS history teacher, said that the team has some areas that need to be addressed. Robinson said, "We attack the basket

well and execute our offense efficiently, but we need to work on rebounding and defensive rotations."

Robinson also stated, "Consistency is the key to winning. We lack consistency. We go from looking good, to looking like we haven't played in a long time."

The season ended February 28 at Excelsior Springs.

OHS Band Students Attend UMKC Honor Band

By Marley Shackles

Six Odessa High School Band of Distinction members attended the 2014 UMKC Honor Band February 14 through 16 held at Crown Center.

The following students attended: Dani Stilwell, Caleb White, Drew Morris, Alison Brown, Marley Shackles and Hanna Huston. Placements were as follows: Stilwell, Wind Symphony playing the oboe; White, percussionist; Morris, trombonist; Brown, bassoonist; Shackles, Symphonic Orchestra playing the harp;

and Huston, Symphonic Band playing the tuba.

During UMKC Honor Band, activities were held by UMKC students and professors. There was also a UMKC Bands Concert, where all of the bands and orchestras from UMKC performed for students.

"Overall, the UMKC Honor Band was an awesome experience." ...Steve Davis, UMKC director

During the intense practices, participants rehearsed six

hours a day on four different pieces of music. There were even several cases of instruments breaking from so much usage. UMKC holds the Honor Band to help further students' musical abilities and to inspire students to join the UMKC bands in college. They hope to inspire students to pursue their musical dreams.

"Overall, the UMKC Honor Band was an awesome experience. I enjoy spending time with students who are dedicated to their musical careers," said Steve Davis, a UMKC director.



UMKC Honor Band students, from back: Hannah Houston, freshman; Andrew Morris, junior; Marley Shackles, sophomore; Caleb White, senior. In front: Alison Brown, sophomore, and Dani Stilwell, senior.



Ride Along has memorable cast

By Ben Holbert

Ride Along is a movie following Ben Barber, played by Kevin Hart, and James Payton, played by Ice Cube. Ben is trying to get permission from James to marry his sister, so James requests he prove himself on a ride along. The movie is filled with hilarious moments and quite a bit of action.

The most notable cast members are Ice Cube, Kevin Hart and Laurence Fishburne. Ice Cube plays the veteran cop of the film and future brother-in-law to character Ben Barber. Ice Cube does a very good job of portraying James, seemingly harsh and is great at expressing his anger. Hart does well as a character who is confident in his abilities but is, in all reality, a terrible police officer. Fishburne plays the kingpin, "Omar." Fishburne plays

an excellent villain, seeming like a true kingpin of a whole black market operation.

I feel like the progression of time in the film is a bit unrealistic and slow. The pair is called in on many calls, and being in the city of Atlanta, one would expect there to be an elapse of time between getting to locations and responding to disturbances. In the film, the pair visits the scenes of multiple disturbances. In this frame of time, the sun is still out, until the main conflict of the movie shows up, and it's suddenly after dark.

This film was mostly enjoyable, but there was some inappropriate language. Given that the movie was rated PG-13, this is to be expected. With all things considered, I rate this movie an 8 out of 10.

McQuerry Students Celebrate Valentine's Day

By Haley Dye

McQuerry students celebrated Valentine's Day with class parties and activities focused around the holiday. Each of the class parties is unique because the parties are planned and organized by parents.

Staci Duncan's kindergarten class decorated heart cookies, played bingo and created crafts during their party.

"I think Valentine's Day

is about love; which is nice," said Christian Kelso, kindergartner.

Melissa Everett's first grade class enjoyed a surprise! Cupid came to decorate their classroom while they were away. Cupid also left special surprises in the classroom. During their class party, students played games and ate cookies and candy.

"It was fun, and I think Cupid

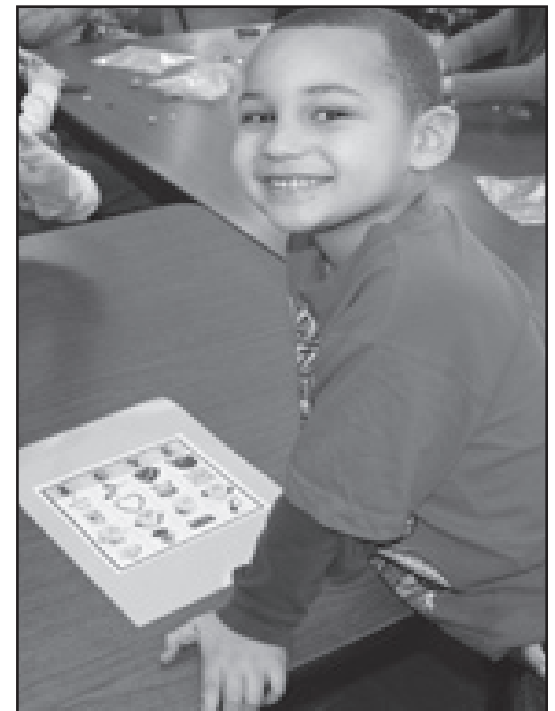
is awesome," said Brooklynn Stevens, first grader.

Jeff Wood's second grade class played games and listened to music. Wood enjoys Valentine's Day with his students and has a scrapbook with valentines from students that he has kept for years.

Drew Sallee, second grader, said, "Valentine's Day is about loving and trusting in God."

Have A
Great
First Day
of Spring!

From,
The Growler Staff



Christian Kelso, kindergartner in Staci Duncan's class, enjoys playing games during his Valentine's Day class party.

The Loft

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